

Average didn't triple, it went down; median income went down, and we ran up the national debt so much that it's almost doubled in the last 8 years rather than being eliminated as it would have been had the Democratic plan continued without getting messed up.

The stimulus that's been disparaged is necessary to try to dig us out of the mess that we're in. We all regret the fact that we need a stimulus, but had we not had the mess that we're in, we wouldn't have needed the stimulus.

And so, Madam Speaker, I close in support of the Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2009. It will continue the reporting that we've had and make best use of the statistics so that we can reduce these preventable deaths in the custody of law enforcement officers.

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I would like to commend my colleague Congressman BOBBY SCOTT for his leadership in seeking to bring transparency to the operation state and local prisons.

Congressman SCOTT's legislation, the Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2009, compels state and local governments to report deaths of prisoners in state prisons and local jails, and juvenile correctional facilities. This reporting is an incredibly useful oversight tool, and ensures accountability and transparency in our state and local facilities.

The data that will be reported under the bill will allow public officials and those in the non-profit sector to track mortality rates as related to illness, suicide, homicide, drug and alcohol use, and other causes of death. This data is crucial if we hope to reduce deaths in custody, and promote safer custody through the reduction of suicide, drug abuse, violence, and the provision of proper medical care.

Again, I applaud Congressman SCOTT for his efforts and leadership and urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

□ 1500

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, 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 pass the bill, H.R. 738.

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 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.

#### NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 82)

raising awareness and encouraging prevention of stalking by establishing January 2009 as "National Stalking Awareness Month".

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 82

Whereas in a 1-year period, an estimated 3,400,000 people in America reported being stalked, and 75 percent of victims are stalked by someone who is not a stranger;

Whereas 81 percent of women, who are stalked by an intimate partner, are also physically assaulted by that partner, and 76 percent of women, who are killed by an intimate partner, were also stalked by that intimate partner;

Whereas 11 percent reported having been stalked for more than 5 years and ¼ of victims reported having been stalked almost every day;

Whereas one in four victims reported that stalkers had used technology, such as e-mail or instant messaging, to follow and harass them, and one in 13 said stalkers had used electronic devices to intrude on their lives;

Whereas stalking victims are forced to take drastic measures to protect themselves, such as changing their identities; relocating, changing jobs, and obtaining protection orders;

Whereas one in seven victims moved in an effort to escape their stalker;

Whereas approximately 130,000 victims reported having been fired or asked to leave their job because of the stalking, and about one in eight lost time from work because they feared for their safety or were taking steps, such as seeking a restraining order, to protect themselves;

Whereas less than half of victims report stalking to police and only 7 percent contacted a victim service provider, shelter, or hotline;

Whereas stalking is a crime that cuts across race, age, culture, gender, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability, and economic status;

Whereas stalking is a crime under Federal law and under the laws of all 50 States and the District of Columbia;

Whereas there are national organizations, local victim service organizations, prosecutors' offices, and police departments that stand ready to assist stalking victims and who are working diligently to craft competent, thorough, and innovative responses to stalking;

Whereas there is a need to enhance the criminal justice system's response to stalking and stalking victims, including aggressive investigation and prosecution, and to increase the availability of victim services across the country tailored to meet the needs of stalking victims; and

Whereas the House of Representatives urges the establishment of January 2009 as National Stalking Awareness Month: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, That—*

(1) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(A) National Stalking Awareness Month provides an opportunity to educate the people of the United States about stalking;

(B) all Americans should applaud the efforts of the many victim service providers, police, prosecutors, national and community organizations, and private sector supporters for their efforts in promoting awareness about stalking; and

(C) policymakers, criminal justice officials, victim service and human service agencies, college campuses and universities,

and others should recognize the need to increase awareness of stalking and the availability of services for stalking victims; and

(2) the House of Representatives urges national and community organizations, businesses in the private sector, and the media to promote awareness of the crime of stalking through National Stalking Awareness Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials 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.

Madam Speaker, House Resolution 82 is a bipartisan measure and will help raise awareness of the terrible toll that stalking is taking in our society. Every year, stalking affects millions of Americans of both genders and of all races and ages.

The consequences of stalking can be extremely serious. The fear and mental anguish can leave stalking victims paralyzed. Stalkers cause their victims severe emotional distress, including anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction and depression, which can affect all aspects of life, including family, social activities and work.

