personal stories, your stories of what you are paying for prescription medications. We asked them to bring in their prescriptions, bring in their receipts. I can tell my colleagues the stories they told were tremendously moving.

This pill bottle symbolizes the rising costs of prescription medication. Let me share with my colleagues a couple stories. A woman from Cinebar, Washington, who told me that they make just barely under $1,000 they receive in their Social Security and other benefits, but they pay well over $500, $500 in prescription medication costs.

Another woman who had been monitoring the bimonthly bill she is paying for her medications for the last year, in one year, she saw a 20 percent increase, a 20 percent increase in one year in the drug costs.

My own father who shared with me that a pill he took 8 years ago had cost $1 a pill at that time now costs $4 a pill. That is 400 percent inflation in 8 years.

Mr. Speaker, this body has been in session now about 16, 17 months. We have named post offices. We have done some worthy things for sure. But we have not addressed this absolutely critical issue.

While American citizens are doing without the medications that their physicians have prescribed, this body has not acted. It is time to act. We are capable of acting.

We need to do two things. We need to cap the rising costs of prescription medications. It is just not right for our senior citizens to travel to Mexico or to Canada to buy medications that they cannot afford within their own country, even though those very medications were funded by their taxpayer dollars.

It is even worse when seniors who cannot make that journey do without the medications they need, medications to improve the quality of their lives, medications to save their lives. But they are faced with that terrible choice between paying the rent or paying for their medication.

The current policy is not acceptable. It is not acceptable to put American citizens in that condition. It is not effective because, when seniors do without their medication today, we will pay higher costs tomorrow.

So the first thing we must do is cap the rising costs of prescription medication, and there are various ways to do it. But I call on this body today. Let us work together. This is not a partisan issue. It does not matter whether a senior citizen is a Democrat or a senior citizen is a Republican. They are entitled to be able to take the medication their doctor says they need.

The second thing we must do is establish a meaningful and affordable prescription Medicare benefit so that senior citizens can pool their resources and have predictable manageable costs when it comes time to get a prescription filled by their doctor.

This pill bottle is filled, not just with receipts, but with personal stories, stories of people who are suffering, stories of people who depend on medication to alleviate that suffering.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon this body tonight and in the remaining months of this Congress to hear the pleas of the constituents of my district and the constituents throughout this country. Do not let prescription medications continue to grow larger as this pill bottle indicates. Let us work together; let us stop the rising escalation of prescription medication costs. Let us work together and establish a real and effective and affordable prescription medication benefit.

A TRAGEDY OFFSTAGE NO MORE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, last month a landmark decision was announced, marking an important recognition of one of the most horrible crimes against humanity of the 20th century, the Armenian Genocide. What was particularly important was that the action came from the State of Israel, the homeland of the Jewish people who were victims of the Nazi Holocaust.

Israel's education minister, Yossi Sarid, made the historic decision to include the Armenian Genocide in the national curriculum. Mr. Sarid announced his decision on April 24, the traditional day of commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, at a ceremony in the Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City. Expressing regret that Israeli students know very little of the genocide that began in 1915, in which some 1.5 million Armenians, one-third of the Armenian people, were killed by Turkish forces, Mr. Sarid said, ''I will do everything so that Israeli pupils will study and learn about the Armenian Genocide.''

Mr. Speaker, the issue of Israeli recognition of the Armenian Genocide received extensive coverage in an article that appeared in the May 12, 2000, Internet edition of the Jerusalem Post titled ''A Tragedy Offstage No More,'' by Leora Eren Frucht.

As the article noted, ''When Hitler ordered his death units to 'exterminate without mercy or pity, men, women and children belonging to the Polish-speaking race,' he was confident that the world would overlook the mass murder. 'After all,' he asked rhetorically on the eve of the 1939 invasion of Poland, 'who remembers the extermination of the Armenians?''' By the time that the Nazis were finally stopped 6 years later, 6 million European Jews had been murdered, as well as millions of other innocent victims of other nationalities.

