

108 State and community colleges, women's sports receive 35 percent of the athletic budget. And let me remind my colleagues, they make up 56 percent of full-time student bodies.

In Georgia, more than 86 percent of the legislative branch for stadiums, for lighting and equipment at public schools went to boys' sports projects; 86 percent. So while title IX is transforming the playing field for men's and women's sports in general, it is not level yet.

Mr. Speaker, we need to keep title IX strong. We need to fight any attempts by this administration or Congress that will weaken its effectiveness. It is not just because we want girls to get to play; it is because when one plays on a team or when one is in an individual sport and that sport is valued at all, one learns. One learns competitiveness; one learns how to compete with one's self and do better the next time; one learns how to win and one learns how to lose, and one learns how to play on a team. All of that plays out later when one is involved in the business world, when one is involved in raising children, when one is involved in knowing how important one's own self-esteem is and how important it will be to raising one's children. So we must strengthen title IX. We must never weaken its effectiveness.

#### MORE SUPPORT FOR TITLE IX

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for the remaining time of the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER).

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of title IX. Title IX of the educational amendments of 1972 have really been instrumental in prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex by mandating gender equality and educational programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance.

Before the passage of title IX, when I and most of our colleagues were in college, many schools saw no problem in maintaining strict limits on admission of women or in simply refusing to admit them, or in denying them access to much of the opportunities within colleges and universities.

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This has changed dramatically since the passage of Title IX. The effects of the legislation are evident in the success of women in the classroom, on the campus, and in our society at large.

In 1972, women received only 9 percent of medical degrees, 7 percent of law degrees, a quarter of doctoral degrees. By 2000, women received 45 percent of medical degrees, 44 percent of law degrees, and 44 percent of doctoral degrees. There is a connection.

Thanks to Patsy Mink and others who fought to get Title IX into the legislation, women now have opportuni-

ties on the athletic field, throughout the campus, and throughout their lives. By participating in sports, young women realize significant benefits that often correlate to achievement in the classroom and, ultimately, success in college and in the work force.

Women who participate in athletics have higher graduation rates and develop important skills like teamwork, leadership, discipline, that stay with them throughout their lives.

Attacks on Title IX have taken on really ludicrous dimensions. I have heard some teams, male teams, blame their losing seasons on Title IX. I am sorry, it just does not wash. Title IX is a success. It is a great boon to our society, to our economy, to the education of our people.

Unfortunately, the administration is considering proposals that would dramatically weaken the important provisions of Title IX. Female athletes stand to lose scholarships, they stand to lose chances for athletic participation, they stand to lose much of what we have gained since Patsy Mink fought to get Title IX into law.

We may not allow, we cannot allow this to happen. We cannot allow the administration to diminish the opportunities afforded to American women or to undo the progress we have made over the past 30 years. Title IX has enabled millions of young women to pursue goals which their grandmothers and mothers could have only dreamed of.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all my colleagues will join me as we work to preserve the integrity of this landmark law.

#### QUESTIONING WISDOM OF HUGE ECONOMIC AID PACKAGE TO TURKEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor this evening to speak about what I consider to be a dangerous precedent that is included in the supplemental appropriations bill. In the bill that was sent to Congress only a few days ago, the President requested an astounding \$1 billion in aid to Turkey that can be leveraged into \$8.5 billion in loan guarantees.

Mr. Speaker, I have a number of concerns about this deal which I do not believe have been addressed. Over the last few months, I have repeatedly questioned the wisdom of providing Turkey with a huge economic aid package. In a letter I wrote to Secretary of State Colin Powell on February 24, I expressed my displeasure at the size of the economic package to be provided to Turkey.

Estimates on that initial deal ranged from \$6 billion to \$30 billion. Despite the sum of money that was offered, Turkey did not provide the bases we were already using to enforce the no-

fly zones over the last 12 years in northern Iraq. It appears that, because of this decision, our forces were forced to show their flexibility and ship south to Kuwait to engage in combat in Iraq.