In fact, many stalking victims have been forced to relocate their residences and also frequently needed psychological counseling. Approximately 130,000 victims reported being fired or forced to find work elsewhere because they've been stalked.

Stalking also leads to physical attacks on the victim. This explains why most States and the Federal Government treats stalking as a felony. Over 75 percent of women murdered by an intimate partner have been stalked by that partner. Advances in technology have given stalkers ever-increasing access to their victim's personal information, making the victim even more vulnerable.

I'd like to commend my Judiciary Committee colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), for his leadership on this issue. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting House Resolution 82.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I'm proud to have introduced House Resolution 82, establishing January as National Stalking Awareness Month.

I hope this resolution serves as a unifying force for the community leaders,

policy-makers, and victim service providers. The goal of this resolution is to raise awareness and encourage prevention of stalking by establishing January 2009 as National Stalking Awareness Month.

Stalking, conduct intended to instill fear in a victim, is a crime that occurs in every State in our country. As the cochair and founder of the Congressional Victims Rights Caucus, I have spoken to countless victims and victim service providers about the dangers of stalking and the tragedies that have occurred in their lives.

A January 2009 report from the Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics found that during a 1-year period an estimated 3,400,000 people in America reported being stalked. According to the National Center for Victims of Crime, this is an increase of 2 million victims per year in the last decade. These statistics are a jarring reminder of the scope and seriousness of this crime.

The Department's study also found that nearly three out of four victims knew their stalker, and approximately one in four victims reported some form of cyberstalking.

Stalkers pursue and harass their victims and are often relentless. Cyberstalkers systematically flood their target's e-mail inbox with obscene, hateful or threatening messages.

Cyberstalkers may also assume the identity of their victim and post information, fictitious or not, to solicit unwanted responses from other people. Although cyberstalking does not involve physical contact with a victim, it is still a serious crime. The widespread use of the Internet and the ease with which hackers can find personal information has made this form of stalking more accessible to criminals.

By establishing January 2009 as National Stalking Awareness Month, Congress can help to educate Americans about the severity of stalking and encourage victims to report these crimes to the police. We recognize and applaud the many law enforcement agencies and victims' services for their effort to combat stalking and increase awareness of services available to stalking victims.

Stalking has only been criminalized for 28 years. Unlike domestic violence stalking is about power and control over the victim. While stalking is now a crime in all 50 States, the District of Columbia and the Federal Government, stalking often leads to other crimes, including physical assault, sexual assault and sometimes homicide. Stalking laws are basic to the individual right of each person in this country to be left alone and their right of privacy.

The best way to attack the threat of stalking is through law enforcement and education, and I encourage victim service providers, law enforcement prosecutors and community leaders to promote awareness of stalking, and I thank them for their efforts every day in making the lives of victims better.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON).

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, Judge POE is exactly right. Our most fundamental right as Americans is the right to be left alone. It is important legislation and appreciate the judge bringing it to us.

We're going to hear from our good friend Congressman ROYCE in a minute who has been working on this legislation for many years. We will hear from him in just a moment.

I want to make sure, however, we as a Congress are focused on the financial hurricane stalking America just over the horizon. The financial, really if we're not careful, the urgency of this financial hurricane is something we cannot afford to ignore any longer.

We, as a Congress, have as our highest priority again the preservation of the security and financial safety of future generations. We're guardians of the Treasury. We're responsible for ensuring that we're not spending money we don't have; yet this so-called stimulus bill has added to the urgency of this financial hurricane stalk in America.

This \$1.3 trillion spending spree that the new liberal majority has engaged has, in fact, created at least 32 new Federal programs at a cost of about \$137 billion. This spending spree of \$1.3 trillion over these 17 legislative days has a lot more to do with expanding the power base of the liberal majority and growing the Federal Government's power than it does with stimulating the economy.

In my opinion, this legislation will do, in fact, far more to turn America into France ultimately than it will to restore the strength and vibrancy of America's free market economy, and that's the best way to stave off this financial hurricane stalking America today.

We, I think, as fiscal conservatives may be outnumbered today, Madam Speaker, but we have an obligation to stand up and speak out at every opportunity. We are entrusted by our constituents with the responsibility to lay out thoughtful, fiscally responsible alternatives to the profligate spending we see coming from the other side. At a time of real national emergency, when we're seeing disturbing trends in job losses, when average Americans want to make sure that we as a Congress are being only good stewards of their money, well, what are we doing to ensure the security of their next paycheck? What are we doing to reassure Americans that we're doing everything in our power to protect the security of their job, to make sure that they don't have fear stalking their household that they are going to lose

their job or lose the security of that health care coverage that they've always had?

