

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, since November is National Diabetes Awareness Month, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage people to be screened for this disease and to learn more about the prevention and the treatment of this disease.

Approximately 16 million people in the United States have diabetes, although about 5 million of those people do not even know they have it. Sadly, this is a disease that disproportionately affects minority groups and individuals who are 65 years or older. African Americans are 1.7 times more often having diabetes than Caucasians. And Hispanics are almost twice as likely to have diabetes than non-Hispanic whites; 6.3 million people with diabetes are 65 years of age or older.

According to the American Diabetes Association, total health care costs incurred by people with diabetes for the year 1997 was \$98 billion. At present there is no method to prevent or cure diabetes, but there are several things that we can do as legislators and individuals. We can promote research that includes minority populations and people over 65 years of age. These groups are rapidly-growing segments of our population, and we should do this research.

#### BULLENTINI COMFORT QUILTS PROJECT

(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, September 11 of course was a day of tragedy where thousands of Americans lost their lives, and some of the youngest victims of this heinous attack were the children who lost one or both parents in the disaster. Today, I am proud to announce that a resident of Reno, Nevada, is spearheading a project to benefit these children facing a world without one, either a mother or a father from this disaster.

Ms. Debby Bullentini, a former fifth grade teacher, has begun the Comfort Quilts Project, a project to provide the children with a special hand-made quilt made up of patches from all over the country. Every Member of this Chamber can help by signing an individual patch for the quilts which will be distributed to the 10 to 15,000 children who lost one or both parents on September 11.

I have encouraged every Member of Congress to visit any office or call at 100 Cannon and take a few minutes to sign a patch like this one to show that we do care about these children, and I wish we could do more to ease the pain of these children who are the youngest victims of this terrorist attack.

#### PASSING A HATE CRIMES BILL

(Ms. LOFGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, it is time to pass a hate crimes bill. Some people confuse hate crimes with the idea that some victims are worthier than others. What that misses is the fact that when there is a hate crime there is more than one victim: the individual who has been assaulted and the group that that victim belongs to.

We know that when there is a hate crime the intent is to intimidate, frighten, and alarm people who share the same trait as the victim, whether it is their religion or some other trait. So we need to make sure that we protect Americans against hate crimes.

I am a member of the Committee on the Judiciary with jurisdiction over this bill which I am a co-sponsor of. We are not even meeting today. We should use our time to enhance law enforcement to protect Americans to pass a strong hate crimes bill.

#### ENACTING COMMONSENSE ECONOMIC STIMULUS POLICIES

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday's front page of the Wall Street Journal reads like this: "The U.S. fell into a recession in March for the first time in a decade."

By historical standards, the current contraction is unusual. Despite some optimism that the recession has run its course, turmoil in the commodity markets could indicate that a recovery will not arrive until summer at best, at best.

If the American economy has been in a recession since March, it is obvious the American people need help now. We cannot wait until next summer for a turnaround.

History has shown that providing tax relief is a better way to jump-start the economy than increasing spending. By enacting some commonsense stimulus policies, we can get our economy back on track.

Our House-passed tax relief bill does just that. More tax relief would be great news for American families, American companies, and the American economy. Our friends at the other end of the Capitol need to quit stalling, get in gear and pass tax relief now. America will say thank you.

#### CHINA'S TWO-TIMING OF AMERICA

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, reports say that China is two-timing Uncle Sam big time. With one hand China slaps Uncle Sam on the back and wishes us well in Afghanistan. With the other hand China sells missiles and weapons to Iran and Iraq and continues to funnel support under the table to the Taliban. Bottom line, China continues to aid and abet our enemies.

Beam me up.

I yield back the fact that the Taliban are a fly on our face, but China is a dragon eating our assets. Think about that.

#### PASS AN ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, let me associate myself with the comments from the gentleman of Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) urging the Senate to bring about an economic stimulus package.

We passed over 6 weeks ago a very important bill that would bring real tax relief to American families. Now, maybe the other Chamber's idea of a stimulus is Metamucil, but we need more than a dose of fiber to get this economy moving. I urge them based on the numbers we saw yesterday, rising unemployment, lower consumer confidence, today's Wall Street opening again declining, based on the fact that there is little confidence in this economy, we could make a dramatic step forward by bringing the House and Senate together and conferring this very important economic stimulus bill, send it to the President for signature, and get the economy moving for the holiday season.

#### PASSING A RESPONSIBLE STIMULUS PACKAGE FOR AMERICAN WORKERS

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my growing concern for the decaying state of our Nation's economy. Yesterday, leading economists confirmed what 7 million laid-off workers already know: our Nation is in a recession for the first time this decade.

If we are to truly address this country's growing economic crunch, any economic stimulus legislation passed by Congress must include more than corporate tax breaks for large and already profitable companies.

A responsible stimulus package that would benefit every American must include provisions that will invest in American workers, assist small and medium businesses, and foster fiscal responsibility. These ends can be achieved by creating a bill that combines tax relief with critical funding for ready-to-go construction projects, including airport security and school modernization.

