

criminal aliens. We should not be issuing visas to diplomats of other nations that refuse to cooperate with our government. There should be consequences for countries whose citizens illegally enter the United States, harm our citizens, go to prison, and the host country disrespects the law of the United States and doesn't take back their malcontent citizens.

So how do we make sure that these disrespectful foreign governments take back their citizens? Today, I introduced the Deport Convicted Foreign Criminals Act. This bill is simple. First, if a country does not take back their criminal aliens after 90 days of being given proper legal notice, diplomatic visas will be withheld. Then, if the country still refuses to take back their criminals, these sanctions will be expanded to include other types of visas.

Our government needs to be more concerned about the rule of law, the security of our Nation, and the cost to the American taxpayer than it is about hurting the feelings of some foreign country. Immigration is a complicated issue. But this part is simple. Foreign convicted criminals need to go back home. Their homeland should take them whether they want them or not. The United States cannot be a halfway house for foreign criminals.

And that's just the way it is.

RAPE IN THE MILITARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as I have risen nine times before, to speak about the unspeakable—rape in the military. Nineteen thousand soldiers each year, women and men, are raped in the military. And what is Congress doing about it? What is the Department of Defense doing about it? Not much.

This is the 10th time I'm standing on this floor to share a story of a victim. Each of these soldiers proudly served their country, each was raped, and each was subjected to a system of justice that protects the perpetrator, not the victim. This is a problem we can fix; we just have to want to.

I will continue to share these stories until something changes. Survivors can email me at stopmilitaryrape@mail.house.gov if they would like to speak up.

Today, I want to share the story of Sergeant Myla Haider. Sergeant Haider served in the Army from 1994 to 1999, and again from November 2000 to October 2005. When Sergeant Haider entered the Army, she planned on being a career servicemember; but in 2002, Sergeant Haider was raped while she was working with the CID, the Criminal Investigative Division. Ironically, it is the CID that is charged with investigating crimes, including rape and sexual assault, in the military.

On this occasion, after socializing with a group of CID colleagues, the

rapist, a senior agent in CID, isolated Sergeant Haider from the group and raped her. Sergeant Haider, like the overwhelming majority of servicemembers raped in the military, did not report the crime. She didn't report the rape because she had witnessed firsthand the negative attitude that the CID had towards rape victims and didn't believe she would be able to obtain justice if she had reported being raped.

She did, however, confide in two friends, both other division agents at CID. They both promised her that they would not report the rape because they agreed with her assessment that reporting the rape would not lead to justice.

Two years later, in November 2004, Sergeant Haider was contacted by a CID agent who had learned from one of Sergeant Haider's friends that she had been raped 2 years earlier by a senior CID agent. The CID agent informed her that the assailant was being investigated for raping several other women and indecently assaulting others. A serial rapist in the military.

In 2005, Sergeant Haider testified at her rapist's court-martial. However, the agents that Sergeant Haider had confided in testified for the rapist. Sergeant Haider later learned from the agents that they had been threatened by command if they didn't testify on behalf of the accused. So, in order to preserve their careers at CID, they followed orders.

In describing her decision to speak out, she said this: I knew my career was over because our soldiers cannot report a rape in the military and expect to have a successful military career.

You see, only 13 percent of those that are raped in the military actually report it. And of those 13 percent, 90 percent of them are involuntarily honorably discharged from the military. So I have become painfully aware that at the rate the Department of Defense is working to address this issue, the epidemic of military sexual assault will never end.

It is long past time for Congress to act. The real question is: When will we start protecting those that defend us?

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MOORE. I'm here today to join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

I wear my purple ribbon because I'm incredibly supportive of the goals of this commemorative month and yet painfully aware that domestic violence does not confine itself to one singular month. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage all of us to keep our focus on this pernicious issue year round.

It's not an exaggeration to say that domestic violence is an epidemic in this country. It affects nearly one in four women. This violence has far-reaching effects, not just for women and sometimes men who experience it, but for their families, including their children, as well as their employers and their communities, for generation after generation.

The statistics and stories from my home State of Wisconsin provide a small snapshot of the impact of this violence. The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families reports that between October 1, 2009, and September 30, 2010, nearly 41,000 women, children, and men received services from domestic violence victim service providers in Wisconsin. And over 6,600 people sought refuge in a domestic violence shelter.

□ 1050

The Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence publishes an annual homicide report detailing domestic violence-related homicides. They've done this since 2000. And in this time span, at least 532 people have lost their lives in incidents related to domestic violence.

Last year, in 2010, there were 39 domestic violence homicide incidents resulting in 58 deaths, 51 homicides and seven perpetrator suicides. These deaths represent nearly one-third of all homicides in 2010 in Wisconsin. Victims in these incidents came from 17 counties across the State and included both the young and the old—the youngest was less than 1 year old and the oldest was 87 years old. And as a result of these homicides, at least 12 children were left orphaned or without a mother.

