

State, we are going to need over 7,000 teachers just in Hillsborough County, one county that I represent.

Fixing our education system is like a three-legged stool. We have to modernize our schools, we have to build them the right size the first time, we need to reduce class size, especially in the early grades, so we can return control of the classroom back to the teachers, and we need to begin preparing to replenish the ranks of our teaching profession with the very best and brightest we can find.

Along with the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER) who spoke earlier this evening, I will be introducing legislation on Thursday that offers one approach to attract more qualified people into our teaching profession. Our bill is referred to as the Transition to Teaching Act. It is modeled after the very successful Troops to Teachers law in this country which has resulted in more than 3,000 retired members of the military choosing to become math, science, and technology teachers since 1974. More than 270 of these men and women alone are now teaching in Florida schools.

The Transition to Teaching Act expands the Troops to Teachers program so that any midlife career professional can consider making a change in the teaching profession, and like the Troops to Teachers program, will qualify for up to a \$5,000 grant or stipend to cover the cost of returning to a college or university to complete the coursework necessary to be trained as a teacher and certified as a teacher in the State where they choose to go.

In exchange for that training, we and the taxpayers of our country will expect at least 3 years of teaching, and we have targeted our bill towards those schools that have the highest percentage of students from an impoverished family where we face the greatest challenge in attracting teachers. We will expect the recipients of this grant to spend up to 3 years teaching in one of these schools, to help begin to fill the ranks of our dwindling number of teachers.

Yesterday in my home, Tampa, I met with three highly qualified individuals who formerly served in our military and are using those life experiences to be very successful teachers, Ronald Dyches, Al Greenway, and Karen Billingsley.

Ronald Dyches told me it had always been his dream to be a teacher. When it came time to retire from the military, the Troops to Teachers program was there to help cover some of the costs to pay the bills of going back to school before he could begin to earn a salary as a teacher. He told me it was always his dream to be a teacher, and that grant helped him realize his dream. Now he is doing a terrific job. As a matter of fact, as a veteran he helped design a course on the history of the Vietnam War that is not only being used in his high school, it is being used in other high schools in the

Hillsborough County area. He is simply one example of some of the very talented and mature people who have worked in other professions, who can be brought into our schools.

Our bill can help move people from the boardroom to the classroom, from the firehouse to the schoolhouse, from the police station on Main Street to the school on Main Street.

Let us work together to bring more qualified people into our teaching profession. Let us reach out to people who might consider realizing their dream and making that change to a second career in teaching. Let us get together and pass this legislation, and begin to deal with the need to have quality teachers as more and more students are in our schools.

GUN CONTROL

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, it was pretty outrageous last week that the Republican leadership had the nerve to offer a watered-down version of the Senate gun safety legislation. It was clear to all that watched and listened that 80 percent of the Republicans were willing to wait until there is more blood on our hands before passing real gun control legislation, legislation that would make it harder for kids to get guns.

But thankfully, 80 percent of the Democrats and 20 percent of the Republicans know that our children should be worrying about hitting their books, not about getting hit by a bullet. They know that our children should see Gunsmoke as an old TV rerun, and not a reality in their daily lives. And they know that our children must be safe in their schools, their neighborhoods, and their homes.

Increased gun safety measures will save the lives of thousands of young people every year. Regardless of our political agendas, we have to put our children first.

Fortunately, last week good sense prevailed and the legislation that would not close the gaping loopholes in our gun laws and would not make our children any safer failed. Mr. Speaker, now we have another opportunity, an opportunity to consider meaningful anti-violence legislation, rather than legislation that sounds helpful but rings hollow. We need commonsense anti-violence legislation, and we need to now.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, some of the most effective programs that we should and could be considering would begin at the preschool level. We know that the early years of a child's life are pivotal in determining their personality, determining their values and their conscience. So we must stop Band-Aid approaches that put guns in the hands of youth and put criminals behind bars after the fact.

Instead, we must do some real crimefighting at the source through effective prevention programs. In other words, let us not do what we have been doing with the staggering amount of money and a staggering lack of success. Let us not lock up people behind bars, never mind where they bought their gun.

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Never mind where they bought their gun or never mind what made them so crazy in the first place because today's kids are trying to be older faster, and they do not know how to do it, and they should not have to do it. A lot of them come from homes with only one parent, and a lot of them live in poverty.

Unfortunately, the clear connection between poverty and antisocial behavior continues to be an afterthought. We think we can stumble our way to make sense of security by some puny legislation, by putting people behind iron bars instead of protecting them and preventing them from being in trouble in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, we must address the problem of youth violence in terms of prevention and in terms of effective punishment. We should be implementing solutions based upon what research, what judgments, and what other practitioners have indicated about what is needed to reduce juvenile crime and delinquency.

That is why we must step forward with real solutions. Following the good sense of 80 percent of the House Democrats and 20 percent of the House Republicans, we can strengthen gun control laws, and we can invest in prevention programs so our children will not result in violence to settle their problems.

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

(Mr. FORD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IOM REPORT ON SILICONE BREAST IMPLANTS

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Institute of Medicine released its report on silicone breast implant research. It evaluated past studies on the association between silicone implants and diseases as well as considering the frequency of complications including rupture, the need for additional surgeries, and problems with contraction.

Perhaps the Institute of Medicine's most important directive was to recommend areas of future research concerning silicone breast implants.

The IOM, the Institute of Medicine, report points to the undeniable need

for additional scientific research on the long-term outcomes and local complications of silicone breast implants. In fact, the report states these complications occur frequently enough to be a cause for concern and to justify the conclusion that they are the primary safety issue with silicone breast implants.

