

Again, I am very pleased that the House passed H.R. 6, and I look forward to its final passage by the Senate.

In my district, we have the City of Albany, Berkley, Piedmont, Oakland, California, Ashland, Cherryland, Fairview, Castro Valley, unbelievable innovations which this bill will certainly support and enhance. So I urge the President not to reject this proposal and hope that he signs the bill when it reaches his desk.

OHIO'S OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOLS

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the congressional district that has so many outstanding high schools. Not only do these schools excel in academics, but they are home to some of the most gifted scholar-athletes in the Nation.

Just this fall, Cincinnati witnessed two of our young women's high school volleyball teams, Mother of Mercy and Mount Notre Dame, meet for the second State championship in the last 2 years.

After spending much of the season at the top of the rankings, Mercy senior leadership kept them strong at the end. Seniors Missy Harpenau, Stephanie Vorherr, Michelle James, and Kelly O'Connor lead the charge during the final games. Though Mount Notre Dame's standout players, Rachel Adams and Abbie Rees, rallied teammates for wins in the first and third sets, the Cougars couldn't hold on for a repeat of their 2006 success in winning the State championship.

Mercy avenged last year's championship loss with a 15-11 victory in the last minutes to finish a great season for Mercy and Coach Denise Harvey, as well as Mercy's fourth volleyball State title in program history.

In the interest of full disclosure, Mother of Mercy is near and dear to my heart because my wife, Donna, and my daughter, Erica, and my sister, Carol, are all Mother of Mercy graduates.

A third Cincinnati area high school, the St. Ursula Academy Bulldogs, have become a mainstay in the State soccer tournament, advancing to their third finals in 7 years. Down 1-0 at the half, St. Ursula rallied with goals by Tori Huster and Alexandra Berry to beat Strongsville 2-1. St. Ursula finished with a remarkable 20-1-2 record and a third State championship, the other two coming back in 1991 and 1993.

And, finally, I have the honor of congratulating St. Xavier High School for its second Ohio High School Division I State Football Championship in the last 3 years. On its way to a perfect 15-0 record, St. Xavier had probably the toughest schedule in the entire Nation, beating State champions from Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, and national power-

house DeMatha from locally here in Maryland. St. X also had the distinction of being the number one ranked team in the State the entire year and number one in the Nation in some polls.

St. Xavier's victory gave the district that I have the honor to represent its fifth division I State football title in the last 6 years, five out of the last 6 years, including Elder High School, who won it twice. I have two nephews, Joe Del Prince, who graduated last year, scored a number of touchdowns on the team last year, and his brother, my nephew, Mike Del Prince, who scored a touchdown against St. X. Unfortunately, when he scored that touchdown, he was hit pretty hard; and I ended up seeing him in the hospital a couple days later. But he's doing well, and he'll be great as a senior next year. And my brother, Ron, also is an Elder grad, played first singles tennis there some years ago, was on student council, and that kind of gave me my interest in politics, seeing my brother Ron succeed in that respect.

But this also, this victory by St. X was their 38th State title in all sports, the most of any high school in the State. St. X was led by a senior class that compiled a record of 40 wins and two losses in their 4 years at the school, including Fred Craig, the Ohio defensive player of the Year, and Danny Milligan, the Ohio co-offensive player of the year, and running back Darius Ashley, who set a division I record by rushing for 271 yards and two touchdowns in the championship game. Just incredible.

Kudos to head coach Steve Specht and the entire coaching staff for their tremendous accomplishments. Congratulations, St. X. And, again, in the interest of full disclosure, our son, Randy, is a senior at St. X and one of their great band field commanders under the leadership of Anthony Palm.

All of these student athletes have learned invaluable lessons about commitment, teamwork and perseverance that will serve each of them well as they prepare for the future. Both on and off the field they have helped further the tradition of excellence at their schools for which all of Cincinnati can be proud. It is an honor for me to congratulate these young men and women on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

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OMAHA MALL SHOOTING

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

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a very heavy heart. Yesterday, our Nation witnessed yet another act of gun violence, this time at a mall in Omaha, Nebraska. I know my colleagues from Nebraska are going to be talking about this later.

