

Why, then, do we not insist that the Department of State staff the U.S. mission with those individuals who know where to look for these problems and have the courage and have the dedication to serve and to report them to Congress?

Ms. Shenwick should be reinstated to her former position, reimbursed for her personal expenses, and we should have her personnel files expunged of any unsatisfactory reviews or other false evidence to justify those reviews.

I will be sending a letter to President Bush requesting reinstatement of Ms. Shenwick so the United States can again benefit from her expertise, her diligence, and highly exemplary service.

Mr. Speaker, I am also introducing a concurrent resolution to the same effect. I hope my colleagues will join with me in signing this letter to the President and also cosponsor my legislation.

#### ENERGY CONSERVATION SHOULD BE FOUNDATION OF OUR NATIONAL POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, my goal in Congress is for the Federal Government to be a better partner with individual citizens, their State and local governments; our communities more livable, our families safe, healthy and economically secure.

Having a dependable supply of energy and using it wisely is critical for a livable community. The current controversy surrounding energy is an excellent opportunity for this administration and this Congress to give thoughtful consideration to the impact that energy decisions can have on the livability of our communities and to develop a more rational approach to energy utilization.

Unfortunately, the President, his chief spokesperson, and most recently the Vice President, are setting up a false policy conflict for Americans. They would like us to somehow believe that being more thoughtful about use of energy and the Federal Government's role in promoting a better approach is somehow an assault on the American way of life. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Mr. Speaker, America works best when we give people choices so they can determine what works best for them. A country that disregards the value of conservation, that ignores fuel efficiency for all automobiles, that seeks to maximize production of energy at the expense of environmental quality is not protecting the American way of life, nor is it doing American families or businesses any favors.

Energy conservation is not just a matter of personal virtue, but if it

were, there is nothing wrong with formulating energy policy that recognizes the importance of this virtue.

Energy conservation should be, with all due respect to the Vice President, the foundation of our national policy. It is the only way we will provide significant amounts of energy in the near term. Furthermore, it is an approach that has already proven effective and has received bipartisan support.

All the hotly debated talk about drilling in the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge and building a new power plant a week is not going to alleviate the problems facing consumers now. Instead of cutting the budget for environmental conservation, we need to set policies that actually encourage it.

There are simple conservation measures we could be taking today. Number one, extending fuel efficiency standards to all vehicles, including SUVs, light trucks and minivans. An increase of 3 miles per gallon in the fuel efficiency of SUVs will save more oil than drilling in the Arctic would ever produce, and we will get the benefits long before we ever get any Arctic oil.

Two, encouraging higher building standards that are more energy efficient, such as colored roofs, which reflect heat rays and lower home temperatures by as much as 5 degrees.

Three, we should be promoting new technologies and alternate fuels. We should not force people who want a 70-mile-per-gallon vehicle to have to buy one from overseas. By providing incentives and Federal support for developing and deploying energy-efficient technologies here in the United States, we can provide new and lucrative markets for American businesses.

Four, we ought to restore the higher standards for energy guzzling appliances. The Bush administration should allow the saving standards issued by the Clinton administration to stand, not be rolling them back.

Businesses are already realizing these benefits. A DuPont plant in New Jersey, for instance, which refused energy use per pound of product by one-third, cut global warming pollution per pound of product by nearly one-half, and as production rose 9 percent, the total energy bill fell by \$17 million a year.

But we need to get help to the people who perhaps cannot afford it.

Five, helping low-income people with today's skyrocketing energy bills and helping them install energy savings appliances seems to make sense. If we can afford, as some suggest, up to \$2 trillion in tax cuts, there is no reason that Congress cannot put some money on the table now that will help reduce the demand for energy production and help low- and moderate-income people save money over time.

We should have policies that reduce the extra costs for low-income people who may not have the money to replace appliances that in the long term will pay for themselves many times over. The long-term benefits accrue not

just to those low-income households. The community and the utilities will benefit huge savings by not building unnecessary power plants.

Yesterday's poll in USA Today showed that the American public understands this problem and an overwhelming percentage favor conservation over production.

We should invest in alternative energy, retrofit existing buildings with new technology, help lower-income people cope today and conserve for tomorrow, and all of us should embrace conservation.

These principles should be the basis of a national energy policy, an approach that will unite us in Washington, D.C., because it is what the people want and it is the quickest path to building more livable communities.

#### PARENTS' ROLE IN TEEN PREGNANCY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be joined on the floor of the House today by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON), who is my very dear friend and colleague. The gentlewoman and myself and the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) have been very active on the issue of teen pregnancy, and work closely with the campaign to end teen pregnancy to bring attention to the issue throughout the Nation.

The newest data shows a very interesting fact: Teens listen to their parents. Often parents think their teenagers only listen to their teenage friends, and sometimes parents give up talking to their teenagers about difficult subjects like sex and sexuality and sexual activity amongst teens.

But when your child is in their teen years, that is a time when you need to talk with your child. You need to listen to your son or your daughter. You need to hear what pressures they feel and face, because it is only through that conversation that you can help your teenager understand their own growth.

Of course, they are growing in sexual awareness, but they are also growing emotionally towards independence and intellectually towards a level of personal power necessary for them to fulfill their dreams.

When we talk to our kids about sexuality, we rarely talk to them about the terrible danger teen pregnancy poses to their growth and development, their ability to parent, their ability to provide for their child in the way they would want to. We rarely talk to them about the sheer lunacy of teen sex because of the devastating impact it can have on their lives. For young girls,

particularly, inappropriate intimacy stunts their growth.

