

is not a group of individuals that add more to our nation's future than the men and women who are in the classrooms with our children everyday. They are the ones who hold in their hands the future of our country's greatest resource. If any group of individuals deserves our recognition, it is these dedicated individuals that should always be the true objects of our gratitude.

As we move into the 21st century, our teachers are one of our most important resources; for without an educated and disciplined generation coming into power in our great democracy, we can not maintain our preeminent economy and scientific community.

Each of us can, no doubt, remember a teacher who affected the way we thought about the world around us. We can remember a teacher who changed the way we thought about what we wanted to do with our lives. Today is the day to try and evoke those memories and pay tribute to their work.

We have to keep these important people in perspective. These are the people who lead our children daily through their lessons, and give them the knowledge that they will take into later life. What can be a more important role in our communities and more deserving of our recognition.

Consequently, we should use this week to renew our commitment to our Nation's teachers. They are the backbone of our educational system. No matter what policy or funding we provide in this body, these are the people who walk into the classroom each and every day and do the kind of work we can only value in the highest sense.

I have worked with my teachers in the 18th Congressional District and they are extremely special. Every time I walk into our schools their enthusiasm for their work is self evident.

I want to pay my respects to each and every one of our teachers across this great Nation, in classrooms in our elementary schools, middle schools, high schools and our colleges and universities. I greatly admire them; and I offer them my thanks and sincere appreciation.

TRIBUTE TO THE STERLING
HEIGHTS LIONS CLUB

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Sterling Heights Lions Club today, in recognition of their dedication of their new facility in Sterling Heights, MI.

For over 26 years, the Sterling Heights Lions Club has been dedicated to serving their community and helping those in need. They have undertaken countless projects, ranging from fundraising at festivals, raffles, and fairs to building playgrounds for disabled children to supporting students in youth exchange programs. Their efforts are as varied as their talents. Truly, our community is privileged to have in our midst such a dedicated group of individuals whose tremendous contributions have assisted so many in need of support.

It is especially fitting, as many of our public leaders have recently addressed our Nation on the importance of volunteering, that my brother, Senator CARL LEVIN, joins me in rec-

ognizing the Sterling Heights Lions Club. Their many years of service to the community are truly commendable and we wish them many more in their new facility.

CONCERNING LEGAL REFORM

HON. SONNY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Trade and Professional Association Free Flow of Information Act, and ask my colleagues to join me by cosponsoring this important legislation.

Unfortunately, our society has become increasingly litigious, especially within the area of product liability. Many product actions involve small business owners who find themselves involved in extensive, complex class-action lawsuits involving numerous litigants. Most often, these small business owners do not possess the resources to research problems and collect the information they need to mount a credible, effective defense. In many cases, these business people turn to their professional association for help.

Many associations have the staff and resources to provide research and information gathering services to their local members; indeed, this is but one of the many important roles played by associations at the local, State, and Federal level. However, as more and more association members request information—and the association attempts to fulfill the requests placed by its members—the association could find itself more deeply involved in litigation. And perhaps faced with liability, as a result.

This threat may cause associations to hold back in providing assistance so desperately needed by small business owners. As a result, there is less information flowing between associations and association members—information that could help avoid litigation in the first place. This free flow of information from associations to their membership often works in the public interest to alert consumers to the characteristics of various products before a possibly defective product is placed into commerce on a widespread basis.

My bill would primarily accomplish three goals. First, it would grant associations limited protection from liability when acting in good faith to provide information to their members. Only in cases of fraud or misrepresentation would an association be subject to a lawsuit for providing much-needed information and services to their members. This will set a national standard by which associations can provide information to their members without the threat of litigation.

Second, it would protect associations from burdensome subpoenas unless a clear case can be made that the information possessed by the association is vital to a particular case or is unavailable from any other source. I must make an important distinction—this provision does not prevent associations from being served with subpoenas. It merely ensures that the information requested is vital to a particular action and unavailable from any other source. This further serves to encourage associations to develop and catalogue information beneficial to their members.

Finally, the bill establishes a level of qualified privilege between association and member to ensure that confidential materials can be provided for the benefit of association members. This provision is based on joint defense privilege currently recognized by state and federal courts. This privilege is qualified in the sense that it can be overcome should a judge determine that the party seeking materials has a clear and compelling for the information

It is my sincere hope that the provisions of my legislation will allow associations to continue to actively disseminate valuable information to their members while safeguarding current legal protections against fraud and abuse. The goal of the Trade and Professional Association Free Flow of Information Act is one I believe I share with a majority of my colleagues—a reduction in costly litigation through the free flow of information generated by associations for their members. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

HONORING STUDENTS IN FREE
ENTERPRISE

HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding organization in Bucks County, the Students in Free Enterprise, located at the Bucks County Community College.

Students in Free Enterprise [SIFE] is a non-profit, international organization including over 400 chapters on the campuses of U.S. colleges and universities. SIFE has continually encouraged the free-enterprise system through educational programs since its inception more than 20 years ago by Sam Walton, founder of Wal-Mart. Students in the organization dedicate their time and resources to helping others develop leadership, teamwork, and communication skills through learning, practicing, and teaching the principles of free enterprise. SIFE is not only involved with the encouragement of the free-enterprise system, but has worked closely with many national and international charitable organizations such as the American Red Cross, the American Lung Association, and the Civil Air Patrol on various projects. The student organization at the Bucks County Community College has also instituted programs such as Reading Empowers and Directs Youth [READY] and Children Are Really Extra Special [CARES] to teach children important computer skills.

The Students in Free Enterprise is a valuable asset to the people of Pennsylvania. In honor of their many charitable and civil contributions, I join my colleagues in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in recognizing May 20, 1997, as Students in Free Enterprise Day.

I congratulate them on this day as they continue their mission of helping people achieve their dreams through free-enterprise education.