

the National Science Foundation to quantify the relationship between the physical characteristics of elementary and secondary schools and student academic achievement in those schools.

This bill is intended as a companion to the High Performance Schools Act of 2001, which takes the concept of "whole buildings" and puts it into the context of our schools, establishing a program in the Department of Energy to help school districts produce "high performance" school buildings.

CONTEXT

In addition to the economic and environmental benefits of smart building choices, evidence is growing that high performance buildings are beneficial for student performance. A growing number of studies link student achievement and behavior to the physical building conditions. Although these studies have begun to reveal important information correlating a school building's environment with student performance, no large-scale, comprehensive study has been conducted to date.

HOW IT WOULD WORK

The High Performance Schools Research Act is intended to help give school districts the information they need to make better decisions. The bill would establish a National Science Foundation research program to thoroughly investigate the linkages between specific characteristics of the physical environment of a school and student learning.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues in the Women's Caucus who have been organizing weekly special orders around topics of great concern to women during the time when we celebrate Women's History Month.

Today's topic is violence against women. Violence against women is a profound and extremely pervasive problem, striking across borders, across economic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds, and across all the age groups. It is an epidemic that affects not only women, but their children and families as well.

We, in Congress, should be proud that we were able to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act last session. Now, we must live up to our promise and appropriate full funding to the programs included in this bill.

Furthermore, pervasive discrimination continues to deny women full political and economic equality, and is often at the root of violations of their basic human rights. This is reflected in the various manifestations of violence women endure: domestic violence; female genital mutilation; sex trafficking; rape during times of armed conflict; sexual assault; "honor" killings; sex-selection or gender preference abortions; and other manifestations, including neglect in areas of education and nutrition women and girls endure, both here and abroad.

The statistics are appalling. Globally, 1 out of every 3 women has been beaten or sexually abused in her lifetime. In the United States, 1 out of every 6 women has been beaten or sexually abused. There are somewhere between 1 to 2 million women and girls

who are illegally trafficked around the world, with at least 50,000 coming into the United States. Some 130 million girls and young women have undergone female genital mutilation and it is estimated that in the United States there are at least 10,000 girls at risk of this practice.

Women's lives are endangered by violence which is directed at them simply because they are women. We must stop what I believe has become too accepted and tolerated in our society. Violence against women is not acceptable and we must get that message out to both the perpetrators of the violence and the women who endure it.

We recently witnessed a landmark moment in international justice, when three Bosnian Serbs were convicted for the rape, torture, and sexual enslavement of Muslim women during the Bosnian war. For the first time in the international justice system, sex crimes against women are being specifically identified and punished. In the past, UN war crimes tribunals ignored mass rape and sexual enslavement and considered these crimes to be a natural occurrence in war. Crimes against women such as forced prostitution and rapes that took place during WWI were never even prosecuted in the international tribunals that followed the war. Today, perhaps most significantly, the judges ruled that mass rape is a crime against humanity, the most serious category of international crimes after genocide.

However, while there is still even one woman out there who endures violence, our work will not be complete. We need more money for services such as transitional housing and job placement and training to support women while they seek to escape abusive situations. We also need to provide trainings to educate boys and girls against violence so the problem stops.

We must change our attitudes to come up with remedies to cure this epidemic, not just treat its symptoms. We as women must be empowered to challenge the culture of violence. Our work can not be complete until the women of the world live free from an ever present fear of violence.

TRIBUTE TO THE FOUNDERS OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the founders of San Antonio, Texas, the city I represent here in the United States Congress. Friday, March 9, 2001 marked the 270th anniversary of the founding of La Villa de San Fernando, the settlement which would later become known as the City of San Antonio.

On March 9, 1731, the Spanish Government founded the first permanent civic settlement in what is now the State of Texas. On this day, under the stewardship of Spanish King, Philip V, sixteen Canary Island families arrived in the territory then known as Tejas to establish La Villa de San Fernando. It would become the first civic government in Texas.

In honor of the sacrifices and contributions of the founding families of the City of San Antonio, and on behalf of the Canary Islands De-

scendants Association of San Antonio, Texas, I hereby recognize the role of the Canary Islanders in the founding of the Villa De San Fernando in 1731—later named San Antonio, Texas.

