

take back their neighborhoods from crime and blight. He implemented graffiti control and tree replacement programs that helped beautify his communities. As a result of his accomplishments, he was promoted up the chain until he became the Councilman's Chief of Staff.

In 2002, after 10 years of effective leadership as a civil servant, Charles was chosen by his community to represent them on the San Diego City Council. His campaign platform was called the Three Rs: Reputation, Relationships, and Results.

On the Council, Charles made a name for himself as a strong advocate for neighborhoods and he built a reputation of being tough on crime. His efforts helped San Diego achieve the lowest crime rate among the 10 largest cities in America in 2003. This was a statistic that I know made Charles very proud.

While on the Council, Charles was known for his quiet strength. He was often reserved in public meetings, only to become vocal and outspoken when issues related to his neighborhoods were brought forward. He was a fighter.

He also wasn't afraid to take unpopular positions. Although an elected representative of the City of San Diego, Charles remained an avid Oakland Raiders fan—to the dismay of many San Diego Charger supporters.

Mr. Speaker, because of his deep roots in the community; because of his strength of character; because he never forgot where he came from or who elected him to serve; and because of his strong faith in God, Charles was beloved in the Fourth District and throughout San Diego.

Sadly, Charles Lewis died suddenly last month at the age of 37. He is survived by his wife Carlette, his mother Rosemary Pope, his father Charles Lewis II, and his sister Charis. And he is also survived by the over 160,000 San Diegans that called Charles their Councilman.

I am sad that I will no longer see Charles when I return to my district. That we won't run into one another at annual Juneteenth celebrations, community fish-frys and traditional groundbreaking and ribbon-cutting ceremonies. And I regret that San Diego will not have his leadership to guide us in the years ahead.

But, I am certain that Charles' memory will live on through his contributions to the community. Today, the Neighborhood Councils he helped create still meet. The trees he helped plant continue to grow. The lives he touched go on. And the neighborhoods he helped revitalize flourish.

We will all miss Charles L. Lewis III.

STATEMENT REGARDING THE WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL EQUITY ACT AMENDMENT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, Title IX established the principle of equal opportunity for all students and athletes, breaking down the institutional barriers to education that had beset women for decades. Its affirmed goal was to eliminate "discrimination based on sex." It quickly became clear that this milestone could

not be achieved by decree alone, and 2 years after the passage of the Title IX, late Congresswoman Patsy Mink of Hawaii introduced the Women's Educational Equity Act (WEEA) as one of the means to implement and establish those principles embodied in the language of Title IX.

The Women's Educational Equity Act addresses the social and cultural structures surrounding gender inequality. For 20 years, WEEA has provided Federal dollars for projects that promote educational equity for young women through competitive grants to public agencies, private non-profit organizations, and individuals. Most of the funds are directed to local implementation of gender equity policies in the academic curriculum and research and development projects.

In its 20 year history, WEEA has funded a variety of projects from the Women in Science and Environment (WISE) program in Boston which provides hands-on experiences in science and environmental industries for more than 300 students each year to the Stepping Stones Across the Digital Divide, a project in my state of California, which targets Hispanic females in grades 3 to 6. The goal of this project is to increase academic performance through developing computer and emerging information technologies. Collectively, these programs have made great strides in providing equity in education opportunity for women.

Republicans in Congress have steadily eroded the money appropriated to this program from its peak of \$10 million in 1980 to less than \$3 million last year. This year, for inexplicable reasons, Republicans have stripped this successful program of all of its funding, effectively eliminating it.

It is clear that WEEA has succeeded in creating unprecedented educational opportunities for women in all areas of academia. Since WEEA was enacted, 63 percent of female high school graduates enroll in college, up from 43 percent in 1973. Furthermore, the number of women earning a bachelor's degree from college jumped from 18 percent to over 30 percent. These dramatic academic accomplishments, pale in comparison to the strides made at the graduate level. In the ten years since WEEA was adopted, the number of women receiving medical, law, and doctoral degrees has spiked from 9 percent to 38 percent, 7 percent to 43 percent, and 25 percent to 44 percent respectively.

