

unnecessary rules and regulations that actually reduces the number of jobs it could create.

Mr. Speaker, over the next several weeks there are going to be those who say everything imaginable to allow the American people or force the American people to take their eye off the ball. I believe in the American people, the common sense that they will prevail in the end, and not only that, but that we will place our faith in their wisdom and judgment to know that when there is too much money left here in Washington, too many people want to spend it. I say when we take care of Social Security, Medicare, strengthen our national defense and protect our environment and improve education, what is left over we send back home to the people who earned it, to strengthen freedom, to strengthen liberty, and continue our path to prosperity, not only for families that I represent so proudly and humbly in Staten Island and Brooklyn, but all across this great country. I suspect that when we have this debate, the American people will understand who is right.

TITLE IX AND ITS EFFECTS FOR OUR COUNTRY

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to honor the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) for her good works on Title IX and everything else she does here for women and children and families and all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, last Monday night I had the chance to see in person the effects of Title IX firsthand. And let me tell my colleagues, I was impressed. Last Monday night, a number of my colleagues and I flew to Florida with the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team and with the First Lady to watch the space shuttle launch. While we were there, we met with female astronauts and we met with other women involved with the space program.

Of course, I do not have to describe the American women's soccer team to anyone that is listening here tonight or anybody in this Chamber. I cannot imagine that there is an American who has not heard of their skill, their power, and their success and does not hold them in awe.

These women, these young women are the products of Title IX. They are the perfect example of the importance of Title IX. They are an example for every female player on every women's sport team in the Nation. But less well known are the benefits of Title IX for women like the women astronauts that I met.

Title IX says that no person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded or discriminated against under any educational program or activity receiving Federal aid. So it is not just sports. Be-

fore Title IX, most institutions of higher education, as the gentlewoman from Hawaii told us, refused to admit women or have strict quotas on the number of women admitted. Since Title IX, however, there have been significant increases in women's educational achievements, particularly in what were traditionally all-male fields like science, engineering, math, and technology.

So while we were gathered there the other night to celebrate the very real achievements of women on and off the playing field due to Title IX, we must also be aware of how much there is left to do. According to the National Science Foundation, the low participation of women in math, science, and engineering is a true and serious national problem. Too many girls lose interest in science and math during elementary and middle school and refuse to take, or fail to take advantage of these courses that they will need to prepare themselves for technical and science degrees, and technical and science high-paid careers. Too few women earn college degrees in science, engineering, math, and technology. Even though women make up slightly more than 50 percent of our population, they are less than 30 percent of America's scientists.

My colleagues may be asking me, so what? Is that some national problem? Well, the answer is absolutely yes, this is a big problem. A big problem for employers, a big problem for women as future wage-earners, and a huge problem for our Nation as we compete in the global marketplace. Quite clearly, there is no way for America to have a technically competent work force if the majority of students, females, do not prepare themselves and study for science, math, and technology careers.

That is why I have introduced a bill to help school districts encourage girls to pursue these technical careers. My bill is formally entitled, Getting Our Girls Ready for the 21st Century Act, but it is known as "Go, Girl." Go, Girl will encourage a bold new work force of energized young women in science, math, engineering, and technology. Go, Girl funds programs in elementary and high school to encourage girls to study and pursue careers in those fields.

Today, women are big winners on the soccer field, and that is with the help of Title IX. Now we need to get Title IX and Go, Girl into the classroom to make more girls and their future employers winners by preparing girls for careers in science, math, engineering, and technology.

Mr. Speaker, Title IX says, no person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded or discriminated against under any educational program or activity receiving Federal aid. Our job now is to encourage all girls and young women to take advantage of Title IX opportunities and like the American soccer women and the women astronauts, become all that they can be.

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

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

THANKS TO TITLE IX, WOMEN CONTINUE TO MAKE HISTORY

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking and applauding our cochair, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) and our covice-chair, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) for putting together this Special Order and all of my other women colleagues for joining us this evening.

I want to join also in thanking the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) and former Congresswoman Edith Green for their foresight in championing and protecting the rights of women and young girls against gender discrimination within the educational system of this country, particularly in athletics; and I want to also thank all the other Members of Congress who have continued to fight to end discrimination of all kinds in this Nation.

Title IX was important legislation, and its impact is immeasurable. Its very intent was the impetus for ensuring that today's sheroes would become role models for the young girls of today and those yet to be born. Access to equal opportunities in education has made it possible for all of us to be here as representatives in Congress. Thanks to those like the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) who came before me, when I was fortunate to have been accepted into medical school, unfortunately, we were still less than 5 percent of our class. Now, women at George Washington University School of Medicine, my alma mater, make up more than 50 percent of any incoming class.

In the past few weeks we have also had outstanding examples of what Title IX has done for women in the United States since its implementation. As many have said, on Friday, Air Force Colonel Eileen Collins made NASA and U.S. history as the first woman to command a space shuttle; and of course, we are all still basking in the success as well in the recent victory of the women's soccer team this month at the World Cup, which indicates what significant progress continues to be made each and every day.

More women are enrolled in college and universities than ever and are pursuing postgraduate and professional degrees, a key factor in the swell of women-owned businesses across this country today. One of the most obvious benefits of Title IX is the impact it has had on women's participation in intercollegiate athletics, and our young

women are determined to make their mark in the sport arena.