The founding of the city of San Antonio was achieved formally under the law of the Council of the Indies which was the Spanish law governing Nueva Espana in 1731;

With the arrival of the Canary Islanders, having the required number of ten families, the number required by the Laws of the Indies, to establish a town, the settlers were thus entitled to organize their own civil government, to receive lands for the construction of their homes and the sowing and raising of crops, to have a church and town hall, and to build a town with a public square and regularly planned streets;

After reaching their destination, following untold hardships, the exhausted travelers were received by Captain Juan Antonio de Almazan of the Presidio of Bejar; on the following day they were lodged in the best houses of the soldiers;

Following the detailed instructions of Viceroy Juan de Acuna, Marquez de Casafuerte the survey and distribution of the lands for the establishment of a new settlement was made;

On March 12, 1731 Captain Almazan took the heads of families to the Arroyo (now called San Pedro Creek) and divided the lands among them for a later time when they might divide the lands with more care. He urged them to plant crops before June 30;

By July 2, 1731 the settlers gave their efforts to the establishment of the proposed town, the church, and the public square;

On the following day July 3, 1731 lots were distributed to the families to build their homes adjoining the church and Casa Real. Then a large cross was formed at the main entrance of the Church as the center. By completing each of the four squares of the four sides of the cross a perfect larger square two thousand one hundred eighty-six varas on each side was delineated. The corners were identified by four long rocks as markers. A deep furrow was plowed from corner to corner to indicate the boundary in accordance with the instructions of the Viceroy;

On July 20, 1731 the first civil government was established when Captain Almazan appointed the members of the city council and other officers.

The Canary Islanders who were sent by King Philip V to establish the Villa de San Fernando did accomplish and played an important role in the beginning of the development of the magnificent City of San Antonio, in the region first known as Tejas, which developed into the great State of Texas.

TUNISIA 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. MARK KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize a great ally of the United States, Tunisia, as she celebrates 45 years of independence. In 1797, the United States signed a Treaty of Peace and Friendship with the North African country of Tunisia. Over 150

years later, Tunisia peacefully gained independence from France. Today, we congratulate Tunisia for 45 years as an independent nation.

The Republic of Tunisia has remained a steadfast friend to the United States, joining Allied forces during World War II and continuing support throughout the Cold War. Today, Tunisia enjoys a burgeoning economy, as the nation's per capita income continues to grow substantially. One of Tunisia's most valuable assets has been its continued willingness to further the Middle East peace process. Despite being surrounded by nations engulfed in political turmoil, Tunisia continues to take an active role in fighting terrorism and international unrest.

I congratulate Tunisia on 45 years of independence and look forward to the United States' continuing strong relations with Tunisia for years to come. Please join me in celebrating the 45th Anniversary of Tunisia's independence.

**NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK ACT
OF 2001**

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. GOODLATTE Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce the National Right to Work Act of 2001.

This Act will reduce federal power over the American workplace by removing those provisions of federal law authorizing the collection of forced-union dues as part of a collective bargaining contract.

Since the Wagner Act of 1935 made forced-union dues a keystone of federal labor law, millions of American workers have been forced to pay for union "representation" that they neither choose nor desire.

The primary beneficiaries of Right to Work are America's workers—even those who voluntarily choose to pay union dues, because when union officials are deprived of the forced-dues power granted them under current federal law, they will be more responsive to the workers' needs and concerns.

Mr. Speaker, this act is pro-worker, pro-economic growth, and pro-freedom.

The twenty-one states with Right to Work laws, including my own state of Virginia, have a nearly three-to-one advantage over non-Right to Work states in terms of job creation.

Workers who have the freedom to choose whether or not to join a union have a higher standard of living than their counterparts in non-Right to Work states. The National Right to Work Act would make the economic benefits of voluntary unionism a reality for all Americans.

While this bill is about economics, it is more about freedom.

Compelling a man or woman to pay fees to a union in order to work violates the very principle of individual liberty upon which this nation was founded. Oftentimes, forced union dues are used to support causes that worker does not wish to support with his or her hard-earned wages.

Thomas Jefferson said it best, ". . . to compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves is sinful and tyrannical."

