

Mr. METCALF. Madam Speaker, I do not have to remind this House about the fine work of our border patrol officers. They put their lives at risk every day to slow the flow of illegal drugs into this country and to keep our borders safe from dangerous aliens. We are all thankful to them for their efforts.

Due to the current inept management of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the INS, the jobs of these officers are made much, much more difficult. Last year, Congress appropriated enough money for the INS to hire and train 1,000 new border patrol agents. The agency has hired nowhere near that number, however, and has resorted to moving agents from our already shorthanded northwestern border to shore up its border patrol offices in Arizona. Nearly 10 percent of the field agents in Washington State have been temporarily assigned to the southern border. That is not what Congress intended. There were supposed to be more agents in Washington State, not less. INS management brags about the new sensor technology that has been developed to detect people who cross our northern border illegally, but what good is the technology if there is no one to catch the people that set off the sensors?

I agree that there are serious problems on the southern border. We all know that. That is why the INS was given so much money for the border patrol last year. INS management needs to do its job and hire more agents, instead of robbing from one shorthanded border to fill out another.

Last week, a Washington State trooper was shot and killed during a routine traffic stop. I feel this very deeply. My brother was a Washington State trooper for over 20 years. The main suspect in this killing is a 28-year-old Mexican national who had already been deported three times. This summer, he was already in jail on a cocaine delivery charge but was able to post bond and be let back out into the community. He should have been detained by the INS after posting bond but he was not because the border patrol agent who should have recognized him was somewhere in Arizona. This is tragic. This is sad. And this never should have happened. The INS needs to clean up its act.

ON INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, in the few minutes allocated to me this evening, I want to address one of the most significant issues this Congress faces this year, a subject worthy of hours of exploration, discussion and debate: the need to increase the Federal minimum wage.

Madam Speaker, I could talk about how the average American worker now

produces about 12 percent more in an hour's work than he or she did in 1989, but, after adjusting for inflation, that worker's wages have only increased 1.9 percent. But time does not permit us to examine this very basic question.

I could talk about how an increase in the minimum wage helps to convert low wage, dead-end jobs into decent jobs with wages to support a family, thereby reducing turnover and building worker loyalty and productivity. But I really do not have the time to do that, either.

We might speak about the role of the minimum wage in creating a truly national labor market and creating a level playing field for working men and women regardless of so-called State right-to-work laws and other anti-union legislation. We could look at the harm and distortions of our economy brought about by our failure to maintain the minimum wage. But that would take much more time than the few moments that I have this evening.

We could talk about how, without an increase, the real value of the minimum wage would fall to \$4.90 an hour by the year 2000 according to inflation projections by the Congressional Budget Office.

We could talk about how 59 percent of workers on minimum wage are women and how women desperately need an increase in the minimum wage to rectify growing female wage inequality.

We could talk about how African Americans make up 11.6 percent of the workforce but 15.1 percent of those affected by an increase in the minimum wage. How Hispanics make up 10.6 percent of the workforce but 17.4 percent of those affected by an increase in the minimum wage. We could talk about the need for justice for these working families.

And we could talk about the pain, the anguish, the agony, the frustration of 11.8 million workers, more than 10 percent of the workforce, who live on minimum wage, 504,000 workers in Illinois alone who try and survive on minimum wage dollars. But it would be impossible to adequately describe that pain, that anguish, that agony in just a few minutes.

We could explode the myth, the great bogey man, of those opposed to raising the minimum wage that increases in the minimum wage reduce the number of minimum wage jobs and hurt low-income workers, especially youth. The 1999 Levy Institute survey of small businesses and 60 years of other studies which focus on facts, not tired old dogmas, show, contrary to the common supposition that youth and students are hurt, minimum wage increases actually shift employment to them, especially in the fast food industry. As one commentator said in this regard, "Our facts trump your theories."

