

some Members of Congress have written \$400 billion for the effort in Iraq, hot checks. Now we say we cannot pay for our own Americans, \$200 billion to rebuild their lives, rebuild their communities, and restore their families unless we find ways to cut.

My suggestion to all of us is if we were willing to do \$400 billion and going for Iraq, we have got to figure out a way to help our fellow Americans in time of need. That is our obligation to fellow Americans. If we are willing to do \$400 billion for Iraq, we need to do \$200 billion for Americans who live in Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, who have been affected and had their lives for no other reason other than natural disaster literally uprooted.

Some have talked about cutting health care. Some have talked about cutting education. Some have talked about cutting basic infrastructure. Others are talking about repealing the estate tax and tax cuts for those who earn hundreds upon hundreds of thousands of dollars, the top 1 percent. Instead, I believe what we should have is a balanced approach. There should be tax cuts on the table and spending. That is the way to fund the reconstruction of Katrina's damage to Louisiana, to Mississippi, and Alabama.

Let me give you some examples in the tax area, places that I refer to as corporate welfare. When we had the corporate tax bill up last year, it was a \$5 billion problem that we had to solve. This Congress passed \$150 billion in tax giveaways to solve a \$5 billion problem. Now, I cannot believe none of you think that we cannot find a little fat in that bill. If you go back and look at it, you can eliminate handouts to special interests, somewhere around \$32 billion.

A couple of examples. A repeal of the bill's provisions that weaken interest allocation rules would generate \$14.4 billion; \$5 billion by repealing the special rules for the timber industry; \$100 million for NASCAR track owner subsidy; \$169 million tax break for Puerto Rican rum makers; and the suspension of duties on ceiling fans, which would provide an additional \$92 million. That bill is not the only bill, but those are examples.

I ask you, nobody planned through Katrina's damage, but given the damage, do we really need to give the ceiling fan industry \$92 million? Do we really need to give the Puerto Rican rum makers \$169 million when literally families are asunder and they need the help to get their homes, their lives back together, their education, their savings accounts, their health care?

We recently passed an \$80 billion energy bill. We are providing Exxon Mobil and other energy companies \$9 billion in tax subsidies to drill for oil when oil is at \$65 a barrel, the highest it has ever been. At what time does that market work out its own where it becomes efficient that the oil companies are getting \$69 a barrel? You know what? We do not need a tax subsidy

from taxpayers to drill and explore for oil. Ten dollars a barrel, I got it. Fifteen dollars a barrel, I got it. Twenty-five dollars a barrel, I got it. We will help our domestic industry.

Exxon Mobil and the other corporations, this quarter alone, had a \$10 billion profit, 69 percent up since last year. At what point do we stop subsidizing big oil? There is another place we can save money. Unfortunately, because of that subsidy, the American taxpayers are not only paying \$3 a barrel for oil, but on April 15 they are paying another \$10 billion to the energy industry because they are subsidizing it on Tax Day and every day at the pump.

Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I did some quick research and found we could easily come up with more than \$56 billion in offsets just eliminating corporate welfare this Congress has handed out in just the past year. The fact is that this country can afford to rebuild after Hurricane Katrina, but it cannot be done on the backs of those who need our help the most. It cannot be done by cutting health care. It cannot be done by cutting education. It will take leadership and require Congress to do something this Congress that writes hot checks has not done before, and that is stand up to special interests.

The American people expect us to do what is right for America. We are all in this together. Let us take on the special interests, the corporate interests as it relates to corporate welfare. Everybody has skin in the game when it comes to rebuilding America.

CELEBRATING RECOVERY MONTH

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

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I too rise with my colleague from Minnesota and my colleague from Rhode Island to speak about "Recovery Month" and what it means for individuals and what it means for our country as a whole. But, Mr. Speaker, today I would like to focus my remarks on a story, a life story written by one of my constituents. Her name is Lois Davieau of East Rochester, New Hampshire.

I recently met Ms. Davieau when she came to my office to tell me about her long and arduous battle with crack cocaine. She asked me to share her story, a compelling story, on our House floor during the 16th annual celebration of "Recovery Month" in the hopes that her story will enlighten others. I would like to now read to you her personal story of addiction and recovery.

