

Wicker	Wise	Young (AK)
Wilson	Wolf	Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—53

Bachus	Fowler	Martinez
Bilbray	Gephardt	McCollum
Brown (FL)	Gilman	McIntosh
Burton	Granger	Meeks (NY)
Campbell	Green (WI)	Murtha
Cannon	Greenwood	Myrick
Coburn	Hayes	Owens
Cook	Hooley	Oxley
Cooksey	Hunter	Payne
DeLay	Jenkins	Pelosi
Dunn	Kasich	Quinn
Ehrlich	Kingston	Rogan
Emerson	Klink	Rothman
Engel	Largent	Roybal-Allard
Ewing	Lazio	Shays
Fattah	Leach	Shuster
Fletcher	Lofgren	Vento
Fossella	Maloney (NY)	

□ 1859

Messrs. SHOWS, LAHOOD, McINNIS and BENTSEN changed their vote from "aye" to "no."

So the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Chairman, I was unavoidably absent from the vote earlier this evening. Had I been here, I would have voted against the motion to rise—rollcall vote 292.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ 1900

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Waxman-Hansen-Meehan amendment. Tobacco use is responsible for 430,000 premature deaths each year. Smoking kills by causing chronic lung disease, coronary heart disease and stroke, as well as cancer of the lungs, larynx, esophagus, mouth and bladder.

Tobacco use is the leading cause of premature death in the United States, Mr. Chairman. It causes one out of every five deaths. In fact, tobacco use causes twice the number of deaths caused by AIDS, alcohol, motor vehicles, homicide, drugs, and suicide combined. Tobacco causes twice the number of deaths of all of those diseases and accidents combined. If current trends continue, an estimated 25 million Americans who are alive today will die prematurely from smoke-related illnesses, including an estimated 5 million children.

Tobacco-related illnesses cost the Federal taxpayer approximately \$25 billion a year, excluding the Federal share of Medicaid.

To have a provision that prohibits the Veterans Administration from transferring funds to the Justice Department to support litigation against the tobacco companies is wrong, and I would hope this Congress would be able to stand up and say, no, we want to be able to have some repayment for the diseases and illness that our veterans have been afflicted by.

The Medicare program pays approximately \$20.5 billion annually to treat tobacco-related illnesses; the Veterans Administration pays in excess of \$1 billion per year. The Department of Defense pays \$1.6 billion per year. The Indian Health Services pays \$300 million a year. In addition, tobacco-related health costs the Medicaid program nearly \$17 billion a year, of which Federal taxpayers pay nearly \$10 billion. Overall public and private payments for tobacco-related care totaled nearly \$90 billion in 1997.

Mr. Chairman, to remove VA appropriations for the tobacco litigation hurts our veterans. It is our duty to provide as many dollars as possible for our vets, especially since our government encouraged tobacco use and tobacco addiction by our young service personnel, not only during World War II but during the Korean War.

Mr. Chairman, I am reading a book now about the Chosin Reservoirs and the heroes of that Korean War, particularly the Chosin Reservoir, and instance after instance, when the temperature, was well below zero, oftentimes the only thing they had were cigarettes. Those cigarettes were provided by our government.

Those Korean War veterans are up in years. We should be able to provide for them to be treated in our VA hospitals, and, again, not just by the dollars we appropriate, but by the dollars that we can generate from litigation because of their addiction and the diseases that they have because of that.

Again, this amendment is supported by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans, and AMVETS; and I think, Mr. Chairman, particularly this year, less than 2 weeks ago, we talked about it at our Memorial Day services all over the country, in recognizing our veterans' contribution that in this year, particularly, since we are recognizing Korean War veterans that the Waxman-Hansen-Meehan amendment should be adopted, and we should remove this provision.

I would hope that no matter what appropriations bill we come to, that we would not tie the hands of the Justice Department to say, no, we need to have tobacco-related lawsuits. Again, it is not our decision it, is up to the judges or the juries ultimately; but it would allow for us to recoup that money to be able to again treat more veterans for hopefully other illnesses that are not tobacco related and thereby provide it back to the veterans' program next year and the year after.

The CHAIRMAN. The Committee will rise informally.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) assumed the Chair.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair lays before the House the fol-

lowing enrolled joint resolution and Senate bills.

H.J. Res. 101. Joint resolution recognizing the 225th birthday of the United States Army.

S. 761. An act to facilitate the use of electronic records and signatures in interstate or foreign commerce.

S. 2722. An act to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to Ed W. Freeman, James K. Okubo, and Andrew J. Smith.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

The Committee resumed its sitting.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, decades of deceit by the tobacco industry has caused Federal taxpayers to spend billions for smoking-related illnesses.

The Justice Department is seeking recovery of these funds, as well as injunctive relief to stop the companies from marketing to children and engaging in other deceptive and illegal practices. They need to be able to have the resources for that suit. Now, the beneficiaries of that suit would be the Departments of Health, Education and Welfare, or the Health Care Financing Administration, who has spent so much money on Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement for tobacco-related illnesses, and the Veterans Administration, because so many thousands of veterans have suffered and died from tobacco-related illnesses.

This amendment would say that the Veterans Administration cannot move this money to the Justice Department to prosecute these cases. The idea, the reason, the motivation is so that this suit cannot go forward.

The Veterans Administration spends \$4 billion a year treating tobacco-related illnesses. We passed a law, the Medical Care Recovery Act, that says that any costs recovered by the Justice Department would be returned to the Veterans Administration. They desperately need that money. Why would we not seek that money from what is the source, the cause of much of that suffering and death?

This rider is wrong. It should not have been attached to this bill. For decades, tobacco companies have deliberately misled Americans regarding the risks and the harmful effects of smoking while 400,000 people have died each year from tobacco-related illnesses.

As recently as 1998, within the last 2 years, the chairman of Phillip Morris testified under oath and said, I am unclear in my own mind as to whether anybody dies from cigarette smoking-