

I encourage all of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the bipartisan work of the 11 Members of Congress who are reaching out to provide a framework that will allow this conflict to be ended.

I am more optimistic than ever. The Russians are faxing us a letter at this very hour expressing their desire to pass the same document in the Russian Duma. Let us not lose this opportunity to show Milosovic that Russian leaders across the spectrum, American leaders across the political spectrum are coming together with a common agenda which says Milosovic must in the end agree to the conditions that NATO has established to end this conflict. Together I think we can finally end this crisis.

#### TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH

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

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be here tonight to discuss the problem of teen pregnancy. May is Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month, and it is a perfect time to focus our attention on this problem.

Let me start by saying that teen pregnancy prevention is a classic case of good news/bad news. The good news is that we are making progress, but the bad news is there is still much to be done.

Let me begin by focusing on the good news. Teen pregnancy rates have dropped, and we should congratulate those who are working hard on this problem. There are many, many programs of all different kinds out there making a real difference.

In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the area I represent, our community has responded to the problem of teen pregnancy by mobilizing residents, community-based organizations, the faith community, government, and the private sector in a results-based consortium designed to reduce teen pregnancy and promote programs and services for teen parents and their families.

We also cannot overlook the efforts of parents who are taking the time to have those difficult discussions with kids about responsibility and teen pregnancy. Studies show that teens want to hear from their parents and that this has had a positive effect. We need to congratulate those teens who are making responsible choices in a very pressured world.

□ 1900

All of this has helped bring the rate of teen pregnancies down from a peak of 117 for every 1,000 young women from ages 15 to 19 in 1990 to 101 in 1995. This is a 14 percent drop, which brings the rate to its lowest level since 1975. It dropped again 4 percent between 1995 and 1996.

In this decade, the birthrate for these teens has dropped 16 percent and it has dropped among all races, and the birthrate among 15 to 17-year-olds declined faster than 18 to 19-year-olds. In Wisconsin, my home State, there has been a 16 percent drop in the teen birthrate from 1991 to 1996.

This is real progress, but this in no way means the problem is solved. We have a long way to go and we cannot give up. We must support programs that work. For that reason, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the bill sponsored by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), which would arrange for evaluation of public and private prevention programs for effectiveness and feasibility of replication and would give grants for effective programs.

If we let up, then the bad news of this story gets bigger and our kids lose. If our kids lose, then all of society loses. And here is the bad news. The United States still has the highest teen birth rates in the developed world. Four out of 10 American girls become pregnant at least once by the age of 20.

In Wisconsin, we still have a teen birthrate of 37 per 1,000 females, and in Wisconsin 84 percent of these occur to unmarried teens, while 21 percent of teen births are repeat births.

Children born to teenage parents are more likely to be of low birth weight, to suffer from inadequate health care. They are more likely to leave high school early without graduating. They are more than 10 times more likely to be poor than children born to women age 20 and over. They are more likely to continue a cycle in their family of poverty and lack of choices. And they are twice as likely to be abused and neglected as are children of older mothers. Nearly 80 percent of teen mothers eventually receive public assistance, and two-thirds never finish high school. And let us not forget one of the most important statistics: Girls of teen mothers are 22 percent more likely to get pregnant as teens themselves.

So what are we to do? First, we have to find programs that work and make sure they are funded. Again, to that extent, the bill of the gentlewoman from New York should be passed. We need to keep our eyes and ears open in our communities to find out what works, for example, after-school activities, and then come back here and integrate that into policymaking.

Most importantly for young girls, they have to have hope in their lives. They have to have a dream. They have to be able to look beyond their teenage years and know that there is a reason to wait before becoming a mother. And the same is true for young boys. We have to include boys in this discussion as well.

As parents, we need to talk to our kids. Again, studies show that teens want to hear from their parents. The National Campaign presented figures last year that show that one-fourth of parents say that the biggest barrier to

talking to their kids about sex is that they are uncomfortable talking about it. Only 17 percent of teens feel this is the biggest barrier. As parents, we just need to get over this. The positives so outweigh any uncomfortableness that we may feel.

