

For the past five years, Mark Mioduski has been my right-hand man on the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Bill. He has applied a unique blend of technical know how from both budgetary and parliamentary standpoints, creativity and high energy to staffing this important bill. As many people know, the Labor, HHS bill is one of the most difficult appropriations bills to manage and is usually one of the last appropriations bills to pass. Mark has been instrumental in helping to navigate and negotiate numerous high profile and tricky issues affecting the Department of Labor, including funding for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and the recently published ergonomics regulation. In fact, Mark has lived and breathed the ergonomics issue over the last five years and knows the issue better than virtually anyone else on Capitol Hill. In addition, Mark has made significant contributions to a wide range of health and education issues, including working to expand funding for health care access, for biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health, for AIDS and emerging infectious diseases, for Low-Income Energy Assistance, for Head Start, for the Social Services Block Grant, and for Pell Grants for disadvantaged students. The Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and Education also owe him a debt of gratitude for his detailed attention to their programs and appropriations requests.

Mark has spent most of his career in public service. He began his federal service after being selected to participate in the Presidential Management Intern Program, which is designed to attract the best and brightest to the federal government. He then spent four years with the Interior Department as a senior budget analyst before joining the staff of the House Appropriations Committee. For the last decade he has worked on the Appropriations Committee and, he has been of great assistance to many members and their staffs. I am sure a good many of you saw him as he wore a path to and from the Capitol often carrying his signature workbag which was passed down to him by his father.

Mr. Speaker, I have greatly appreciated the job that Mark has done with humility and good humor over the years. Mark has been not only an outstanding public servant, but also he is an outstanding human being. He cares a great deal about the well being of this country and the people in it who rely on those of us in government to help make this a better place for everyone, especially the most vulnerable among us. Not many of those Americans know his name or know the countless hours he has devoted to his job, but he can leave this institution knowing that many, many Americans and their families have been benefitted from his efforts.

He, like all of us, has been a public servant and he has measured up to the meaning of that term in the fullest possible measure. America's health care system with all its shortcomings provides more help for more deserving Americans because he has worked here. The National Institutes of Health are stronger and the research it oversees is better because he has worked here. Public health programs, not just in this country, but abroad provide more protection to millions of children and adults because he has worked here. Worker protection programs are better able to improve

the safety and health of workers, and working families throughout this country have been able to take advantage of additional training and education to improve their livelihood because he has worked here.

Mark's dedication to the Appropriations Committee and to his work has resulted in many long hours. There were weeks on end when I am sure that Mark did not see much of his family. Mark's departure is a great loss for me as well as the Committee, but I hope that he will be able to spend more time with his wife Lori Whitehand and his two young sons, Ryan and Eric. I wish him the very best in his new endeavors and much success in this new chapter of his career.

VOLUNTARY SCHOOL PRAYER

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2001

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a constitutional amendment to ensure that students can choose to pray in school. Regrettably, the notion of the separation of church and state has been widely misrepresented in recent years, and the government has strayed far from the vision of America as established by the Founding Fathers.

Our Founding Fathers had the foresight and wisdom to understand that a government cannot secure the freedom of religion if at the same time it favors one religion over another through official actions. Their philosophy was one of even-handed treatment of the different faiths practiced in America, a philosophy that was at the very core of what their new nation was to be about. Somehow, this philosophy is often interpreted today to mean that religion has no place at all in public life, no matter what its form. President Reagan summarized the situation well when he remarked, "The First Amendment of the Constitution was not written to protect the people of this country from religious values; it was written to protect religious values from government tyranny." And this is what voluntary school prayer is about, making sure that prayer, regardless of its denomination, is protected.