Mr. Speaker, the Armenian and Jewish peoples are united in a common bond of suffering and in the struggle to overcome the tragedies of the past. While they were being massacred in unthinkable numbers, Armenians in the Ottoman Turkish Empire during World War I and European Jews during World War II, most of the rest of the world was looking the other way, although many knew what was happening.

After the Holocaust, the Jewish people built the State of Israel into a prosperous democracy, despite being surrounded by hostile neighbors. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the Armenian people have worked to build democracy and economic reform in the Republic of Armenian, despite being surrounded by hostile neighbors.

One of the hostile neighbors who has threatened Armenia since its independence a decade ago is Turkey. It was, of course, in the territory of the present-day Republic of Turkey and in the name of Turkish nationalism that the genocide against the Armenians took place during the waning days of the Ottoman Empire. Yet Turkey continues its unconscionable official policy of denying that the genocide ever took place. In today's world, Turkey, a member of the NATO alliance, continues to blockade its much smaller and more vulnerable neighbor, Armenia, despite Armenia's standing offer to normalize relations without preconditions.

In the aforementioned Jerusalem Post article, Turkey's official policy of denial was described as ''outrageous'' by Deborah Lipstadt, the American historian who defeated Holocaust denier David Irving in a highly publicized libel trial in London court last month. Professor Yehuda Bauer, academic director of Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial, stated, ''If you accept the U.N. 1948 definition of genocide, which we and many other nations have done, then there can be no argument about calling this a genocide,'' referring to Armenia.

Yet the decision by Israel's education minister was a difficult one. Israel has been working to steadily improve its relations with Turkey at the same time that Israel works to improve relations with Armenia. Mr. Sarid's decision on including the Armenian Genocide in the Israeli curriculum prompted an outcry in Turkey that included a protest to Israel's charge d'affaires in Ankara.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, Turkey frequently has shown its willingness to play hardball to intimidate other nations into not recognizing the Armenian Genocide. When the National Assembly in France adopted a bill in 1998 to acknowledge the genocide, Turkey promptly suspended the signing of a $145 million defense contract.

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Thus, Mr. Speaker, considering Israel's vulnerable position in the Middle East and its need to cultivate relations with Muslim nations, the action by Education Minister Sarid was a true profile in courage, a real statement of principle.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to cite a letter dated May 22, 2000 that the

Armenian Assembly of America has received from Israeli Education Minister Yossi Sarid, and I quote, ''I fully intend to allow Israeli pupils to learn the lessons of your tragedy, which is ours and the world's, as well. Israelis are the last people who can afford to forget the tragedies of this magnitude.''

THE MILLION MOM MARCH AND SETTING AGENDAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by congratulating the Million Mom March. The Million Mom March took place on May 14. I think the moms marching had a lot to do with our agenda here in Congress today and tomorrow and our agenda for the rest of the year. I just hope that the moms realize that their power, the power of mothers marching, is great enough to have an impact and an influence on what we do here, in many ways.

Their immediate objective was gun control, but there are many other items that I would like to see placed on their agenda. I would like to see the mothers set the agenda for what is going to happen here in Washington in the next few months.

Mr. Speaker, there is a secret, almost a secret, that nobody wants to talk about that I think the million moms and the fathers too ought to be concerned with and should be discussing. Fathers as well as mothers, and all of us, are concerned about the future and concerned about the Nation's future as it impacts upon our immediate children and our grandchildren. We want to see a greater America, we want to see a better world, and we have a golden opportunity here in this United States of America right now with the surplus of $2 trillion over the next 10 years as a possibility. It is possible that we may have a surplus of $2 trillion.

This year's surplus is definitely, by the most conservative estimate, going to be about $200 billion, $200 billion this year, and it will probably be no less than $200 billion for the next 10 years. I think the million moms marching ought to know about that. I think they ought to be involved in a discussion of what happens with that $2 trillion over the next 10 years to impact upon their lives and their children's lives.

I think the most comprehensive, the longest and the loudest discussion ever held in the history of our democracy should focus on this window of opportunity that we have at this point. We started the debate today on permanent trade with China. The relationship with China is relevant here in terms of the fact that some of us believe that the trade with China agreement will have a great impact on the working families of America because it is going to take away many of the jobs that people at the lower levels have.