Let me begin by setting the scene for you, in her words.

A perfect family home on five acres of land in a small quaint country town. Everyone in town knows everyone else. My best friend Steven is a quiet boy, always a bit timid. We have always had great adventures when we play to-

gether. We hear Steven's mom yell for him, and Steven runs for the house without saying good-bye. I run to the big tree to go away for a while. I know all too well those screams. Only they are silently held within me.

Later in her life, Lois has five children. And I continue her story again.

So here I am with five children, and the only thing that has changed is that I am alone. My parents offered to take the three oldest children over the summer vacation so that I may work some extra hours and get ahead. But something inside of me panics. No, I think, they are the only reason that I pull myself out of bed.

My mother convinces me to send them for a couple of weeks and I had no idea why at that moment. I was overcome with emotional panic. Today I know why. Crack cocaine, though, found me in my darkest and lowest points. I was so lonely and so empty. I was working 60 hours a week, 20 of which were in a bar at night. I made some friends there. They helped me feel better by bringing me into the fold. The drug helped me open up and become much more sociable; so I thought to myself, what is a little social drug use going to hurt? But 8 months later I was living under a bridge, eating oranges off of neighborhood trees and doing what I had to do to stop the vast sea of darkness and emotional pain.

I tried to stop 100 times. I would go a couple of weeks, get a job, and then the darkness would swarm back in. That life lasted for about 8 months. I woke, after 3 straight days of using, in a dealer's house on a couch that was infested with fleas. I do not know what I was dreaming, but I know I woke in a complete and total hysterical panic. After sobbing and completely breaking down, I stood up, I walked to the highway. I put out my thumb and headed north. I knew the risks I was taking alone on that highway but it did not matter. I was lost. There was no one piece of me that I recognized.

That is where I begin my journey to recovery. Eighteen years later is where my story of recovery begins today. Recovery for me has been a path strewn with obstacles, gifts in disguise, and self-actualization. My obstacles were both self-inflicted and socially inflicted.

I start my education of recovery in a self-help group. At that time, drug addicts were not to be tolerated. They could not be mingled with alcoholics. Once again, I thought, I do not fit in. I hid in the background and listened. When I had been around long enough to be recognized, I just replaced the word "crack" with "alcohol" and everyone was happy. I did what I had to do to stay straight. When asked on a job application about drugs, I lied. When asked on an insurance form, I lied. I was surviving the best way I knew. Now I was living a clean and socially acceptable life, though lying about my disease.

So today I stand, I tell you, it is not just the way it is. I am cured from my disease, and I am not recovered from my disease. Yes, it is in check. I, like most other persons with a progressive chronic disease, am in remission; but I have early warning signs and symptoms of recurrence that I watch for. I know that I am responsible for the stigma of my disease by not coming forward and allowing those who still suffer to see the hope in me. The stigma of my disease stops here and now. I am responsible for giving hope to the person who still suffers from their or a loved one's disease, because without my face, without any voice, I still suffer in silence. I am not ashamed of my disease; I am ashamed of my behavior towards my disease.

Today I ask for you to feel the fear, the struggle, the challenge, the hope, the celebration that resides in this person, a person with addiction.

Mr. Speaker, those are the words of one of the most compelling constituents that I have had the honor of having in my office, who told me in her heartfelt story which I have been able to relate to you of her road through the long journey to a place that many of us do not know and to the recovery. Hers is a story of hope, of compassion that we all need to feel, and a system that needs to work for people like Lois.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to address this great Nation.

□ 1730

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PRO-
VIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF
H.R. 2123, SCHOOL READINESS
ACT OF 2005

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-229) on the resolution (H. Res. 455) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2123) to reauthorize the Head Start Act to improve the school readiness of disadvantaged children, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

RECOGNIZING RECOVERY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOHMERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in recognizing Recovery Month sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and by the Center for Substance Abuse and Treatment.

As the co-chairman of the newly formed Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus, it has been an eye-opening experience to speak with recovery groups working to bring an end to the stigma surrounding addictive disorders.