We could talk about applying minimum wage theories to TANF activities and the positive effects on families and public budgets. Or we could talk

about how our big cities, whose population of poverty is some 20 percent as opposed to 8 percent in suburban communities, are forced to bear a huge and disproportionate share of public costs of dealing with poverty, and how even an increase of \$1 an hour in the minimum wage would impact that burden.

Census numbers released in September show that while the poverty rates are declining, the number of full-time workers with incomes below the poverty line rose by 459,000 in 1998. The numbers show that more than one in every three black and Hispanic children remain poor. The numbers show that poor families are poorer on average than a few years ago.

Madam Speaker, we could talk for hours, but it is clear that even Sy Plukas knows what all of America knows and demands, that it is only right, it is only justice, it is only fair, it is in the interest of all America, it is essential, it is critical to act now, this month, to raise the minimum wage by at least \$1 per hour.

□ 1830

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KASICH. Madam Speaker, pursuant to Sec. 314 of the Congressional Budget Act, I hereby submit for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD revisions to the allocation for the House Committee on Appropriations pursuant to House Report 106-373 to reflect \$2,480,425,000 in additional new budget authority and \$0 in additional outlays for emergencies. This will increase the allocation to the House Committee on Appropriations to \$564,314,425,000 in budget authority and \$597,532,000,000 in outlays for fiscal year 2000. This will increase the aggregate total to \$1,454,763,425,000 in budget authority and \$1,434,669,000,000 in outlays for fiscal year 2000.

As reported to the House, H.R. 2684, the conference report accompanying the bill making appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and independent agencies for fiscal year 2000, includes \$2,480,425,000 in budget authority and \$0 in outlays for emergencies.

These adjustments shall apply while the legislation is under consideration and shall take effect upon final enactment of the legislation. Questions may be directed to Art Sauer or Jim Bates at x6-7270.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. FOLEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time reserved for my special order today. I am on the list for today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MYRICK). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

INCREASING FUNDING FOR ALL DISEASES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Madam Speaker, I just wanted to take a moment.

The other night I was quite alarmed because I saw on ABC News 20/20 a piece done by John Stossel regarding the impact of celebrity endorsements and the spending on diseases, and one of the things that came out of that seemed to be a bit of a negative perception of the money we are committing to AIDS funding and how some groups are starting to feel cheated by the Federal funding of their various programs, and I wanted to kind of address that issue because I am quite concerned about it, and I have actually heard about it from some of the groups coming before me to lobby for increases in their various diseases, and I want to suggest to all of the charities and all of the people listening and ask Mr. Stossel to look at his story once again and talk about the need to stay together on issues affecting public health, stay together on increasing funding at the National Institutes for Health for all diseases.

Madam Speaker, let us not single one out and make one a more important disease than the other. Let us not start bemoaning the fact that one may, in fact, have increased spending while others may have not had as much of an increase. Let us talk about AIDS and HIV for the moment because we see an alarming increase in the rate of both transmission among heterosexuals and amongst minorities.

So we clearly know that the AIDS virus and the epidemic is a significant problem, and it is the one disease that can be transmitted. There are others, of course. It is not the only one, but HIV can be transmitted through blood transfusion, through sexual contact, through drug use and through needle exchange.

So we recognize that the public is much more vulnerable to HIV and AIDS and the alarming spread and the increased cost to all taxpayers will, in fact, be exacerbated if we do not deploy the revenue to put forward the research to do what we can to bring a halt or at least to minimize the alarming spread of AIDS.

But I do want to say, as somebody who strongly stands on the floor to find funding for lupus, for Alzheimer's, for breast cancer, prostate cancer, Parkinson's disease, autism, Lou Gehrig's disease, American cancer, American heart and the other things that we all have to fight together, I will continue that fight, but I ask those charities to not dismiss or diminish others who are working hard to find a cure for AIDS.

The gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) and I are both on a bill that deals with trying to limit and minimize, if you will, the waiting time on Medicare for those that are stricken by diseases like Parkinson's and Lou Gehrig's. We want to increase that opportunity for those stricken by disease to be able to maintain a quality of life, to be able to get on Medicare earlier, to be able to get access to the proven

drugs and the things that may enhance their quality of life and make them healthy and as productive as we possibly can.