Teenagers, by their nature, spend their teen years weaning themselves from their parents. That is what growing up is all about. It is about gaining your independence, gaining a sense of yourself, developing your own skills so that you can be your own person in the decades ahead.

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As one weans oneself from the control of one's parents, one also must gain that control oneself. For young women particularly, premature sexuality has the effect of transferring control to the young man. It is simply more true for young girls than it is for a young man. Yet, we do not talk with our girls about this at all.

We do not help them to see that, if they want to succeed in the project of growing up, if they want to be their own person, if they want to be intellectually strong, they want to be morally strong, they want to have a sound body, a sound mind, a sound heart, they have to take responsibility for themselves.

In seeking to leave their parents, it is particularly dangerous for young girls to shift that power of control through sexual intimacy to a young man. That is unfortunately exactly what happens, and we do not even talk about it.

So it is important to talk to one's teens. It is important to listen to the pressures they face. It is important not to be afraid of those pressures because, through discussion, one will arm one's child with an understanding of the power that abstinence provides them over themselves and gives them in shaping their future.

Now, growing up has always been tough. It is tough all through one's life to really grow up well. But it is particularly tough in teen years and during that process of adolescence. If we, as parents, cannot talk straighter with our children and cannot listen at a level that allows us to listen to things we never thought we would hear our kids say, then we cannot, with them, help them guide themselves through the difficult waters of adolescence in today's world and the many pressures that growing up imposes on teenagers.

So kids need to talk to their folks and folks need to listen to their children. We hope that, by investing money in the research necessary to better understand teen sexuality and teen growth, we will be better able to help kids understand how it is that one becomes empowered to be oneself and to determine one's own course and how it is we establish healthy, strong, loving relationships throughout one's lifetime. By investing money in this very important research project, we will be able to talk from an increasingly sound and strong basis of knowledge ourselves.

But we also hope that, through sheer publicity, we will be able to help teens

understand that premature sexual intimacy is destructive of their future.

I am delighted to be here with the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) today.

#### PARENTS' ROLE IN TEEN PREGNANCY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I am also delighted to join the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) as we serve on the House Caucus for the Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy. I am delighted for many year reasons; one, because this is an opportunity, and the month of May is an opportunity to raise the awareness.

Over the last several years, I have spoken out often and devoted a lot of time and energy to this effort. But no more time is more rewarding than talking to young people themselves and talking to community leaders about this issue.

This week alone, I spoke to three different schools. It included a high school and two junior high schools. What I am finding out is that young people themselves have views, opinions, and they are part of a leadership, too. They should be engaged in this issue.

I am convinced if one is effectively to reduce teenage pregnancy, we must, indeed, bring the awareness to the community of the consequences of teenage pregnancies, not only to the families, the young people themselves, but also to the community. But more importantly, we must, indeed, engage our youth, because they are factored in resolving this issue.

We have good news. Since 1990, teenage pregnancies have gone down. It has been a steady decline. So we should celebrate that as a Nation. We deserve to be proud of that activity. But in spite of our good efforts and success, still, yet today, more than 1 million children, young people, indeed, become pregnant each year, those younger than the age of 20. Nearly 1 million every year now, although it is going down, there is a steady number of persons, indeed, who are teenagers who are becoming parents before they reach their 20th birthday.

Also, in my part of the State, eastern North Carolina, the rate is not going down as fast. In fact, I have several of my counties where the rate is higher than in my State. So I am, indeed, concerned about that.

May, as I say, is an opportunity where we can bring the awareness to both the community and to the young people. The thing we want to emphasize to our young people that teenage is a time when they should be concentrating on education. They should be having fun. They should be talking

about their career. They should be growing up and not focused on pregnancy or being a parent prematurely.

Mr. Speaker, I was happy to join the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) recently when the National Campaign to Prevent Teenage Pregnancy released their report. As the gentlewoman has already commented, that report emphasizes several things, both around parents and teenagers; and that teenagers really wanted to talk to their parents.

Sometimes parents thought teenagers wanted to talk to teenagers and were getting all the information from them. But they really thought they should get that information from the parents. Both parents and teenagers agree more often than one would think. Ninety-five percent of parents felt that abstinence was absolutely what should happen. Ninety-three percent of the teenagers thought, now one would not have thought that, but 93 percent of the teenagers themselves thought abstinence should be.

Both those same groups also felt that, but a lesser degree in terms of the parents, that, indeed, contraception should be a part of the story, and that they were not necessarily in conflict with each other; that abstinence should be emphasized; and, indeed, that contraception information about that should be a part of that as well.

Also, there was consensus about the role of the school. Both parents and teenagers felt that the primary role of the school was not necessarily to teach the values or the appropriateness, but there was a role for the schools, and that the school should be engaged in that process; that the primary responsibility should be the parent. If both parents and teenagers believe that, something must be missing in this game. It means that parents and teenagers are not talking to each other.

Now, many of the parents, as I said earlier, on one hand believe that contraception information and abstinence may give a dual message that may be in conflict. But the teenagers did not believe that. They did not see it. They felt that abstinence, indeed, the 93 percent believed it; but also a vast majority of those teenagers also felt the information about contraception was very, very important.

In fact, I personally believe that abstinence is the most important. But I also know that young people are very active sexually. So we must be engaged in providing the critical important information to teenagers so they can make the decision. I believe if we empower young people, they will make the difference.

Over the last several years, I have spoken out often and devoted a lot of time and energy to teen pregnancy prevention. My most meaningful efforts have involved a host of meetings and discussions with youth and community leaders where the focus has been on prevention and development activities in my congressional district. This week, I visited three different schools including a senior high school and two middle schools.