

were not increasing the deductions for families who had children and that young families were struggling to raise children.

This tax bill doesn't deal with children, just marriage. We had a long struggle, but we finally passed a \$500 per child tax credit for young families trying to raise kids. For two kids, that is \$1,000 a year, and nearly \$85 a month. Parents can buy shoes and clothes, take the kids to the movies, buy something after ball practice at McDonald's. That is real money to real American citizens. Now we are talking here about another \$100 a month, on average, or \$110, \$120 a month that married people are having to pay for the privilege of getting married. That should not be. It is a punishing and unfair tax. Furthermore, it should not, in my view, be based on income. Just because you make a little more money than somebody else, why should you be penalized for getting married? That doesn't make sense to me. This is not, in my view, a tax reduction issue so much as it is a fairness issue. Let's eliminate this unfairness. I am excited about what is happening here. Families will be able to buy that new dress, buy tires for their car, or fix the muffler, or get a new set of shocks, things they may need on a monthly basis—things that families do on a regular basis.

Also, I want to point out that this penalty is particularly noticeable now that we have more married women working. The penalty is even worse when a married woman's income comes close to the amount of income of the husband. So the husband and wife marry and there is this unexpected tax. You get whacked, and you wonder whether it is worth both people working. It oftentimes hurts the woman more than the man. In this country we would like to see equal opportunity in salaries, that there not be a glass ceiling for women, and that they ought to be able to have the same salary opportunities. But the more likely, on a statistical basis, that the woman receives the same salary as a man, the more this penalty will fall on her. So I think it is clearly unfair to both men and women.

Mr. President, I want to say again that we are making a big step toward ending a penalty, a tax, a detriment, a burden on an institution that is critical to the salvation and strength of this country, which is marriage. We are taxing that, penalizing that, and we are discouraging marriage. We are subsidizing singleness and divorce, actually. That is not good public policy. I believe we can do better. Of course, it will have no impact on a single person. No burden will fall on them because of passing this bill. It will simply be leveling the playing field and making it a more fair system. I thank the Senator from Kansas, and I thank Senator ROTH and the others who have worked on this legislation. We are moving forward. It is time to pass this bill, to give some relief and eliminate this unfair tax on marriage.

I yield the floor.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MENTAL RETARDATION AWARENESS MONTH

• Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor ARC Minnesota, and the men and women who volunteer countless hours to improve the quality of life for children and adults with mental retardation and their families. March is officially this nation's "Mental Retardation Awareness Month"—but the efforts of these individuals should be celebrated year-round.

As legislators at the federal level, our support tends to come in the form of funding. It would be an understatement to say that children and adults with mental retardation and their families are faced with unique challenges. Needs differ from family to family. For some, it may be specialized education needs, and for others health care access. And as a member of the Senate Budget Committee, I realize the vast array of programs we've created to address the broad spectrum of needs—all of which compete for tax dollars.

That is why I have strenuously supported initiatives which provide greater flexibility and control by individuals. Programs such as A+ accounts that help families meet unique educational needs that federal, state and local programs cannot. Legislation like the Patients' Bill of Rights Plus Act that expands medical savings accounts, ultimately providing more flexible health care access—particularly benefiting those that are uninsured.

Mr. President, while Mental Retardation Awareness Month is coming to a close, it doesn't mean that Congress cannot move forward with policies which provide unique solutions to the unique challenges faced by individuals with mental retardation and their families. I would urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating the work of the 1,000 chapters of the ARC, in Minnesota and across this nation, with their pledge to work towards this goal.●

DIABETES RESEARCH

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to support increased research funding for diabetes, a devastating disease that afflicts 16 million Americans, one-third of whom do not even know that they have it.

Diabetes kills one American every three minutes, discriminating neither on the basis of age, race, or belief. It is a lifelong affliction, with severe consequences. This was made painfully clear to me by a meeting I recently had with a boy and his family from Montana.

Justin Windham, from Missoula, said to me: "I want a cure for diabetes because I don't want to have any long term effects like: going blind, kidney problems, or losing my legs. Also I would like to be able to eat whatever my friends eat and not feel left out."