There can be little doubt that no student should be forced to pray in a certain fashion or be forced to pray at all. At the same time, a student should not be prohibited from praying, just because he/she is attending a public school. This straightforward principle is lost on the liberal courts and high-minded bureaucrats who have systematically eroded the right to voluntary school prayer, and it is now necessary to correct the situation through a constitutional amendment. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and make a strong statement in support of the freedom of religion.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT OFFICE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2001

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with my distinguished colleague, Representative CONNIE MORELLA, in introducing the Violence Against Women Office Act. This bill would make permanent the Violence Against Women Office within the Department of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, domestic violence is shockingly pervasive in our society today. The National Violence Against Women Survey, released by the National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in July 2000, found that:

Domestic abuse rates remain disturbingly high. Nearly 25 percent of women and 7.6 percent of men surveyed reported they had been raped or physically assaulted by a current or former spouse, cohabiting partner, or date at some point in their lifetime.

Stalking by intimates is more common than previously thought. Almost 5 percent of surveyed women and 0.6 percent of surveyed men reported being stalked by an intimate at some point in their lifetime; 0.5 percent of surveyed women and 0.2 percent of surveyed men reported being stalked by such a partner in the previous 12 months.

Domestic violence has major implications for public health and our health care system. Of the estimated 4.9 million intimate partner rapes and physical assaults perpetrated against women annually, approximately 2 million will result in an injury to the victim, and 570,457 will result in some type of medical treatment to the victim. Of the estimated 2.9 million intimate partner physical assaults perpetrated against men annually, 581,391 will result in an injury to the victim, and 124,999 will result in some type of medical treatment to the victim.

According to these statistics, approximately 1.5 million women and 834,732 men are raped and/or physically assaulted by an intimate partner each year in the United States. Domestic violence is nothing less than an epidemic, and must be attacked with all the resources we would bring to bear against a deadly disease.

We have made important progress over the past decade. One of my proudest accomplishments in Congress was my work as a lead author of the Violence Against Women Act. This bill, passed by Congress in 1994 and signed into law by President Clinton, has effected a sea change in the way our nation views and addresses domestic violence. VAWA made possible today's programs to educate judges and law enforcement officers, support shelters for battered women and children, and collect vital information on statistics on violence. Nevertheless, studies show that we still have a long way to go.

The legislation I am introducing today with Representative MORELLA would establish a permanent Office of Violence Against Women within the Department of Justice. At present, this office only exists by administrative fiat. It could be abolished or subsumed into another

part of the Department at any time. In our view, the existence of the Office of Violence Against Women should not be subject to changing political winds.

This legislation has the support of numerous domestic violence organizations all over our nation. In the 106th Congress, it garnered the support of almost 150 bipartisan cosponsors in short time. Representative MORELLA and I are hopeful that the 107th Congress will acknowledge the importance of this bill by passing it into law as soon as possible.

Tragically, there is no indication that domestic violence will disappear any time soon. Congress should signal its commitment to the fight against domestic abuse by establishing a permanent Office of Violence Against Women.

THE RE-INTRODUCTION OF THE FAITH-BASED LENDING PROTECTION ACT

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2001

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, each day our Nation's religious institutions quietly go about performing critical social programs that serve as lifelines to individuals and families in need. Besides providing places of worship, religious institutions also serve their communities by operating outreach programs such as food banks soup kitchens, battered family shelters, schools and AIDS hospices. To families in need, these programs often provide a last resource of care and compassion.

Yet, in spite of the clear social good that these programs provide to communities across America, we are faced with the growing reality that religious institutions are finding it increasingly difficult to secure the necessary capital resources at favorable rates that enable them to carry on this critical community work.

Mr. Speaker, today I am re-introducing legislation that I believe will help ensure that religious institutions have available all the financial resources necessary to carry out their missions of community service. The Faith-Based Lending Protection Act, which enjoys bipartisan support, seeks to amend the Federal Credit Union Act by clarifying that any member business loan made by a credit union to a religious nonprofit organization will not count toward total business lending caps imposed on credit unions by Federal law.

Each year credit unions loan millions of dollars to nonprofit religious organizations, many located in minority and/or lower income communities. Historically, these loans are considered safe and help sustain critical social outreach programs. Without legislative action, Mr. Speaker, these religious institutions will find it increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to secure the necessary funds under favorable terms to allow them to continue their work. I urge my colleagues to join me in this legislative effort.