My hearts go out to them for the people that they represented. Eight people were murdered in the rampage. Five others were wounded, two critical. These victims did nothing wrong to deserve their fate. They were mothers, fathers, sons and daughters. They were just trying to do their shopping, and many of them were working at the mall. But the actions of a crazed gunman changed that in a matter of seconds.

Yesterday's shootings was a terrible tragedy. But unfortunately events like this happen almost every day. Every year we lose over 30,000 people to gun violence. Take a second to think about that. Every year, 30,000 victims. I have been here for 11 years. That is 330,000 people that have been killed because of gun violence while I was in Congress. When you want to put that in perspective, that is the City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Three hundred and thirty thousand victims.

When you think about it, what these families are going to be going through in the months ahead with the holidays coming, the pain they are going to be facing, the community, the pain they are going to be facing, I know a lot about that. Tomorrow is December 7. December 7. It was 14 years ago that we had the Long Island Railroad massacre. On that particular day, six people died, one of them my husband. On that day, 19 people were injured, my son critically. Fourteen years later, he is still suffering from that.

We, as a Nation, have to start looking how are we going to have this dialogue? I have never tried to do anything to take away the right of someone legally to be able to own a gun, and yet because of the way the laws are in this country and the way we do things backhandedly in this country, it is so easy to get guns. If you want to talk about what the health care costs are, it is over \$100 billion a year the health care costs for those that survive these kind of incidents.

Think what we could do with that money. Maybe we could educate our young people and reach out to them a little bit better so they don't go into the world of violence. Maybe they won't join gangs. Maybe a good mental health program for this Nation so those like the gunman wouldn't have fallen through the cracks and gotten the help that he needed.

We, as a Nation, on a daily basis, face inconveniences. Tonight when I fly to go home, I will be getting on a plane. I am going to be going through security, all in the name of security and safety. When you go to get your driver's license, long lines. We do this for security and safety. It is an inconvenience. Getting a passport today is an inconvenience. Can't we serve a little bit of inconvenience and come together to make sure that those that are getting guns have the right to have a gun by passing background checks? Can't we make sure with a little inconvenience that we don't make it so easy for these

guns to float throughout our cities and come into some of our cities illegally? We cannot save everybody. I understand that. But think about if we could cut it down to maybe just 15,000 people a year dying. As far as I am concerned, one person dying is one too many.

I promised my son as he was recovering many years ago that I would do whatever I could to prevent another family from not going through what our families did. And here it is 11 years later. Here we had a terrible tragedy yesterday in Nebraska. Not long ago, we had a terrible tragedy at Virginia Tech. Before that, we had another terrible tragedy at another mall in the Midwest. We can think about all these terrible tragedies that are happening more and more not just in our inner cities now but in places in our country that we never thought we would ever see gun violence.

This Nation needs to decide what it is going to do to stop this rampage of unnecessary killings of innocent people. Three hundred thirty thousand people killed in the 11 years I have been here, I hope we can do better. I pray for the families. I pray for the communities.

IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE HENRY HYDE

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

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, one of the greatest voices to ever be heard in these Chambers has been lost to the ages. I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, a great American and my former colleague, Henry Hyde. Tomorrow in Illinois, one of the State's most capable and eloquent Members of Congress will be laid to rest.

It was my distinct honor to meet Henry Hyde, to serve with Henry Hyde and to call Henry Hyde my friend. In this House Chamber over the past 150 years, there have been many who have spoken. I submit that if you had the privilege to hear Henry Hyde speak here, you were indeed most fortunate.

In this House of Representatives over the past several centuries, there have been many distinguished individuals. I submit that not only was Henry Hyde one of the most distinguished, but also one of the most appreciated individuals, one of the finest gentlemen, one of the greatest Americans to serve in this, the people's House.