The Women's Educational Equity Act embodies the ideals of equal opportunity embraced by all Americans. It provides an environment where women are given the opportunity to overcome the institutional barriers to education that have existed for many years. WEEA's principles and programs talented young women's skills and interests in whatever discipline they choose. Most importantly, it is a program whose proof lies in the achievements of the women who have thrived in the years since its inception. Patsy Mink had the foresight to introduce this program and positively affect the lives of thousands of young women. In honor of the late Congresswoman Patsy Mink, let us carry out her vision of the implementation of Title IX and support this amendment and the thousands of women who can benefit from such programs in the future.

HURRICANES

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep sorrow and incredible admiration for the people of the State of Florida, who have had to endure the damage and destruction of Tropical Storm Bonnie and Hurricanes Charley and Frances and who are preparing for the landfall of Hurricane Ivan. Not many natural disasters target an entire state, and I am comforted to know that even in the toughest of times, Floridians can work together and persevere.

These past few weeks have been very hard for the people of Florida. As our families were returning from late summer vacations and our children were settling into the new school year, the official hurricane season snuck up on us. While Florida's unique location between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico makes it the most hurricane prone state in the Nation, no one would have imagined the loud roar that greeted us in the middle of August. We have been challenged by this abrupt and alarming hurricane season and one thing is for sure: the people of Florida are strong-willed and resilient.

We have had to board up our homes and businesses, pack our belongings, and pray. We have had to return to our homes and watch our neighbors pick up what belongings remain. We have had to wait in long lines to receive food, water, and gas. And we have had to do this while trying to maintain a normal life.

Florida's tourism industry suffered greatly because of the fear of these storms and the ensuing closure of many of Florida's greatest attractions, and the agriculture industry also has suffered deeply. The State of Florida has a wide range of crops and livestock grown and raised in her backyard. Our farmers and ranchers will be affected for years after the devastating effects these high winds have had on their crops. The total loss in Florida's agricultural production from Hurricanes Charley and Frances alone could cost more than \$2 billion.

Before this year, the State of Florida had fallen victim to seven major hurricanes and one devastating tropical storm in the past century, which makes this year's active hurricane season so unique. While much research has been conducted to help the National Weather Service detect hurricanes before landfall, the need still remains for an exact method to predict the paths of hurricanes and tropical storms.

The U.S. Congress recognizes the need to further research the impact hurricanes and other windstorms have on communities. As we have experienced these past few weeks, hurricanes can hit land with wind speeds in excess of 155 mph and destroy all that is in their path. The Nation's most expensive hurricane, Hurricane Andrew, made landfall near Miami in 1992 with wind speeds exceeding 175 mph and caused more than \$25 billion in damage. It is still too early to measure the monetary impact of Hurricanes Charley, Frances and possibly Ivan, and there are still six weeks remaining in the official hurricane season.

The House of Representatives approved the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act on

July 8, 2004. This bill establishes a multi agency National Windstorm Hazard Reduction Program which will improve the understanding of windstorms, windstorm impact assessment, and windstorm impact reduction. The bill authorizes much needed funds for research and development projects that will improve the understanding of the behavior of windstorms and their impact on buildings, structures, and lifelines. Through this research, the goal is to ensure the safety of buildings and homes from the destructive effects of hurricanes. Although approving this legislation will reduce the impact of hurricanes and improve the prediction of these storms, this bill will not help the victims of this year's hurricanes. Additional research is needed to protect our citizens in the future.

The road to recovery can not be accomplished without all of the help and outpouring of support that the State of Florida has received in the past few weeks. Thousands of volunteers have come from all over our great Nation to restore our electricity, cook us hot meals, provide temporary shelter and clothing for those who are now homeless, and help us pick up what remains of our communities. I am grateful for all of those volunteers and for all of the government agencies that are quickly and efficiently working to help the citizens of Florida stand up on their feet. We are indebted to your service and will not forget your help during these hard times.

IN SUPPORT OF H. RES. 2038: RE-AUTHORIZATION OF THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 2038, a resolution to reauthorize the assault weapons ban, sponsored by Representative CAROLYN MCCARTHY, member of the committee on Homeland Security. I thank you for your tireless leadership on this issue.

