

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.)

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

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

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

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

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SETTING PRIORITIES FOR FIGHTING THE WAR ON DRUGS

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

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, in today's St. Paul Pioneer Press this headline caught my attention this morning. It reads, "Drug-Related Deaths Set Record."

The story goes on to say that "drug-related deaths in the United States have reached a record level, while illegal drug users can buy cocaine and heroin at some of the lowest prices in two decades, according to a White House report." It further states that "some 15,973 people in this country died from drug-induced causes in 1997, an increase of 1,130 people over the previous year."

The story further states that "only four of every 10 addicts in the United States who needed treatment received it," according to the report. Then it concludes by stating that "the figures surely are distressing news for the Clinton Administration, which is spending record amounts of money to fight the war on drugs."

Mr. Speaker, why do we have a record number of deaths from illegal drugs? Because we are spending the money in the wrong places.

Now the administration is calling for the expenditure of another \$1.7 billion for drug eradication and interdiction in Colombia. We have already spent \$600 million fighting the drug war in Colombia. What has been the result? The production of cocaine and heroine has skyrocketed. In fact, 80 percent of the cocaine and 75 percent of the heroin today in the United States comes from Colombia.

Mr. Speaker, our priorities are all out of line in the war against drugs. For the \$400 million proposed to build new helicopters for Colombia, we could treat 200,000 addicts in the United

States. When President Nixon in 1971 declared war on drugs, he directed 60 percent of the funding to treatment, and do you know what it is today, Mr. Speaker? Eighteen percent, 18 percent of the funding.

Overall, since the war on drugs started, we have spent \$150 billion on crop eradication and drug interdiction. What has been the result? We have 26 million addicts and alcoholics in the United States today. Most are unable to get into treatment. Ten million have no insurance and therefore cannot get treatment through Medicaid. Sixteen million have insurance, but the insurance companies are blocking the access of all but 2 percent of these to treatment.

In the last 10 years, Mr. Speaker, we have seen 50 percent of the treatment centers close in America. Even more alarming, 60 percent of the adolescent treatment centers in this country are gone.

We need to wake up. The Congress needs to wake up. The President needs to wake up. We have a national epidemic of addiction on our hands, and we are about to spend good money after bad, another \$1.7 billion for the Colombia boondoggle.

We need to listen to former Lieutenant Commander Sylvester Salcedo, who for 3 years worked on this effort with our intelligence forces and our military in Colombia. This is the way Lieutenant Commander Salcedo put it: "This is a misdirection of our priorities. This money should be going to treating addicts in the United States, rather than trying to eradicate crops in Colombia."

Mr. Speaker, I hope that wisdom and good judgment prevail in this body when this vote comes up, because this is truly a defining moment in our effort to curb illegal drug use in the United States. Are we going to continue wasting money on these eradication and interdiction efforts that do not work? All the studies show that treatment is 23 times more effective, more cost effective, than eradication. All the studies show that treatment is 11 times more cost effective than interdiction efforts.

When are we going to learn? When are we going to learn? Let us remember when this war on drugs was first declared by President Nixon, he said we should spend 60 percent of the money on treatment. Today it is down to 18 percent. We need to reverse those priorities. We need to emphasize treatment, provide access to the 26 million Americans already addicted to drugs and alcohol. Until we do something about the demand side, the disease of addiction that causes people to crave and demand drugs, we are never going to put a dent in this problem, which everyone in this body says is the number one public health and public safety problem.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to defeat the almost-\$2 billion for more wasteful efforts in Colombia and redi-

rect those priorities to drug treatment here at home.

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DIGITAL DIVIDE ELIMINATION ACT OF 2000

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

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that today my colleagues and I introduced the Digital Divide Elimination Act of 2000, legislation designed to extend technology access to every home in America. I urge every Member's support of this vital piece of legislation.

More and more, America is transforming into a technologically driven nation, with every institution being impacted by the Internet and e-mail. In this new tech-driven economy, computers are becoming the crucial link to education, to information, to technological skills, to job sources, and to commerce.

For all Americans, personal and economic success will depend on having the ability to understand and use these powerful information tools. However, according to the Commerce Department's report defining the digital divide, a large segment of the population has no access to technology at all. In fact, less than 10 percent of households with income below \$20,000 own computers or have used the Internet, an alarming statistic. Unless this changes, these poor families, in both rural and urban areas, will be left behind. Millions of Americans will not have the tools necessary to compete in the new economy and will become the first second-class citizens of the information age.

The digital divide has replaced Y2K as the major tech crisis facing America. Educators, Federal and local legislators and industry leaders have all begun to realize that the digital divide in America is a reality and are taking steps to bring technology to schools and libraries across America. We as public officials applaud them for their philanthropic efforts.

In addition, there are current and pending Federal legislation that provides incentives for private corporations to increase computer donations. The increased charitable deduction for computers under Tax Code section 170(e)(6) has boosted computer contributions to public schools. The additional tax incentives proposed in the New Millennium Classroom Act, H.R. 2303, and the President's budget proposal, will provide further inducements and will extend access to libraries and technology centers. I support both these efforts.

However, these efforts are not enough. To truly bridge the digital divide, we must build a public-private partnership to bolster these efforts, and, more importantly, extend technology access to every home in America. Only then will these children and

their families truly gain an appreciation for technology and the Internet, in the home, unfettered by the constraints of an institutional setting.