Although the rate of implant rupture and silicone leakage has not been definitively established, a recent analysis of implant failure conducted by the University of Florida found silicone breast implant rupture at a rate of 30 percent at 5 years, 50 percent at 10 years, and 70 percent at 17 years.

However, in information sent to women considering implants, manufacturers currently are grossly underestimating the rupture rate at 1 percent.

The Institute of Medicine, the IOM, also concluded that the information concerning the nature and relatively high frequency of local complications and reoperations is an essential element of adequate informed consent for women undergoing breast implantation.

Therefore, the IOM recommends the development of national model of informed consent of women undergoing breast implantation to ensure women fully understand the risks associated with silicone implants.

Women have the right to choose to get breast implants, but Congress has the responsibility to make sure that they are fully aware of the risks associated with these products.

For these reasons, I, along with the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) and nearly 45 cosponsors have introduced H.R. 1323, the Silicone Breast Implant Research and Information Act.

This bill promotes independent research at NIH in order to ensure impartial, scientifically sound studies on silicone breast implants. To date, there have been no National Institutes of Health, NIH, clinical studies of mastectomy patients who have had implants.

With the level of attention and controversy on this issue, supporters of H.R. 1323 believe leadership from NIH is critically important.

Our legislation would also require the FDA to strengthen informed consent procedures in clinical trials and institute better follow-up mechanisms for consumer complaints. Because the FDA has never approved silicone breast implants for the market, it is crucial that women and their doctors have access to accurate information concerning the possible risks.

Finally, the Institute of Medicine, the IOM, recommends additional research to determine safe levels of silicone in the human body. Everyone has some level of silicone in their body. However, there has never been any research to establish a safe level of silicone. How can scientists be expected to determine whether silicone is causing diseases if we do not know what is the safe level?

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to look at H.R. 1323.

JUVENILE DIABETES

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to call to the attention of my colleagues and the House to the urgent problem of juvenile diabetes.

Today, I was visited in my office by one of my 9-year-old constituents, Ruth Hendren of Raleigh, North Carolina.

Ruth came to Washington with the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation to lobby Congress to provide needed funds for diabetes research.

We in Congress are used to being lobbied all of the time by high-priced hired guns and other big-time lobbyists who represent any number of special interests in this body.

But when one looks into the eyes of a child, whose daily battle with this terrible disease is truly the embodiment of bravery, one cannot help but be moved.

Diabetes is a chronic, debilitating disease that affects every organ system, every age group, both genders, and all ethnic minorities.

Sixteen million people suffer from diabetes. Eight hundred thousand Americans and children will be diagnosed this year alone. Victims of diabetes, of juvenile diabetes, must endure as many as six injections of insulin a day and eight finger-prick blood glucose tests every day. It would be tough for an adult to do that, but it is especially tough to see a child.

We in Congress need to do what is right on behalf of the victims of juvenile diabetes in every congressional district in the country.

Diabetes is a disease in search of a cure, a problem in search of a solution. Medical research has brought us close to the cure of diabetes.

I call on my colleagues to step up to the plate and support increased funding for the National Institute of Health for diabetes research.

On behalf of Ruth and all of America's victims of diabetes and their families, I trust that Congress will do it this year.

EDUCATION AND SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Speaker, while I am talking on this issue of education and funding, it is important that I cover an issue that is also very important for this Congress to deal with, and that is school construction. It is an urgent problem all across this country.

I want to thank my colleagues in the New Democratic Coalition for their leadership and help in this issue of school construction.

As a former State superintendent of schools in North Carolina, I have been working to help pass a school construction bill since I arrived in this Congress in 1997.

The statistics tell the tale. Today, there are nearly 53 million students in schools in America, more than at any time in our Nation's history. Schools are busting at the seams.

Children find themselves in trailers, gyms, closets, bathrooms, and other make-shift classrooms and gyms and on stages.

Substandard learning environments are unacceptable. We want higher standards for our children in academics and places for our teachers to teach.

If we are to succeed in the next generation and the new millennium, our children must have world-class education; and to have that, we must have quality facilities.

In my district alone, we have places that have grown almost a third since 1990. Wake County, our capital county, will add about 3,500 to 4,500 new students to enrollment rolls every year. That is 3,500 to 4,500 students every year.

The crisis is getting worse. What kind of example do we set for our children when we neglect their schools? Over the next 10 years, more than 1.5 million more public school children will show up at the schoolhouse door. In North Carolina alone, our high schools are projected to grow by 21.4 percent over the next 10 years; and that will be third in growth in the United States.

I have introduced a school bill, School Construction Act, that will provide \$7.2 billion in school construction bonds across the United States for our fastest growing school districts.

I am working with the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) and the administration, and I will work with anyone else who wants to work to make sure that we have school funds for our children.

Our legislation uses Federal resources to leverage more local financing for schools. This does not take place with local money. It leverages it. Local systems get to make the decisions. We will only provide the avenue to do it. Taxpayers get more bang for their buck, and young people get good education environments, exactly the kind of assistance that local schools need.

The Etheridge School Construction Act now enjoys more than 88 cosponsors in the House and many members of the New Democratic Coalition. I invite others of my colleagues to join me.

My bill has been endorsed by the National Education Association, by the Chief State School Offices, and many other organizations who realize that we must act and we must act now.

I join my colleagues in calling for the congressional leadership in this House to bring up school construction now so that we can act on it and we can have the resources next year.