Only last week, after the bombing of Bagdad began, did Turkey even grant the U.S. military the ability to have overflight rights, and Turkey was the last government in NATO to provide these rights. It appears that even though they did this reluctantly, they will still benefit from a huge aid package in the supplemental bill.

Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe this package is inappropriate, given the minimum amount of assistance that Turkey is providing to the United States.

I am also not convinced that Turkey will not enter the Kurdish region of northern Iraq. Although the President and members of his administration have assured the American public that Turkey will remain on the sidelines, Turkey continues to amass large numbers of Turkish forces along their border with Iraq. These troops' mobilizations have led the Kurdish militias to set up defense positions along the border as well, creating an unnecessarily tense situation.

Mr. Speaker, the Turkish government also has not promised to stay out of Iraq. They have stated for months that they intend to enter northern Iraq to set up a buffer zone to not have a repeat of the refugee crisis from the 1991 Gulf War. But after it became clear that the administration would be working closely with the Iraqi Kurds to deal with the impending humanitarian crisis, the Turkish government switched their stories. This past Saturday, Turkish foreign minister Abdullah Gul said his government would send forces into northern Iraq to suppress "terrorist activity."

Mr. Speaker, the Turkish government has repeatedly called their own Kurdish citizens terrorists in the last few years. The Turkish authorities have recently banned one Kurdish political party and are currently working on banning the other. They have also not fully implemented reforms to give their minority populations property and language rights, one of the many conditions that the European Union set during Turkish entrance talks.

The tragedy that would occur should the Turkish government enter northern Iraq would be immense. Turkey has repeatedly shown its inability to govern the Kurds even with marginal respect for human rights in its own territory. By calling Kurds in Iraq terrorists as they threaten to enter Iraqi sovereign territory, the Turkish government is not only risking the outcome of the current conflict between the United States and Iraq but the future of the entire region.

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that any money should be given to Turkey without a number of assurances. Humanitarian concerns aside, I also do not agree that the aid package to Turkey will make a significant economic

impact for the Turkish people. The Turkish government's inability to implement economic reforms mandated by the International Monetary Fund continues to plague their banking and economic systems.

Mr. Speaker, the supplemental appropriations request will undoubtedly pass. No one in this Congress will obstruct the important funds that need to get to our brave men and women putting their lives on the line in hostile territory.

However, in order for Turkey to receive their huge economic aid package, I believe the Turkish government must fulfill the following commitment: that Turkey agrees to allow unfettered U.S. and international humanitarian aid transited through and/or being staged in Turkish territory in support of the northern Kurds; second, that Turkey explicitly agrees not to cross into northern Iraq, as demanded by President Bush; third, that Turkey agrees they can provide only logistical support to the humanitarian effort in the north; fourth, that Turkey agrees to economic and banking reforms, as specified by international lending institutions; and, fifth, that Turkey provide full minority rights to its citizens, as provided for in international and European conventions.

Mr. Speaker, we should not be willing to provide huge sums of money to countries that twist our arms in times of need. I hope we can address these needs while debating the President's supplemental appropriations request next week.

#### THE PLIGHT OF THE NATION AND THE WORLD RELATING TO CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to bring to the attention of this Nation and my colleagues the combined plight of the Nation and the combined plight of the world, particularly as it relates to children.

It is certainly important, Mr. Speaker, to note that we have been engaged in a budget process. That budget process will be impacting the children of the Nation, so I wanted to speak today about how we need to turn this Nation around.

I am reminded, Mr. Speaker, that just a few years ago we had great focus and concern on the high schools of our Nation as gun violence broke out across the Nation in urban areas, rural areas. It was baffling to most of us. The most striking was Columbine. Enormous carnage occurred at the hands of young people.

During that time, we had many meetings in this House and great concern with funding for juvenile programs; great interest in gun reform, if

you will; a lot of intensity and focus on how we could best stop the gun violence. It always seems that we attempt to close the barn door when the horse and the cow have escaped.

