

Pakistan is a sick state. Democratic elections will not cure what ails Pakistan. However, the healing process cannot begin without them.

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER
TIME

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ADDRESSING
THE ISSUE OF H1B VISAS

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I joined a number of colleagues this morning, some of whom will be speaking here this afternoon, about the importance of addressing the issue of H1B visas.

As I visit with local business leaders in central Texas, I know that the number one high technology issue in our community, and I think across this country, is work force development, the fact that we could have and do have already some serious shortages of skilled workers that can slow down the expansion that has fueled our economic growth throughout the country.

From offices regularly assisting our local high-tech companies in securing H1B visas, I also know that this is one of the answers that can assist us in addressing this worker shortage.

One of the reasons that central Texas prospers is that we live the lyrics of a great Lyle Lovett song: Oh, no, you are not from Texas, but Texas wants you anyway. And it is because we have been able to reach out and bring the best and brightest, not only from all over the country but from all over the world, that we have been able to keep our high-tech economy booming.

I support this bipartisan effort to get increases in the number of visas for highly-skilled high-tech workers to address this problem of worker shortage. It is a stopgap measure, however. We are only at March and we are already running out of the H1B visas. We need to solve the problem for our high-tech companies now, but we need to realize that this is not a permanent solution.

That is why this legislation also increases the fees for getting these visas, and then will plow that money back into developing our domestic work force and helping our teachers and our young people pursue careers in technology.

I believe that it is important also that we not only focus on the amount or the number of visas, or the amount of the money that will be charged to get them, but on the entire system that the Immigration Service and the Department of Labor use in addressing this issue.

I find it a system that is so plagued with bureaucracy that it is almost a daily problem for my office in Austin, as well as for the many companies with whom we work. It is time that that bureaucracy move into the electronic age in which our businesses operate at present.

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So a principal focus of this bill is to see that the Immigration Service and the Department of Labor recognize that many people search for jobs now over the Internet and recognize those postings to fulfill the statutory requirements, and that we move to a system where one can file for an application on-line, where one can track an application on-line, and we reduce the level of bureaucracy in this entire process.

I am pleased to join in this bipartisan effort. I believe that it will be successful. There is already some legislation moving in the Senate. The White House has recently announced an interest in this topic. With good bipartisan support here, there is no reason that we should not be able to act and fulfill this very definite need in the very near future.

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

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

H-1B VISAS

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise also to talk about the H-1B visa issue. I think it is of critical importance that we expand those visas. But that is only part of the solution to that problem.

The bill we introduced this morning that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) referenced has a package of ideas that I think will help deal with the larger issue, which is basically filling the high-tech jobs that we have a crushing need for in this country.

If we talk to any tech business, they will tell us their number one biggest concern is finding the people to do the work that they have to be done. We have to understand that the technology sector of our technology is the faster growing sector out there. It is generating jobs and generating a strong economy. If we can find the scientists and the engineers and the biologists to fill these jobs, we could grow our economy even more and secure our economic future. We need the people to fill these jobs.

The H-1B visa bill that we introduced this morning attacks this in two dif-

ferent directions. One, we go out and try to attract the best and the brightest from around the world. That is just common sense. Why would not we want the best, brightest, and most capable minds in the world here in the U.S., growing our economy and generating jobs for us. We need to expand those numbers and bring those folks in.

But we also increase the fee for those H-1B visas and will, therefore, generate \$200 million in money to invest in educating our own population to fill those jobs as well. Because this is a long-term problem. Bringing in people from other countries is a short-term solution. We need to educate our own workforce so that they want to be scientists and engineers and have access to those jobs so they start filling them as well.

This is absolutely critical to the future of our economy. I think we should support this bill in the House and in the Senate and hopefully move forward with our economic situation so that we can fill those jobs that need to be filled.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLEY).

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to be joining the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO) and a number of other Members in the new Democrat coalition that are advancing a policy we think is very, very important, to allow the United States to maintain its relative advantage in terms of clearly being the leader in the world in technology.

This is absolutely critical for the United States, because when one looks at that technology sector, it is an area where we have created more jobs, where we have created more wealth, where we are creating more opportunities for our families.

What the H-1B legislation that we are introducing today is, in many ways, is going to ensure that the United States has the top 200,000 draft choices, the top 200,000 draft choices for the brightest, the most intelligent, the most capable engineers throughout the world.

We should feel fortunate as a country that these bright minds are interested in coming and investing their time and energy in creating jobs, in creating opportunities which are so important to the longer term future of this country.

We have also made the commitment to ensure that we are investing in education and job training programs, which are going to ensure that we are developing the domestic talent that can eventually fill these positions.

We have come forth with a balanced approach, one which will continue to ensure that the United States is providing the leadership in the technology sector and also a commitment to provide up to \$200 million, in education for

our high school students, for our college students, for our post-college students to ensure that they are going to have the academic skills that are needed to fill the tremendous demand for employees in the technology sector.

EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS, PREVENTION AND EDUCATION ACT OF 2000

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, food is one of life's greatest pleasures. Food is also one of life's greatest necessities. Yet, for many, food is the enemy, and the act of eating is torture.

