

not removed from the measure, I am forced to oppose this entirely.

The government pension offset unfairly reduces the retirement benefits of public employees, our teachers who have dedicated their lives to serving their communities and our children. Many of those impacted expect to receive the Social Security benefits their spouses earned and often remain unaware of the offsets until they reach retirement age. Educators are shocked to learn that their decision to enter the education profession, often at a considerable financial sacrifice, has caused them to also lose the benefits that they had counted on. The resulting loss of income forces some into poverty and desperation.

I ask that we vote "no" on H.R. 743.

FAMILY CARE TAX CREDIT ACT

(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. Madam Speaker, providing help to our working families is one of the main reasons I am in Washington today. I am proud of what we have accomplished, partial elimination of the marriage tax penalty, as well as expansion of the child tax credit; but I believe we should go a step further.

Currently, we give tax credit to families who pay for day care and other services, but families who have a parent taking care of their children are left on their own. That is why I have introduced the Family Care Tax Credit Act to give a fair and balanced approach to the child care tax credits by giving help to all middle-class families of children. Many parents in Kansas tell me that they would like to stay home with their children or to care for a loved one, but they cannot overcome the financial barriers caused by this tax bill. My plan would simply remove one of those barriers.

President Bush's economic stimulus package is a good start, but I think we could and should do more.

EXPANDED AND IMPROVED MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, today the New York Times reported that 75 million people went without health insurance in 2001 or 2002. Our failing economy and rising health care costs are failing working families who make up the majority of uninsured Americans. While costs continue to go up, we are not getting what we are paying for. Government expenditures have accounted for 60 percent of total U.S. health care costs. Our government spends more money per person than countries that provide universal health care. Our citizens are so close to pay-

ing for a universal health care system, but so far from getting it.

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and I have introduced a bill to ensure that all Americans have access to a universal high standard of medical care. This bill, Medicare for All, would help patients get the health care they need. It would help physicians, nurses, and other health professionals to get back to practicing medicine instead of filling out paperwork. I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 676, a bill to finally bring universal guaranteed quality health care to all Americans.

A TRIBUTE TO AN AMAZING MAN FROM LAKELAND, FLORIDA

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

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary man, a man who lived to see his wish come true. Lakeland's John McMorran, who passed away as the oldest-living American at the ripe old age of 113, got his wish to live in 3 centuries.

John McMorran, the fourth-oldest living person in the world, was born in a log cabin in Port Huron, Michigan, on June 19, 1889, the same year the Eiffel Tower was built. In 1990 he moved to Lakeland in my district to be near his family. The son of farmers, he held a variety of jobs until he retired at 84. He worked at a Detroit munitions factory earning a dollar a day during World War I. Kind, happy, hard working, well put together were just some of the words used to describe him. He is survived by a vast network of family and friends who loved him.

Madam Speaker, I believe John McMorran said it best himself. When asked what his secret was to long life, he responded by saying: "I drink a cup of coffee before every meal and I stay away from cheap whiskey."

God bless John and his family, Madam Speaker.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss a silent, yet deadly, epidemic facing the country: domestic violence. Every 9 seconds a woman is battered in the United States. In 2001, 80,000 women and children in New York State alone requested help from domestic violence programs, and these were only the documented cases. Many more cases go unmentioned as women, fearing to come forward, leave the assaults unreported.

The most common form of domestic abuse is physical; but many men abuse their wives and partners emotionally, sexually, and economically; and women are not the only victims. Between 3.3

and 10 million children annually witness the abuse that occurs between their parents, and so the domestic violence cycle is passed on from generation to generation.

For many years domestic violence has been viewed as a woman's problem, but that is not the case. Domestic violence is a woman's problem, a man's problem, the community's problem. The time is long overdue for men to take a stand and say that domestic violence is unacceptable. We must have full funding for the Violence Against Women Act to protect women who are victims. The President has said so, but his 2004 budget proposes a \$19 million cut in funding for domestic violence. We demand full funding for the Violence Against Women Act. We commend the groups who work so tirelessly to extend this message.

HONORING C.M. WILLIAMS

(Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today honoring an exceptional public servant from the Commonwealth of Virginia, Mr. C.M. Williams. Mr. Williams has served in local government for 40 years and as Stafford County administrator, a county with a population of more than 100,000, since 1984.

Mr. Williams has used his position well for the benefit of the Virginians that he serves. For example, he played a key role in preserving Virginia's historic treasures as executive officer of the George Washington Boyhood Home Foundation. Additionally, Mr. Williams was instrumental in obtaining funding for the Stafford Regional Airport, as well as in establishing the James Monroe Center for Graduate and Professional Studies at Mary Washington College.

Mr. Williams has long been a notable public servant and citizen, even serving as president of the Virginia Association of County Administrators. I commend him for his dedication to Virginia and wish him well in all that he pursues as he steps down to enjoy retirement.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the importance of fully funding the Violence Against Women Act of 2000, otherwise known as VAWA.

Domestic violence is a crisis that plagues far too many families in our communities. In New York State alone, the State division of criminal justice service has received 55,558 police reports of family domestic violence offenses in 1999. This alarming number

reflects only the incidences where a police report was actually filed. Domestic violence knows no boundaries, crossing all economic, race, and other barriers to disrupt families.

