

local governments that go beyond the requirements of the Clean Water Act. It goes to those willing to mobilize local resources in order to protect and improve the overall health of our watersheds. The Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District clearly fits this description.

Mr. Speaker, protecting and improving the nation's watersheds is important to me and my district. I share in the excitement of this award and am proud of the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District's achievement.

CONFIRMATION OF MIGUEL A. ESTRADA TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the nomination of Miguel A. Estrada of Virginia to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. This nomination has been pending before the Senate since May 9, 2001.

Miguel Estrada has experience, intelligence, character and bipartisan support. Mr. Estrada has argued 15 cases before the United States Supreme Court and has served in the Justice Department under presidents of both political parties as a federal prosecutor and as the Assistant to the Solicitor General. Mr. Estrada was born in Honduras and attended Harvard Law School where he served as Editor of the Harvard Law Review. He maintains the highest rating of "unanimously well qualified" from the American Bar Association. This rating is based on professional as well as personal evaluations of a nominee, and some Democratic leaders have referred to this rating as "the gold standard." As a result of Mr. Estrada's professional and personal accomplishments, he has received broad support among lawyers and judges associated with both political parties.

President Bush has voiced his concern for the current judicial emergency in America with a large number of seats at the appellate and district levels remaining unfilled. President Bush, as the Chief Executive to the Judiciary, has a constitutional right to name a qualified person to the Judiciary. Mr. Estrada's confirmation will not only place a well-qualified and respected lawyer on the United States Court of Civil Appeals, it will uphold one of the finest traditions of our country. Mr. Estrada has endured over a twenty month nomination process without the courtesy of a floor vote. I strongly support Miguel Estrada becoming the first hispanic judge to sit on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

TRIBUTE TO LOLA SPRADLEY

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize and congratulate Representative Lola Spradley. Rep. Spradley has recently become the first female Speaker of the Colorado House, a truly momentous accomplishment.

Growing up on a wheat ranch on the plains of Colorado, Lola learned to be a ready farm hand and could do everything from drive a tractor to milk a cow. Her experience growing up on a farm has helped Lola to have an excellent understanding of the rural district that she now represents. Now, Lola Spradley is a 56-year-old representative from southern Colorado. She and her husband, Dale, have four children and seven grandchildren. She lives on a 240-acre ranch with her horses and dogs, near Beulah, Colorado.

As a political leader, Rep. Spradley is proud of her beliefs. She stands firmly for the rights of Colorado's citizens on issues that are as diverse as Gun Control and Water Management. She is a strong conservative and a devoted student of government. Running under that banner "Lola Listens," Spradley won a decisive victory in the last election, and a unanimous election to the position of Speaker from the Colorado House Republicans. Colorado is proud to have her as its first female Speaker of the House.

Mr. Speaker, it is with honor that I recognize Rep. Lola Spradley before this body of Congress and this nation. She is a strong woman who cares about her district and her state, and she will continue to be an integral part of Colorado's leadership.

ABSTINENCE

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the funding for abstinence-until-marriage education in this bill, and I thank the Chairman for his leadership on this important issue.

Today, the results of a landmark Zogby International survey assessing parental attitudes on sex education have been released to the public. The Zogby poll reveals strong parental approval for character-based, abstinence-until-marriage programs and proves that parents soundly reject the goals and content of so-called "comprehensive" sex education. The results are available online at www.whatparentsthink.com

According to the Zogby poll, 73.5 percent of parents approve or strongly approve of abstinence-centered sex education. 61.1 percent of parents disapprove or strongly disapprove of so-called "comprehensive" or "safe sex" education. 75.3 percent of parents disapprove or strongly disapprove of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) sex education curriculum.

When parents are accurately informed about what "comprehensive" sex education actually entails, which includes distributing condoms in schools, they make it clear that they do not want their children to be inundated with "safesex" propaganda. Instead, parents want their children to be taught self-respect, self-control and abstinence-until-marriage.

This survey marks the first time parents have been polled using the exact language from comprehensive sex education guidelines. The major weaknesses of previous polls are their misleading questions and fuzzy interpretations. In this poll, Zogby used exact definitions and verbatim wording from the comprehensive sex education curricula developed and endorsed by such groups as the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS) and Planned Parenthood.

The Zogby organization also found that: All demographic groupings strongly disapprove of comprehensive sex education—especially non-white minorities (Hispanics and Asians). And, 70 percent of parents strongly disapprove of their teens getting contraceptives without their approval.

Mr. Speaker, America's parents have spoken. They want abstinence-until-marriage education. This bill ensures that the values many American parents hold dear—the values of abstinence and marital faithfulness are not determined by taxpayer-funded "safe-sex" propaganda in schools.

I encourage my colleagues to join America's parents in supporting this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

COALITION FOR ADOLESCENT SEXUAL HEALTH—SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

BACKGROUND

Zogby International conducted the survey on behalf of the Coalition for Adolescent Sexual Health, an ad hoc association formed exclusively for the purpose of conducting the poll.

Private foundations that wish to remain anonymous paid for the cost of the survey.

The random sample survey was conducted January 11 to 15. A total of 1,245 adult parents of children ages 5 to 18 were interviewed with an over-sampling of African Americans. The margins of error were: Total MOA = +/- 2.8 percent; Whites MOA = +/- 3.3 percent; All non-whites MOA = +/- 5.5 percent; Blacks MOA = +/- 6.3 percent; Born again Christians = +/- 5.6%.

The total sample was approximately evenly split among fathers of children in grades K-6, fathers of children in grades 7-12, mothers of children in grades K-6 and mothers of children in grades 7-12.

NEED FOR ZOGBY SURVEY

Previous surveys by groups such as Alan Guttmacher Institute, Planned Parenthood, Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS), and Advocates for Youth have had serious flaws: Biased sample selection; Leading questions; Deceptive questions; Biased interpretation of results.

Such surveys have been used to claim that parents support comprehensive sex education (also known as "safer-sex" or "abstinence-first" sex education) and that parents oppose character-based, abstinence-until-marriage sex education.

Such surveys describe comprehensive sex education using innocuous, vague, euphemistic, and almost compassionate wording designed to convince parents that such education is needed for their children's health and well being.