

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will vote on H.R. 8, the Death Tax Elimination Act, a bipartisan bill supported by 244 Members of the House, including 46 Democrats and one Independent.

Mr. Speaker, repeal of the death tax is supported by a huge coalition of folks all over this country. The Black Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the National Indian Business Association, many environmental groups and the National Association of Women Business Owners.

Twenty-five years ago, women were given access to business loans. Now, many are struggling to pass their life's work on to their children. According to their most recent study, women business owners spend an average of \$1,000 a month on estate planning just to prepare for the death tax and keep the family business in the family. With 44 million Americans without health insurance, a majority of them working for small businesses, that \$1,000 a month could go a long way toward providing benefits for employees.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important measure. Support repealing the unfair death tax.

CONGRESS MUST MAKE EDUCATION OUR TOP PRIORITY

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on this Congress to get its priorities straight and invest in public education to strengthen America.

Yesterday, Microsoft's Bill Gates told the Joint Economic Committee, and I quote, "Among the many high-tech issues before this Congress, none carries greater importance for our future economic vitality than education." I couldn't agree more.

But this week, Mr. Speaker, this House will consider a bill that guts education funding to finance a massive irresponsible tax package. We should be investing in education so that America can compete and win in the New Economy, but this misguided bill cuts education by \$2.9 billion, with a "b."

The bill cuts \$1 billion in targeted investments to improve teacher quality and recruit new teachers. The bill repeals 100,000 new teachers planned to reduce class sizes, many of whom are now teaching. The bill rejects the administration's plan to renovate 5,000 school facilities that need urgent safety and health repairs. It cuts 53,000 poor children from Head Start, and the list goes on.

Mr. Speaker, I am for responsible tax relief for our families, but we ought not to cut taxes on the backs of our children and jeopardize America's competitive economic opportunities.

DEATH TO THE DEATH TAX

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I welcome people of all points of view to this Chamber and to this well, but facts are stubborn things.

Perhaps if the Washington bureaucrats at the Department of Education were better educated in mathematics, they could tell us where \$18 billion appropriated by this Congress ended up. Here is a major hint: it did not end up in the classroom helping teachers teach and helping children learn.

So when we have the litany of shame, remember the real shame is the people who ask for more and more and yet less and less responsibility in actually helping our children learn with the money we send to Washington.

Mr. Speaker, another case in point: a lady now in her 80s, dependent on Social Security. Twenty years ago, her husband died and the IRS came to her and said she owed Uncle Sam \$800,000. The family business was sold.

Is that compassionate? Is that an irresponsible thing? I think it is irresponsible, not compassionate. Let us put the death tax to death and ask for more responsibility.

HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT: AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the House to take action on the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1999.

Today marks the second anniversary of the death of James Byrd, Jr., who was maliciously dragged from a speeding car along a back road in Jasper, Texas. His murderers had no problem with him other than the fact that he was black.

The Hate Crimes Act will protect individuals like James Byrd and others who have been attacked because of race, color, sexual orientation, religion, gender, or disability. In our society, rich with diversity, the desire for peaceful living is uppermost. It is past time for Congress to set and maintain civilized standards of peaceful diversity.

Hate crimes, like any other crime, should be unallowable and punished. Innocent people should not be allowed to be reaped upon just because of their race, color or gender.

Mr. Speaker, this is an idea whose time has come. I urge its immediate consideration and passage.

NO TAXATION WITHOUT RESPIRATION

(Mr. SCHAFFER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, we associate many symbols with death such as the Grim Reaper, tombstones, coffins, hearses and, of course, the IRS standing by any ordinary American who draws on his last breath.

Americans who work their entire lives to leave their families a savings account, farm, or small business are robbed at death by Federal taxes that devour 37 to 55 percent of everything they created. In the cruelest of ironies, families are often forced to sell these well-intentioned gifts in order to afford the taxes.

Mr. Speaker, this week the Congress will decide on whether to repeal the death tax. It is an issue that transcends party politics.

The Colonists rallied around the slogan, "No taxation without representation." This week let us agree: No taxation without respiration. May the death tax rest in peace.

HATE CRIMES: A FORM OF DOMESTIC TERRORISM

(Ms. BALDWIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, on this 2-year anniversary of the brutal dragging death of James Byrd, I rise to ask congressional leaders to let us vote on the Hate Crimes Prevention Act before we adjourn this year.

Hate crimes are meant to instill fear and that fear is not only targeted at the immediate victim of the crime, the fear is experienced by all members of the group.

Hate crimes are different from other violent crimes because they seek to terrorize an entire community. This sort of domestic terrorism demands a strong Federal response, because this country was founded on the premise that a person should be free to be who they are without fear of violence.

I know that hate crime bills cannot cure the hate that still resides within some in our country. But this legislation can provide more protection for victims and send an important message that hate crimes against any group are a serious national problem. Let us pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act this year.

PRESERVING THE AMERICAN DREAM

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, imagine an American working and sacrificing their entire life, hoping to one day be able to pass the fruits of their hard work on to their family. Then imagine that after they die, the Federal Government swoops down like an enormous vulture, grabs what they have earned and saved as if it is a carcass, and tosses the remains to their relatives.

That, Mr. Speaker, is the death tax. Every year, the death tax ravages

thousands of family-owned businesses and farms to the tune of \$46 billion in tax penalties and administrative costs.