In my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, educational and athletic equity has long been practiced, and we have produced a multitude of successful players in various sports, as well as in other fields. One of our long-standing track and field success stories in the Virgin Islands is Flora Hyacinth who is one of 24 Virgin Islanders participating in the Pan American games in Winnipeg this week, and we wish her well. Ms. Hyacinth also set a world record in 1986 for the triple jump while attending the University of Alabama, and just last year won the long jump gold in the Venezuela games. She and Ameerah Bello, another winning track and field athlete from the Virgin Islands, are both qualifying members of the Virgin Islands Olympic team.

Also making her mark in women's track and field is 16-year-old Rodneysha Pitts, who recently ranked among the top 10 U.S. high school students while attending school in Indiana briefly last year.

At the college level, Vania Blake, a volleyball player from the Virgin Islands at North Carolina A&T, was named Athlete of the Year and MVP of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference for her school; and, Felicia James, the MVP of the All Star basketball games at Grambling State University in Louisiana.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that we have all had many shining examples of young women who have been able to succeed in their respective areas because of the freedom and opportunity Title IX provides. One only need attend a WNBA game here in the District or in any city to truly realize the impact that women's sports has had on up and coming female athletes nationwide; and it is here that we can also be proud of the precedence that Title IX has set, for without it, entities such as the WNBA would not have been possible.

While we still have a long way to go in ensuring equality across the board for women and all Americans, we can look onward with pride as young women like Venus and Serena Williams dominate the world of tennis and cheer on all of the women who are charting a bright future in women's sports.

I look forward to the day, Mr. Speaker, when there will be a women's soccer league, baseball league, and any other league that we choose to break ground in. The sky is the limit for our young women in sports, in business, in politics, and now in space. I am proud to be here this evening with Congresswoman MEEK and my other colleagues and to be able to work with them, to continue to open doors for women and for all Americans.

APPLAUDING THE AUTHORS OF TITLE IX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I think that we have all benefited from the historical perspective that has been given to us this evening. It is certainly my honor to be able to associate with the remarks of my women colleagues to honor my friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK).

Even more exciting for, I hope, all of us who have had the pleasure of being on the floor, was to see her energy in recounting this historical recollection of the challenges and the battle, if you will, of what she had to overcome to bring us to this point. I particularly enjoyed the gentlewoman's emphasizing that she was a woman and a mother. When it came to her daughter, her daughter was first, but she did and made all of these sacrifices because she wanted to see young women who were coming up behind her to have the opportunities that she might not have had.

So I want to join my colleagues, and I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) for her vision and leadership, along with the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), for giving us this opportunity to come and honor the existence of Title IX, the landmark legislation that bans gender discrimination in school academics and athletics, and to applaud the authors of this legislation.

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I might say to my good friend and colleague, the vote did not count, but the vision, the words, and fight that she puts in place were really what counted. We thank her for that. Might I say to former Congresswoman Edith Green, our appreciation as well. Their leadership ushered in a new era of appreciation for women in sports in academia.

The Speaker has been listening patiently. As many of us proudly like to talk about our children and home towns, let me say that I am from Houston, Texas. I want to share a personal moment of pride, or two personal moments of pride; one, when the WNBA Comets won their first championship, I had the pleasure of being in the arena.

Mr. Speaker, I am not embarrassed to say as a slightly older woman than 21 years old, I cried, I cried, because for the first time I saw women in a competitive sport, with the excitement, the energy, but also to see the community, men and women, cheering for women sportspersons, not because it was basketball, which seems to have taken the world by storm, but because women were engaged in a competitive sport, and we all were cheering.

Might I say that I have a young daughter, a young woman for whom I had the pleasure of being a mother on the sidelines, watching her play basketball and engaging my husband and my younger son in what she was doing wrong and what she was doing right. How many of us had that experience 20, 30 years ago, when I relished the oppor-

tunity to participate in sports in my high school and in college, and Mr. Speaker, I simply was not asked to participate. Yet, I have the opportunity to sit along the sidelines and applaud my young daughter, and watch my young son engage in debate and cheering his sister along.

I stand to congratulate the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) and Ms. Edith Green for what they have made and what the future holds. I also congratulate the Women's World Cup team champions. Their historic win a few weeks ago over China was watched all over the world, and certainly serves as a testament to the importance of Title IX.

Might I apologize to my constituents who invited me to be a guest speaker, and unfortunately, there was a television in the room, and I asked everyone to stop, stop the program so I could see the final minutes of the World Cup, and watch the women bring it to a close and slap 5, and I congratulate them as well, many of whom are from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. No, I am not from North Carolina, but my daughter attends that school, and the soccer women made me aware of that when we visited with them, and joined them in traveling to NASA last Monday to see off and to offer words of congratulations to Air Force Colonel Eileen Collins, the first woman to pilot the space shuttle. She is flying above us now.

I might congratulate her because I think the charge of Title IX helped to propel women all over the country and the world to do great things. We saw her go off in space last Friday, but I was with my colleagues, both colleagues who were here on the floor, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) and the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) to travel down to Florida to see her off.

Let me quickly finish by saying each of these accomplishments, Mr. Speaker, have served to remind us that only 27 years ago there was no Title IX, and women were still second-class citizens. We have come a long way from those days when only men were expected to be legislators, excel in sports, and fly in space.

This is truly a great day for women in America and all over the world.

Mr. Speaker, let me say one thing, it is vital that we do not pit the value of women's sports against the needs of men's sports. I want to say today, tonight, this evening that what the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) did and Congresswoman Green, both of them in the United States Congress, was a great thing. Let us not turn it into a wrong thing or a bad thing by pitting those two needy efforts against each other.

I simply want to say, Mr. Speaker, as I come to a close, there is much that we need to do. I will cite the number of women that got medical degrees, and 43 percent of law degrees and doctoral degrees, 44 percent. All of this I think is