

Consumer Products Safe Testing Act which I recently introduced, along with thirty-two of our colleagues. This long-overdue legislation aims at scaling back outdated and burdensome federal regulations used by the FDA and other Federal agencies regarding toxicity testing of cosmetics, corrosives, and other substances. The bill calls on all Federal regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over toxicity testing to review and evaluate their regulations concerning animal acute toxicity testing. The bill establishes no new mandates regarding animal toxicity testing. For many years, the Federal Government has used animals to test the toxicity of consumer products. This bill seeks to establish, wherever possible, non-animal acute toxicity testing as an acceptable standard for Government regulations without compromising human safety.

Development of new technology has achieved substantial gains in the field of non-animal alternatives for acute toxicity tests. Many cosmetic companies, including Avon, Revlon, Redken, Paul Mitchell, The Body Shop, and Nexxus, already use alternatives to animal testing for screening and developing their products. In addition, many biotechnology firms are developing non-animal tests to determine the safety of various consumer products they produce. These tests include Skintex by InVitro International and Testskin by Organogenesis, Inc., which use human skin equivalent to measure irritancy. InVitro has actually developed a series of non-animal test kits which evaluate and rank irritancy and toxicity of a wide variety of substances.

Despite these advances, the Federal Government still relies on animals for toxicity testing. The result is that many companies at the cutting edge of non-animal technology are forced to market their products overseas. If the United States is to remain a world leader in biotechnology, we must reexamine our Federal regulations to reflect the advances in testing methods already in progress. If we fail to encourage developments in this field and continue using outdated federal regulations, we run the risk of falling behind the rest of the industrialized world and losing our position as a world leader in science. By calling on the Federal Government to reevaluate its regulations on toxicity testing to include non-animal tests wherever possible, the Consumer Products Safe Testing Act will encourage U.S. companies to develop and market non-animal testing products in the United States.

Non-animal alternatives to toxicity tests, in addition to being more humane, produce better data and reduce costs over the long term. Scientists agree that, despite the usefulness of animals for testing purposes, human cells and tissue produce more accurate results. As technology progresses to develop an acceptable battery of tests, non-animal toxicity testing can provide a more cost effective method of testing products. Savings can be realized from reduction in animal care and storage, in addition to time saved.

Time involved in product testing remains a crucial factor. Many product development companies spend large amounts of time and resources in the government regulatory process. Animal testing often takes several years to complete. If acceptable alternatives are developed, this would save the producer, as well as the regulatory agency, time and money during the lengthy and cumbersome approval process. In asking the Federal Government to

review its regulations concerning toxicity testing, the bill takes a bite out of federal regulation, while ensuring consumers' safety.

In recognition of the contribution animal tests make to the medical community, the bill specifically exempts all medical research. Only regulations regarding toxicity testing are affected.

I am delighted to sponsor the Consumer Products Safe Testing Act. This legislation will move towards ensuring that the Federal Government treats non-animal acute toxicity testing as an acceptable standard and that outdated and cumbersome regulations are reviewed and reevaluated.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION
159, CONSTITUTIONAL AMEND-
MENT RELATING TO TAXES

SPEECH OF

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 1996

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, Americans understand the necessity of paying bills, balancing checkbooks, and living within their means. It is unfortunate that Americans must struggle to make ends meet, but their Government does not understand that concept.

The current Tax Code, with its high marginal rates and thousands of pages of rules, regulations, and redtape, poses a formidable barrier to economic growth. Tax reform must move toward making the Tax Code more user friendly and create incentives for savings and investment.

America's voters sent Washington a message in November 1994—just as Americans balance their budgets, so should the Government. This Congress has made fiscal responsibility the hallmark of our legislative agenda. We passed the Balanced Budget Act of 1995, which included a tax reform package, but unfortunately, the President vetoed it.

Today, millions of Americans will pay the Federal Government their share of the tax cut that the Republican Congress promised, then passed, and that the President promised, then vetoed. The Congress passed this tax cut because we believe the people who earn the money should keep more of what they earn, so they can do more for themselves, their children, their churches, and their communities.

For too long, Congress denied its responsibility by using tax increases to cover up its own lack of political will to make tough budgetary decisions. Because Federal benefits tend to be targeted at specific groups, special interest groups consistently come together to effectively lobby for more spending. Taxes, on the other hand, are spread among many millions of working Americans who don't hire Washington lobbyists.

Limiting the ability of Congress to raise taxes will force Congress to set real budget priorities. To safeguard our children and grandchildren from a return to the profligate ways of the past, of tax and spend, and spend and tax, we must enact a tax limitation amendment that ensures congressional accountability for the taxpayers' money.

