

pervasive, and susceptible to terrorist attack."

Imagine a terrorist blowing up a chemical storage facility and releasing a cloud of toxic gas, threatening the lives of millions of Americans.

The time to act is now, and that is why I have introduced the Chemical Security Act. I am glad the Committee on Homeland Security has started this process, but it cannot stop there. My own committee, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, which has jurisdiction over chemical security, must now follow suit, because the consequences of inaction are just too great.

SUPPORT THE HYDE U.N. REFORM ACT OF 2005

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House will consider a very important bill that aims to institute long overdue United Nations reform. It is tragic that at a time of numerous scandals that have characterized the U.N. over the past decade, we can see that they have been no accidents. Rather, they have been the result of a flawed structure that gives rise to passing the buck at best, and corruption, profiteering and collusion at worst.

The litany of scandals reads like a rogues gallery, everything from sexual misconduct, rape and sex trafficking to embezzlement, fraud and general mismanagement. Other examples include the notorious oil-for-food scandal or the U.N.'s egregious record of the mistreatment of the State of Israel.

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It is clear that at a time when the international landscape is polluted by enemies of freedom who have no interest in world order, the U.N. must seek to distinguish itself by its integrity and leadership, rather than by its misdeeds.

We must save the United Nations from itself. Let us render our strong support for the Henry Hyde United Nations Reform Act of 2005 before us tomorrow.

STRENGTHEN OUR SCHOOLS

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, many of the children with the greatest capacity to learn will not be finishing their school year because they did not have a school year. I am talking about children under 5 who are often left behind because too few States offer universal, voluntary, State-funded, pre-K programs.

Democrats believe every parent who wants to send a young child to pre-K

should have that opportunity, regardless of their income. Democrats are committed, as part of our "Democrats' New Partnership for America's Future," to working with States to establish, expand, or improve high-quality, pre-K programs.

The bottom line is: pre-K works. Children who participate are more likely to excel academically, go to college, and hold a secure job, and less likely to require special education, to have delinquency problems, or slip into welfare dependency.

This is the educational equivalent of preventive health care. As childhood immunizations allow us to avoid debilitating illness, similarly, high-quality pre-K reduces the need for remedial efforts and produces more successful adults.

Like all educational issues, this is fundamentally an economic issue. High-quality pre-K is a desperately needed investment in our children, their future, and our Nation's economic strength.

Mr. Speaker, our global competitors do not wait until children turn 5 to begin their formal education. Why should we?

AMBASSADOR EVANS DESERVES THE AWARD

(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 U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, John Evans, recently received an award from the American Foreign Service Association for constructive dissent that is intended to "foster creativity and intellectual courage within the State Department bureaucracy."

Last year, the winner was critical of the Iraq war.

Ambassador Evans' constructive dissent was calling the deaths of 1.5 million Armenians at the hands of the Ottomans in 1915 genocide. Our national policy towards the 1915 events calls it a tragedy, but not genocide.

So Turkey was very upset, as were a number of "very serious people" at the State Department. And this award, intended to encourage dissent, was revoked.

Obviously, the State Department was concerned about upsetting our ally, Turkey, though the facts seem to support the ambassador here. The sad thing is that an award intended to encourage dissent has now reinforced the powers that be. It seems the State Department is okay with dissent from the policy of a Republican President in Iraq, but it opposes dissent from a policy that denies the truth.

So much for intellectual courage.

DEMOCRATS' EDUCATION AGENDA

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the House Democrats' positive education agenda, which includes specific steps to promote opportunity by strengthening our schools.

In my home State of California, nearly half of Latino and African American high school students failed to graduate in the year 2002. In Los Angeles, California, the situation is even worse. Just 39 percent of Latinos and 47 percent of African American students graduated from high school.

It is frustrating to see these staggering statistics, while Republicans insist on giving tax cuts to the very wealthy while shortchanging vital education programs. Republicans have failed American students.

The Democratic plan calls for boosting college opportunity, affordability, improving teacher quality, fully funding No Child Left Behind, and expanding pre-school opportunities for our children.

For these reasons, I support the Democratic agenda for a strong and equitable education system for all Americans. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the need to secure our borders has never been greater. Thousands of illegal immigrants are crossing our borders on a daily basis, and every public service is taking a financial hit from illegal immigration. Whether it is education, health care, or law enforcement, our State and local governments are being stretched to the limit.

That is not even the worst of it. Illegal Mexican immigrants are given a 32-page guidebook, paid for and contributed by the Mexican Government, providing tips on how to obtain benefits, avoid arrest, and blend into our society once they have crossed our border.

Recently, a Denver area police officer was shot and killed by an illegal immigrant. That illegal alien had been pulled over and ticketed three times in the previous 7 months by officers who never asked him about his immigration status, even though he had only a Mexican driver's license and no insurance. The sad thing is that the officers did everything correctly, according to the police manual.

Mr. Speaker, our immigration policies are badly broken. When they get in the way of justice being served, it is time for strong enforcement of our laws and to secure our borders.

