

Women's Center, Parents of Murdered Children, AVDA, MADD and Family Time, as well as victim liaisons staffed from our criminal justice partners it is far from immune from crime. The Harris County Victim Witness Division, alone, assisted over 30,000 victims of crime last year and helped them receive \$16.9 million in restitution.

I have been and continue to be an advocate for victims of crime most importantly with my latest legislation, H.R. 262, the David Ray Ritcheson Hate Crime Prevention Act which I also introduced in the 110th Congress. I twice sponsored a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the people of the United States should grieve for the loss of life that defined the Third Reich and celebrate the continued education efforts for tolerance and justice, reaffirming the commitment of United States to fight against intolerance and prejudice in any form, and honoring the legacy of transparent procedure, government accountability, the rule of law, the pursuit of justice, and the struggle for universal freedom and human rights. Additionally, I sponsored H.R. 5610, in the 109th Congress, the Foreign Anti-Sex Offender Protection Act of 2006. I have co-sponsored numerous bills that benefit victims of crimes.

Nobody wants, or deserves, to be a victim of crime. I urge my colleagues to pass this Resolution and acknowledge and support these unfortunate victims.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 109.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

□ 1445

SUPPORTING NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 104) supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 104

Whereas on average, a person is sexually assaulted in the United States every two-and-a-half minutes;

Whereas the Department of Justice reports that 191,670 people in the United States were sexually assaulted in 2005;

Whereas 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have been victims of rape or attempted rape;

Whereas the Department of Defense received 2,688 reports of sexual assault involving members of the Armed Forces in fiscal year 2007;

Whereas children and young adults are most at risk of sexual assault, as 44 percent of sexual assault victims are under the age of 18, and 80 percent are under the age of 30;

Whereas sexual assault affects women, men, and children of all racial, social, religious, age, ethnic, and economic groups in the United States;

Whereas only 41 percent of sexual assault victims pursue prosecution by reporting their attack to law enforcement agencies;

Whereas two-thirds of sexual crimes are committed by persons who are not strangers to the victims;

Whereas sexual assault survivors suffer emotional scars long after the physical scars have healed;

Whereas prevention education programs carried out by rape crisis and women's health centers have the potential to reduce the prevalence of sexual assault in their communities;

Whereas because of recent advances in DNA technology, law enforcement agencies have the potential to identify the rapists in tens of thousands of unsolved rape cases;

Whereas aggressive prosecution can incarcerate rapists and therefore prevent them from committing further crimes;

Whereas free, confidential help is available to all survivors of sexual assault through the National Sexual Assault Hotline, more than 1,000 rape crisis centers across the United States, and other organizations that provide services to assist survivors of sexual assault; and

Whereas April is recognized as "National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) it is the sense of Congress that—

(A) National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month provides a special opportunity to educate the people of the United States about sexual violence and to encourage the prevention of sexual assault, the improved treatment of its survivors, and the prosecution of its perpetrators;

(B) it is appropriate to properly acknowledge the more than 20,000,000 men and women who have survived sexual assault in the United States and salute the efforts of survivors, volunteers, and professionals who combat sexual assault;

(C) national and community organizations and private sector supporters should be recognized and applauded for their work in promoting awareness about sexual assault, providing information and treatment to its survivors, and increasing the number of successful prosecutions of its perpetrators; and

(D) public safety, law enforcement, and health professionals should be recognized and applauded for their hard work and innovative strategies to increase the percentage of sexual assault cases that result in the prosecution and incarceration of the offenders;

(2) Congress strongly recommends national and community organizations, businesses in the private sector, colleges and universities, and the media to promote, through National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, awareness of sexual violence and strategies to decrease the incidence of sexual assault; and

(3) Congress supports the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gen-

tleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first I want to thank the gentlelady from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), as well as the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), for introducing this important resolution, and I rise in support to acknowledge the impact that sexual assault has on its victims and to promote education about and prevention of sexual assault.

