

likelihood of homeownership decreases as student debt increases. It is heartbreaking to me that young college students could jeopardize the possibilities of their future due to easy access to lines of credit that are not based on any income or creditworthiness requirements.

Why are we making it so easy for our young people to amass such outrageous amounts of debt that can only lead to personal ruin?

That is why I, along with Representative DUNCAN, my friend from Tennessee, have re-introduced the College Student Credit Card Protection Act. The bill will take important steps toward reducing, and eliminating, credit card debts to college students by requiring credit card companies to determine whether a student applicant has the financial means to pay off a credit card balance before they are approved. It would restrict the credit limit to minimum balances if the student has no independent income, and require parental approval for credit limit increases in the event that a parent cosigns the account.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to address this critical issue facing our young people, and I urge this House to consider and pass this bill quickly.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to stem this problem, because the policy implications of thousands of young people filing bankruptcy are dire.

HAITI'S HEALTH NEEDS/NEW
PARTNERSHIP FOR HAITI ACT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, Haiti not only needs immediate democracy but it also needs an immediate health intervention.

Today in Haiti less than 45 percent of Haitians have access to safe water and access to sanitation.

Seventy-six percent of Haiti's children under the age of five are underweight, or suffer from stunted growth and 63 percent of Haitians are undernourished.

Eighty percent of the population lives in abject poverty and the unemployment rate is estimated to be nearly 90 percent.

Ninety percent of all HIV/AIDS cases in the Caribbean.

As we combat global HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, maternal and child mortality, and many other life threatening diseases, we must address the long-term effect of dilapidated physical and health infrastructure and abject poverty throughout the world, including in Haiti.

If the United States believes in helping families across the globe be healthy, happy and free—then now is the time to step up in our own backyard and support a comprehensive health approach to positively impact our neighbors in Haiti.

One way of attacking the varied diseases that leave thousands devastated in Haiti is working with a democratic Haitian government to rebuild the health infrastructure.

I recently introduced the New Partnership for Haiti Act of 2005, or H.R. 945 would offer a comprehensive plan for future engagement between the U.S. and Haitian Government.

This legislation partners Haitians and Americans together to produce environmentally sound strategies for rebuilding Haiti.

Its major provisions are aimed at developing basic sanitation, water, and other health infrastructures in Haiti.

The New Partnership for Haiti Act would bring the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to train and educate Haitians on how to rebuild, pave, and maintain roads to provide access to rural and urban areas to health clinics. It will commission environmental impact studies for these projects, focusing on long term, environmentally sound solutions—not short term remedies.

Haiti needs assistance in addressing its long-term health infrastructure development.

The most basic of these needed development challenges is water. How can Haiti begin to combat its enormous health problems without basic clean and safe water?

Well Mr. Speaker, Haiti's water quality is life-threatening. In a study released in May of 2003, Haiti ranked last in the world for water quality.

The New Partnership for Haiti Act will provide funds and expertise through USAID to partner with Haiti on rebuilding of sanitation, water purification projects, and education for Haitians on how to maintain these systems themselves in the future.

This bill will help Haitians build and maintain safer, quality sewage systems and safe water delivery for both urban and rural communities.

The New Partnership for Haiti Act will start a pilot program for American Health Professionals and also Engineers who are interested in going to Haiti and helping with the development process.

It is my hope that a transfer of knowledge from U.S. professionals in the fields of health and engineering to Haitians will ensure long term development and guarantee the success of the programs similar to the success of the Global Fund and other international initiatives.

By widening the knowledge base of non-governmental organizations and professionals in Haiti, the U.S. will take advantage of a unique opportunity and obligation towards Haiti's future.

We worked together to get the humanitarian loans, which had been held up by the Inter-American Development Bank officially released on May 9, 2003.

We will continue to push for the full release of these loans and the potential for future humanitarian grants through the IDB.

I also believe we must move forward on establishing a health infrastructure for efficient delivery of these health and social sector funds.

Haiti has numerous health and social issues that are difficult to approach because of the undemocratically, installed Interim Government of Haiti; however, we must be forward thinking and prepare for Haiti's democratic future.