Now, some few years later, Members do not hear us talking about what do we do about violence in our high schools, gun violence in our high schools. We do not talk further about the question, if you will, of providing resources for school counselors, guidance counselors.

I have legislation, Mr. Speaker, that would increase the number of community mental health clinics, increase the number of guidance counselors who can separate themselves away from paperwork. Yet this body has not seen fit to focus on legislation that, in essence, Mr. Speaker, would promote our children first.

After 9/11, there was a great notation that in New York many children were left abandoned or orphaned because they were being raised by single parents in many instances, or their parents were in foreign countries, the other parent. Interestingly enough, Mr. Speaker, interestingly enough, we found out that that was the case.

This body over a period of weeks passed legislation that I was very gratified that I had authored that the children of 9/11 in governmental benefits would be promoted first, would be first over others to receive benefits, responding to a crisis. Why do we not respond to the needs of our children now, Mr. Speaker, before the crisis?

Right now in our schools we are finding out that young people are failing in their standardized tests; that there is an unequal, if you will, educational system, separate and unequal, in many of our rural and urban areas. The physical plants are crumbling.

Just last week, I had the opportunity to talk with some of my school districts.

□ 1600

In speaking to them, and asking the hard questions about homeland security, they are proceeding to put in place that their skills will be safe houses, safe places, a safe plan so that parents would know if there was a crisis, that they did not need to run quickly to the school to take their child away. They might be in danger, but is it not interesting that this body has not seen fit to pass a program to rebuild our schools.

A plan that we have offered, the Democrats have offered over and over, the school construction plan, to rebuild America's crumbling schools. We could have done this two sessions ago, but our good friends on the other side of the aisle thought that this was an unnecessary expenditure and look where we are today. Looking at school buildings as potential safe houses, promoting safe plans that would keep children inside schools. Do we not need the same kind of important and well-structured physical structure that, of

course, our good friends would have in more prosperous areas and school districts?

Here we go again, not being preventive, not striking while the iron is hot but waiting for disaster to befall us.

I think it is extremely important that we recognize that our children should be first. So I just want to share with my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, both the plight of our children domestically, because this is a week that we have responded to the needs of children, and to say what more we can do to provide a safe Nation for our children.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, it sounds like we are going astray, but we can eliminate the President's \$726 billion tax cut, and we can do that and focus our investment in the resources that would help not only the children but their parents and their community.

A few of us just spoke a few minutes ago about the waging and raging war. We have said it over and over again. We voted today to encourage a period of fasting and praying, whatever faith a person may have, if they desire to engage in such, a voluntary fasting and praying. We did that today, and one of the Members who spoke at this press conference on the question of peace so eloquently stated, and I recite his words, that we pray for President Bush; that he may be wise in his decisions; and that he may reflect upon options for peace; and that we will have the opportunity to bring these brave young men and women home; that we have the opportunity to press forward on a cease fire; that, in fact, we find our way not to enter Baghdad, to increase the numbers of lost lives of both our troops and others.

The \$726 billion tax cut does not seem to recognize that there must be mutual sacrifice. Today, as we speak, young men and women are sacrificing for us, and they are willing to sacrifice their lives for us. How in the heck, Mr. Speaker, can a \$726 billion tax cut, failing to take into consideration the enormous growing unemployment, the \$280-plus billion deficit right as we speak and the \$1 trillion deficit expected to grow over a decade, how in the world can we afford to pay for a growing, costly war which may cost upwards of \$1 trillion which would include potential occupation and governance of Iraq and maybe even alone, not with our allies? How can we afford a \$726 billion tax cut?

Might I draw from the words of the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) in the idea of mutual sacrifice. I would not expect that there would be one "no" vote in corporate America and the richest of us in America, one "no" vote to say I will bypass the \$726 billion tax cut for the troops, for rebuilding Iraq and for our children.

We have not been shown by the Nation's media, American media, the devastation that is being promoted or being wrecked in Iraq. I am talking about the civilians. We already know the sanction has caused a huge number