This resolution highlights the immense problem of sexual assault in the United States. A person is sexually assaulted in the United States every 2½ minutes. Almost 18 million women, 1 in 6, have been victims of rape or attempted rape, and almost 3 million men, 1 in 33, have also been victims.

Sexual assault also harms the society. Medical expenses, lost productivity, treatment of psychological trauma and pain and suffering cost victims roughly \$127 billion per year.

It can also lead to long-term health problems such as chronic pain and headaches and stomach problems and sexually transmitted diseases, and can leave victims with emotional issues which can lead to depression and even suicide.

Designating April to be Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month is an important step in recognizing the problem. Highlighting and focusing on this issue gives us the opportunity to educate the public and allows us to praise the survivors, as well as the volunteers and professionals who have dedicated their lives to combating sexual assault.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield myself such time as I may consume, Mr. Speaker.

I'm pleased to join my Judiciary Committee colleague, the gentlelady from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) as an original sponsor on this resolution. I want to thank her for her efforts in presenting this to Congress. I would like to thank her for reintroducing House Concurrent Resolution 104 to recognize April as National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

Every 2½ minutes a person is sexually assaulted in the United States. Sadly, 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have been victims of rape or attempted rape. Two-thirds of these assaults are committed by someone that is actually

known by the victim, and yet, only about 40 percent of sexual assaults are ever reported to law enforcement authorities.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month attempts to change these startling statistics by promoting education programs, victims support services, advances in DNA and forensics technology, and aggressive prosecution and incarceration of sexual assault offenders.

National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month helps to educate the public about sexual assault in our communities and the long-term effects that it has on its victims.

It also recognizes the work of staff and volunteers at rape crisis centers and other community organizations across the country that provide counseling and victims support services to sexual assault survivors.

With education and community support, it is my hope that more victims will pursue prosecution of their attackers by reporting their assaults to law enforcement. Once victims take this first critical step, it's up to lawmakers and law enforcement to ensure that these violent offenders are put away.

Last Congress, both the House and the Senate passed H.R. 5057, reauthorizing the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Program. The legislation was then signed into law on October 8, 2008.

The Debbie Smith program, originally authorized in 2000, awards grants to State and local governments to reduce the DNA backlogs of samples collected from crime scenes and the backlog for entry into the national DNA database. Through these grants, State and local governments received funding to test approximately 104,000 DNA cases between 2004 and 2007.

These grants have also funded the collection of 2.5 million DNA samples from convicted offenders and arrestees for inclusion in the national DNA database. The Department of Justice estimates that over 5,000 "hits" or matches are the result of this DNA backlog reduction. This is a positive step forward, but we must continue our efforts to reduce the DNA backlog to provide justice for sexual assault victims and put their attackers behind bars.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I have no other requests for time, and I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in this sterile environment of the Halls of Congress, sometimes we forget that sexual assault is a crime that is committed against people in this country, a crime that most of them never really get over.

In my experience as a prosecutor and a judge for 22 years, I came in contact with numerous sexual assault victims, some of which never could quite handle and cope with the fact that they had been a victim of a crime, especially

this crime, because, you see, when the offender commits a sexual assault against someone else, that offender is trying to steal the very soul of that victim. And sometimes victims cannot recover from that, emotionally or physically. That is why this legislation is important and that we, as Members of Congress, do our duty and be the advocates for those victims that have silent voices throughout this country. And that's just the way it is.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), as well as the chief sponsor of the resolution, the gentlelady from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), for their hard work on the issue of sexual assault.

I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 104, which supports the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

I was the lead Democratic sponsor of the original legislation to designate April as National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, which was introduced by former Representative Mark Green and signed into law in 2003. I am proud to have been a part of that initial effort, which has grown into a nationwide campaign to raise public awareness regarding sexual violence, prevent future crimes, and provide crucial services to victims of rape and sexual assault.

Even as we shine a spotlight on this issue throughout the month of April, it is important to remember that preventing sexual assault must be top priority every month of the year. A 2000 study by the National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 18% of women in the United States have been raped in their lifetimes, yet we know that only about 6% of women who have been raped will ever see their attacker spend a day in jail.