TIME TO TAKE STEPS TO BEGIN WITHDRAWING U.S. TROOPS FROM IRAQ

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, a few moments ago, I heard my colleagues from both sides of the aisle express their grief over how the war has come home and visited families and loved ones within their district. In truth, this war is destroying the aspirations of people of both countries.

Today, the United States Congress is being visited by workers from Iraq: members of the Iraqi Federation of Labor and members of the Federation of Workers Councils and Unions of Iraq, all of whom were involved in challenging the regime of Saddam Hussein; all of whom stand very strongly in defense of workers' rights, human rights; all of whom are seeking peace; all of whom are seeking an end to the war in Iraq.

It is time for this Congress to put aside the partisan differences which have occurred over the war and to come together in a plan where we can unify to take steps to withdraw our troops from Iraq and to take steps to heal the breach which the war has created between America and the world community.

LINKING U.S. SUPPORT TO U.N. RESULTS

(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, as the largest financial contributor to the United Nations, the United States should be assured that U.N. programs are accountable, efficient, and results-oriented.

Unfortunately, we still have no guarantee that our contributions are used for valuable purposes. Although U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan has discussed reform of the United Nations for years, his words have rarely resulted in action. In 1995, two dozen U.S. staffers defrauded or squandered up to \$10 million in agency funds. Two years later, 16 U.N. employees were under investigation after siphoning off \$6 million during an 8-year period. Additionally, in 2003, a U.N. probe into corruption allegations found that one senior U.N. official improperly gave 11 contracts to his wife.

The Committee on International Relations chairman, the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE), requires the U.N. to drastically reform or risk losing 50 percent of America's contributions to the U.N.-assessed budget. Actions speak louder than words; and if we link U.S. support to U.N. results, the U.N. will be more effective.

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

DEMOCRATS OFFER BETTER APPROACH TO JOB CREATION

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, as the middle class continues to feel squeezed by an economy that is creating few jobs, it is time that President Bush and the Republicans here in Congress admit that their economic policies are not working.

Democrats in the House have a plan that will lift the incomes of working families and bring the unemployment rate down. Instead, Republicans are passing legislation to meet the needs of their corporate special interest friends and the wealthy, not ordinary, Americans.

Legislative choices show values. The fact is, Democrats, historically, have a better record of creating jobs. After 5 years in office, President Bush has yet to create his first net job. At this same period, President Clinton had created 11.9 million jobs.

Oh, you can say the economy is fine, but honesty requires that you admit it is fine for the very wealthy.

You can blame people's problems on economic cycles or terrorist attacks or foreign influences, but excuses are not jobs.

The Democratic approach works and has worked historically.

MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about men's health and the importance of screening and preventive care.

This week is National Men's Health Week, and there is no better way to observe it than to encourage men across America to take control of their health.

Mr. Speaker, it is disturbing to learn that women are 100 percent more likely to visit a doctor for preventive screenings than men. This puts our friends, husbands, fathers, and grandfathers at risk for a host of preventable and manageable diseases from colon cancer to diabetes.

In honor of Men's Health Week, I encourage all men to get the care they need. Modern medicine has provided us with previously unimaginable ways to protect and prevent illness, and we should use them to their fullest.

I encourage men to ask their doctors which screenings and tests should be part of their health care plan. From cardio evaluation to detect heart disease, to colonoscopies to check for colorectal cancer, to digital prostate exams and PSA blood tests, men should take their health seriously.

REPUBLICAN ABUSES OF POWER: SILENCING OPPOSITION TO PATRIOT ACT

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on the Judiciary chairman turned the lights off on democracy last Friday morning when he halted a hearing on the PATRIOT Act in which opposition voices were given time. After Friday's hearing, it was clear that the chairman does not like to hear from those that do not agree with his opinion; certainly, an abuse to the freedom of speech.

During the hearing, the chairman scolded both Democratic Members and panelists; and when he did not agree with a comment, he demanded panelists wrap it up. When he got really mad, he just gavelled the hearing to an end and stormed out of the room. What appalling behavior for a distinguished leader.

Then, as Democratic members tried to continue the hearing, the microphones in the room were turned off. When that did not silence my Democratic colleagues, the Republicans finally turned off the lights.

Mr. Speaker, some congressional Republicans are abusing their power over this House to silence any opposition to either them or to the Bush administration. The gentleman from Wisconsin (Chairman SENSENBRENNER) should not only apologize to everyone who attended Friday's hearing, but to every Member of this House. That is simply not the way the people's House is supposed to work, and it is time this arrogance stops.

RECOGNIZING MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, since congressional passage in 1994, Men's Health Week has brought much-needed attention to the health needs of American men.

Men's Health Week encourages employers, community service organizations, public health departments, and health providers to raise awareness of men's health needs and to support preventive health measures.

Annual checkups, especially for men over the age of 40, are perhaps the single most important factor in maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

According to CDC, women are 100 percent more likely to get an annual physical exam than men. In addition to lower life expectancies than women, men are more likely to die of strokes, heart disease, cancer, and accidents. Yearly physicals have increased awareness of risks to men's health that will save lives and keep men healthy and active.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all men to take advantage of Men's Health Week and go and get a physical. Your health is worth it, and your family certainly will appreciate it.