

this Joliet couple, this Joliet machinist and this Joliet public school teacher, has said that working families would welcome repeal of the marriage tax penalty.

The Daily Journal, another paper in the 11th Congressional District, says: "The marriage tax is an unfair imposition. The code should be rewritten to eliminate it."

"While we are all for simplicity in the Tax Code, the reality is that taxes drive social engineering."

The marriage tax should be eliminated and repealed today.

I have a letter here from Robert Eckert of Jacksonville, FL, a tax preparer. He says, "As a seasoned tax preparer and enrolled agent, I find the marriage penalty can be very significant, 12 percent of after tax income or 33-percent increase in tax liability."

My colleagues, group after group have endorsed the Marriage Tax Elimination Act. It should be the centerpiece. The bottom line is elimination of the marriage tax penalty should be the centerpiece of next year's budget agreement. I ask for bipartisan support and I ask for public support for our campaign to eliminate the marriage tax.

THE CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands [Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN] is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to salute the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues for 20 years of leadership and tenacity on legislation affecting the lives of women and all Americans.

Our founders, Representatives Elizabeth Holtzman and Margaret Heckler had the foresight to realize that women and their families required significantly more attention from our Nation's leaders.

The baton has been passed on to us and so I salute all of my colleagues, past and present, Democrat and Republican, and especially Representatives NORTON and JOHNSON for the direction and leadership they have provided to this distinguished caucus.

I hope that you have noticed that our famous women's intuition is alive and well. Just this past weekend in my district, the Virgin Islands, women were reenergized as they came together at the annual women's conference hosted by our Senate president, Senator Lorraine Berry and the local women's caucus. And this week, as we celebrate our anniversary, members of the Congressional Black Caucus and thousands of American African women are preparing to travel to Philadelphia for the million woman march on Saturday.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to have been given the wonderful opportunity to be one of the caucuses' 50 members

in the 105th Congress, and although some of us will not be in Philadelphia this weekend, we should all stand with the women who will be there in the Godly, creative, energetic, and loving spirit that has made this caucus what it is.

So Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to salute the past, the present, and, most importantly, the future of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues.

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO HELP STATES PROTECT CHILDREN FROM SEX OFFENDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. GUTKNECHT] is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I join my colleague today, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. NICK LAMPSON, and congratulate Texas law enforcement agents for identifying a prime suspect in the kidnapping and murder of young Laura Smith, but I also share his frustration that things might have turned out differently.

We need tougher mandatory sentences; we need more effective community notification programs. While every State now registers child sex offenders, many of their notification programs have been stalled by legal challenges and confusion. This is unacceptable.

To help the States, 31 of my colleagues have joined me in introducing a resolution which gives the States a model community notification program that they can follow, if they choose. This resolution is not a Federal mandate. Instead, it expresses the sense of Congress that States should enact a tier-based system, like nine States have already done successfully.

For example, a released sex offender posing a high risk of repeating his crimes moves into a community. Everyone, police officers, past victims, and, most importantly, neighborhood parents, are notified.

As someone who served in the State legislature for 12 years, I urge my colleagues to join me in helping the States to protect America's children. Cosponsor House Concurrent Resolution 125.

CELEBRATION OF 20 YEARS OF THE WOMEN'S CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, tonight we will honor the 20th anniversary of the Women's Caucus. President Clinton will join us as we celebrate the past, present, and future of the Women's Caucus.

Women have always faced extra hurdles as they served in Congress. Recognizing these extra challenges, Elizabeth Holtzman, from my home State of New York, along with Peggy Heckler of Massachusetts, organized 13 Members to join them in forming the Women's Caucus in 1977.

We have certainly expanded our numbers. The caucus is 53 members strong this year, but we still face many obstacles.

I would like to submit this copy of achievements of the Women's Caucus during its 20 years for the Record, and just note some of the achievements for the Record.

In 1978, the caucus was instrumental in the passage of the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, guaranteeing employment rights to pregnant workers.

In 1979, Congress, at the pushing by the Women's Caucus, created the Office of Civil Rights at the Education Department to enforce the title IX ban against sex discrimination in education.

In 1984, the caucus' Economic Equity Act was the driving force behind enactment of important legislation in retirement equity and child support enforcement legislation.