I have long been a champion of domestic and international women's issues, and preventing violence against women has been one of my top priorities since my very first day in Congress. That is why I wrote "The Debbie Smith Act," signed into law in 2004 to improve the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases with DNA evidence. DNA evidence is crucial to getting rapists off the streets, and yet across the country, thousands of unprocessed DNA evidence kits are gathering dust. Each one of these represents a victim who has been denied justice, and a rapist who is free to commit more crimes. With this legislation, the huge backlog of rape kits is finally being processed.

In 2008 I introduced H.R. 5057, "The Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act," which was signed into law, and which extends the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program through FY 2014. The bill also reauthorizes several critical programs which provide training and education for criminal justice and medical personnel in the use of DNA evidence. I am pleased to have been joined by Chairman CONYERS and Ranking Member SMITH of the Judiciary Committee in introducing that important legislation.

It is vitally important that we continue these efforts to reduce the DNA backlog crisis in our

nation's crime labs. Equally imperative are efforts to support the Violence Against Women Act by fully funding the organizations, shelters, and counseling centers which provide the crucial victim services which help women escape dangerous situations and begin new lives free from violence and fear.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 104 "Supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month." I want to thank my colleague Congresswoman, TAMMY BALDWIN of Wisconsin for introducing this legislation.

This Resolution echoes the goals and ideals of the National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, namely to increase public awareness of the occurrence and the effects of sexual assault and to improve our nation's overall ability to prevent new incidents.

This important resolution will help to bring an end to the deplorable rapes, molestations, and sexual assault that occur across America. Violent crime and sex offenses are a fact of life which can be targeted for prevention through a combination of education, public awareness, as well as identifying and monitoring known offenders in the community.

Mr. Speaker, there are no greater crimes that an individual can commit than the crimes of sexual molestation and sexual assault. The perpetrators of these crimes rob victims of their innocence. Moreover, victims of sexual assault are profoundly affected for the rest of their lives. As elected officials, we have an obligation to condemn this violence, work for stronger enforcement of the law and provide adequate funding for programs to assist individuals who may have experienced such abuse.

I urge my colleagues to fight against these heinous crimes. Sexual assault can be verbal, visual, or anything that forces a person to join in unwanted sexual contact or attention. Examples of this are voyeurism (when someone watches private sexual acts), exhibitionism (when someone exposes him/herself in public), incest (sexual contact between family members), and sexual harassment. It can happen in different situations, by a stranger in an isolated place, on a date, or in the home by someone you know.

The negative impacts of sexual assault go beyond the physical trauma of the attack itself. The victims suffer psychological trauma, emotional scarring, shame, the stigma of being victimized, and the destruction of their dignity.

Unfortunately, sexual assault is an issue that has plagued the nation. In my home state of Texas, nearly 2 million adult Texans, or 12.6% of the population, have been sexually assaulted, and more than half of all sexual assaults are committed against children under age 18. An estimated 82% of rapes go unreported. The vast majority of rape victims—nearly 80%—know the person who rapes them.

In Texas, 6 out of 10 adults and more than half of teenagers say sexual assault is a personal worry. A third of Texan adults say sexual assault is one of their biggest worries. While a majority of Texans says the state takes sexual assault seriously, 76% believe the state should take the issue more seriously.

Many Americans have only a surface understanding of what constitutes sexual assault,

and more than a quarter of Americans are very misinformed about its parameters. It will take more than just stronger prevention and enforcement of the law to prevent sexual molestation and other forms of sexual assault. In order to end this serious epidemic that has plagued America, all segments of the community such as parents, educators, religious leaders, and community leaders must create a nurturing environment us to live comfortably.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 104 "Supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month."

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 104.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1500

WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 365 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 365

Resolved, That the requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported on the legislative day of April 28, 2009, providing for consideration or disposition of a conference report to accompany the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 13) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2010, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2011 through 2014.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER). The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCGOVERN. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H. Res. 365 permits same-day consideration of a rule providing for consideration of the conference report on the budget resolution, S. Con. Res. 13.