Preparing now will open the doors to safe, healthy clinics, reducing child and maternal mortality, combating HIV/AIDS with drugs and comprehensive treatment and nationwide sewage, sanitation, and clean water.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP ROBERT J.
CARLSON

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to The Most Reverend Robert J. Carl-

son on his installation as the fifth bishop of the Diocese of Saginaw.

During this penitential and traditionally solemn season of Lent, this is by contrast a day of celebration and reason to give thanks for God's many blessings.

We are thankful that the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, led Bishop Carlson to Saginaw, and we are grateful to Bishop Carlson for saying yes to that call.

God has chosen Bishop Carlson to come to Saginaw. By giving us a new bishop, God has revealed a powerful sign that we are not alone in this journey. As we prepare for the Easter celebration, we pray that God will act through Bishop Carlson to change our hearts and help us to be more faithful servants.

Bishop Carlson has been a strong advocate for the underserved. We are called to serve the poor and defend the weak from the strong. In that respect, I also appreciate Bishop Carlson's strong support for life, from the beginning until its natural end. We hope that Bishop Carlson's example of faith in God will inspire not just Catholics but people of all faiths and even non-religious backgrounds to seek the Truth.

As the members of the community of believers in Saginaw, we offer our prayers and congratulations to Bishop Carlson as he starts his ministry in mid-Michigan.

For the many Catholics I represent in Michigan's Fourth Congressional District, may God lead and guide you and the Saginaw Diocese to do His will.

HONORING DOCTOR DENNIS W.
ROWE FOR RECEIVING THE
BLACK ENGINEER OF THE YEAR
AWARD FOR PROFESSIONAL
ACHIEVEMENT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Dennis W. Rowe for receiving the Black Engineer of the Year Award for professional achievement.

Dr. Rowe has mentored many children through the Reach For Tomorrow, Inc. (RFT) program. In 2000, Dr. Rowe took initiative to establish the RFT program in Prince William County, Virginia. Since the program's inception, he has worked diligently with county officials in order to obtain necessary funding for their efforts.

Through the RFT program, Dr. Rowe enables students to realize the practical applications of the subjects they are learning as well as the impact of scholastic achievement. Students spend a week in the summer focusing on career exploration, which includes time at college campuses where students are given "hands on" experiences in the areas of science and engineering.

Dr. Rowe encourages students to improve in three specific areas: attitude, achievement and attendance. As a result of their RFT experience, most students show a significant shift in their attitudes toward education. Dr. Rowe also encourages students to develop a resume during their high school years which highlights their participation in extracurricular activities. In addition, he encourages students to give back to their surrounding community.

Dr. Rowe has touched the lives of numerous students and educators. He should be honored and commended for his dedication to the RFT program and the surrounding community. Through his instruction and guidance, Dr. Rowe has enabled students to realize their potential and become successful adults.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Rowe for his years of service and dedication to the Northern Virginia community. His contributions and efforts are noted and greatly appreciated.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER JUAN A. MOLINA, JR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contribution of United Independent School District Board Member Juan A. Molina, Jr. in Laredo, TX in my Congressional District.

Juan A. Molina, Jr. is the newest member to join the United ISD Board of Trustees. Molina was elected to the district four seat on May 15, 2004. Molina will serve parents and students attending L.B. Johnson H.S., United South H.S., Los Obispos M.S., United South M.S., the new Centeno Elementary, Perez Elementary, Prada Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary, Ruiz Elementary, and Salinas Elementary.

Molina serves on the school district's Student Expulsion Appeals Committee. UISD also has two board members who represent the district's property value interests on the Webb County Appraisal District's (five-member Board of Directors), Juan A. Molina, Jr. is one of two UISD representatives.

Molina was born, raised, and educated in Laredo. He spent his after school hours working part-time in his family's business. He is a 1988 graduate of Nixon High School. After obtaining a computer programming and business management degree from Computer Business Management Systems, Molina went to work with his father for six years. He eventually purchased the business from his father in 1994. Under his leadership, the business has prospered and has expanded into new fields. Molina is the owner of South Texas Neon Signs.

