

request. According to the National Association of Minority Contractors [NAMC], many minority contractors reported being turned down for a bond without an explanation. When explanations are not proffered, a perception of discrimination in the surety industry is created. This perception drives minority contractors to obtain sureties outside the mainstream, often at significant additional expenses and fewer protections, placing themselves, their subcontractors, and the Government at greater risk.

This legislation will create an environment in which small business firms, particularly those owned and controlled by minorities and women, can successfully obtain adequate surety bonding. This legislation will enable us to ferret out continuing biases in the industry. Whatever these prejudices may be, getting rid of them will open up the industry, creating entrepreneurial and employment opportunities and making the industry more competitive. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and help abolish the artificial impediments to the development and survival of emerging small businesses.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PLEASURE
RIDGE PARK HIGH SCHOOL'S
BASEBALL TEAM

HON. MIKE WARD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 1996

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding baseball team in my district. For the third year in a row, the Pleasure Ridge Park Panthers baseball team took the Kentucky State baseball championship title.

This outstanding team was led by head coach Bill Miller who has served in that position for 17 years. The championship was won 5 to 3 against the Greenup County Musketeers after a long-fought battle. The upset came after a 21-game Musketeer winning streak.

Each team player gave it their all throughout the season and their dedication paid off in the final round. These young men deserve special recognition, and I am proud to have such athletes in my district. Members of the winning team included Simon Auter, Richard Boston, Darrell Davis, Matthew Fox, Adam Garris, Adam Gibson, Nathan Harp, Troy Hilpp, Shawn Hoover, Matthew Jarboe, Mickey King, Matthew McGohon, David McGovern, Royce Meredith, Paul Miller, Josh Newton, Matthew Page, William Pfister, Christopher Phillips, Brian Scyphers, Craig Shubert, Jeffrey Szymansky, Scott Terrill, Nicklaus Waddell, and Bradley Williams.

Special recognition should be given to head coach Bill Miller as well as the assistant coaches Jim Stokes, Rich Hawks, Don Vandgriff, Richie Wyman, Sherm Blaszczyk, Dennis Lankford, and Jim Dawson. Pleasure Ridge Park Principal Charles Miller, Athletic Director Russ Kline and Assistant Athletic Director Jerry Smith should be especially proud of their team.

THE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT
LEAVE ACT

HON. PATRICIA SCHROEDER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 1996

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Parental Involvement Leave Act of 1996.

There is no greater cause for this country than to strengthen the family. When we invest in children and families it provides dividends for life.

President Clinton and Vice President GORE know this to be true. In fact, they are in Nashville with their wives hosting a conference on families. So it is fitting that today I introduce the Parental Involvement Leave Act, legislation that strengthens the family.

This bill provides families with two very important benefits that will help assure the continued success of the American family. First, it expands coverage of the Family and Medical Leave Act to businesses with 25 or more employees. The Commission On Family and Medical Leave reports that the law is working well for millions of workers and their families. Two-thirds of covered employers have expanded their policies to come into compliance with FMLA. And the great majority of companies reported no or only minor new costs. Business have even seen increased productivity and lower worker turnover as a result of the FMLA.

Second, it gives parents 3 days of unpaid leave a year to attend activities related to their children's education.

Studies show that parental involvement is a key ingredient in a child's education. When families learn together, children learn better. In fact, one of the most accurate predictors of a student's achievement in school is not income or social status, but the extent to which parents are involved in that student's education.

Moreover, the schools and communities also profit when families get involved. Research on families and education has found that: families make critical contributions to student achievement, from earliest childhood through high school.

When parents are involved at school, not just at home, children do better in school and they stay in school longer. The more the relationship between the family and the school approaches a comprehensive, well-planned partnership, the higher the student achievement.

But it is much harder today for families to find the time to participate in school activities.

The nostalgic "Ozzie and Harriet" image no longer represents the average American family. Today, only 7 percent of American families fit the 1950's image of breadwinner father, homemaker mother, and two children. Half of all children will spend time in a single-parent household. Moreover, 81 percent of single mothers work full time to support their children.

With more dual-income families, it is harder for parents to get time off to meet with teachers or attend their children's soccer games. In a survey of PTA leaders, 89 percent cite the lack of time as the biggest roadblock to parental involvement.

Under the bill, parents can take leave to participate in or attend an activity that is sponsored by a school or a community organiza-

tion. Parents with children in child care through high school are eligible. Parents will have the flexibility to take leave a few hours at a time or longer. Federal employees are also covered under this bill.

With all of the Federal cuts in education, the question is how can we help families that want to be more involved with their kid's education? It is time for this Congress to take a stand for kids. I hope you will join me in sponsoring the Parental Involvement Leave Act and allow parents to make a real investment in their children's education.

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF INDIAN
GAMING

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, Indian gaming is one of the most misinterpreted issues in the media and on Capitol Hill in recent memory. The following document reviews some of the major issues currently surrounding Indian gaming and offers an opposing viewpoint to the many accepted and pervasive pro-Indian gaming arguments in the media and in the public. Much of this material can be used to effect a greater awareness of the true nature of Indian gaming.

There has been explosive growth in Indian Gaming since the passage of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) in 1988. Since the Act some 200 tribes have set up 237 gaming operations in 29 states. This trend is only increasing as more and more tribes seek permission to open up gaming operations. In arguing their case, the pro-Indian Gaming interests continually isolate the same few examples of Indian Gaming prosperity and champion these cases in the media and on Capitol Hill. The example of the Mashantucket-Pequot's Foxwoods casino in Connecticut is somehow being mistakenly applied universally to all Indian Gaming nationwide. The fact is that even their darling Mashantucket-Pequot casino in Connecticut is destroying taxpaying businesses and having a detrimental effect on the surrounding communities.

In 1983 the U.S. Congress established a 2,300-acre settlement boundary for the Mashantucket-Pequot tribe in Connecticut. This settlement boundary outlined an area in which the Indians could acquire land and place it into trust. Under current law, this land then becomes part of the tribe's sovereign lands and is no longer within the jurisdiction of state or local governments. More notably, the land is no longer subject to taxation, zoning or environmental controls. Thus acquired land does not have to be reservation land and the Secretary of the Interior only requires that Indian tribes not acquire land in trust for gaming purposes in states where they currently have no land. Originally, the local communities in Connecticut were very supportive of this 1983 ruling and honestly believed that the tribe was owed some historical redress. But the subsequent loss of tax revenue and local control has made Indian Gaming a nightmare for many communities.

The Mashantucket-Pequot tribe is profiting over \$800 million a year from their Foxwoods casino and the 320 members of the tribe are becoming incredibly wealthy. Besides enriching themselves, the Indians have taken the casino profits to purchase land