This liberal majority, instead, has been focused on creating brand new programs to pay for public school construction. That's an area that the Federal Government has traditionally steered away from because of the massive cost. This stimulus bill that, again, is going to do far more to grow the government than grow the economy, this stimulus bill promoted by the new liberal majority in Congress, has set aside about \$14 billion for school modernization and repair; \$6 billion for higher education modernization and repair. That means for the first time that Federal taxpayers are assuming the responsibility for rebuilding and repairing local public school buildings, all these traditionally the responsibility of local taxpayers, locally issued bonds by school districts and universities across the country.

I know the Houston Independent School District tells me just to complete, off-the-cuff figure, they estimate they've got in the Houston Independent School District alone about \$4 to \$5 billion worth of need to rebuild, repair existing school buildings. Imagine the size of that obligation that this new liberal majority has now created for future generations to pay for.

We are in this, as fiscal conservatives, doing everything in our power to enlighten the American people, to let the public know, Madam Speaker, that there's a thoughtful, fiscally conservative alternative out there, America. We want to cut your taxes and cut spending to get this economy moving. We vigorously oppose this effort to grow the government and saddle future generations with more debt.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE). He is the original sponsor of the stalking legislation.

Mr. ROYCE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I also agree that on the issue on this omnibus spending spree that we're calling a stimulus bill, that where we increase from \$1 trillion, add another trillion and push up the deficit to 10 percent of the GDP, this is not the answer.

But let me talk for a minute about the stalker bill because I'm the author of the first stalker act, both here in the Federal Government and at the State level in California.

In Orange County, California, we had four young women who were killed in the span of 6 weeks, and law enforcement had told me at the time that if they had been able to intervene they could have protected them. One law enforcement officer said the hardest thing he ever had to do in his life, he was waiting to try to apprehend the man who was going to kill his girlfriend. The man succeeded and then killed himself. It was 30 seconds too late for the officer to prevent that, or a minute too late.

So the Federal law and the State law, the California law has now, frankly, been copied by all 50 States. But I wanted to share with my colleagues here that our Federal anti-stalker law has now been passed in Japan. It's been passed in countries in Europe and elsewhere around the world. I'm still getting calls from legislators about the need to set up this deterrence, so that when a credible threat is given against a victim of a crime, she knows when she's being threatened and stalked, that that's a felony, that she can take out a restraining order; she can thus make that a felony and get law enforcement involved in order to protect her.

Let me just say that I think this resolution is important because what it does is raise the level of awareness around the country as to the necessity of not only law enforcement, judges, but the average citizen to be aware of this. And those who are involved, men and women who are involved in stalking their victims should understand that under State and Federal law they risk serving serious time in Federal and State penitentiary if they continue with this pattern of threats and behavior.

Let me also say that I think that in our society it is really time to figure out how the victims can get access to the information about the laws that we pass, because too many times we have people—and this even includes in law enforcement—who are not cognizant of the fact that they can step in here and get involved and prevent serious harm before it occurs.

So just in closing and yielding back my time, I commend the sponsors and cosponsors of this resolution, because in calling attention to this special week, National Stalking Awareness Month, calling attention to this, my hope is that all of you can make those potential victims of this crime more knowledgeable so that they understand they have recourse, so that steps can be taken before they're physically harmed.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH).

Mr. RADANOVICH. I thank the gentleman from Texas for that.

Last week, Madam Speaker, I joined a bipartisan group of colleagues in opposing a recklessly wasteful economic stimulus package that promised \$32 billion for my home State of California, currently suffering from 8.2 percent unemployment.

California does not need \$32 billion worth of spending to stimulate the economy because, at the same time, our State water supply has been hijacked by the irresponsible Endangered Species Act. A simple flip of the switch at the pumps at the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta could save 40,000 jobs and rescue a \$90 billion industry from the brink of disaster.

Instead, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle seem more interested

in spending money like drunken sailors and watch the Endangered Species Act literally dehydrate one of America's most prosperous industries.