No American family should be forced to pay 60 percent of their savings and their business or their farm in taxes when a loved one dies. By repealing the death tax, we will help to preserve thousands of family-owned farms and small businesses across the country that will not have to be sold just to pay this onerous tax.

Mr. Speaker, we are not just ending a tax; we are attempting to preserve the American dream.

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN FOOD OR MEDICINE

(Mr. HALL of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last week, I went on a hunger tour in Appalachia in parts of Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia; and I heard about a man by the name of Tom Nelson who is one of the tens of millions of poor Americans we do not see. He was a senior citizen who worked at a food bank in Huntington.

A few months ago, the food bank was not able to pay Mr. Nelson, in large measure because it had not received funding promised by the State for nearly a year. To stretch his Social Security check, Mr. Nelson tried to stretch his blood pressure medicine. The cause of his death was listed as a heart attack, but the truth is he died trying to feed his family.

The poorest 2½ percent of Americans rank with the poorest people in the world, according to the World Health Organization. I think the only thing more shameful than that is the fact that too few of us know about people like Mr. Nelson.

Mr. Speaker, this is the People's House, and I urge all of us, including the Nation's media, to look harder for the 30 million Americans who go hungry each year, and for many more who every day must make the choice Mr. Nelson made between paying for food or paying for medicine.

NEW MEXICO FIRES AND H.R. 1522

(Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, at this time, devastating forest fires like this are burning vast areas in our Nation. Today, my subcommittee is having a timely joint hearing on fire management that begin on Federal lands.

Last year on this subject, I introduced H.R. 1522, which is a very simple bill designed to reduce fire risks like this in areas like Los Alamos, New Mexico, where the forest meets the town in the wildland urban interface.

Many of these forests are simply too dense, too crowded, with too many

trees, after 100 years of fire prevention, to be treated by fire alone. My bill calls for thinning of forests to make it easier and safer to allow fires naturally to return without being destructive.

On February 9, 1999, at a hearing on my bill, the Clinton-Gore administration testified against this bill. They said that these kinds of treatments of thinning were simply unnecessary. A couple of weeks ago, Secretary Babbitt held a press conference where he announced that we need a new strategy to deal with fire risks in these urban-wildland interfaces, a strategy that calls for a combination of thinning and prescribed fire. What a revelation. We need this now.

MARKING THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE MURDER OF JAMES BYRD, JR.

(Mr. DELAHUNT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in marking the solemn anniversary of the senseless murder of James Byrd. Random acts of violence have become a tragic part of modern American life, but James Byrd was not selected at random. No, he was singled out for death solely because of his race.

Just as the youngsters at the Jewish day school in Los Angeles County were singled out because of their religion. Just as Matthew Shepard and Private First Class Barry Winchell were singled out because of their sexual orientation. They were not random victims. They were targeted not because of what they did or where they were, but because of who they were.

Each of these vicious acts was intended to send a message, a message of hatred and intimidation. Well, it is time for us to send a message in response. It is time to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

□ 1030

DEATH TAX

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today we are faced with the largest tax burden since World War II and what many people do not realize is that the Federal Government is really taxing American values. A good example is the death tax.

The death tax is one of the most onerous taxes imposed by the Federal Government. It is double and triple taxation on American families' hard-earned savings. Even worse, the death tax forces grieving sons and daughters to sell family businesses or farms just to pay the tax. It is absolutely outrageous that we allow the Federal Government to do this to families.

Enough is enough. It is time to repeal the death tax and end the assault

on American values of family, hard work, savings, and entrepreneurship.

Let us bury the death tax now. By doing this, we will be giving freedom and a new birth to the next generation of families, farmers, and small business owners.

SUPPORT BIPARTISAN HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to say that an institution such as the United States Congress is judged as much for what it supports as what it opposes. It is time now for us to support the bipartisan Hate Crimes Prevention Act and to oppose the hateful acts that caused the dismemberment of James Byrd, Jr., caused the tragic killing in Illinois of Jews and Asians and African Americans, and the terrible attack on the Jewish day care center in Los Angeles. It is time for this institution to be able to say that we abhor hate crimes.

I join Senator ROBB in the offering of Senate Resolution 92 that will ask or state the sense of this House or the sense of the Senate is to oppose hateful acts, and I will offer such a resolution in this House.

Let me also end by simply saying I applaud as well on another topic Tipper Gore's message and effort to provide more mental health resources for Americans and America's children. I held a hearing in my district that indicates that children need to be listened to and heard and that children have depression and mental health needs as well.

Let us pass a bipartisan Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

BRING HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT TO THE FLOOR FOR DEBATE

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I, too, join today in urging Congress to, not only debate the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, but pass it. We should no longer in America tolerate racial hatred, bigotry, crimes against persons because of their sexual orientation.

We are America. We are a proud country. But, regrettably, deaths like James Byrd, which occurred 2 years ago today, still occur in America, the death of Matthew Shepard, the death of so many others based on their color, their race, their ethnicity, or their orientation. Shamefully, America witnesses once again every day another dimension of killing in this country.

But only if Congress speaks loudly against violence and specifically against violence perpetrated because of hate will we only cleanse our souls and urge our Nation to move forward in a better, more positive spirit.