

often are silenced: the gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender students who face verbal, nonverbal, and physical harassment in our schools.

Today is the National Day of Silence across this country. Students have taken a vow of silence to protest the discrimination and intolerance that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students face on a daily basis.

In my district I am especially proud of Safe Schools Project of Santa Cruz County, which is coordinated by Santa Cruz County High School senior Nikira Hernandez. This program focuses on making K-through-12 schools in Santa Cruz County a safe place for all youth regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Considering our country's commitment to equality and liberty, it is disturbing that anyone is subjected to harassment and discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. We must work to protect our youth from violence and hatred while fostering a positive academic environment free of derogatory statements, taunts, and slurs.

For that reason I am proud to co-sponsor H. Con. Res. 86, which memorializes the National Day of Silence.

TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, last week millions of Americans got a surprise when they filed their tax returns. This year a record 44 million tax returns, one-third of all returns filed, have no income tax liability because of the available credits and deductions in the Tax Code. This is a 50 percent increase in the number of zero-tax filers in just 4 years. The vast majority of these 44 million filers are from low-income households who saw their tax liability disappear thanks to the tax cuts pushed by President Bush and this House.

The expansion of the 10 percent bracket, the increased child tax credit, and the marriage penalty relief are the leading reasons that so many people were able to have zero liability. All these tax provisions are in jeopardy if Congress does not act to extend them by the end of this year.

These are not tax cuts for the rich. They are tax provisions designed to help working men and women bring home more of their paychecks. In fact, 75 percent of the 44 million will earn less than \$20,000 per year, and 97 percent will earn less than \$40,000 per year.

Congress needs to extend these provisions and continue giving tax relief to working America.

THE GREAT LAKES

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, Lake Michigan and the other Great Lakes are the largest body of freshwater in North America. They contain literally 20 percent of the entire world's freshwater. Twenty-eight million Americans get their daily drinking water from Lake Michigan and the other Great Lakes, and yet we treat it as just an overgrown pond. Today it is being polluted with invasive species, urban runoff, and mercury hot spots.

We have a bipartisan bill endorsed by every Governor, every Senator from the Great Lakes, and 108 Members out of 125 from the Great Lakes region to clean up the Great Lakes, dedicate \$4 billion over 5 years, just like we are investing in Iraq's water and sewage system, here in the United States to preserve the largest body of freshwater in all of North America.

This issue is not an issue of left versus right. It is an issue of right versus wrong. And it is time to make our investments in our future and our environmental quality and water quality in what is truly a great national heritage, our Great Lakes.

SENATOR KERRY'S ECONOMIC PLAN WOULD HARM OUR ECONOMY

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat candidate for President has promised to create 10 million jobs if elected, but a recent economic analysis of his plan by the Heritage Foundation says he is wrong and showed four negative effects of his scheme. First, employment growth slows under his plan with 225,000 fewer jobs created per year under his policy, in contrast to the fact that in the first quarter of this year, 513,000 new jobs have been created.

Secondly, GDP growth slows for the next decade, underperforming by \$20 billion in just the first 5 years.

Third, after-tax income shrinks. And this makes sense. Taxes go up, take-home pay goes down. And under the Democrat plan, take-home pay plummets \$240 billion below current projections.

And, lastly, savings plummet. The personal savings rate would average 17 percent less during just the first year of his administration.

Each of these items would reverse trends started by President Bush's economic recovery program, a plan that is working.

In the end his tax-and-spend, rob-the-rich-to-pay-the-government economic scheme will do more harm than good.

URGING APOLOGY FROM THE PRESIDENT

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I do not think anything can negate the fact that this President has lost more jobs, 3 million jobs, than any President in our history.

But, Mr. Speaker, I stand today to offer a word of condolence, but also to pay tribute to those who have lost their lives in Iraq, the men and women of the United States military, innocent citizens, and to challenge the President, as the 9/11 Commission families have challenged him, to apologize to the American people for misdirecting men and women of the military, now reservists and National Guard, young men and women, into a war that one wonders whether it matters, into a war where there was not the kind of equipment that those soldiers needed, reinforced Humvees and other equipment, flak jackets that they needed.

I am here to apologize and ask the President that he provide the necessary resources for these troops so that lives will not continue to be lost, so that mothers and fathers, wives and relatives will not have to continue to mourn. It is a tragedy the policy that we have seen in this United States, a policy of reckless direction of men and women in war, bloodshed unnecessary.

Mr. President and the administration, Mr. Vice President, we need a plan, and you need to offer it to the American people now.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind the Members to address their remarks to the Chair and not to the President.

IN PRAISE OF "NATURALAWN," A BUSINESS IN FREDERICK, MARYLAND

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, this Earth Day I want to recognize a company from my district that is making a product people want and is beneficial for the environment.

NaturaLawn is a business located in downtown Frederick, Maryland. Starting small in 1987, they have grown to become the fourth largest lawn care service provider in the United States, generating in excess of \$24 million.

NaturaLawn identified a product that would have popular appeal, an organic-based fertilization program that uses naturally based ingredients as opposed to traditional chemical fertilizers. This product is environmentally friendly and provides a desired product. The company has created many franchises across the Nation.

All of these great things were done privately in our free enterprise system of Congress. No governmental regulations or mandates caused this business

to exist, simply good sense, hard work, and a desire to create products for people who want to purchase environmentally friendly services for their lives.

Congratulations to this innovative company for its success in helping create jobs and protect the environment through private enterprise.

HERITAGE CLASSIC OF GOLF TOURNAMENT

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last weekend I had the privilege of joining thousands of visitors from across the world in celebrating the MCI Heritage Classic of Golf Tournament held on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.

The Heritage has a rich history, with the first tournament won by Arnold Palmer in 1969. This year's champion is Stewart Cink, who won in dramatic fashion on the fifth playoff round with Ted Purdy.

Yet the more important story of this popular Lowcountry event is the work of the Heritage Golf Classic Foundation. This nonprofit organization operates the tournament every year while generating over \$50 million for the South Carolina and Georgia hospitality industry. The Heritage Golf Classic Foundation also distributed a record \$1.2 million to charities in 2003, including such areas as education to public health.

Heartfelt congratulations are due Heritage Classic Foundation Chairman Joe Fraser, Vice President Ed Dowaschinski, Secretary John Curry, and Tournament Director Steve Wilmot for yet another successful tournament hosted by the Sea Pines Resort led by President Michael Lawrence.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

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PRIORITIZE SPENDING AND REDUCE BURDEN ON OUR CHILDREN

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, we are now in the process of deciding how much money we are going to spend. The budget is being finally decided, and then the appropriations process makes the decision, where money is spent and how big should government be.

Tom Savings, an actuary with both Medicare and Social Security, came to my office a couple of weeks ago. This is what he said where our promises exceed our ability to pay for it, unfunded liabilities: Medicare part A, \$21 tril-

lion; Medicare part B, \$23 trillion; Medicare part D, the new drug bill, \$16.6 trillion; Social Security, \$12 trillion.

At this time, I just call on all my colleagues to be tight-fisted. Let us start prioritizing spending and reduce the tremendous burden we are placing on our kids and our grandkids.

LAMENTING BASRA ATTACKS

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

Mr. Speaker, we are challenged to mourn with those who mourn and grieve with those who grieve. As I rose this morning to learn that suicide bombers had killed at least 68 people, many of them small children en route to school, in coordinated strikes on four police stations in the southern Iraqi city of Basra, I grieved and I mourned.

Scarcely 1 month ago, I walked the streets of Basra as a part of the first congressional delegation to visit that ancient city. Although Basra is the second largest city in Iraq, it has been relatively peaceful and secure since coalition forces liberated it from 30 years of tyranny of Saddam Hussein.

Our prayers go out to the families affected by today's horrific bombings and to our British allies charged with their security. Today's attacks on Iraqi men, women, and especially children, in the city of Basra, shows the utter depravity of our enemies and the enemies of freedom in Iraq.

The good people of Basra, with whom I spent the day 27 February, 2004, deserve better. They are freedom-loving and decent people, and we and our allies will not waver in our commitment to deliver it to them.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

GREEN CHEMISTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2004

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3970) to provide for the implementation of a Green Chemistry Research and Development Program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3970

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Green Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term "green chemistry" means chemistry and chemical engineering to design chemical products and processes that reduce or eliminate the use or generation of hazardous substances;

(2) the term "Interagency Working Group" means the interagency working group established under section 3(c); and

(3) the term "Program" means the Green Chemistry Research and Development Program described in section 3.

SEC. 3. GREEN CHEMISTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall establish a Green Chemistry Research and Development Program to promote and coordinate Federal green chemistry research, development, demonstration, education, and technology transfer activities.

(b) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—The activities of the Program shall be designed to—

(1) provide sustained support for green chemistry research, development, demonstration, education, and technology transfer through—

(A) merit-reviewed competitive grants to individual investigators and teams of investigators, including, to the extent practicable, young investigators, for research and development;

(B) grants to fund collaborative research and development partnerships among universities, industry, and nonprofit organizations;

(C) green chemistry research, development, demonstration, and technology transfer conducted at Federal laboratories; and

(D) to the extent practicable, encouragement of consideration of green chemistry in—

(i) the conduct of Federal chemical science and engineering research and development; and

(ii) the solicitation and evaluation of all proposals for chemical science and engineering research and development;

(2) examine methods by which the Federal Government can create incentives for consideration and use of green chemistry processes and products;

(3) facilitate the adoption of green chemistry innovations;

(4) expand education and training of undergraduate and graduate students, and professional chemists and chemical engineers, including through partnerships with industry, in green chemistry science and engineering;

(5) collect and disseminate information on green chemistry research, development, and technology transfer, including information on—

(A) incentives and impediments to development and commercialization;

(B) accomplishments;

(C) best practices; and

(D) costs and benefits;

(6) provide venues for outreach and dissemination of green chemistry advances such as symposia, forums, conferences, and written materials in collaboration with, as appropriate, industry, academia, scientific and professional societies, and other relevant groups;

(7) support economic, legal, and other appropriate social science research to identify barriers to commercialization and methods to advance commercialization of green chemistry; and