Molina is married and has three children who attend UISD schools. "I am involved in my children's education through participation in the school PTC's and as a Site Based Decision Making Committee member of two schools. I am also a Cub Scout Master because I believe in our kids and want to see a better future for them." Molina has gone through special training sessions to provide Laredo Boy Scouts with more camping and outdoor learning opportunities. His new training has allowed him to direct an adventure weekend and assist in another. He helped organize and direct a scout show and "Spookery" at Camp Huisache. Molina plays an active role in the Perez Elementary Boy Scout Color Guard. In addition, he was also a little league assistant coach for two years. He is involved with his church as a choir

member, and as an active participant in the annual fund-raising Jamaica.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the contributions of United Independent School District Juan A. Molina, Jr.

CONGRESS MUST ACT TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, for more than 10 years, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) has helped protect women in this country from violence, abuse, sexual assault, and sexual predators. This landmark piece of legislation was achieved in part by the bipartisan efforts of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues, of which I am proud to be a member.

VAWA has provided improved access to services and resources for victims of violence and their families. It has made a real difference in the lives of women and children, who no longer suffer in silence.

Community programs funded through VAWA aid law enforcement officers and prosecutors, encourage arrest policies, stem domestic violence and child abuse, establish and operate training programs for victim advocates and counselors, and train probation and parole officers who work with released sex offenders. VAWA has also led to the creation of battered women's shelters, rape prevention and education programs, the reduction of sexual abuse of runaway and homeless street youth, and community programs on domestic violence.

Despite the success of this legislation, we still have much work to do.

One out of every four women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime. Equally alarming is that women ages 16 to 24 experience the highest per capita rates of intimate partner violence.

VAWA is up for reauthorization in this Congress. We must come together to put forward a bill that strengthens and improves our efforts to combat violence against women, including doing more for violence prevention. An essential component of prevention must be to increase outreach to young people.

We must also encourage adequate funding of VAWA initiatives. Unfortunately, each year we fall further behind in fulfilling the promises made in the authorization of VAWA. This year alone the Bush budget is more than \$163 million short of the goal.

As we recognize the vital role of the Violence Against Women Act, I urge my colleagues to reauthorize VAWA in a bipartisan way and to dedicate the necessary resources to fulfill its mission.

COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING: ACHIEVING ZERO TOLERANCE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak regarding U.S. efforts to combat human trafficking.

The U.S. Government now estimates that 600,000 to 800,000 women, children and men are bought and sold across international borders each year and exploited through forced labor or commercial sex exploitation, and potentially millions more are trafficked internally within the borders of countries. Eighty percent of the victims are women and girls. An estimated 14,500 to 17,500 foreign citizens are trafficked into the United States each year.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights in the late 1990s, I led an effort to end the scourge of trafficking by sponsoring the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), P.L. 106-386, which was signed into law in December 2000. In 2003, I sponsored a reauthorization of that Act which also became law.

These two pieces of legislation created a comprehensive framework for combating trafficking in persons abroad, as well as the trafficking of foreign nationals into the United States. As a result, our government has been a leader in addressing this human rights violation and encouraging other governments to do the same. When I held the first hearing on trafficking, back in 1999, only a handful of countries had laws explicitly prohibiting the practice of human trafficking. Individuals who engaged in this exploitation did so without fear of legal repercussions. Victims of trafficking were treated as criminals and illegal immigrants—governments did not offer them assistance to escape the slavery-like conditions in which they were trapped, and few NGOs were equipped to offer survivors of trafficking the restorative care needed to heal physically, mentally and spiritually from the trauma they experienced. Little was being done to prevent others from being exploited in the same way.

The situation today is remarkably improved. Since taking office, the Bush Administration has devoted more than \$295 million to combat trafficking in more than 120 countries. Across the globe, governments are taking action to prevent trafficking, to prosecute the exploiters, and to give hope and restoration to those victimized by trafficking. As Ambassador Miller testified to Congress last summer, between 2003 and 2004, twenty-four countries enacted new laws to combat trafficking. Dozens more were in the process of drafting or passing such laws. Moreover, nearly 8,000 traffickers were prosecuted worldwide and 2,800 were convicted. Shelters have been set up for victims. NGOs and faith communities have reached out to help heal survivors of trafficking.

In order to support the ongoing efforts that have made these gains possible, on February 17, I introduced, along with this Subcommittee's Ranking Member, Rep. DONALD PAYNE, and eight other original co-sponsors, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005, H.R. 972. This bill would reauthorize appropriations for anti-trafficking programs here and abroad. The bill also offers solutions