By passing the National Right to Work Act, this Congress will take a major step toward restoring the freedom of America's workers to choose the form of workplace representation that best suits their needs.

In a free-society, the decision of whether or not to join or support a union should be made by a worker, not a union official, not an employer, and certainly not the U.S. Congress.

The National Right to Work Act reduces federal power over America's labor markets, promotes economic growth and a higher standard of living, and enhances freedom.

I urge my colleagues to quickly pass the National Right to Work Act and free millions of Americans from the tyranny of forced-union dues.

**TRIBUTE TO ALEX BRISEÑO FOR
THIRTY-FOUR YEARS OF SERV-
ICE TO THE CITY OF SAN ANTO-
NIO**

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today it is my privilege to recognize Alex Briseño for his 34 years of service to the City of San Antonio. As Mr. Briseño retires from his current position as the City Manager to one of the largest cities in Texas we know that his hard work and dedication will be greatly missed by the people of our community.

Nobody understands San Antonio's government better than Alex Briseño. He began his career with the City of San Antonio in 1977 as assistant to the city manager. Within three years he advanced to become an assistant city manager. During his next ten years of service he learned the intricacies of different departments within the city, knowledge that would empower him to manage the city staff with the wise hand of experience. He supervised numerous different departments ranging from the Budget Department to the Information Services and Health Department. He was well prepared for the challenges he would face as city manager, the city's top non-elected executive position.

In 1990, Mr. Briseño became city manager for a city that currently has more than 1.1 million people and covers an area of 417 square miles. He oversaw a budget of more than \$1 billion and managed 11,000 employees. Through his leadership in the past ten years San Antonio has continued to grow and develop.

Mr. Briseño not only shared his leadership skills with the city while acting as city manager; he also served the community through his service in various organizations. He has been on the board of directors of the Boy Scouts of America, helping to develop the youth of our nation. He has served on the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County Board of Trustees to better the lives of those in need, served on the board of directors of his alma mater, Trinity University, to improve education in the city, and worked with the Alamo Area Council and Free Trade Alliance San Antonio to create new opportunities for growth and advancement.

One aspect of this Mr. Briseño's life that helped to prepare him for leadership in the city

of San Antonio was his education. At Trinity University he earned his undergraduate degree in economics where he graduated magna cum laude. He then continued his education to earn his Master's in Urban Studies. His service as a captain in the United States Army was another invaluable source of education that prepared him for his future years in city government.

We should all commend the dedication of this man to his job and his community. He was born and raised in San Antonio, received his education in life there, and stayed to help build its future. San Antonio is a better place because of Mr. Briseño's service. We wish him well in all future endeavors.

**HIGH PERFORMANCE SCHOOLS
ACT OF 2001**

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the High Performance Schools Act of 2001, a bill intended to help school districts build schools that provide better learning environments for children, while also saving on energy costs and protecting the environment.

I am pleased that my colleagues Representatives SHERWOOD BOEHLERT, GEORGE MILLER, DAVID BONIOR, BOB ETHERIDGE, and MIKE HONDA are joining me as original cosponsors of this bill.

This legislation is part of a package of bills I plan to introduce or cosponsor that promotes sustainable development and preserves quality of life in communities that are undergoing intense growth. As we have seen in my State of Colorado and in many parts of the West, unprecedented population growth has led to urban sprawl and congestion, which has eroded much of the quality of life we value, including valuable open space, farmland, wildlife, and natural, cultural and recreational resources.

I believe that the Federal Government can do a better job to support State and community efforts to control growth and prevent sprawl. And this bill is one step toward that goal.

Many of you know about my interest in clean energy. As lead co-chair of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus in the House, I am committed to promoting these technologies that further our national goals of broad-based economic growth, environmental protection, national security, and economic competitiveness.

In recent years, we've seen a wide array of successes in developing these technologies. In particular, much research has focused on improving energy efficiency and increasing the use of renewable energy in buildings in a "whole building" approach to design and construction. By incorporating advanced energy efficiency technologies, daylighting, and renewable energy, "whole buildings" provide benefits in the way of energy savings, environmental protection, and economic efficiency. As buildings account for roughly a third of our annual energy consumption and a commensurate share of greenhouse gas emissions, this research focus seems well justified. They are