The legislation which we introduced this morning provides the incentives to bridge this gap and ignite the massive effort needed to make the information age a classless society. The legislation will induce private companies to donate computers, Internet access, software and technology training to schools, libraries, computer centers, and homes of poor families. In addition, the tax incentives will make it less costly for poor families to purchase computers.

Let me tell you what the legislation will do: first, the legislation will provide a refundable credit equal to 50 percent of the cost for computer purchases by families receiving the Earned Income Tax Credit, up to \$500. While the costs of computers and Internet access are dropping, the cost of a computer still remains a barrier for many low-income families and many working families. Returning half of the cost of the computer to these families, or, in some cases, all, if computers are less expensive, will help to lessen the financial toll. Just a little assistance can go a long way towards helping working families help themselves and provide a brighter future for their children.

Second, the legislation increases the charitable deduction for computer donations to the higher of the depreciated costs of the computer and the market price of the computer.

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Many corporations have already stepped up to the plate and have offered their assistance in trying to bridge this digital divide. However, if we are truly to give every American access to technology, more has to be done and here government should play a role. As a result of this provision, computer manufacturers will have a greater incentive to donate unsold computers because they can deduct the full value of the computer.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, nonmanufacturers will also have a greater incentive to donate computer equipment even where the depreciated cost of the computer exceeds the market price of the computer. Under current law, it is more economical for many nonmanufacturers to throw away used computers than to donate them to charity because they can take a higher tax deduction for disposing of the computer than for donating it. That is clearly bad tax policy, Mr. Speaker, and thankfully this provision will change that result.

Third, the legislation will extend the special charitable deduction for computer donations through 2004 and expand it to include donations, not only to libraries and training centers, but also to nonprofits that provide computer technology to poor families.

The experience of Computers for Youth in New York City which to date

has delivered 103 fully-loaded Pentium computers to the homes of 7th and 8th graders in a South Bronx middle school highlights the need to extend these tax incentives to nonprofit organizations that are placing computers in the homes of poor families.

Computers for Youth has scratched the surface in this one place in New York. We need to encourage similar efforts by nonprofits across the country.

In conclusion, the President has placed priority on this issue and included \$2 billion of tax incentives in his budget. I applaud him for this effort. This legislation goes even further to bridge the digital divide by focusing itself not only on provisions outside the home, but to bring computers to every home of every poor family in America. I appreciate this chance to bring this legislation to the American people.

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

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

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

(Mrs. BIGGERT addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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HONORING DONNIS H. THOMPSON ON 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT

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

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to have this opportunity to recognize the achievements of one of Hawaii's extraordinary women as we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the National Women's History Project.

Dr. Donnis H. Thompson virtually founded women's collegiate athletics in Hawaii. She was one of the individuals who inspired my authorship of federal Title IX legislation by highlighting the inequities in funding of women's collegiate sports. During her 30 years at the University of Hawaii, Dr. Thompson pioneered numerous health and athletic programs. She served as Hawaii's first woman Superintendent of Education, was the first Women's Director of Athletics at the University of Hawaii, and authored the innovative "Vision of Excellence," a 10-year blueprint for public education. Dr. Thompson has been a state and national leader in promoting girls and women's participation in sports and in promoting civil rights.

Donnis Thompson is the recipient of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., National Outstanding Service Award, a member of the University of Hawaii Hall of Fame, and an Honor Fellow of the National Association of Girls and Women

in Sports. April 15, 1981 was proclaimed as "Donnis Thompson Day" in the State of Hawaii.

Donnis is a dear friend and one of the women whose opinion and advice I value most highly. Today I celebrate her life of achievement and the positive impact she has had on improving opportunity for women in Hawaii.

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FAIRLY COMPENSATING OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I want to start my comments off tonight by reading a poem that I think reminds us of just how important the men and women in uniform are to this Nation.

And the poem is written by a Father Denis Edward O'Brien, the United States Marine Corps, and it says:

It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.
It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.
It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.

It is the soldier, who salutes the flag.
It is the soldier who serves beneath the flag.
It is the soldier whose coffin is draped by the flag.

It is the soldier who allows the protester to burn the flag.

Mr. Speaker, the reason I read that poem is to remind the Members of Congress as well as the American people that we have many men and women in uniform who are willing to die for this country and to die for our freedoms. The reason I come to the floor once a week is to remind my colleagues in the Congress, both Republican and Democrat, that we have between 5,000 and 11,000 men and women in uniform on food stamps.

The reason I use that figure between 5,000 and 11,000, it depends on which agency we are talking about, but the way I look at this, if we have one, just one family in the military on food stamps, that is one too many. We have 60 percent of our men and women in uniform who are married who serve this Nation.

Our men and women are being deployed more than ever before. In fact, between 1982 and 1990, Army and Marine Corps operations, the number was 17 deployments. Between 1990 and today, our Army and Marine Corps have been deployed 149 times. We know that we have men and women in Bosnia. We have men and women in Kosovo. We have men and women in uniform all over this world.

My point in coming to the floor once a week is that I introduced, several months back, H.R. 1055 that has been signed by over 90 Members of Congress, both Democrat and Republican, that says that the men and women in uniform, if this bill should pass, would receive a \$500 tax credit, if they qualify for food stamps.