□ 1515

Every one of my colleagues from California has no excuse not to join me in calling for a temporary suspension of the Endangered Species Act to immediately start the flow of water from the delta pumps in California.

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ).

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I congratulate my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE). This is a great piece of legislation.

There are too many of our fellow citizens who don't feel the safety and security that the rest of America feels. They feel the weight of somebody watching them or pestering them. They are worried about that when they go to the grocery store, they are worried about that when they go to the gas station. There's a feeling that sinks in on you that all too many people recognize. And this will address the stalking component of it. It's something that I think the rest of America also feels when they look at our economy and what this Congress is failing to do. It's failing to be responsible with the people's money. It's not the government's money.

As we look at \$10-plus trillion debt and a so-called stimulus bill that I think most of us recognize will not stimulate the economy, we can only look at that and recognize that it's our children and grandchildren that will be burdened with this debt. That they will have to pay it.

We are \$10 trillion in debt. Last year, we paid \$429 billion just in interest on that debt. And the people that I talk to, the people from Utah and from around the country that are peppering us with information and feedback, are absolutely fed up. They don't want to have that burden. And every time we spend a dollar, a dollar we don't have, and can't afford, we create a burden upon the American family.

\$50 million for the National Endowment for the Arts. It will do nothing to stimulate our economy. Absolutely nothing. \$650 million for the conversion to digital television, for goodness sake. We don't have the money to do that. \$13 million for research related to volunteer service; \$70 million for a support computer for climate research; \$524 million to create, "388 jobs in the United States" through the State Department Capital Investment Fund.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I'd like to refocus. The purpose of this bill has to do with stalking. A few years ago, most of us didn't even know what stalking was. And now, most Americans know someone or personally have been affected by a stalker out there, whether it's a physical stalker or whether it's someone on

cyberspace. It has become a growing crime in this country.

Madam Speaker, as I mentioned before, I think the Constitution, in essence, says one thing—that we, as people, as individuals, have the right to be left alone. And criminals who stalk to harass and to put fear in the souls and the minds of individuals should be, of course, prosecuted.

I thank Mr. ROYCE for his endeavors years ago to make this crime a national crime, and also an awareness of most individuals. So I urge support of this legislation, this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, we have been lectured again by the party that authored the economic mess that we have been in for the last 8 years about economic theory. I just want to remind everyone what that economic theory created. It erased a \$5½ trillion surplus and replaced it with at least a \$3½ trillion debt. There was no comment about fiscal responsibility and our grandchildren paying off the debt while they were doing that to public.

And, while overspending the budget by \$9 trillion, or even more, they incredibly managed to produce the worst job performance since the Great Depression. And now they are criticizing those who support the economic theory that created the \$5½ trillion surplus and tens of millions of jobs.

If you just want to look at economic activity, and not just the jobs, if you look at what happened to the Dow Jones Industrial Average. If the last 8 years of the Dow Jones Industrial Average had done in the last 8 years what it had done during the preceding 8 years under the Democratic economic theory, the Dow Jones Industrial Average would be approximately four times bigger than it is now.

So look at your 401(k) and imagine if it had been four times bigger. That is where it would be if the economic results of the Democratic theory of the 1990s had been in effect. I think most of the people would like to see their 401(k)s and IRAs four times bigger than it is today.

So we will let the people decide which economic theory they would rather have—the one that we have been lectured from, or the one that was put into effect in 1993 and the one we are trying to get the economy back on track with a stimulus package, which many economists think is too small for the big mess that we are in.

In any case, Madam Speaker, I'd like to thank the gentleman from Texas for introducing the legislation establishing January, 2009, as National Stalking Awareness Month. I hope that we would adopt the resolution.

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. 82.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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.

#### NATIONAL TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 103) supporting the goals and ideals of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 103

Whereas communities across the country carry out activities to raise awareness about teen dating violence during the week of February 2 through February 6, 2009;

Whereas 1 in 11 adolescents reports being a victim of physical dating violence;

Whereas 1 in 5 teenagers in a serious relationship reports having been hit, slapped, or pushed by a partner;

Whereas 1 in 3 female teenagers in a dating relationship has feared for her physical safety;

Whereas more than 1 in 4 teenagers have been in a relationship where a partner is verbally abusive;

Whereas 27 percent of teenagers have been in dating relationships in which their partners called them names or put them down;