At every event and every meeting, someone will inevitably take me aside,

quietly whisper to me about how their parent had abused drugs for years without knowing it or how their child was attempting to rebuild their life after spending time in a juvenile detention facility for a drug-related crime or how they lost one after years of battling addiction. While these people quietly share their most intimate family secrets, they may not realize that addictive disorders impact over 63 percent of our Nation and that they are far from alone.

In the past several years, advancements in medical science have allowed us to take incredible images of the brain. The National Institutes of Drug Abuse, NIDA, has found evidence of tissue malfunction in the brain of those with addiction.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to show a few of the slides of what a new technology called the PET scan reveals to us about the various afflictions of the brain and brain disorders and how those brain disorders can appear now under a particular kind of X-ray. As everybody can see very clearly, brains operate differently; and those differences come from different metabolic differences and, in many respects, come from simply genetic differences that predispose some people to having mental disorders or having addictive disorders or having alcoholic disorders.

The fact of the matter is now we do not have to be quiet because there is no stigma to alcoholism or drug abuse. This is no reflection on someone's character.

My mother is still battling alcoholism. I am a recovering alcoholic. I know many other members of my family are recovering. I know many of my friends who have families where alcohol and drug abuse plague their families and run amok.

The fact of the matter is, for so long, people have kept quiet about these illnesses because they felt that there was something wrong with them. The fact is now we have been able to look into the brain, see the areas that are affected, see the genetic components to alcoholism and drug addiction and begin to repair those.

Just like every other illness, whether it be diabetes or asthma, drug and alcohol abuse is a chronic disorder like those illnesses. Yet, unlike diabetes and unlike asthma and like every other physical illness of the body, the physical illness and disorder of the brain is discriminated against by insurance companies in this country. As a result of it being discriminated against, millions of Americans do not get the treatment that they could be benefiting from in such incredible ways.

Why should we provide this treatment? Well, aside from the fact that it is the humane thing to do, it actually saves us money. For one thing, it saves us all the cost to our prison system. We have, as a Nation, the largest prison population of any industrialized nation in the world; and Mr. Speaker, the sheriff of Los Angeles County says he

runs the largest treatment and drug abuse facility in America. He runs the Los Angeles County jails, and that is appropriate saying that because, quite frankly, our jails are becoming the treatment of last resort.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXTREMISM

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the whole Nation has been saddened by the terrible and tragic events of Hurricane Katrina. Because of our great concern about this, I would like to read a portion of a story the Los Angeles Times ran just 12 days ago on September 9.

The Los Angeles Times said: "In the wake of Hurricane Betsy 40 years ago, Congress approved a massive hurricane barrier to protect New Orleans from storm surges that could inundate the city.

"But the project, signed into law by President Johnson, was derailed in 1977 by an environmental lawsuit. Now the question is: Could that barrier have protected New Orleans from the damage wrought by Hurricane Katrina?"

"If we had built the barriers, New Orleans would not be flooded," said Joseph Towers, the retired chief counsel for the Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans district.

"Tower's view is endorsed by a former key Senator, along with academic experts, who say a hurricane barrier is the only way to control the powerful storm surges that enter Lake Pontchartrain and threaten the city."

Still quoting the Los Angeles story: "The project was stopped in its tracks when an environmental lawsuit won a Federal injunction on the grounds that the Army's environmental impact statement was flawed. By the mid-1980s, the Corps of Engineers abandoned the project."

The story goes on, but I will just say this: that project, which was stopped by environmental lawsuits, really led or allowed the damage, the horrible events that happened in New Orleans and the surrounding areas. Environmental extremism, Mr. Speaker, has caused almost every highway, aviation, and water project in this country to take three or four times longer than it should and cost about three or four times more than it should. This hurts the poor and the lower income and the working people of this country most of all.

Perhaps wealthy environmentalists do not realize how much they hurt people by driving up costs and destroying jobs; but hurt they do. Some projects they are able to stop altogether. This barrier protection for New Orleans is just one of many examples, but certainly the worst.

However, some people say the city was at fault in its response to this tragedy. Some say it was the State.