

Slims' ad campaign told women that smoking could help them "Find Your Voice." As the father of two daughters, I find it unacceptable that young girls are relentlessly barraged with slick marketing campaigns encouraging them to take up a deadly—and illegal—habit.

Also, recognizing that many women are concerned about the long term health risks of smoking, tobacco companies have been promoting "low tar" or "light" cigarettes to women as a "safer" option. Big Tobacco is well aware that the health claims in their ads are either misleading or entirely false. But it works. Currently 60 percent of women smokers use light and ultra light cigarettes.

These are just some of the reasons I, along with Senators LINCOLN CHAFEE and BOB GRAHAM, introduced the first bipartisan tobacco legislation in this Congress, the KIDS Deserve Freedom from Tobacco Act. Our bill would grant the FDA full authority to regulate the manufacture, distribution, marketing, and sale of tobacco products to protect our children from the dangers of tobacco use.

The results of the Surgeon General's report demonstrate the need for FDA authority over tobacco products. Today, I call upon Secretary Thompson to make a commitment to the young girls and women of this country: that the Bush administration will make passing legislation giving the FDA strong, meaningful regulatory authority over tobacco products a top priority.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, as we celebrate National Women's History month, I pay tribute to the countless contributions made by women, past and present, those heralded and those unknown to most, who have advanced the rights of women and enriched our Nation's history.

The month of March has been designated as National Women's History Month to illuminate the tremendous accomplishments of women throughout history. I salute my colleagues, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI and Senator ORRIN HATCH for cosponsoring legislation over two decades ago declaring National Women's History Week. The celebration of women's history has since been expanded into a month long tribute to commemorate the many contributions of women.

This year's national theme, "Celebrating Women of Courage and Vision," seeks to spark interest in the many remarkable stories of women's achievements in our schools and communities. We must strive to present history accurately, and in its entirety. History is not a womanless story and it should not be presented as such to our

youth. It is imperative that we share the rich stories of women's struggles and achievements with all our children, but especially with our girls. With the benefit of strong female figures as role models, young women will have a fuller vision of what is possible in their lives.

The advancement of women in the last century has been nothing short of remarkable. At the beginning of the last century, women generally did not have the right to vote or own property. They could not hold most occupations, participate in the armed forces, or aspire to political office. But as long ago as 1872, a little known milestone in the fight for women's equality was achieved by the courageous actions of an Illinois woman.

Ellen Martin of Lombard, IL, understood her lack of legal entitlements in the late 1800s, but had the vision, the wits, and the determination to transcend the barriers around her. In the Presidential election of 1872, almost 50 years prior to the passage of the 19th Amendment, Martin and fourteen other Lombard women marched to the polls and demanded their right to vote. At the time, Lombard, IL, was governed by its local charter of incorporation, which inadvertently stated that "all citizens" rather than "all male citizens" had the right to vote.

Armed with a law book and her spectacles, Martin asserted her "citizenship" and demanded a ballot. Allegedly, the election judges were so shocked by the demand that one gentleman actually "fell backward into a flour barrel." Ironically reminiscent of this year's unusual election, the votes of those 15 courageous women were extensively debated in the courts. But eventually, those 15 votes became the first women's votes ever to be counted in Illinois in an American Presidential election.

Ellen Martin refused to be held down by the social and political mores of the day. She had the courage to challenge and conquer the barriers that attempted to restrict her. And for her efforts, she won a small but important victory. Of course, it was not until 1920 that women's fundamental right to vote was expressly protected by the Constitution in the 19th Amendment. I am proud to say that Illinois was the first State in the Union to ratify that long overdue amendment, guaranteeing women a voice in the political arena.

There are many little known milestones, similar to the story of Ellen Martin's courage, which reveal the heroism of women throughout our history. These stories are important and they are powerful, but they can have little impact if they are not shared. Sadly, only 3 percent of our educational materials focus on women's contributions. Legislators in Illinois have recognized the need for the appreciation of the historical contributions of women and

have mandated the teaching of women's history in K-12 classes. Only by recognizing the authentic contributions of women will educators be truly faithful to our national heritage.