VAWA funds critical programs that assist millions of battered women and children nationwide. Congress took the right steps last year by fully funding the VAWA programs administered by the Department of Justice; however, several critical programs in the Department of Health and Human Services were funded at amounts well below what was needed and what was authorized in VAWA 2000. Some VAWA programs were not funded at all. We just found out that the President's fiscal 2004 budget would cut \$19.2 million from crucial VAWA programs. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing these cuts. At a time when States face a looming budget crisis and a broad spectrum of important programs are slated for funding cuts, I believe that we owe it to families caught in the devastating cycle of domestic abuse to fully fund all VAWA programs.

SUPPORTING THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 743, the Social Security Protection Act of 2003. This is a piece of legislation that strengthens Social Security for all those hard workers who have worked their entire lives paying their payroll taxes and protects those beneficiaries who rely on others to manage their affairs and their benefits. Our Nation's retirement system gives economic security to those hard workers, and they deserve a secure retirement system. Therefore, as Members of Congress, one of our first priorities must be to protect and ensure that Social Security benefits are there for our seniors.

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Thankfully, this piece of legislation does just that. Many beneficiaries, it seems, are unable to manage their own affairs and depend on other representatives to take care of them for it. Unfortunately and sadly, there are others that are not so reputable and considerate in taking care of those affairs, and therefore, we are fortunate indeed to have H.R. 743, which will crack down on the wrongdoings and strengthen oversight and enhance penalties and collection for the benefits misuse.

If we are going to ensure Social Security and the promises of Social Security to our seniors, we must enact this legislation for our future benefits for our seniors of this Nation.

A SAFEPLACE FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES PROVIDING MUCH-NEEDED SERVICES

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, for over 25 years, a concerned group of Austinites now operating as SafePlace have delivered invaluable services to victims of domestic violence. Special thanks go to Kelly White for her leadership and to Laura Wolf for her development work during these tough economic times.

I joined them yesterday here in the Capitol to hear the moving words of Kimberley Wiseman and announce the involvement of SafePlace with the Office for Victims of Crimes in expanding services across the country at 10 different sites, from Tucson to Worcester, to assist individuals with disabilities, who have about twice the rate of victimization from domestic violence as those who are without disabilities.

Despite our concerted efforts to address domestic violence, the Department of Justice reported just last week that there were almost 600,000 cases of violence against women in America during 2001. Of these, at least one in five involve domestic violence. That is why it is so very important that we here in Congress act to provide full federal funding under the Violence Against Women Act to support local efforts like SafePlace, to give them the resources to both counsel and assist those who are victims of domestic violence, but, equally important, to prevent it in the future.

END DOUBLE TAXATION OF DIVIDENDS

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

Mr. CHOCOLA. Madam Speaker, President Bush said in his State of the Union address, "The best and fairest way to make sure that Americans have more money is not to tax it away in the first place."

Fundamental tax reform will allow all Americans to keep more of their own money instead of sending it to Washington, and abolishing the double tax on dividends is an important first step.

Under current tax law, income earned by corporations is taxed twice, both at the corporate level and the individual level. Ending the doubling taxation of dividends would benefit millions of Americans who invest in successful companies, either directly or through retirement accounts like IRAs.

Eliminating this extra tax burden will provide \$20 billion in tax relief to Americans this year alone, resulting in higher levels of economic output and job creation, again starting this year.

Fixing this flaw in the Tax Code is particularly good for seniors. Almost half of all savings from the dividend exemption would go to taxpayers 65 and older. The average savings for the 9.8 million seniors receiving dividends would be \$936.

Madam Speaker, it is fair to tax companies profits. It is unfair to tax that profit again when it is distributed to individuals. For the good of our economy and the good of all Americans, Congress should move quickly to end the double taxation of dividend income.

RECOGNIZING THE SECOND ANNUAL STOP VIOLENCE WEEK IN WASHINGTON

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of those fighting domestic violence in our communities.

Historically we have viewed domestic violence as a woman's issue, and statistics tend to support that school of thought. Nearly one-third of American women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives, every 2 minutes a woman is raped in the United States, and more than 500,000 women are stalked every year.

But as we all become more educated on the causes and the effects of such actions, we realize that this is a problem that is not gender-biased, but one that touches every aspect of our society. It affects families, children, friends and even coworkers.

More and more, men are joining the voices in the fight against domestic violence, and I applaud them for having the insight to understand that this is more than a woman's issue and that it is everybody's responsibility. And I applaud organizations like the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence for continuing to raise awareness of this issue and for all who join them to protect women across this country and in the world.

STOP VIOLENCE WEEK IN WASHINGTON

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Stop Violence Week in Washington.

The Violence against Women Act has rescued countless women from the vicious cycle of family violence, but there is so much more to be done. That is why we cannot abandoned our commitment to protecting women from domestic abuse and sexual assault here at home and around the globe. We cannot let the campaign to wage war with Iraq drown out our war against domestic violence and sexual assault.