We have to make sure that there is adequate, effective information out there for teens. Some teens cannot or will not ever get the information from their parents. We need to support the organizations that get the materials out there, so that when teens rely on other teens for information, it is correct and positive.

Most importantly, we must never stop loving our teens, we must never stop loving our children and we must never give up.

#### INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1512, THE FIREARM CHILD SAFETY LOCK ACT OF 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, children are killing children. This madness, this destructive behavior must stop. Gun-related violence has plagued our Nation and jeopardized the safety of our children.

According to statistics from the Centers for Disease Control, more than 5,000 innocent boys and girls have lost their lives due to unintentional firearms related deaths. Between 1983 and 1994, 5,523 males between the ages of 1 and 19 were killed by the unintentional discharge of a firearm.

Currently, a child dies from gunfire every 100 minutes in America, 12 times the rate of the next 25 industrialized nations combined. Each day in America, 14 children die from gunfire, a classroom full every 2 days.

Mr. Speaker, it is our responsibility, no, it is in fact our obligation as parents and leaders to protect our Nation's children from the senseless deaths caused by the unintentional and intentional discharge of firearms.

To address this problem, I have reintroduced my bill, the Firearm Child Safety Lock Act of 1999. My bill, H.R. 1512, the Firearm Safety Lock bill, will prohibit any person from transferring or selling a firearm in the United States unless it is sold with a child safety lock. In addition, this legislation will prohibit the transfer or sale of firearms by federally licensed dealers and manufacturers unless a child safety lock is part of the firearm.

A child safety lock, when properly attached to the trigger guard of a firearm, would prevent a firearm from unintentionally discharging. Once the safety lock is properly applied it cannot be removed unless it is unlocked. This legislation will protect our children and increase the safety of firearms.

The bill also has an education provision, which provides for a portion of

the firearm's tax revenue to be used for education on the safe storage and use of firearms.

This bill in no way prohibits a buyer from purchasing a firearm unless it is sold without a child safety lock. A child safety lock will be included in the firearm when it is purchased.

Knowing that many citizens are concerned about gun laws, because they believe these laws may affect their constitutional rights, I would like to make it clear that this bill does not interfere with a citizen's constitutional rights. It only gives our children the right to life without the fear of another Jonesboro, Edinboro, Fayetteville, Springfield, Richmond, West Paducah and Littleton.

We must create a safe environment in our Nation's urban, rural and suburban areas for our children. We must avoid the continued senseless bloodshed and loss of life of children around this country. We must be proactive, Mr. Speaker, and address this problem. This bill does just that. It protects our children and it protects their future.

#### COPS PROGRAM GOOD FOR COMMUNITIES

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Police Week. Today I was at the White House Rose Garden for the unveiling of the COPS program, which calls for an additional 50,000 police officers. I want to thank President Clinton for his efforts in bringing community-oriented policing services to towns and cities all across America.

I have served as both a city police officer and a Michigan State police trooper for approximately 12 years. When I was elected to the Michigan Legislature in 1988, I authored legislation to bring community policing to Michigan. I have always advocated bringing police officers and citizens together, coming together, working together to solve neighborhood and community problems.

As a police officer and as a Congressman of an extremely rural district, I would like to thank the President for the 195 police officers the COPS program has brought to my northern Michigan communities, 28 counties in the northern part of Michigan.

The COPS program's harshest critics are the people it searches, the chiefs of police and the local sheriffs. Yet no matter what their party affiliation, whether they be Democrat, Republican or Independent, they have all praised the ease of handling of the COPS program and the one-page grant application.