Justin, and the 16 million other Americans with diabetes, should be

able to live their lives without fear of medical complications or the pain of being ostracized. That is why Congress has a responsibility to fund diabetes research and prevention. I urge my colleagues to devote increased resources for research on diabetes, so that our scientists can find a cure.●

IN MEMORY OF ION RATIU

• Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Ion Ratiu of Romania who passed away on the 16th of January.

I had the honor of developing a close friendship with Ion. He was an outstanding politician, a very successful businessman, a philanthropist and, above all, a freedom fighter and a leader devoted to deepening relations between Romania and the United States.

Born in Romania at the end of World War II, Ion Ratiu spent a good part of his life in the United Kingdom and the United States. Here in Washington he developed many friendships and many of us have benefited from the warm hospitality of his Georgetown home.

Those of us who had the pleasure of his friendship can only have been impressed by the tremendous personal energy he directed against the dictatorship that dominated his homeland until the Velvet Revolutions of 1989. Ion was himself an incarnation of many elements of democracy's powerful arsenal. He was a journalist reporting on Romania's tragedy. He was a protector and rescuer of its dissidents. He was the founder of the "Free Romania Movement." He was the unyielding proponent of human rights in Romania.

In addition to tearing down Communism and building democracy in Romania, Ion Ratiu was also one who contributed to the foundation of deeper ties and links between Romania and the West, particularly the United States.

In London he led the British-Romanian Association for 20 years, and with his wife and sons established the Romanian Cultural Center. Here in Washington, Ion endowed the Ion Ratiu Chair at Georgetown University, a lighthouse for Romanian-American relations.

After the Romanian Revolution, Ion Ratiu was elected a member of national Parliament in Bucharest. He even was a strong contender for the Romanian presidency. Ion benefited from the respect of all his colleagues in the Romanian Parliament. He was appreciated for his commitment to democracy and unyielding efforts to earn for his country membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It was no surprise for me that Ion, a member of the opposition, led his parliament's delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

The Romanian nation is mourning and so are Ion Ratiu's friends in the United States and the United Kingdom.

We will remember his for the warm enthusiasm and gentle manners he brought to every event. We will miss his soft and unique sense of humor.

And, we will always be grateful to him for keeping the torch of liberty, democracy, and freedom alive and vibrant. Ion always stayed true to his principles and beliefs and to his love for Romania.

Ion Ratiu is truly one of the heroes of not only Romania, but also the relationship between Romania and the United States. ●

TRIBUTE TO STUART PRENTISS HERMAN

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today in memory of Stuart Prentiss Herman, a prominent California attorney who passed away recently, in Los Angeles, at the young age of 57 after battling cancer.

Mr. Herman lived his life fighting injustice and discrimination wherever he found it. He was active in the civil rights movement of the 1960's, and began his legal career in 1968 as a trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice.

After his term as a federal attorney, Mr. Herman entered private practice. His legal work was devoted to labor and civil rights law, and he was highly respected throughout the country as a litigator, a mediator, and an arbitrator of complex and significant cases, particularly in the areas of racial discrimination and sexual harassment. In addition to his private practice, Mr. Herman was committed to providing legal services to the less privileged members of our society, and served on the Managing Committee of Bet Tzedek Legal Services, the Southern California Committee of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and the Board of Directors of the Western Law Center for Disability Rights.

He was also committed to preserving the quality of our legal system, having served on the California State Bar Complainants' Grievance Panel and the Los Angeles Police Commission's discipline panels, and our judiciary, having served on the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Judicial Evaluations Committee and on the U.S. Court of Appeals' Ninth Circuit Task Force on Judicial Reporting.

Stuart Prentiss Herman was an exemplary attorney, having truly dedicated his life to the pursuit of justice for all Americans. I rise today in recognition of all that he accomplished during his lifetime, and in sadness that he passed away at such an early age. ●

MAYOR THOMAS MENINO'S YOUTH COUNCIL

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I had the privilege of meeting today with a wonderful group of courageous and dedicated young people who are members of Mayor Thomas Menino's Youth Council in Boston. This diverse group of junior and senior high school stu-

dents is in town for their annual trip to Washington to discuss issues that affect today's youth. The group presented a letter signed by hundreds of Boston's young people, asking Congress to provide funding for youth summer jobs programs.

