

are tied. Currently the agency lacks the statutory authority to fix this problem.

I introduced H.R. 659, which would delist the chemical and remedy this solution. We should never sacrifice jobs for regulations that are not backed by good science.

Now, some extremists say the 71 Members who are cosponsors of this measure want to weaken the Clean Air Act and the Community Right to Know Act by delisting this nontoxic chemical. Quite frankly, this is not an environmental issue, but an authority issue. I urge my colleagues to get the facts and prevent lobbyists from clouding the issue before us.

FAMILY SERVICES IMPROVEMENT ACT

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Family Services Improvement Act, H.R. 1480, which I reintroduced yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to imagine, if they will, a single mom who is trying to get off welfare. Mom drops her 4-year-old off at Head Start, takes her 7-year-old to second grade and goes to her own graduate equivalency degree classes, all in the same school.

When the family needs immunizations or health screenings, they can go to the school-based clinic. The social services coordinator at the school can help the family find housing, food, and health care. There is also a job placement coordinator to help mom find a job when she finishes her classes.

Unfortunately, my colleagues, as you well know, this model of coordinated, one-stop programs to help children and families move off Government assistance is rare.

The Family Services Improvement Act will create incentives for establishing coordinated one-stop programs. It will make the programs we promote more effective and efficient and more available. I urge the support of my colleagues for this important legislation.

WE MUST ACT NOW TO REFORM MEDICARE

(Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I realize that the administration is far too busy with all of their lawyers trying to figure out a way to handle all the campaign laws they overlooked to show some leadership on the Medicare issue. I know that would be asking too much. So while the administration is busy with all of their lawyers, this Congress must lead the way on Medicare.

The Medicare trustees released their annual report to the American people

last week. The trust fund is going bankrupt, probably in only 4 years. The report confirms what Republicans have been saying about Medicare for the last 2 years. The trustees state that failure to fund Medicare will result in certain bankruptcy in the year 2001. None of this is new. Every single Member of Congress has known this for several years.

I call on those who are more interested in saving Medicare from bankruptcy than in playing politics with seniors to join in our effort to reform Medicare. We must act now.

IRS HAS GONE HOG WILD

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, in San Diego, Mindy, the potbellied pig, dialed 911. Authorities cannot figure out what caused this devious swine to perpetrate such a dirty deed. They asked, did Mindy accidentally fall out of bed? Was Mindy calling Pizza Hut, or was Mindy the potbellied pig simply love sick, calling for Mr. Good Pig?

Mr. Speaker, the truth is, Mindy dialed 911 to tell Congress to get the snouts of the IRS out of the assets of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with Mindy the potbellied pig, this is hog sense. The IRS has gone hog wild. Pass H.R. 367 and change the burden of proof in the Tax Code and treat taxpayers like every other citizen under the Constitution.

I yield back the balance of this hog sense business.

AMERICANS DESERVE EARLIER TAX FREEDOM DAY

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today the tax burden on working Americans is as high as it has ever been. We are asking our families to pay up to nearly 40 percent of their income in taxes. Tax Freedom Day, that is the day when we start working for ourselves and our families, is later and later every year. This year it is May 9, 2 days later than last year, the latest ever.

Yet, many of my friends on the other side of the aisle do not feel our taxes are high enough. But if they would listen to the American people, they would find they are wrong. We can do something about it as well. We can provide a family with a \$500 per child tax credit, cut capital gains, remove estate taxes.

The facts are clear. The American people are overtaxed and it is time to provide relief. Reaching an agreement for working families is not going to be easy, but we owe it; we owe it to the American people. Let us all do our part

to make Tax Freedom Day occur earlier, urge the President to live up to his campaign promises, and join our efforts to help working Americans loosen the noose of the current tax burden.

HARSH NEW WELFARE LAW

(Mr. GUTIERREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, in 93 days a harsh new welfare law will wipe out assistance to legal immigrants. Yesterday I told my colleagues about one such immigrant from my district. Today let me tell my colleagues about another. Her name is Adela.

If my colleagues voted for welfare reform so they could teach people about the importance of hard work, they did not have to bother in Adela's case. After coming to the United States, Adela worked for 8 years in a factory on Chicago's northwest side. In fact, she worked well past the age at which most Americans would have called it quits and would have retired. But the company moved out of town, closed its doors down.

Adela, now 74 years old and in poor health, has been served notice that her years of hard working, playing by the rules and paying taxes is not enough. She got her pink slip. Now it is a computer printed form letter telling her that her only means of support, Social Security, is about to be taken away from her on August 22.

Do legal immigrants like Adela need to learn the value of hard work? No. Congress needs to learn the value of hard-working immigrants who have made America what it is today. I suggest to any Member that he look back to see what his grandparents look like or great grandparents looked like.

COMMEMORATING REMEMBRANCE DAY

(Mr. MANZULLO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be able to take this opportunity to commemorate the more than 8 million people, 6 million of whom were Jewish, who a little more than half a century ago were brutally, deliberately and systematically exterminated in a state-sponsored effort to annihilate their religious, cultural, and ethnic existence. All across the United States, Americans are commemorating Remembrance Day for those who were exterminated in the death camps of Nazi Germany.