Whereas 40 percent of the youngest teens, those between the ages of 11 and 12, report that they have friends who are victims of verbal abuse in dating relationships;

Whereas 1 in 5 teenagers between the ages of 13 and 14 say they have friends who are victims of dating violence;

Whereas 1 in 2 teenagers in a serious relationship has compromised personal beliefs to please a partner;

Whereas 29 percent of girls who have been in a relationship said that they have been pressured to have sex or to engage in sexual activities that they did not want;

Whereas technologies such as cell phones and the Internet have made dating abuse more pervasive and more hidden;

Whereas 30 percent of teenagers who have been in a dating relationship say that they have been text-messaged between 10 and 30 times per hour by a partner seeking to find out where they are, what they are doing, or who they are with;

Whereas 72 percent of teenagers who reported that they had been checked up on by a boyfriend or girlfriend 10 times per hour or more by email or text messaging did not tell their parents;

Whereas parents are largely unaware of the cell phone and Internet harassment experienced by teenagers;

Whereas nearly 3 in 4 teens say that dating relationships usually begin at age 14 or younger;

Whereas 69 percent of all teenagers who had sex by age 14 said they have experienced

1 or more types of abuse in a dating relationship;

Whereas violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications for victims, putting them at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide, and revictimization as adults;

Whereas the severity of violence among intimate partners has been shown to be greater in cases where the pattern of violence has been established in adolescence; and

Whereas National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week benefits schools, communities, families, and individuals, regardless of socioeconomic status, race, or sex: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week to raise awareness of teen dating violence in the Nation;

(2) encourages the people of the United States, State and local officials, middle schools and high schools, law enforcement agencies, and other interested groups to observe National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week with appropriate programs and activities that promote awareness that teen dating violence is a crime and to encourage efforts to prevent and deter it; and

(3) supports a reexamination of the Nation's criminal and civil laws regarding teen dating violence to ensure that such laws create an effective deterrent.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials 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.

Madam Speaker, House Resolution 103 designates this week, February 2 through February 6, as National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week. It is designed to bring public attention to the problem of teen dating violence, and the need for more effective prevention and deterrence.

According to the recent report by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, approximately one in three adolescent girls in the United States becomes a victim of emotional, verbal, or physical abuse from a dating partner. This alarming statistic far exceeds rates at which other types of violence are affecting youth in this country.

The study also find that girls exposed to dating violence are more likely to be subjected to other forms of violence. These victims are also more likely to engage in unsafe sexual activity, to have a higher incidence of substance abuse, and to have thought about or attempted suicide, than boys or girls that have not been abused.

The study revealed that most victims of dating violence are subject to multiple acts of violence and aggressive behavior, which increases in frequency and intensity. For example, 63 percent of young people who reported having been slapped, hit, or kicked by their partner indicated that the abuse occurred on two or more occasions.

Teenage girls are more likely than adult women to be victims of dating violence, and are more likely to be injured as a result of that violence.

With deaths and injuries resulting from teen dating violence on the increase, we must recognize this type of behavior as a crime as well as a serious public health concern. We must ensure that our young people are made aware of the seriousness of these offenses. And ensure that our laws provide an effective deterrent.

Today's resolution should encourage families and communities around the country to educate their young people about this problem, and to seek their help in preventing it. I'd like to commend the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) for his leadership in introducing this resolution. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in support of this resolution, which supports the goals and ideals of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week. I want to commend the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) for sponsoring this legislation.

This nationwide effort seeks to increase public awareness and educate citizens about the prevalence of dating violence. The Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Initiative was spearheaded by teenagers across the Nation who chose to take a stand and put a stop to teen dating violence. The Initiative began in 2004, and is now supported by over 50 national, State, and local organizations.

The call to end teen dating violence was formally recognized by the House in 2006. Including today, this body has three times designated the first week in February "National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week" in an effort to bring more public awareness to a problem confronting today's teens.

Last year, an organization called Teen Research Unlimited surveyed parents, teens, and tweens—tween is someone between 11 and 14, Madam Speaker—about dating violence. The results of this poll demonstrated the depth of the problem of teen dating violence.

According to the poll, one in five teens who have been in a serious relationship report being struck in anger—either kicked, hit, slapped or punched—by a boyfriend or girlfriend. Further, one in three girls who have been in serious relationships say they have been concerned about being physically hurt by the individual that they are concerned about.