

began with a bipartisan appeal. Unfortunately, it has gone largely unanswered. Unlike the Senate, where an idea that began here in the House, was approved last week as the McCain-Feingold-Lieberman amendment, the House Republican leadership has steadfastly opposed reform.

Finally, last week, they promised a vote on this vital reform issue during this month. This morning we have a way to assure that promise is fulfilled through the signing of this discharge petition. I call on my colleagues, both Democratic and Republican, to join with us on the petition to guarantee that we get at least a little campaign finance reform in time for this year's election.

The developments since last week have not been all that promising. One Republican says their bill may exempt this year's election. Another says that TOM DELAY, who has been so involved in promoting these organizations is a principal advisor in drafting the reforms. Let us clean up this mess now. It can be done. It must be done. We can yet achieve a bipartisan victory on campaign finance reform, just as the Senate has done, by signing this discharge petition and having a full debate concerning reform this very month.

DISCHARGING ALL OF OUR MILITARY SECRETS

(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, let me assure this House and the American people that there will be full disclosure, and it will not be limited to 527 organizations. No, we will turn to those on a bipartisan basis, I might add, who willfully reach into the pockets and paychecks of union members, and we will make sure that real reform takes place.

Mr. Speaker, for purposes of full disclosure, we should point out another discharge petition, not on the floor of this House as apparently been put in motion, the effort by the Clinton-Gore administration to discharge all of our military secrets to foreign powers, the latest revelation, our most sensitive nuclear secrets of Los Alamos. By the way, they were swiped 4 days before the fire, Mr. Speaker, and of course, Bernard Schwartz, the largest contributor to the Democrat National Committee and his firm, Loral Aerospace, giving nuclear technology to the Communist Chinese. Oh, yes, my colleagues, the discharge has started, the discharge of our military secrets.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM LEGISLATION

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Our constituents have every right to know exactly who

is financing political campaign. That is why we must pass campaign finance reform. We must do it now, and this reform must require that all contributors and expenditures, including nonprofits, are disclosed.

Currently, many expenditures are protected from disclosure under section 527 of the Tax Code. We hear from the Republicans that they favor reforming the Tax Code. Well, I suggest a perfect place to start is with 527 disclosure. With that start, we will restore faith in government. We will give our children a system that they will want to participate in. The American people want campaign finance reform.

I urge my colleagues to sign the 527 discharge petition today. Our children are counting on us.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in this Chamber we will soon be discussing the very important issue of prescription drug coverage for America's senior citizens. I am pleased that the House leadership has developed a bipartisan plan that will provide American seniors with comprehensive prescription drug coverage.

No senior should have to choose between food for their table or their prescription drugs. As a physician, myself, I know the importance of these drugs to the health of our seniors. Many of these drugs cost a lot of money. It takes years to develop them, sometimes even decades; and then after they are approved by the FDA, it can take months to promote them amongst physicians for their proper use.

Unfortunately, today while many excellent prescription drugs for arthritis, stroke prevention and high blood pressure are critical to the health of seniors, many of them cannot afford them. Our bipartisan plan will ensure that voluntary, affordable and comprehensive prescription drug coverage is available to all seniors. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

REJECT REPUBLICAN EDUCATION COSTS

(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 House to reject the Republican leadership's bill to cut education to pay for a massive tax cut. This Congress must invest in our schools so that students get individual attention, discipline and quality instruction so they can learn the skills that they need to succeed in the new economy.

But the Republican bill would cut \$2.9 billion from next year's education

budget. It does not provide one plug nickel to repair crumbling schools or to build new schools to get our children out of trailers.

No school can provide adequate education if children are subject to substandard facilities.

Mr. Speaker, budget choices are about values. Do we not value investment in our Nation's future by providing our children unless we give them the best education they can have in this world? Or do we take this opportunity to fritter away the future by acting like drunk sailors with the Republicans' massive irresponsible tax scheme?

I support responsible tax relief for middle-class families, but we must not raid the Treasury and jeopardize our ability to make investments in our children and in our future.

SUPPORT THE BIPARTISAN PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, no American should be forced to choose between the food they need to live and the medicine they need to stay healthy. Yet that is the choice many of our senior citizens face each day.

Republicans are doing something about this. Working with our Democrat friends, we are proposing a bipartisan prescription drug plan that offers seniors the coverage they need.

Our bipartisan plan strengthens Medicare and provides prescription drug coverage for all seniors and disabled Americans, including those in rural areas like Pauls Valley, Altus, Walters, Waurika and Purcell, Oklahoma.

Our plan is voluntary. It is also affordable and available to all, no matter where you live, no matter what your income.

I urge my colleagues to work with us to make this prescription drug plan a reality so our seniors never again have to choose between buying food and buying medicine.

CHALLENGE TO SECRETARY SHALALA

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

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to respectfully challenge Secretary Donna Shalala.

Madam Secretary, there is something sad out there that I would like you to see. At the National Nutrition Summit, you said: "Except for a few isolated pockets, we have succeeded at ending hunger in America." That is not true.