September 13, 2004, marks the day that we take a step back. Today marks the day that some Members will ignore the outcries of millions of Americans to extend this legislation, whose communities have been protected for a decade under the Assault Weapons Ban. On this day, the Republican leadership in Congress and the Administration have failed the citizens of this country by allowing this ban to expire. While some Members of these two chambers and the administration are content to play this game of "cat and mouse," the expiration of this progressive legislation unleashes unimaginable threats upon our society.

Mr. Speaker, we need not look too far in the recent past to know the terrifying effects of military-style weapons on our society. In 2002 John Lee Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo terrorized the Washington Metropolitan area for several weeks. While some Members of this body and the Administration may have forgotten, I can assure you that the D.C. sniper shootings left an indelible mark on the 12 families who suffered at their hands and many Americans. Just last year, in 2003, our society was plagued again by sniper shootings in Ohio. There have been 12 shootings linked to this Ohio sniper, who allegedly used a semi-automatic pistol in his shooting spree. Of course let us not forget Columbine and the more recent Randallstown shooting in Baltimore County—evidence that no one, in no place even our innocent children are safe from gun violence. It is impossible to ignore the impact of gun violence in our society.

Mr. Speaker, today we witness a political conundrum—we have an administration that believes that the War on Terror is a continuous battle, but then seeks to potentially arm the people who threaten our homeland, our security, and our safety in this country. By allowing the ban to expire, it demonstrates a lack of leadership, and undermines the very system we are currently trying to strengthen here in Congress. The administration's failure to push Congress to hear this debate, while at the same time announcing its willingness to sign the ban if extended, sends mixed signals. If the administration will not fight to protect millions of lives in the U.S. who inevitably stand in harm's way when the ban is lifted, how can it propose to effectively lead our country as we combat foreign enemies?

The importance of this ban is evident. Since its enactment, our Nation has witnessed a sharp decline of assault weapons used in crimes. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives notes that since the ban's enactment in 1994 that usage of assault weapons in a crime has declined by 66 percent, and the Bureau has recovered more than 1.4 million guns in our country. These weapons, which were illegally possessed, were either used in a crime or linked to a crime. With staggering statistics such as these, Mr. Speaker, it is hard to ignore the effectiveness of this ban. In my home State of Maryland, there has been an overwhelming decline of assault pistols used in crimes since the Maryland Assault Pistol Ban in 1994. The Baltimore City Police Department concluded that since the ban's enactment that 55 percent fewer assault pistols were used in crimes. Once again Mr. Speaker, with statistics such as these, we cannot ignore that this ban saves lives.

Furthermore, the administration has proposed deep cuts in the Community Oriented Policing Services program (COPS), which provides grants to State and local law enforce-

ment agencies to hire police officers, by cutting funding from 482 million to 97 million dollars. These cuts coupled with the expiration of the ban render our Nation's State and local law enforcement agencies practically unable to defend and protect citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude with these final words—the failure to pass this extension signals to millions of Americans that the leadership in Congress once again has not heard their pleas. This failure to extend the ban is only symptomatic of the failure of this current leadership and administration to hear the voices of this nation pleading for better healthcare, better schools, and safer communities.

How can we let this ban lapse when it has saved so many lives?

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5006) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Chairman, last Thursday, during the House's consideration of H.R. 5006, the Fiscal Year 2005 Appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and related agencies, I inadvertently voted for the Hayworth/Boehner amendment. I would like the record to reflect that I am opposed to the Hayworth/Boehner amendment and should have voted against it.

The Hayworth amendment would have exempted more than 400,000 workers employed by tribally-owned casinos from coverage under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). While I strongly support sovereignty for tribal governments, I do not believe that Native American sovereignty was meant to deny the right to freely associate or collectively bargain to casino employees. A recent NLRB decision held—in fact—that Indian tribal enterprises are subject to the NLRB. In light of that decision, this House took the appropriate action in turning back the Hayworth/Boehner amendment, and passing H.R. 5006 without it.