INTRODUCTION OF THE YOUNGER AMERICANS ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2001

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to re-introduce, along with my colleague Mrs. ROUKEMA, the Younger Americans Act. Last September, we introduced this bill with our counterparts in the Senate and a vast national coalition of supporters including former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin Powell and America's Promise, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the National Urban League, America's Promise, the Child Welfare League of America, the United Way, the National Mental Health Association, and others.

We knew then that we would not have enough time in the 106th Congress to pass the legislation. But we did want to signal the strong support of a bipartisan coalition in both the House and Senate and of a broad array of national and grassroots organizations. I look forward now to working with them to pass this legislation in the 107th Congress. This is landmark legislation that will dramatically increase after-school opportunities for youth by providing them with adult mentors, education, sports, and volunteer activities.

As any parent or teacher knows, the best way to keep kids out of trouble and help them learn and grow is to keep them busy and give them opportunity. Today's bill is an historic opportunity to dramatically expand safe and exciting programs for children and youth after school, a time when too many kids suffer from a lack of activity and adult supervision. A recent Urban Institute study found that one in five young people age 6-12 are left without adult supervision after school and before their parents come home from work, a critical period during the day to keep youth both positively engaged and out of trouble.

Thirty-five years ago, Congress made a decision to help seniors and passed the Older Americans Act. In doing so, Congress launched a series of highly effective local efforts that have improved and enriched the lives of our nation's elderly. It helped pay for senior centers, Meals on Wheels, and community service programs like Green Thumb. For too long, however, Congress has ignored the needs of our nation's young people. It has failed to make the issues of young people a priority and has failed to make an adequate investment in their development and well-being.

Our new bill attempts to correct that oversight. Today, we seek to repeat the success of the Older Americans Act by funding a national network of high-quality programs tailored to the particular challenges faced by youth today. Too often, we find that public programs for young people focus on the problems of youth and promote piecemeal policies that seek to redress negative behaviors like juvenile delinquency or teen pregnancy. But the evidence shows that the most promising approaches to helping young people are those that foster positive youth development, build social and emotional competence, and link young people with adult mentors. This is the future of youth social program in the 21st century and it is an approach we seek to advance through this legislation.

The Younger Americans Act will help coordinate and fund youth-mentoring, community service through volunteerism, structured academic and recreational opportunities, and other activities aimed at fostering the positive educational and social development of teens and pre-teens. Under the bill, the federal government would distribute funds by formula to community boards that would oversee the planning, operation, and evaluation of local programs. Funding for local programs in the initial year would be \$500 million, and would rise to \$2 billion in 2006, in addition to matching funds provided by local and state governments and the private sector.

To qualify, each local program would be required to adopt a comprehensive and coordinated system of youth programs with the following five general components: ongoing relationships with caring adults; safe places with structured activities; access to services that promote healthy lifestyles, including those designed to improve physical and mental health; opportunities to acquire marketable skills and competencies; and, opportunities for community service and civic participation. Thirty percent of funds would be targeted to youth programs that address specific, urgent areas of need such as urban and rural communities that currently lack sufficient access to positive and constructive opportunities.

I want to thank all of the members of the coalition behind this bill for bringing us together. I applaud their work on this legislation and the work that they do every day in each of our local communities. I want to express special appreciation to all of the young people from these associations, who have rightly played such a key role in drafting and advocating for this legislation.

Congress has enacted many worthwhile programs to help young people. But the bill we are introducing today has a different message. Our bill responds to the tremendous desire of young people to have the greatest opportunity possible to be active, creative, and productive citizens in our society, rather than receiving society's help only after they are in trouble. Kids are asking to be given a chance to make a difference in their own lives. We are saying that that is exactly what Congress can and should do. I am confident we can make that happen. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2001

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Identity Theft Prevention Act. This act protects the American people from government-mandated uniform identifiers which facilitate private crime as well as the abuse of liberty. The major provision of the Identity Theft Prevention Act halts the practice of using the Social Security number as an identifier by requiring the Social Security Administration to issue all Americans new Social Security numbers within five years after the enactment of the bill. These new numbers will be the sole legal property of the recipient and the Social Security Administration shall be forbidden to divulge