Today, women play a central role in the Nation's political and economic arenas. I am privileged to work with 13 women Senators who provide powerful examples to young women across the Nation. At the State level, women currently hold 27.6 percent of the statewide executive offices across the country and 22.4 percent of State legislative positions. As Susan B. Anthony pointed out in 1897: "There never will be complete equality until women themselves help to make laws." Women's representation in politics is not yet equal, but their increasing prominence signals a step in the right direction.

Today, women participate in our economy in record numbers, both in the workforce and as business leaders. Women own more than 9 million small businesses across the Nation, representing 38 percent of all small businesses nationwide. In Illinois, women own more than 250,000 firms. With their comprehensive participation, it is beyond dispute that women are vital to sustaining and improving our Nation's economy.

However, despite their strong presence in the workforce, women continue to earn less than men in this country. For every dollar a man earns, women on average earn only 73 cents. In Illinois, the wage gap is even larger: For every dollar earned by a man a woman earns only 69 cents. This wage gap persists despite the passage of the Equal Pay Act over three decades ago. Although the gap continues to shrink, the progress is painfully slow, shrinking by a rate of less than a half a penny a year. In order to facilitate the closure of this gap, I urge my colleagues to consider Senator DASCHLE's Paycheck Fairness Act, S. 77, of which I am a cosponsor. That bill would strengthen the enforcement mechanisms of the Equal Pay Act as well as recognize employer efforts to pay wages to women that reflect the real value of their contributions. The wage disparities between men and women have endured for far too long. We must approach the problem pro-actively and demand results.

The dedication of March as Women's History Month provides an excellent opportunity to celebrate the many contributions of women that have shaped our history as well as the powerful influence that women continue to exert not only as business leaders and politicians, but also as mothers, teachers, neighbors and vital members of the community. But as we "Celebrate Women of Courage and Vision," let us not forget the battles that lie ahead for women as they continue to struggle for full equality. As Alice Paul, a female attorney in the early 1900s, eloquently

noted: "Most reforms, most problems are complicated. But to me there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality." Let us allow the simple principle of equality to guide us, as we strive to make history in further advancing the rights of women.

SMALL BUSINESS ENERGY EMERGENCY RELIEF ACT

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate approved S. 295, the Small Business Energy Emergency Relief Act of 2001. This bill will provide needed assistance to small businesses and farmers that have suffered direct and substantial economic injury caused by significant increases in the prices of heating oil, propane, kerosene, or natural gas.

Specifically, I would like to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Small Business Committee, Senator KIT BOND and Senator JOHN KERRY, for their willingness to include an amendment sponsored by Senator HARKIN and me. This amendment will help farmers offset the surging costs of fuel. Farmers in my state and throughout the country have been negatively impacted as a result of high energy prices on farm income, due not only to the costs for fuel farmers need to run their equipment but also the increases in costs for fertilizer, which is made from natural gas.

Earlier this year, the spot price for natural gas had increased 400 percent from the year before. The Department of Energy is predicting that natural gas rates this winter will be at least double last year's levels. The most recognizable impact of this price spike has been on heating costs. However, many in the agriculture community are concerned with the impact of these spiraling costs on agricultural producers, since natural gas is the major component of nitrogen.

I am pleased that the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Small Business Committee agreed to include the Farm Energy Relief Act to allow the Secretary of Agriculture to declare a disaster area in counties where a sharp and significant increase in the price of fuel and fertilizer has caused farmers economic injury and created the need for financial assistance. That determination would allow farmers to be eligible for USDA's emergency disaster loans for losses arising from energy price spikes. I believe this amendment will provide much-needed relief to many of our producers who are also facing depressed prices for their commodities.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, March 26, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,733,895,076,837.79. Five trillion,

seven hundred thirty-three billion, eight hundred ninety-five million, seventy-six thousand, eight hundred thirty-seven dollars and seventy-nine cents.