This budget is a critical document and comes at a critical time in our country. We all know this budget is a blueprint of the priorities of the Obama administration and this Democratic Congress. This budget sets the framework for most of the legislation that we will consider this year—everything from the annual spending bills to improvements in education to health care reform to deficit control.

I'm not surprised that my friends on the other side of the aisle aren't pleased with this budget. Republicans voted against the recovery package, and now they are going to oppose this budget.

It's no secret that the Republicans have fundamental differences in the way they would govern this country. But that's why we have elections, Madam Speaker, and the American people spoke loud and clear about what they want their country to stand for. And those principles are set in this budget.

Madam Speaker, this budget must be adopted in order for this Congress to start working on the agenda the American people want us to enact. I am proud to support this budget.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. I thank my very good friend from Worcester for yielding me this customary 30 minutes.

Madam Speaker, I have to say that I am really somewhat puzzled as to why it is that we are here debating a same-day rule for consideration of the Federal budget's conference report. As we all know, a same-day rule is a mechanism to circumvent House rules in order to hastily cram through legislation.

Why in the world would the Democratic leadership want to rush through passage of the Federal budget? I recognize that same-day rules have taken place when either party has been in the majority, but why in the world would the Democratic leadership want to do this, Madam Speaker, for the Federal budget?

As I say, we often use this procedure when the government might run out of money. Well, although we know, as of last Sunday, April 26, we saw the deficit day actually created, Debt Day created, as of Sunday, we ran out of money. We now are in deficit spending as of today.

Last year that date was August 4. We spent all of our money up until August 4 of last year. This was last Sunday, the 26th of April. So we are now into borrowed money. But as we all know, Madam Speaker, our appropriations bills that we have passed for this cal-

endar year exist until the next fiscal year begins.

Is there some hard and fast deadline that needs to be met under the Budget Act? The budget resolution should have been completed by April 15. The Democratic leadership wasn't in a hurry when that deadline came and went, and there is no new deadline at all that needs to be met right now.

Maybe, Madam Speaker, Congress is getting ready for a prolonged congressional recess, a district work period. Well, the next recess, as we all know, is about a month away. We are supposed to be working here for another 4 weeks.

Now, Madam Speaker, I ask maybe, just maybe it's the end of a very long, hard workweek of ours here, and we want to complete action before a long 3-day weekend, except today is Tuesday, and there is plenty of time to get this done before we finish legislative business on Thursday. So why, Madam Speaker, are we denying Members and the public the chance to read this budget, a budget, which as we all know now, at least we know the outside numbers, spends \$17.8 trillion.

We have been listening to people over the past several weeks talk about what the number a trillion is. Somebody was saying it totals 31,000 years, longer than recorded history, in seconds. I mean, it's just amazing to contemplate that in this budget it is \$17.8 trillion over a 5-year period of time.

The only thing that I can figure out, Madam Speaker, is that tomorrow marks the conclusion of the President's first 100 days. Now, this is a milestone the press has observed since Franklin Delano's Roosevelt's presidency. It's a very symbolic moment that every President understandably likes to highlight.

The problem rises, Madam Speaker, when his party cares more about symbolism and photo opportunities than taking the power of the purse, our constitutional responsibility here in the people's House, and taking that seriously. We have a profound responsibility to spend the taxpayers' money wisely.

During a time of great economic challenges, when every working family is trying to make every penny count, the responsibility here for us to deal with those tax dollars as wisely as possible is even greater. I would hope that the Democratic leadership would care more about fiscal responsibility than a photo opportunity.

Unfortunately, this is not a new pattern for the House Democratic leadership. Just a few weeks ago we turned the process upside down to try to pass the GIVE Act so that it could be signed by the President just before he left for Europe.

Now, cooler heads did prevail, but it looks like we are headed down that exact same path now. This photo opportunity deadline in the first 100 days is leading us to not go through the regular order for consideration of this budget conference report.