Martinez, the great pitcher for the Boston Red Sox, is the class of the American League. Yesterday, the Baseball Writers' Association of America confirmed that judgment by unanimously selecting Pedro Martinez as the winner of the Cy Young Award for the American League for 1999.

Pedro's record this year was brilliant. His 23 victories, his earned run average of 2.07, and his 313 strikeouts led the league in all three of those categories, and his dramatic victory over the New York Yankees in the third game of the American League Championship Series last month was the crowning achievement in his extraordinary season.

All of us in Boston are proud of the Red Sox and proud of Pedro Martinez. I congratulate him on this well-deserved recognition, and I ask unanimously convene a "Red Sox Flash" about the award be printed in the RECORD.

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Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, in July, when the Senate debated the Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary fiscal year 2000 spending bill, an important amendment was adopted to the bill. That amendment, offered by my colleague Senator BOXER, would have made it illegal to sell or transfer firearms or ammunition to anyone under the age of 18. Unfortunately, the House-Senate conference committee, in working out the differences between the two versions of this spending measure, removed the Senate-passed amendment from the final bill.

I do not understand how something so simple, so straightforward, could be deleted from the final bill. This amendment does nothing more than save lives and prevent injuries by prohibiting drunk driving. This would simply close the loophole by making it illegal for someone under the influence of alcohol to purchase the same products.

It is unconscionable that House and Senate conferees deleted this commonsense provision from the bill. Unfortunately, this is just another example of how reasonable legislation is repeatedly stymied by the power of the NRA.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, November 16, 1999, the Federal debt stood at $5,689,775,697,887.62 (Five trillion, six hundred ninety-seven thousand, eight hundred ninety-seven million, six hundred twenty-seven billion, two hundred sixty-two cents). The debt is $4,748,423,000,000 (Four trillion, seven hundred six million) more than it was a decade ago, and it is $3,602,572,000,000 (Three trillion, six hundred two billion, five hundred forty million) larger than the maximum permitted by the 1995 Balanced Budget Act.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, two core principles guide our economy, competition and the rule of law. In the absence of competition there is no innovation or consumer choice. For over 100 years the anti-trust laws have served as an indispensable bulwark to competition and the rule of law. In the absence of competition there is no innovation or consumer choice.

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