Mayor Menino's Youth Council was established in 1994 to give young people the opportunity to take an active role as advocates on issues that directly affect their lives. These dedicated volunteers from each of the neighborhoods in Boston have reached out to their community. They work closely with other organizations to hold monthly meetings and workshops, and they sponsor forums where young people can express their concerns and recommend solutions to elected officials.

This week these high school students are here to emphasize their support for increased funding for summer job programs. These programs provide valuable job experience for youths who otherwise might not have them. It helps them support their families and save money for college. Last summer, 500,000 young people were able to give back to their community, serving in such worthwhile summer programs as day camps, child care, care for the elderly, and cleaning city parks and recreation areas.

Studies show that early work experience raises lifetime earnings by ten percent. Clearly, our investment in these programs opens doors for the future by providing experience, connections in the community, and an increased prospects for their lifelong earning potential.

I commend the efforts of these young people to create jobs, and to prepare students for worthwhile careers and the important choices that lie ahead. I look forward to working with them to build on this effort and make it even more effective. I also look forward to seeing these young activists become the leaders who will make a difference whatever challenge they face. I hope that they will continue to inspire their peers and their representatives through their energy, dedication and passion on the issues that can make a difference in the lives of our nation's youth. I congratulate these future leaders, for they are truly shining examples to us all. ●

TRIBUTE TO CARDINAL KUNG

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Cardinal Kung, who passed away on March 12 in Stamford, CT, at the age of 98. Cardinal Kung was a historic figure in the Roman Catholic Church and a symbol of strength and hope for all of us who care about religious freedom. In China, his native land, the Cardinal endured terrible persecution because of his unwillingness to surrender his religious beliefs. My state, Connecticut, had the great honor and privilege of welcoming him as a resident for the final years of his life.

Born in Shanghai in 1901, and ordained a priest in 1930, Cardinal Kung's

heroic story began soon after the Communists took power in China. In 1949, he became the Bishop of Shanghai and, in 1950, the Apostolic Administrator of Soochow and Nanking. Resisting the new regime's attempt to control the Catholic Church, he refused to join the government-sanctioned Catholic Patriotic Association, which cut ties to the Vatican. Instead, Cardinal Kung remained loyal to the Pope and led the devoutly Catholic Legion of Mary, which the Communists declared to be counter-revolutionary.

After 5 years of tension, the Chinese Government in 1955 arrested Cardinal Kung and several hundred other people involved in the unofficial Catholic Church. Dragged into a stadium in Shanghai for a public confession, the Cardinal, with his hands tied behind his back, instead courageously shouted: "long live Christ the King, long live the Pope." The security forces rushed him off the stage, and Cardinal Kung was held in detention for another 5 years. When he was finally brought to trial in 1960, the authorities convicted Cardinal Kung and sentenced him to life imprisonment for the so-called counter-revolutionary activity of pursuing his Catholic faith.

Cardinal Kung was a prisoner of conscience whose plight became known around the world. He suffered 30 years of isolating imprisonment, during which time he was denied visits from family and concerned representatives of the international community, and other forms of contact such as written correspondence. Despite this tortuous experience, he refused to renounce his beliefs or give in to his oppressors. In fact, when told that he could win his release by denouncing the Pope and cooperating with the government-sanctions Catholic Patriotic Association, he responded: "I am a Roman Catholic Bishop. If I denounce the Holy Father, not only would I not be a Bishop, I would not even be a Catholic. You can cut off my head, but you can never take away my duties." The Vatican has recognized Cardinal Kung's extraordinary devotion and sacrifice to the Roman Catholic Church. In 1979, while he was still serving his life sentence, Pope John Paul II secretly elevated Kung to Cardinal, in pectore (in his heart), and the Pope announced this to the world in 1991.

In 1985, after sustained pressure from his family, human rights organizations, and foreign governments, the Chinese Government moved Cardinal Kung to house arrest, and in 1987 finally released him, though they notably did not exonerate him. He soon traveled to the United States for medical treatment and lived with his nephew, Joseph Kung, in Connecticut. In 1998, the Chinese Government refused to renew Cardinal Kung's passport, effectively exiling him, and the Cardinal never returned to his country.

Cardinal Kung's life demonstrates, I believe, the power of an individual's