My home State of Oklahoma has had a tax limitation on its books since 1922. It also has

a balanced budget law. In Oklahoma any new tax must be submitted to a vote of the people of the State unless the tax receives a three-fourths supermajority of both the State house and the State senate. I wonder how many new taxes or tax increases would pass if they required a two-thirds supermajority or were submitted to a vote of the American people?

THE "WE THE PEOPLE" PROGRAM

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on April 27–29, 1996, more than 1,300 students from 50 States and the District of Columbia will be in Washington, DC, to compete in the national finals of the "We the People . . . the Citizen and the Constitution" Program. I am proud to announce that the class from Lawrence Central High School in Indianapolis, IN, will represent Indiana's Sixth Congressional District. These young scholars have worked diligently to reach the national finals by winning local competitions in their home State.

The distinguished members of the team representing Indiana are: Amber Anderson, Carrie Anderson, Heather Bailey, Alicia Crichton, Nathan Criswell, Finda Fallah, Jeremy Freismuth, Lourie Gilbert, Robert Gordon, Phillip Gray, Amanda Gross, Tim Halligan, Lindsey Hamilton, Brandon Hart, Scott King, Brent Patterson, Mike Petro, Megan Pratt, Jason Roberts, Anthony Roque, C. David Smith, Tony Snider, Tomeka Stansberry, Crystal Sullivan, Sarah Thompson, Gene Wagner, Maurice Williams, and Mike Zabst.

I would also like to recognize their teacher, Drew Horvath, who deserves much of the credit for the success of the team. The district coordinator, Langdon Healy, and the State coordinator, Robert Leming, also contributed a significant amount of time and effort to help the team reach the national finals.

The "We the People . . . the Citizen and the Constitution" Program is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The 3-day national competition simulates a congressional hearing in which students' oral presentations are judged on the basis of their knowledge of constitutional principles and their ability to apply them to historical and contemporary issues.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the "We the People . . ." Program, now in its ninth academic year, has reached more than 70,400 teachers, and 22,600,000 students nationwide at the upper elementary, middle, and high school levels. Members of Congress and their staff enhance the program by discussing current constitutional issues with students and teachers.

The "We the People . . ." Program provides an excellent opportunity for students to gain an informed perspective on the significance of the U.S. Constitution and its place in our history and our lives. I wish these students the best of luck in the national finals and look forward to their continued success in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LOREN BENSLEY
OF CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize an outstanding teacher, writer, and scholar as he retires from Central Michigan University. On May 2, 1996, Dr. Loren Bensley will celebrate his retirement after 33 years of service to his students, the community, and the health profession.

Dr. Bensley is recognized as a State, national, and international scholar in the field of health education, with 60 publications and more than 100 presentations to his credit. As president of the American School Health Association, he received 32 awards from various professional organizations for his leadership and contributions. Under his leadership, the Eta Chapter of Eta Sigma Gamma, the National Health Science Honorary, won the National Chapter of the Year award 10 times. Such outstanding accomplishments are a testament to his academic brilliance and exceptional leadership capability.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Loren Bensley's love for and dedication to education is clear. He has consistently gone beyond what was expected or required to achieve excellence not only in teaching, but writing and leadership. His reputation as a kind, inspiring, and hard-working scholar will serve as an example to all who know him for many years to come. I know you will join me in recognizing his achievements and wishing him a satisfying retirement.

"ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL"
HAWAII'S WINNING ESSAY IN
VOICE OF DEMOCRACY CONTEST

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 16, 1996

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I submit the winning essay in the Hawaii State Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy Competition. The author, Emily Shumway, resides in my district. She attends Kahuku High School and serves as the senior class president. In her script, Ms. Shumway explores the theme "Answering America's Call." Her entry gained national recognition from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and she was recently awarded the Mr. and Mrs. James H. Black Scholarship.

I join with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Brandon and Carolyn Merrill Shumway of Laie, HI, to congratulate Emily Shumway for her outstanding performance in the 1996 Voice of Democracy Program. The VFW Post 3927 of Waimanalo, HI, sponsored her in this year's contest. Her essay is as follows:

ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL

(By Emily Shumway)