Today it is estimated that 5 to 10 million Americans suffer from eating related diseases, including anorexia, bulimia, and binge eating disorder. As many as 50,000 of these individuals will die as a direct result of eating-related illnesses. High school girls are the most common victims of these deadly diseases, but a significant number of males also experience eating related problems.

We are all aware of the medical complications that result from anorexia or bulimia: malnutrition, liver damage, gum erosion, and, as I mentioned previously, even death. However, an often-overlooked consequence of eating disorders is the negative impact they have on a child's educational advancement. Due to lapses in concentration, loss of self-esteem, depression, and engaging in self-destructive behaviors, students with eating disorders often see their school performances decline.

Listen to how one young woman in my district described the destruction wreaked on her life by an eating disorder. I quote, "I am a 16-year-old girl with anorexia. Having this disease has been the most horrible experience of my life. It completely takes control of your life. It breaks up your family, friends, and your actual thinking decisions. I have had this disorder for over a year and a half. Over that year and a half, I have slowly been killing myself."

Despite the social and physical devastation these diseases inflict on young people, such as the girl I just mentioned, very few States or school districts have adequate programs or services to help children suffering from weight-related disorders.

It is for this reason that I rise today to introduce the Eating Disorders Awareness Prevention and Education Act of 2000. This legislation is made up of three separate but interrelated sections. Together these provisions are designed to raise national awareness of the problems caused by eating disorders and to expand opportunities for parents and educators to address them at the school level.

This last goal is particularly crucial, as 86 percent of all eating disorder problems start by the age of 20. It is

even more important when one considers that 10 percent of all victims report the onset of their illness by the age of 10.

Here is a quick summary of what the Eating Disorders Awareness Prevention and Education Act will do to combat this growing problem. First, the legislation provides States and local school districts with the option of using title VI funds, also known as the Innovative Strategies State Grant Program, to set up eating disorder prevention, awareness, and education programs.

This provision is consistent with congressional efforts over the past decade to raise educational achievement and increase student performance across the board.

Let us face it, a student suffering from an eating disorder is not going to perform at the highest achievement levels. This was confirmed during conversations with educators in my home State of Illinois. Over and over again, they told me about students whose grades dropped substantially or in some cases had to withdraw from school because of an eating disorder.

The second major provision of this bill is to conduct a joint study by the Department of Education and the National Center for Health to report to Congress on the impact eating disorders have on educational advancement and achievement.

The study will evaluate the extent to which students with eating disorders are more likely to miss school, have delayed rates of development or reduced cognitive skills. The study will also inventory the best practices of current State and local programs to educate youth about the dangers of eating disorders as well as assess the values of such programs.

The third and final section of this legislation calls for the Department of Education and Health and Human Services to carry out a national eating disorder public awareness campaign. This campaign will be similar to the anti-drug campaign now run by the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Mr. Speaker, eating disorders present a serious threat to health and educational advancement of our Nation's children. They must be addressed.

The Eating Disorders Awareness Prevention and Education Act gives States, local school districts, and parents the tools to address this problem at its root, in schools and classrooms across the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank those of my colleagues who have joined me in introducing this bipartisan legislation.

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

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

COLOMBIA IS NOT VIETNAM

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

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, we are about to consider a supplemental appropriations bill here in Congress. One of the things I keep hearing is, is the antinarcotics effort in Colombia going to lead us into another Vietnam. The ridiculous thing is that it shows what happens when we have a President without a clear foreign policy and no clear definition of compelling national interests.

We are certainly embroiled in another potential Vietnam. It is Kosovo. If one looks at the front page of the Washington Post today, it says "Kosovo Attacks Stir U.S. Concern. Official Says NATO May Have to Fight Ethnic Albanians."

When we were on the ground just before we voted the funds here in the House and Senate to support this effort, visited the camps of the Kosovars in Macedonia and other places, they said, no, we are not going to go back under the Serbs. Of course we are going to fight to take over this. We are going to be independent. There was not a single person who did not believe that they were going to continue their internal civil war.

What defines a clear compelling national interest is how it relates to the United States. In this bill, we are putting money back into the military that the President stripped out for Kosovo, but I do not hear complaints about that.

But in Colombia, we do have a clear compelling national interest, and it is most certainly not like Vietnam. In Vietnam, we were across the other side of the continent. Here, Colombia is a 2-hour flight from Miami, Florida, and produces 80 percent of the cocaine that comes into the United States, the drugs that are on the streets of Fort Wayne of northeast Indiana and all over this country.

Colombia has 40 million people. It is the second largest country in our hemisphere known historically as the area of the Monroe Doctrine, the fifth largest economy, and the oldest democracy in Latin America. This is not a propped up government like we were dealing with at multiple times in Vietnam. This is a democratically-elected government. In fact, the narco-guerillas do not have any popular support unlike the Viet Cong, which we could argue about how much they had.

But here is the latest approval ratings in Colombian polls: 73 percent for the Catholic Church, 71 percent for the Colombian National Police, 69 percent for the Colombian military, 9 percent for the terrorist paramilitary, and only 4 percent for the FARC and ELN. They know they do not even have the popular will in any village in their country. They control rural areas by force, but they do not control the major metro areas. The only way they can control the rural areas is by force.