According to dozens of American organizations, fighting on poverty's front lines, according to respected international organizations, like the WHO and UNICEF, according to what I have

seen too many times, and I am shocked that a cabinet secretary would be so clearly out of touch with reality.

Secretary Shalala, I challenge you to meet me in any American community at any time for a look at the food banks and soup kitchens filled with senior citizens, children, American veterans, and working families.

Hunger is a fact. It is the underbelly of our booming economy. You can choose not to look at it; but it is real, and it is ugly. It plagues 26 million of our fellow Americans each year. Please come take a look.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma). Members should direct their remarks in debate to the Chair and not to others in the second person.

CELEBRATING FLAG DAY

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, today is Flag Day, of course, and a day to honor the symbol of our Nation, a symbol of our independence and a symbol of American ideals.

Historically, the idea of celebrating an annual holiday honoring the United States flag and the anniversary of the official adoption of "The Stars and Stripes" is believed to have first originated in 1885 by a school teacher in Wisconsin.

In the years following, the tradition grew; and in 1916, President Woodrow Wilson established Flag Day by a proclamation.

Over 3 decades later, President Truman would sign an Act of Congress officially designating June 14 of each year as National Flag Day.

I, like many Americans, look at our flag and see our history, our triumphs; and most importantly, I see our future.

Today is a day to unite to pay tribute to the symbol which has grown with our country and represented our Nation's ideas since it first flew as "The Stars and Stripes" in 1777.

On this day, I am proud to honor our flag and all that it represents.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE PEOPLE OF TROY

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

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, on this Flag Day 2000, I rise to salute and pay tribute to the people of Troy and surrounding areas for the wonderful display of patriotism which I witnessed over this past weekend. On Sunday, tens of thousands of people from Troy and surrounding areas came together

to celebrate the fact that we live in the freest and most open democracy on the face of the Earth.

They actually recognized the fact that freedom is not free, and that we paid a tremendous price for it. And so today, I remember with gratitude all of those who, like my brother, Bill, made the supreme sacrifice, all of those who in the past wore the uniform of the United States military, like some of the people I am looking at in this very Chamber.

Also, I thank all of those who currently are in active service in our military protecting our interests here at home and around the globe.

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CHRISTIAN MEN'S FREEDOM FORUM 2000

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

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, on July 4, 2000, I will join the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES), the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) at the Firstar Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. As members of the Congressional Black Caucus, we join in support of the goals and objectives of the Christian Men's Freedom Forum 2000, which will convene on the eve of the African Methodist Episcopal Church's Quadrennial.

We will interact with men and women from across the United States who appreciate and recognize the positive effect an open and honest exchange of ideas can bring to the body politic in this great Nation. It is the goal of the Christian Men's Freedom Forum's National Chair, Bishop Vincent R. Anderson, whose keen vision set in motion this extraordinary challenge to acknowledge our ideological differences while embracing our core common ideals. As we prepare to celebrate Independence Day, all Americans should seek to embrace and replicate this initiative.

Bishop Anderson is to be congratulated for this tremendous undertaking. This nonpartisan, nondenominational forum is the kind of collective effort that has, in the past, and could today, help to close the gap between those who have strong voices and those who feel they have no voices at all.

Mr. Speaker, let me close with the hope that on Independence Day we will find it within ourselves to not only commemorate our Nation's founding, but also to celebrate such constructive undertakings.

WORLD AWAITING RESULTS OF IRANIAN TRIAL OF JEWISH HOSTAGES

(Mr. WEINER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, today the world awaits the result of the show trial of 13 Jewish hostages in Iran. They have been held for over a year simply because they are Jewish. Without evidence, without a chance to confront their accusers, without lawyers of their own choosing, these 13 hostages have been subjected to a kangaroo court.

But Iran's new so-called moderate government is also on trial here. If Iran does not free these hostages, and soon, it should be a clear sign that that country has not changed its stripes.

Our response? Well, we should offer no more favorable trade agreements, such as the ones we did for rugs and pistachios recently. We should offer no more IMF or World Bank loans.

The fate of these 13 Iranian Jewish hostages should be our litmus test of Iran's new-found moderation. The world, Mr. Speaker, is watching.

MOURNING CHILD VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today is Flag Day, and I rise to salute the flag, for the flag symbolizes freedom. But it should also symbolize safety.

This evening I will mourn the thousands upon thousands of children who die every day at the hand of gun violence. It is time that we recognize as Americans that we can pass real gun safety legislation in this House and in the Senate, if it would adhere to the values of this Nation.

How tragic it is in my own community. Sunday, June 11, that a 14-year-old girl shot and killed a 16-year-old boy; to find out that a 3-year-old accidentally shot himself in the foot with his father's gun, found in a linen closet; that on June 8, a 12-year-old middle school student in Chesapeake, Virginia, was charged after he brought a gun to school; that a 13-year-old shot a teacher; that a 6-year-old shot another 6-year-old; and that the overall rate of firearm deaths for children younger than 15 years of age is 12 times greater than the other 25 industrialized nations.

How much longer will we mourn? It is time now to stand up for our children and pass real gun safety legislation.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 761, ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES IN GLOBAL AND NATIONAL COMMERCE ACT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 523 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows: