

to preserve their pocketbook." That is what Tom Ryan said, who as I say, is president and CEO of CVS Pharmacies.

On May 6, Walgreen's, their CEO, came out and said essentially the same thing. Through a written statement, they said, "If importation is legalized, we will actively participate in filling prescriptions for patients. It is a way to provide some relief to those we see every day in our pharmacies."

On May 9, the Chicago Tribune editorialized and said in their headline: "The Drug Import Juggernaut," and they highlighted the growing momentum for drug importation. They said in that editorial, and I quote, "Simply relying on the American consumers to pick up the slack is indefensible."

And on May 10, a Minnesota District Court judge granted our State Attorney General's request to compel GlaxoSmithKline to produce documents related to the company's efforts to cut off Canadian drug imports to the U.S. This is a landmark decision, and it is the first time a judge has stated, and I quote, "Not only drug importation is illegal."

Mr. Speaker, the momentum continues to grow to allow Americans to have access to world-class drugs at world-market prices. As I have said here many times with my charts, I think we as Americans live in a blessed country. We should be willing to pay our fair share for the prescription drugs which help save our lives. But it is really unfortunate that we are forced to subsidize countries around the world. I think we ought to pay our fair share, but we should not be forced to subsidize the starving Swiss.

And there are several other solutions people have proposed; but ultimately, I, like Ronald Reagan, believe markets are more powerful than armies. The time has come to open up those markets, allow Americans to have access to those drugs at world-market prices.

BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a few moments to remember the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*. May 17, 1954, became a history-making day.

I was 14 years old, in the ninth grade, when the *Brown* decision was issued. I rode to school on a broken-down school bus. I was taught in a dilapidated schoolhouse. I had hand-me-down books and sat in an overcrowded classroom. When the word of the *Brown* decision reached me outside of Troy, Alabama, I thought the very next school year I would be able to attend an integrated school. But it did not happen for me. It did not happen for many African American children for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, laws set the standard in America, but that is

only one important part of the so-called contract in a democracy. Courts can hand down the law, but the people must be willing to abide by the law before it has power. So it took some time before school integration came to many parts of the American South. But the *Brown* decision was the first powerful step in the modern-day civil rights movement. It set the tone and laid the groundwork for what was to come. It said once and for all that segregation was dead. It said separate could never ever be equal.

So it was only a matter of time before the whole system of American apartheid would come to an end. But perhaps most important, Mr. Speaker, the *Brown* decision was an inspiration. It gave hope to so many throughout the South. It was the first time we had ever had an indication that anyone in the Federal Government knew about the injustice we suffered, and it was the first time we had ever heard any government agent agree that it was wrong.

The *Brown* decision strengthened the resolve of people already involved in the struggle for civil rights, and it encouraged hundreds and thousands of young people like me to believe a new day could come in America. And that is why the *Brown* decision is so important to remember.

Many people never dreamed that they would ever see the end of segregation, but the *Brown* decision helped them to see that a persistent call for justice in America can bring change. That is why we cannot give in, we cannot give up, and we cannot give out, Mr. Speaker, until the promise of the *Brown* decision is fully realized in America.

We have come a long way in 50 years, but we still have a great distance to go before we lay down the burden of race in America. But our struggle is more than one decision, more than one vote, one congressional term, or Presidential election. Ours is a struggle of a lifetime, and that is why we must not get lost in a sea of despair, Mr. Speaker. We must not lose faith in a dream of an integrated society promised by the *Brown* decision.

Here, in the United States Congress, we must hold fast to the struggle for peace, the struggle for equality, and the struggle for justice for all, until the dream of a truly interracial democracy is fully realized in America, until we see the dawn of the beloved community, a Nation at peace with itself.

We cannot be satisfied, we cannot rest until that day comes, until the true meaning of *Brown* is a living reality for all Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HUNTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PERSECUTION OF HINDUS IN BANGLADESH

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to express my deep concern over the persecution of Hindus in Bangladesh. The coalition government of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, BNP, which came to power on October 1, 2001, has initiated a violent campaign. And since the BNP's parliamentary victory nearly 3 years ago, a campaign of terrorism, murder, and religious cleansing has been unleashed on Hindus living in Bangladesh. I had written a letter to Bangladesh's Prime Minister Zia in 2002 about this violent persecution, but I have received no response to date; and it is a fact that unabashed violence has continued freely.

Although the latest wave of violence has been ensuing since the BNP took power in 2001, Hindus have been a disappearing minority in Bangladesh at the hands of Bangladeshi forces that have employed human rights abuses, atrocities, and ethno-religious cleansing tools. In 1941, Hindus comprised 28 percent of the population; but by 1991, the Hindu population dwindled to a meager 8 percent. A large part of this decrease in the Hindu population can be attributed to the 1971 genocide by the then-Muslim East Pakistan Party, whereby 2.5 million Hindus were murdered and 10 million Hindus fled to India as refugees.

Reminiscent of the Jewish Holocaust, Hindu homes were marked by a yellow H, which in fact guided the pillagers to their homes. Over the following 30 years, thousands of Hindu temples were destroyed, Hindus were systematically disenfranchised from holding political power, and prejudicial legislation ensured an unstable existence for Hindus. In fact, Islamic extremists have routinely dispossessed Hindus and, for that matter, Christians and Buddhists, of their ancestral properties and land, burned down their homes, and desecrated and razed temples, which has resulted in forcing many to flee as refugees.