I unite with those from around the country, including my constituents of the Jewish Federation of Greater Rockford, IL, to recognize those who risked their lives and those who died trying to intervene and save those who were targets of systematic extermination.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Rockford is commemorating Remembrance Day by paying tribute to the "Righteous Gentiles," those non-Jews who risked death to help save the lives of Jews and others from Hitler's killing machine. These courageous people acted out of a conviction that they simply could not stand by and witness so great a crime perpetrated against fellow human beings. We are privileged to have one of those surviving Righteous Gentiles, Irene Opdyke, addressing the Jewish Federation of Greater Rockford, IL.

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ACT

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, in our Nation's inner cities, minority communities are being victimized by toxic polluters, creating an environmental crisis, a health crisis, and a civil rights crisis in this country.

In my district in New York there are over 2000 industrial facilities, a radioactive storage yard and a huge sewage treatment plant. The effect of this pollution is discriminatory. The children in my district are dying of cancer, suffering from asthma, and have toxic levels of lead.

Study after study has shown that minority communities bear the brunt of toxic pollution in this country. Today I introduced the Community Environmental Equity Act, which will apply title VI of the Civil Rights Act to toxic polluters. I urge you all to cosponsor this important legislation. It is time to realize that we cannot have social justice until we first have environmental justice.

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A CALL FOR BIPARTISAN MEDICARE REFORM

(Mr. NEUMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, the Medicare trustees released their report last week and issued a warning that the Medicare System will be bankrupt in 4 years. When I tell seniors back in my district of that and when I tell my own mom and dad of this, they ask me, how can this be? They say, my husband and I contributed into the system every year since 1965. How could the system be going bankrupt?

Perhaps the best response would be that you should ask those who created the system why they created a system that has brought us to this point. But that aside, the answer lies in the fact that Medicare is a pay-as-you-go system. Your contributions do not go into a fund for your use. The contributions you made during your working years

go to support those who are ahead of you, those who have already retired. When you retire, money from the current workers, not money from your contributions, will pay your benefits.

So where do we go from here? We need to sit down and in a bipartisan manner decide how to reform the system and make it solvent. There is no other choice for our seniors in America today.

AN 11TH COMMANDMENT FOR CONGRESS: WE SHALL START TO WORK NOW ON ISSUES THAT ACTUALLY MATTER TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. BLAGOJEVICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, recently I voted in favor of a resolution supporting the Ten Commandments. I voted in favor of a resolution to study the economy of American Samoa. I voted for a resolution banning Federal funding for physician-assisted suicide, even though assisted suicide is not legal at all. In fact, let me firmly assert, I am against Federal funding for any activities that are not yet legal.

But is it not time, Mr. Speaker, that we started working on issues that are more important to people, things like making student loans more available and affordable, or providing health care for the 10 million American children without it? We should be working to make our streets safer. And what about our crumbling schools, many of which were built before World War II? When will we address the long-term health of Medicare and Social Security?

Why does this Congress not agree to an 11th Commandment: We shall start to work now on issues that actually matter to the American people.

LET US WORK TOGETHER TO SAVE MEDICARE

(Mr. ROGAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, I was raised by my grandparents, and then by a great-aunt who lived on her Social Security. They relied upon Medicare for health care. Mr. Speaker, when I ran for Congress last year as a Republican, one of the things that was important to me in my campaign was to make sure that Medicare was preserved and protected for future generations, as well as for this generation of seniors. We Republicans campaigned to save Medicare, while our opponents accused us of trying to destroy Medicare instead of trying to save it.

Last week, the President's own Medicare Trustees came forward with a report that validated every single thing Republicans said last year about Medicare. There is one lesson I have learned, Mr. Speaker, during the cam-

paign of last year: It does not take courage to scare seniors about Medicare. It does take courage to save it for this generation of seniors and for all of those who will rely upon it in the future.

I hope now we can put the partisan nonsense and scare tactics aside, and work together to save a worthy program.

THE WIC PROGRAM IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ESTATE TAXES

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, important new research has indicated that the first 3 years of a child's life are absolutely critical. They determine his future life successes, brain development, and the likelihood of becoming a productive citizen. That is why I find it strange that my Republican colleagues would eliminate 180,000 American women and children from the WIC Program.

The WIC Program is an important nutrition program to help poor people have adequate nutrition. We are not talking about estate taxes, and no, we are not talking about capital gains taxes, we are simply talking about healthy food, milk, vegetables, fruits, the things Members would like for their family.

We as Americans ought to practice true family values, and that means putting our funds behind a program that has proven to be successful. That is the WIC Program. The WIC Program can guarantee that every young child in America gets a healthy start. That is the first step in leading a productive life.

I cannot understand why they think estate taxes are so important but do not think a healthy meal is equally important.

SUPPORT THE \$500-PER-CHILD TAX RELIEF AND OPPOSE THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN FUND

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, we just heard that the Republicans were trying to eliminate people on women and children fund. We have opposed increasing the number. Let me tell the Members the reason why. In Kansas right now, a family of four making \$28,000 a year is eligible to receive benefits from the women and children fund. This is 180,000 people who would receive about \$300 per year if they did qualify for the WIC Program.

However, if Members would just give them a little relief in their tax structure, like a \$500-per-child tax credit, they would actually get more money. Instead of getting \$600 per year for those two children, they would actually get \$1,000 per year. It would be money they could control.