Trade with China is definitely going to be as bad or far worse than the trade agreement with Mexico, which immediately began to drain away certain manufacturing jobs. China is so much bigger. China's economy is controlled and manipulated, and the likely danger that our economy will be greatly impacted by China is even greater than anything that happened in the case of Mexican cheap labor destroying jobs in America.

The question is, what does all this have to do with the million moms marching? What does it have to do with the setting of the agenda here in this Capitol for the next few months? What does it have to do with the $2 trillion surplus we expect over the next 10 years? It all comes together because, as we lose those jobs that are going to fly away to China, inevitably corporations will pick up and they will go locate plants where the cheapest labor market is, where there are 25-cent-an-hour workers in China, where in some cases they use prison labor.

Already our economy and our stores are flooded with goods from China because everybody can make a killing. Companies can go and manufacture goods at dirt cheap prices and then come back into our advanced economy and sell them at very high prices, relatively speaking, and make a big profit. So no industry, no corporation is going to back away from the opportunity to make these big profits. They will be chasing dollars at the expense of the loss of many jobs.

So, what is one of the possible answers to the problem that will be created if the people who want to pass the trade bill prevail, and the rumor is that they have enough votes and they will probably prevail tomorrow and there will be a China trade agreement? There will be a huge loss of jobs. A country that has 1.2 billion people has a lot of customers, they say, and they want to get those customers. But before they get to the customers, they have a lot of workers who need jobs and who will work for almost nothing and will undercut the workers here in this country.

So one possible answer immediately is in the same breath that as we create jobs in China, as we lose jobs here and create more jobs in China, let us respond to the argument that so many of the proponents of the China trade bill have made, and that is that, yes, we will lose jobs in manufacturing; yes, we will lose jobs at the lower level of the economy, but we will gain tremendous number of jobs and sales in the high-tech industry. We are going to take off where a new boom, a new surge in the sale of PCs and in the sale of services to established Web sites and all of the telecommunications, high-tech technology that is necessary. We will be the suppliers of that.

It may be true that for a while there will be this great surge of need in the Chinese economy for American know-how and for American high-tech machinery. If that is the case, then there will be jobs created in America in the high-tech area. At the same time we are making a trade agreement, then let us guarantee that the thousands and thousands of workers who are going to lose jobs are also given an opportunity to get some training in these high-tech areas. Let them learn how to be the people who hook up the technology. Some might even travel to China. Let them learn how to manufacture the gadgets and the gears and the switches and the lines that might require skills that are different from the manufacturing skills that the people who make cars have, or the people who make refrigerators, or the various consumer products that are going to now be made in China. Let the people who lose the jobs making those products begin to make the products for the high-tech revolution. They cannot do it without some more training. They need training immediately.

I do not know of any place where there is any legislation on the drawing board which says we are going to have a massive emergency training program for workers who lose their jobs as a result of the China trade bill passing. In the long run, however, we do talk and have talked a great deal about revamping our school system, improving the way we educate young people, so that in the long run the young people who are in school now will get an education which allows them to fill those high-tech jobs. And at least the China trade bill will not take away jobs in the future because the young people will be able and capable of stepping out of school and commanding the jobs that do exist in the high-tech industry.

They predict that there may be as many as 1.5 million job vacancies in the high-tech industry in the next 5 years because of the fact that we are not training enough people in computer sciences and related sciences in our colleges so that vacancies are going to be there. So our schools, then, must rise to meet the occasion and prepare youngsters for these guaranteed jobs.

In the absence of any special education effort, what we are doing is going abroad. And one item that is going to be on the agenda in this Congress in the next few weeks is the H–1B program. The H–1B section of the immigration law allows us to bring in foreigners to fill the vacancies that are created in the high-tech industry. And primarily that is the target. They are not bringing in these people for anything else. The great need is in the high-tech industry, information technology industry. So what we did not train our youngsters for in the past, will now be taken care of by foreigners. And that will keep going.

How are we going to deal with the vacuum created by the movement of manufacturing jobs to China if the only source of the manpower to fill the