But I do not want to start down the road as Mr. Stossel did on ABC News 20/20 by suggesting somehow we should turn our backs on HIV and AIDS and somehow try and re-prioritize.

First, let me make correction of the assumption that was laid out in the piece that somehow we in Congress, Members of Congress, sit here and dictate to NIH where they will spend the money. That is not the case. NIH does their own screening empaneled, does their own determination. It is not influenced by politics.

That is very important. I am certain some of us would love to call up and say I would like some more money for Lou Gehrig's disease, but we cannot do that. That is why it is structured the way it is, so it is not influenced by those of us that may, in fact, be able to make a call.

So again, in all sincerity to all the charities, please, please, please do not come to our offices suggesting somehow that somebody is getting a bigger slice of the pie and that is not fair. Come to our offices and suggest we should all grow the pie to a larger number so we all can pursue meaningful research.

One of the things I am most happy about, if you will, is the fact that we are on the cutting edge of finding the causation of a number of diseases, Alzheimer's and others I have mentioned. We are on the cutting edge of new drug therapies that may, in fact, bring about a healthier quality of life for all Americans, and we are on the cutting edge, as we have noticed, protease inhibitors and others, working miraculously for people suffering from HIV infection.

Madam Speaker, these things are taking hold, they are taking place, and research is bringing us to a point hopefully in the near term, in the very, very short few years away, that we will start seeing some progress on these diseases. We will see an enhanced quality of life for all Americans, but we cannot do it by climbing on the backs of one another.

Again, let us remember to advocate for all, making certain that nobody is left out of the loop, making certain we are looking carefully at all the diseases, making certain we are doing all we can to enhance AIDS funding, and I know a number of my colleagues are joining us in that effort. We have all asked the appropriators to increase NIH, to help the Department of Defense in their work on breast cancer research, so nobody is being left out of the loop.

So again I urge people to disregard some of the stories they see on those issues and continue to work for all Americans who are suffering with us today.

VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE CONFERENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening in great anticipation of next week's Voices Against Violence Teen Conference. The conference is a unique opportunity for Congress to listen to our Nation's youth. In our efforts to understand our young people and to curtail the violence which surrounds them all too often, we sometimes forget to consult the teenagers themselves. This is a mistake. It is time for us to learn from them.

When applications for this conference were distributed in my district, I thought there would be some interest, but I was simply overwhelmed by the response. It was tough deciding on the three teenagers to send to Washington, so I decided to form a Youth Advisory Council in my district. This council made up of all the applicants will advise the three delegates on their trip to the conference.

Our first Advisory Council meeting was held this past Monday. Students came from across my district, from Paso Robles to Santa Barbara. Some drove for 2 hours to have their opinions and feelings heard. The discussions were riveting and moving. It was fascinating to hear their views on the causes of youth and violence from young people themselves. Family was the focus. More than anything, these students see a strong home environment as the key to happier, better adjusted children and reduced violence.

Young people need to rely on their parents. They need to be able to communicate with their family members. They also cited peer and academic pressures, violence in the media, socioeconomic circumstances and discrimination as root causes of youth violence. Drugs and alcohol are also seen as contributing factors. Gun safety issues and gang pressures are certainly a part of their lives.

We discussed a range of solutions from metal detectors to school counseling to hot lines to recreational programs. Students raised the idea of having closed campuses on their high schools, limiting the ability of students to leave the building throughout the day. I was astounded to hear that some of the students do not think that closed campuses are realistic because they are too crowded.

One described his high school which houses 3100 students although it was built for 1800. I had not really thought of the school construction efforts here in Congress as being linked to school violence, but these students showed me that that link is very much a reality.

In more emotional moments we heard from a brave young woman who talked about her personal and triumphant battle with drugs, a habit which had been spurred on by the drug use and addiction of her parents. Another