A young boy clings to his mother's black dress, his eyes fixed on the bright flag draped over a coffin. The rays from the blazing Arizona sun sparkle and dance on the shining flag, causing it to glitter. The flag lights up

the gloomy circle he stands in. His trance is broken by the sound of crying. He looks over at Corporal Far's young widow, her whole body shaking in anguish and sorrow. He moves his attention towards a young marine in a crisp blue uniform. He watches the soldier closely as he removes a shining gold bugle from its case. The bugle boy raises the instrument to his lips and starts to play. The haunting melody of "Taps" fills the little boy's ears and goose bumps rise on his skin. Each moving phrase of the melody is echoed by another bugler standing on a hill about a quarter of a mile away. The music penetrates the silence across the lonely Arizona desert. To the small child, the whole desert resonates. So much so, that even the sagebrush and the tumble weeds seem to stand at attention. He senses that he is witnessing one of the most significant of human events. There is a line of military men standing alongside the casket with burnished rifles at their sides. In unison they raise their guns into the air and fire 3 shots as the final note of "Taps" floats solemnly over the crowd and lingers for a few moments. The feeling in the air is almost tangible. Even the little boy of five recognizes the importance of what he is observing. He is not a spectator, but a participant in the event taking place. His attention returns to the flag in the center. "What does one do to deserve such honor?" he thinks.

If America could speak she would say, "I need men and women who would give their very lives to protect me and preserve the freedom and justice I stand for. Patriotism in this country, so vital for a nation's survival, has been increasingly replaced by cynicism and mistrust of government. I need men and women who embody the same spirit that possessed George Washington, Paul Revere, Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglas, Susan B. Anthony, Harriet Tubman, Theodore Roosevelt, Sergeant York, General MacArthur, and even Corporal Far."

America's call is a call to uphold her commitment to peace, freedom, liberty, and justice for all. In an age where discontent and excessive individuality seek to undermine and trivialize patriotic actions, America calls out to each man, woman, and child to remember the sacrifice of thousands, even millions, like Corporal Far. They believe in America's future and they proved it with their very lives. May each one of us of the rising generation know and feel, as did the five year-old Arizona boy, the honor of devoted service to our country. Though we may not die for our country, let us live for it by seeking for ways to uphold and strengthen its righteous institutions while constantly focusing on improvement. Each one of us must thus answer America's call.

IN SUPPORT OF 35TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the Peace Corps on the celebration of its 35th anniversary and to thank all of the many volunteers who have given so much of themselves over the past three and a half decades to ensure the success of the Peace Corps mission abroad.

The Peace Corps currently has over 6,000 American volunteers operating in 94 countries, providing skills and services that range from

teaching English in densely populated cities to repairing damaged or outdated water structures in remote villages. The beauty of this program is that it is a cultural exchange. Yes, the host countries are exposed to some of the technological and social advancements our country has to offer through the important services of the Peace Corps volunteers; but after 2 years of service, the volunteers also bring back home with them more than they could ever anticipate: a new language, a new culture, new job skills, and an enlightened world view. This is a win-win program if I've ever seen one.

Knowing that the creation of the Peace Corps was one of President Kennedy's proudest accomplishments during his administration, I am pleased to see that my uncle's vision for the involvement of U.S. citizens in international development has endured. My hat's off to all current and former Peace Corps volunteers, and I sincerely hope that their idealism and service to both our country and our international neighbors continues to be passed on from generation to generation.

SIDE WITH DOCTORS AND SCIENTISTS,
NOT THE DOPE PUSHERS

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, the pro-drug crowd is at it again, Mr. Speaker. They never tire of their sneaky attempts at legalizing drugs. Their latest endeavor is in, no surprise here—California—where a fringe group called Californians for Compassionate Use is lobbying the California Legislature to pass two bills which would legalize marijuana use for medicinal purposes. Because marijuana has no medicinal value, it is fairly obvious that this is nothing but a backdoor attempt to legitimize the use of marijuana for all purposes. And that is not just my opinion.

Mr. Speaker, the FDA has repeatedly rejected marijuana for medical use because it adversely impacts concentration and memory, the lungs, motor coordination and the immune system. A recent evaluation of the issue by scientists at NIH concluded, "after carefully examining the existing preclinical and human data, there is no evidence to suggest that smoked marijuana might be superior to currently available therapies for glaucoma, weight loss associated with AIDS, and nausea and vomiting associated with cancer chemotherapy."

Marijuana weakens the human immune system. That is why oncologists reject the idea of prescribing smoked marijuana for cancer chemotherapy. Experts also oppose the use of marijuana to treat glaucoma. As for AIDS patients, it does not facilitate weight gain, further weakens the immune system, and puts them at significant risk for infections and respiratory problems.

For these reasons the American Cancer Society, the American Glaucoma Society and the American Medical Society all oppose using marijuana for medicinal purposes.

Unfortunately, this seriously misguided effort is not limited to some hippies out in California. It has reached the Congress of the United