That year, also, a caucus member, Geraldine Ferraro, from my home State of New York, was nominated for Vice President of the United States, the first time a woman ran for that office on a major party ticket.

In 1985, for the first time, legislation was introduced to provide temporary leave for parents of newborns and seriously ill children and for workers with serious health problems. This effort sparked an 8-year campaign that ended with the 1993 enactment of the Family and Medical Leave Act. That was the first bill that I voted for in Congress.

In 1992, the media called this year the "Year of the Woman" in politics as hundreds of women lined up to run for office. It was a year in which many people voted for women candidates, not as a slogan but as a force to be reckoned with. A record 48 women were elected to the House and 6 to the Senate. And our presence here truly did make a difference.

We passed many important bills: The Family and Medical Leave Act; we expanded the earned income tax credit; we passed the domestic violence bill; the Violence Against Women Act; we expanded coverage and funding for breast cancer and breast cancer research; and this year, in 1997, Congress passed landmark legislation to balance the Federal budget, and they included in it very important expansions for women's health provisions.

One bill that I am particularly proud of is one that I worked on since 1992 with my Republican colleague, Barbara Vucanovich, which expanded the coverage of mammograms in Medicare for women over 65 and bone mass measurement. And I note the very good work of my Republican colleague, the gentlewoman from Maryland [Mrs. CONNIE MORELLA], in this area.

We also enacted a child tax credit, assistance for families with children in college, and expanded health coverage for uninsured children.

I would like to take this time to thank the Congresswomen who have chaired the Women's Caucus. This year the gentlewoman from Connecticut, Mrs. NANCY JOHNSON, and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia, Ms. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON.

This year, on Mother's Day, again with my colleague, the gentlewoman from Maryland, Mrs. CONNIE MORELLA, it was a symbolic victory, but after many hurdles we finally moved the only statue of women that are in the rotunda, from the basement into the rotunda. On that particular day Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, two of whom were women from New York State and who worked very hard on women's issues and for the right for women to gain the vote, they finally took their place in the Capitol rotunda, along with our other great revolutionary leaders.

I would like to put the rest of my remarks into the RECORD and also note other great women leaders from New York State, Bella Abzug, Shirley Chisholm, Geraldine Ferraro and Elizabeth Holtzman, all of whom were members of the Women's Caucus.

PROGRAM BOOK HIGHLIGHTS

1977—Reps. Elizabeth Holtzman (D-NY) and Margaret Heckler (R-MA) founded the Congresswomen's Caucus. Comprised of 15 of the 18 women in the House, the group focused its early efforts on eliminating sex discrimination and improving women's employment opportunities in the federal government.

1978—The Caucus led a successful effort to gain an extension of the ratification period for the Equal Rights Amendment. Also that year, Congress passed landmark legislation—the Pregnancy Discrimination Act—guaranteeing employment rights to pregnant workers.

1979—Double digit inflation spurred the Caucus to focus on economic equity for women, ranging from women's business opportunities to the susceptibility of women workers to unemployment. Congress created the Office of Civil Rights at the Education Department to enforce the Title IX ban against sex discrimination in education. Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-CO) took over as Democratic Co-Chair of the Caucus.

1980—The Caucus called for a Congressional investigation of the extent to which women-owned businesses were gaining access to federal contracts. Congress voted to require federal agencies to report the dollar value of all federal contracts awarded to small, minority-owned and female-owned businesses.

1981—The Caucus introduced the Economic Equity Act—a package of legislation to address key economic security issues. Sandra Day O'Connor was sworn in as the first woman Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. The Congresswomen's Caucus opened its membership to men and changed its name to the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues.

1982—At the urging of the Caucus, the Joint Economic Committee convened hearings on the economic status of women and its impact on family income. Congress extended flex-time arrangements for federal workers and made former military spouses eligible for health benefits.

1983—Virtually every piece of the Caucus' Economic Equity Act was the subject to Congressional hearings, including tax and retirement matters, dependent care, non-discrimination in insurance, and child support enforcement. In a major jobs bill, Congress enacted provisions important to working women. Rep. Olympia Snowe (R-ME) becomes Republican Co-Chair of the Caucus.

1984—The Caucus Economic Equity Act was the driving force behind enactment of important retirement equity and child support enforcement legislation. Caucus member Geraldine Ferraro (D-NY) was nominated for Vice-President of the United States, the first time a woman ran for that office on a major party ticket.