Mr. Speaker, I have reviewed numerous reports that attest to the current violent persecution in Bangladesh. These reports have been written by the International Federation of Bangladeshi Hindus and Friends, Amnesty International, the U.S. State Department's Annual Report on International Religious Freedom, CNN, BBC, and multiple Bangladeshi newspapers that reflect the testimonies of the Hindu victims.

This campaign of minority cleansing in progress in Bangladesh has to be stopped. Since 1971, when Bangladesh was born as a secular democratic country out of Islamic Pakistan, all minority populations have declined, and this Islamization must be put to an end through the government's leadership. In an effort to uphold pluralistic democracy in Bangladesh and protection

of Hindus and all minorities, the following must be implemented:

□ 1945

First, restoration of secularism in the constitution of Bangladesh, as it existed in the first constitution of independent Bangladesh in 1972.

Second, passage of affirmative action and hate crime laws that acknowledge the minority communities of Bangladesh.

Third, production of a white paper on atrocities against the minorities over the years, and assurance that the perpetrators of the ongoing pogrom are brought to justice.

Fourth, repatriation of the refugees, displaced people, with full compensation to the victims.

Fifth, ending of oppression of journalists and writers who report minority and human rights violations.

Six, termination of the illegal torture in custody of members of secular parties.

And seventh, allowance of an independent commission to investigate the atrocities perpetrated against the minority groups.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that these goals can be achieved and the Government of Bangladesh can take the necessary steps to international human and civil rights.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REFLECTIONS ON BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark decision to end segregation as the law of the land. This day, in short, changed everything or almost everything in the field of race relations. This day was Monday, May 17, 1954.

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka was about more than Topeka, Kansas. It was, in fact, a consolidation of five cases challenging segregation in public schools in the United States of America. The five cases had been heard by lower courts and had been appealed to the United States Supreme Court by attorneys representing black school children in South Carolina, Washington, D.C., Delaware, Virginia, and Topeka.

Today, we celebrate the fortitude, the integrity, and the conscience of those who stood up for American values, from the 1930s and 1940s with the Mexican neighbors in Lemon Grove and the Mendez family in Orange County, California, to the 1950s with the students of Robert Moton High School in Virginia, parents in Washington, D.C., Summerton, South Carolina, Delaware, and, yes, the Brown family of Topeka, Kansas.

In communities across the Nation, minority families united to make America's promise of equality apply to their children, too. Brown was a turning point in the battle for equal educational opportunities for all, but there is still a long way to go before we can declare victory.

Although the Supreme Court handed down its decision 50 years ago, we must not forget that Brown is not only a historical moment, but it is living law. We must rededicate ourselves to keeping the spirit of Brown alive in every State, every school district, and every school building in the country. More than 40 percent of the 1.8 million Hispanic students in Texas attend schools where they are the overwhelming majority. Texas is not the only State seeing this trend.

Across the United States, communities are increasingly isolated by race, ethnicity and socioeconomic status. Our schools reflect this isolation. Today, in 2004, Hispanic students attend the most segregated schools in the Nation.

Wealth is concentrated in certain communities and because of our system of funding schools with local property taxes, that wealth is also concentrated in certain schools. Nearly every State in the Union is engaged in court battles over school finance. It seems to me that equal opportunities and equal resources go hand in hand; do you not agree?

It is no coincidence that the Texas miracle in education followed the implementation of the so-called Robin Hood system of funding schools that moved resources from wealthier school districts to poorer ones.

In staying true to the spirit of the Brown decision, we must ensure that

America's young people have equal opportunities and that the resources to achieve them are provided, no matter what the color of their skin, no matter what their ethnic background is, no matter if they are poor, and no matter where they live in the United States, whether it be in the metropolitan cities or rural areas.

Today, the unfortunate truth is, not only have we not fulfilled the dream of equal educational opportunities, but also many of our young people are not even in "separate but unequal schools." Many are completely separated from school altogether.

The graduation rate for African American and Hispanic students hovers at 50 percent. The Manhattan Institute reports that only 20 percent of the African American students and only 16 percent of Hispanic students leave high school prepared for college. The high school diploma is the minimum entry requirement for postsecondary education and being able to compete in the 21st century workplace. Yet half of our poor and minority students are being denied the basic ticket to a productive future. The spirit of Brown demands that we take immediate action to improve high schools and graduation rates.

We must focus on fundamentals. We must work to improve the basic literacy skills of our secondary school students.

We must support reforms, which have proven effective in improving educational outcomes at the secondary school level. More importantly, we must adequately fund these programs instead of penalizing schools that desperately need our help.

Finally, we must hold ourselves accountable for high school graduation rates. Representative SUSAN DAVIS and I have introduced H.R. 3085, the Graduation for All Act, and Senator PATTY MURRAY has introduced S. 1554, the Pathways for All Students to Succeed Act to support these kinds of reforms.

A coordinated national campaign to improve secondary schools is desperately needed. This campaign must leverage resources from all stakeholders: school districts, local governments, states, philanthropic organizations, corporation, community-based organizations, and the federal government. Together we will turn this around. Together we will make the promise of the Brown decision a reality for all of our young people. Our future depends on our success in achieving equal educational opportunities for all.

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

(Mr. MEEKS of New York addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WATSON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.