Whether he was defending the unborn or relating his position to us on any matter before this House, Henry Hyde always spoke with dignity, conviction, principle and eloquence. When Henry Hyde addressed this House, its Members and all Americans listened. While everyone who knew Henry Hyde can tell us a very special story and personal experience about knowing Henry Hyde, there are several memories that I will always fondly cherish and remember.

I recall when Henry came to my district, came to my home in Florida. I will never forget when Henry Hyde stopped me, actually in this aisleway, here on the floor of the House, and in that aisleway he complimented me on my remarks that day. Imagine, Henry Hyde, the master orator, praising such common words. How honored I was by his compliment to so junior a Member on that day. There are many other stories I can tell about Henry Hyde and I know we can all share the other stories, but let me tell you in closing to relate one of my last memories of this great man.

I had the privilege of traveling with Henry to the United States European interparliamentary meetings overseas, and on my last trip with Henry to one of these meetings, one of the last times that Henry Hyde as I recall him serving as chairman of the International Relations Committee, we were flying together with others across the Atlantic to make our next day's meeting. I woke up in the middle of the night and everyone in the cabin on the plane was sleeping, with one exception, and that was Henry Hyde. Some of you may recall Henry had been quite ill towards the end of his service. He required assistance to walk, and I knew how uncomfortable and how difficult it was for him to travel. But here was Henry Hyde so committed to his responsibility, while in such great personal pain and discomfort that he could not rest, he had to sit up in his chair all night, but he was fulfilling his duties and his responsibilities. I knew that night and I knew when I first met him, I knew also when I first heard him, and I have known, and I have been honored to call him my friend, I have had the opportunity to know a great man, a great American, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Hyde).

To Henry's wife and family, and on behalf of all the people of the Seventh Congressional District of Florida, and personally, I extend my deepest sympathies.

CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, for the past 20 years, my colleagues in the scientific community have been issuing warnings that the release of greenhouse gases is altering the Earth's climate in ways that are expensive and deadly. It is well established in the scientific community that the climate change of recent decades can be attributed to the way we produce and use energy. In fact, the greatest insult to our planet is the way we produce and use energy.

As an energy scientist, I know how much can be done technically to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and to slow the rate of global climate change. In fact, many countries around the

world are taking those steps. Today, here in the House of Representatives, we have passed historic legislation which will finally take the long overdue first steps toward addressing global climate change and addressing our long-term energy needs. I am proud to have worked with my colleagues on this comprehensive bill which will move us toward reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and will spur the economic growth and will create new jobs and stave off further damage to our environment and our climate. This is one of the principle subjects that I have spoken about and worked on since I first ran for Congress, and it is one of the reasons, I believe, that my constituents sent me to Congress.

There are some excellent provisions in this bill that will drastically reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. This includes increasing the average automobile fuel economy to 35 miles per gallon by 2020. It will require the nationwide implementation of renewable portfolio standards requiring 15 percent of the Nation's energy in power generation to come from renewable sources. And these two provisions alone will save consumers as much as \$40 billion in a dozen years and will decrease our annual greenhouse gas emissions by up to 324 million tons.

H.R. 6 will reverse many of the environmental detrimental policies that this administration and this country have implemented over the past 6 years. It will repeal the \$23 billion in tax subsidies and royalty relief provisions for fabulously wealthy oil companies.

It will use this money to invest in renewable energy research and extend existing tax credits for the production of renewable energy. My home State of New Jersey has led the way on these issues. New Jersey has already implemented a renewable portfolio standard that requires 20 percent of the State's energy to come from renewable sources by 2020. New Jersey is the second leading State in solar energy production, with over 2,400 solar installations in place, and I am told it is the fastest growing market for solar energy in the United States.

The legislation passed here today will require our appliances and buildings to be more energy efficient, it will provide job training to help workers become part of the green economy, it will require the United States to re-enter into the debate on global climate change, it will provide historic investment in renewable energy and biofuels research.

Of course, this bill is not enough. If it becomes law, it will be a start, a very good start. Having passed this bill, we will be able to consider other alternative energy and climate change legislation, and I am confident that we will.