Nationally, we are witnessing a dramatic decrease in crime rates. More cops on the street, coupled with a booming economy, helps to decrease crime. Yet, we are haunted by recent events of unforeseen violence in our

Nation's schools. I hope and pray that today's COPS initiative becomes a commitment not just for our Nation but also for our schools through the School Resource Officer Program, COPS in schools.

COPS working in partnership with our teachers and our students to solve crime can stop the unprecedented violence. COPS and School Resource Officers cannot be a 1-year program, a 3-year program, or a 5-year program. It must be a commitment of our generation to save future generations. It is with this COPS initiative and a commitment to the School Resource Officer program that we can duplicate the success of the COPS program to reduce violence in schools.

I have brought my years of service as a police officer to the Congress. One of the things I did when I first got here was to form a Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus to start a dialogue between Members of Congress and police officers. President Bill Clinton has always joined in our dialogue, and we appreciate this administration's continued commitment to law enforcement.

Together, the Law Enforcement Caucus and this administration have looked out for the health and safety of law enforcement officers throughout the Nation. Together, we have passed legislation to provide education benefits for dependents of slain and disabled police officers, appropriated grant monies so local law enforcement officers can purchase bulletproof vests, waived the Federal income tax on pension benefits of slain officers, and of course initiated the School Resource Officer program.

So I would like to thank the President not just for caring about reducing the Nation's crime rate but helping to take care of America's crime fighters.

But no matter how much we do, no matter how much we try to ensure the safety of the men and women in law enforcement, we know that death is possible and it strikes suddenly and swiftly, without warning.

Approximately 1 year ago today I was on this floor arguing for more bulletproof vests for more law enforcement officers when Sergeant Dennis Finch lay on the front porch dying, shot by a deranged gunman, who kept other fellow officers and paramedics from going to Dennis' aid. Sergeant Dennis Finch of the Traverse City Police Department died the next day.

Tomorrow night I will join Dennis' family, fellow officers, and other officers from all around this Nation at the Police Memorial in Judiciary Square here in Washington, D.C. at a candlelight vigil to honor Dennis and 157 other fallen law enforcement officers who were killed in 1998.

Every other day a law enforcement officer in the United States is killed. So as I advocate for the new COPS program, as I advocate for greater benefits for fallen officers and their families, and greater protections for all law en-

forcement officers, I am pleased to say that as a cop I know what it means to have a good partner: That is one you can count on. And we in law enforcement have no better partners in our fight against crime than President Bill Clinton and Vice President AL GORE and the Democratic party.

I salute all current and past law enforcement officers and our fallen officers. May God grant them and their families peace.

#### SUCCESS OF UNITED STATES SOFTWARE INDUSTRY IS JEOPARDIZED

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RYUN of Kansas). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I came to the podium today to talk about technology, but hearing the eloquent statement by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK), I want to associate myself with his comments, particularly since I lost my cousin, Mark Brown, of the Kent County Sheriff Department, who died in the line of duty several weeks ago.

I just want to tell my colleagues there are many things we can do for our law enforcement officers, but I want to say that it has made me a person who stops when I can and thank our uniformed police officers for their duty of getting up every day and wondering if they are coming home, and I know other Members feel as I do.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to address some good news in our economy, and that is the incredible success of our software industry. None of us can turn around without reading of a new brilliantly creative and dynamic invention by the software industry. There is plentiful good news in this segment of our economy. But there are two things that this Congress needs to help this industry with that I would like to address tonight.

The first thing is that the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Executive needs to be more aggressive to make sure that our trading partners across the seas stop stealing software from American software workers. We have a lot more software workers than we used to. In 1990, we had 290,000 employees in software.

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We now have over 60,000 Americans involved in developing software, and they put their hard-earned efforts and their creative genius in it. And then all too frequently, people across the waters, our good trading partners, steal that software that they have designed with their hard-earned labor. And we are making an effort, the administration, and I laud the administration for their efforts to try to get some of our trading partners to agree to stop those practices, to have more vigorous enforcement of copyright protections and intellectual property rights.