1985—For the first time, legislation was introduced to provide temporary leave for parents of newborns and seriously ill children, and for workers with serious health problems. This effort sparked an eight year campaign that ended with the 1993 enactment of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

1986—Congress passed major legislation to increase accessibility of a college education to non-traditional students—mostly women—and to allow states to expand Medicaid coverage to pregnant women and infants. Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) was the first Democratic woman elected to the Senate without first having been elected or appointed to fill a vacant seat.

1987—The Caucus celebrated its 10th anniversary as the nation marked the 100th Congress and the 200th anniversary of the Constitution. Two important Supreme Court decisions upheld the constitutional use of affirmative action plans for women and ruled that states could force all-male clubs to admit female members.

1988—An important Caucus priority was achieved when Congress restored broad coverage of Title IX and other civil rights laws. The Caucus won passage of legislation to address the impoverishment faced by many elderly women when their spouses entered nursing homes. Congress also passed the Women's Business Ownership Act aimed at ending discrimination in credit to women entrepreneurs.

1989—The Caucus continued to push Congress to approve the Family and Medical Leave Act as well as new legislation to increase the availability, quality, and affordability of child care. Congress increased funding for maternal and child health programs and required states to expand Medicaid programs to cover pregnant women and children under six. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) was the first Latina elected to Congress.

1990—Congress approved the first major child care legislation in 20 years. A General Accounting Office (GAO) report requested by the Caucus confirmed the widespread exclusion of women from federally funded medical research. Caucus members introduced the first Women's Health Equity Act and traveled to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to discuss plans for creating an NIH Office of Research on Women's Health.

1991—Congress approved civil rights legislation that expanded remedies for victims of sex discrimination, established a Glass Ceiling Commission to examine barriers to the advancement of women in management positions, and removed the statutory prohibition against women flying combat missions. Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-CO) became the first woman in nearly 20 years to chair a full committee in the House.

1992—Caucus initiatives to improve quality of mammograms and combat infertility in women were enacted. The media labeled 1992 the "Year of the Woman" in politics as hundreds of women lined up to run for office. A record 48 women were elected to the House and 6 to the Senate.

1993—After an eight year battle, the Family and Medical Leave Act was signed into law. Major women's health legislation drafted by the Caucus also became law. Congress removed the remaining statutory limits on women serving in the military. The Earned Income Tax Credit was expanded to help raise poor working families above the poverty level.

1994—With strong bipartisan support from the Caucus, Congress enacted the Violence Against Women Act, which authorized \$1.6 billion over six years for services to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. Congress also passed legislation to ensure more equitable treatment for women and girls in education and required federal agencies to establish a five percent goal for contracting with women-owned businesses.

1995—Congress approved legislation applying civil rights and employment statutes to itself, long a priority of the Caucus. Congress also defunded the legislative offices of House caucuses, including the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. Reps. Constance Morella (R-MD) and Nita Lowey (D-NY) were named to co-chair the reorganized Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. Three women were named to chair committees in the House and Senate.

1996—Legislation was enacted to guarantee continued health insurance coverage for workers who change or lose their jobs. Included were Women's Health Equity Act provisions barring insurers from discriminating on the basis of genetic information or evidence of domestic violence. Congress also require insurers to expand hospital stays for new mothers and approved a Caucus initiative to strengthen child support enforcement.

1997—Congress passed landmark legislation to balance the federal budget and included in it important women's health provisions which expand Medicare coverage of mammography and bone mass measurement. Also enacted were a child tax credit, assistance for families with children in college, and expanded health coverage for uninsured children. Congresswomen Nancy Johnson (R-CT) and Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) take over as Co-Chairs of the Caucus.

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TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE JOEL PRITCHARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. GRANGER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Washington [Mr. METCALF] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness and sorrow that I rise today to note the death last week of former Congressman Joel Pritchard, a man deeply respected and admired and liked by everyone.

Joel was a rare politician who worked across partisan lines to solve problems. He exemplified the qualities that make our system work in his 40 years in the political system, from 1956 until 1996. Joel went on to serve 12 years in Congress. I was still in the State Senate when he was our Lieutenant Governor.

An affable, unassuming politician, Joel will be remembered as a man of his word. He believed strongly in term limits, as I do, and kept his word to leave Congress after 12 years, even