This is the only way to ensure that workers are put to work and businesses stay in business.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this body make a pledge to act responsibly in the coming days and work with the Senate

to address this Nation's difficult economic times, not just to use this recession as an excuse for the passage of an even larger number of tax cuts.

□ 1015

#### BANNING HUMAN CLONING

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

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, recent polls show 9 out of 10 Americans believe that all cloning should be banned. As Members of Congress, each of us has the responsibility to address this critical issue that the American people care about. Failure to do so is intolerable.

I am categorically opposed to all human cloning, but I rise today on behalf of millions of American people who are concerned about cloning technology and the desire for it to be addressed. This Chamber has already voted overwhelmingly to ban all human cloning. However, a recent announcement that an embryo has been successfully cloned brings an added sense of urgency to banning this practice.

Congress must complete consideration of this issue immediately and send a bill to the President for his signature. The leader of the other body can no longer sit on his hands and ignore his constituents. The American people deserve to be heard and deserve to be represented. This must not be ignored.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. LAURA DUHAN KAPLAN AND UNC-CHARLOTTE

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

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Laura Duhan Kaplan, Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, which is located in my congressional district.

On November 13, Dr. Kaplan was named one of four U.S. professors of the year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Dr. Kaplan was honored for her creative and nontraditional methods of teaching philosophy, which have made her classes a favorite of UNC-Charlotte students and earned praise from her colleagues.

Dr. Kaplan's award is an honor for her and the entire UNC-Charlotte community. UNC-Charlotte becomes the first university in the Nation to have three U.S. Professors of the Year serving on its faculty.

I offer my congratulations to Dr. Kaplan and to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte on this high honor.

#### TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY IS IMPERATIVE

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, free and fair trade is the foundation of our capitalist society. It creates jobs and improves wages. It contributes to economic growth and improves standards of living. It promotes freedom, opportunity and openness.

One in ten Americans work in export-related jobs. Typically, those jobs pay 18 percent more than the national average. In addition to rising wages, trade has resulted in lower prices, resulting in a benefit of between \$1,300 and \$2,000 per year for the average family of four. Clearly, American workers benefit from expanded trade.

The benefits of trade reaped by American workers and their families extend to the entire U.S. economy, as trade facilitates our global competitiveness. Exports have accounted for nearly one-quarter of U.S. economic growth during the past decade. In fact, NAFTA and the Uruguay Round combined have increased U.S. income by nearly \$60 billion per year. Further, U.S. industrial production is 48 percent higher today than in 1990, prior to the enactment of NAFTA and the Uruguay Round.

The passage of Trade Promotion Authority is imperative. Free trade will stimulate our economic recovery and preserve the very core of capitalism. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3005.

#### H.R. 1343, LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, it is time to bring the bipartisan bill, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) to the floor to be voted on.

The terrorists who committed the atrocities on September 11 want nothing less than to destroy our American way of life. Terrorists want our children to grow up divided because of weaknesses, not unified by America's strengths.

The Conyers' bill, supported by 199 bipartisan cosponsors, defends every American from the kind of hate and bigotry that has followed September 11, particularly our children.

Kids, because of the way they appear, have been beaten by their peers, harassed at their schools, and spit on in supermarkets. We must give local law enforcement the tools that they need to punish and prevent these crimes. The Conyers Hate Crime Prevention Act will do just that.

#### AGAINST CLONING: DESIGNING DISCARDABLE DONORS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday, we heard the news that a Massachusetts biotechnology firm had turned a revolutionary scientific corner. Delicately transferring human DNA into a donated human female egg, they then artificially nurtured the egg into a 6-cell embryo. The embryo then went off about its business, dividing as if fertilized by a sperm, but stopped far short of maturing into a baby.

Their objective in creating this being? To harvest its stem cells to be crafted into potential replacement tissues for patients suffering from various degenerative diseases. Advanced Cell Technology, Inc. positions the product of their research as "only cellular life, not human life." Still, building a life, whether you call it a "cellular life" or a "human life" to serve as a discardable donor is not moral science.

The House passed H.R. 2505, a human cloning prohibition in July, and I urge our colleagues in the Senate to expeditiously pass legislation banning such destructive research.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The Chair would remind Members they should not urge action in the other body.

#### FIRST THINGS FIRST

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

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in recent months, we have passed legislation to rebuild the communities ravaged by terrorism, to bring down the Taliban and root out the al-Qaeda network, and to make our skies safer for the flying public. But there is one glaring omission, left out of the airline bailout bill, left out of the aviation security bill, and that is the workers laid off in the aftermath of these attacks.

What we have known for weeks is now official: Our economy is spiraling downward in a recession worsened by the events of September 11. North Carolina's unemployment rate for last month was 5.4 percent, the highest it has been in almost 9 years.

In this time of financial crisis, we need a recovery plan that includes all our citizens, not just the big corporations looking to benefit from a pre-existing Republican tax cut agenda. Our Republican friends have found time to pass a 16-year refund of the alternative minimum tax for large corporations, but precious little for the