Five years ago, March 26, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,066,588,000,000. Five trillion, sixty-six billion, five hundred eighty-eight million.

Ten years ago, March 26, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,452,738,000,000. Three trillion, four hundred fifty-two billion, seven hundred thirty-eight million.

Fifteen years ago, March 26, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$1,982,440,000,000. One trillion, nine hundred eighty-two billion, four hundred forty million.

Twenty-five years ago, March 26, 1976, the Federal debt stood at \$600,274,000,000. Six hundred billion, two hundred seventy-four million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion, \$5,133,621,076,837.79. Five trillion, one hundred thirty-three billion, six hundred twenty-one million, seventy-six thousand, eight hundred thirty-seven dollars and seventy-nine cents, during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

LIEUTENANT COLONEL MICHAEL DAVID

• Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, it is my great privilege to pay tribute to a Rhode Islander, Lieutenant Colonel Michael David, who will soon complete 23 years of distinguished service to our Nation.

As friends and colleagues gather to honor Lieutenant Colonel David's retirement from the U.S. Air Force, I would also like to extend to him my heartiest congratulations. Indeed, the State of Rhode Island is very proud and fortunate to have had a native of Warwick, RI represent us so well. I join with all Rhode Islanders in expressing thanks to Lieutenant Colonel David for the wonderful job he has done.

A graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Lieutenant Colonel David has shared his expertise as he trained service men and women to fly the T-38 and C-141 aircraft at Air Force bases across our land; he has served as a T-38 Instructor Pilot, a C-141 Instructor and Evaluator Pilot. In addition, he has flown and led many world-wide airlift and formation airdrop missions. At present, he is charged with aiding the Pentagon's top brass in leading the Armed Forces into the 21st century, equipping our military to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Along the way, Lieutenant Colonel David has been awarded numerous decorations including: Meritorious Service Medal, 2nd OLC, Aerial Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Combat Readiness Medal,

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Small Arms Expert Pistol Ribbon, Air Force Legacy Service Award, Air Force Training Ribbon, Joint Meritorious Unit Award and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. Lieutenant Colonel David currently has the Defense Superior Service Medal pending approval by the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

That is an impressive list! Our hats are off to Lieutenant Colonel David for these tremendous accomplishments.

Yet, we all know it is the military family that also deserves the recognition and congratulations for the years of travel, leaving family and friends, and for their tireless energy and support of the United States Armed Forces. For their outstanding dedication, I wish to commend and congratulate Lieutenant Colonel David's wife, the former Bernadette Louise Brennan, of Providence, and his two daughters, Ashley Nicole David and Stephanie Michelle David.

In closing, I am pleased to offer my very best wishes to Lieutenant Colonel David for happiness and fulfillment in his new endeavors. His contributions certainly will be remembered for generations to come.●

IN HONOR OF COMMUNITY FOOD RESOURCE CENTER

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is my honor and pleasure to inform my fellow Senators that this year marks the 21st anniversary of Community Food Resource Center, a New York City organization that has been a leader in the fight for improved nutrition and economic well-being for all Americans.

CFRC's first project in 1980 was a school breakfast campaign. Since then, CFRC has been instrumental in shaping and promoting child nutrition programs. Because of CFRC's efforts, for example, New York City became the first major city to implement universal school meals on a large scale.

I became familiar with CFRC because of my work on the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee. I have come to admire and respect the organization and its dedicated staff, and I feel honored to have had the chance to work with them. Whatever the issue, I can always count on CFRC to focus on the needs of those whose voices are rarely heard in the Capitol.

I would like to highlight just a few of CFRC's many innovative programs. Its Community Kitchen of West Harlem provides meals to more than 600 people nightly. Its CookShop program encourages schoolchildren to eat more fruits and vegetables. Its senior dinner programs use school cafeterias after hours to provide nutritious meals, social activities and an intergenerational program.