In Milwaukee County, where the Fourth Congressional District is located, there were 21 domestic violence-related homicides last year. And they include Mae Helm, 58, brutally stabbed by her boyfriend in her own apartment; Shannon Dorsey, 44, strangled with a belt by her boyfriend, age 46; and Sabrina Junior, 43 years old, who was stabbed to death by her partner while the couple's 11-year-old daughter cowered in a closet with her two younger sisters. Children are too often left with neither parents nor appropriate treatment for the collateral damage of domestic violence.

As cochair of the Congressional Caucus of Women's Issues and a longtime supporter of domestic violence-related legislation—and as a survivor of domestic violence—I want to take this opportunity to reiterate my pledge to work towards greater, stronger, and more public policy initiatives to meet the overwhelming need that remains for victim services and a range of domestic violence programs. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the same.

We simply cannot continue to stand by and tolerate the ongoing funding gap for victim services while lives are at risk. Three women a day die as a result of domestic violence. We must

continue to maximize our opportunities for intervening in ways that fit individual victims' needs. We need culturally competent services. We need services for children. And we must make the most of every opportunity for education and advocacy and prevention services. I sure hope my colleagues will join me this month and every month in the fight to support victims of domestic violence through funding more programming.

THE FOOD STAMP CHALLENGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about the millions of Americans who woke up this morning facing a separate and unequal America, a separate and unequal America marked not by the American Dream and limitless opportunities, but an America of the unemployed and poverty stricken, an America marked by struggle and fear of the future—the struggle just to find a job, the struggle to keep their home, the struggle to put enough food on the table.

Americans all across the country are struggling and believe that their government is not looking out for their best interests and instead is working just for rich bankers and massive corporations. People across the Nation are losing faith in our democratic processes and, thank goodness, are taking to the streets to tell their friends, neighbors, and their government that much more must be done for the American people and not just for the super rich. They are saying very loudly that the obstacles to achieving the American Dream must be removed. Too many families across our great Nation are wondering for the first time if our children's generation will be left worse off than the generation before it.

I urge the Republican leadership of the House to quickly pass the President's American Jobs Act to restore the American economy and bring some relief to the millions of Americans who are struggling every day just to get by.

Mr. Speaker, more than 46 million Americans will apply for food stamps this month. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, previously known to many as food stamps, provides the average person a benefit of about \$133 a month—that's \$4.50 a day, \$1.50 a meal. There is a Member of the Senate, however, who seems to believe that there might be millions of Americans who are getting rich by applying for food stamps. Let me assure the good Senator from Alabama that it is not fraud that is causing the rising demand for nutrition assistance in America, but the years of failed economic policies that have lined the pockets of corporate billionaires and left average Americans behind. A program with one of the lowest fraud rates of any program in our entire government is not out of control.

But let me state as clearly as I can, having to apply for food stamps to put enough food on the table to keep your children from going hungry is not like winning the lottery. One in seven Americans do receive food stamps, but millions more are eligible but don't apply. And I'm certain that each and every family would be willing to trade in their book of food stamps for a decent job with livable wages and benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I'm taking part in the Fourth Annual Food Stamp Challenge, along with several other Members on this side of the aisle—Congressman TIM RYAN of Ohio, Congressman JOE COURTNEY of Connecticut, Chairman EMANUEL CLEAVER of Missouri, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE of Ohio, Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ of Florida, Congresswoman JAN SCHAKOWSKY of Illinois, and Congresswoman GWEN MOORE of Wisconsin. And I invite every Member of Congress to join us in living for a few days or a week on what a family on food stamps will face every day of the year. I hope that the challenge will open our eyes to the challenges and the struggles of the millions of Americans who face hunger each and every day. Living in poverty and facing food insecurity means missed meals, poor health, and lost productivity.

Even if you choose not to join the Food Stamp Challenge, I encourage you all to stop and consider what it means to have \$31.50 to spend on food for the entire week. Stop for a moment and consider that there are over 46 million Americans who have to swallow their pride and ask for help just to put food on the table. As a former recipient of food stamps myself as a single young mom, I know how difficult this is. I did it because I had to do it just to get over some very difficult times. Forty-six million Americans who reached out to their fellow Americans during their time of need—and I thank the American people during my time of need—they were glad to be there to lend a helping hand. We cannot make cuts to SNAP or Medicaid or Social Security right when children and senior citizens need them the most. So I hope that my colleagues take up the Food Stamp Challenge.

I also encourage each Member to join me and the 43 other Members of the Congressional Out-of-Poverty Caucus in ending poverty in America to ensure that no family in our country needs to ever face hunger again. The Out-of-Poverty Caucus is working to reignite the American Dream so that every man, woman, and child is provided the opportunities to achieve the American Dream. But right now, these 47 million people living in poverty and on food stamps need us to protect the safety net.

And for those individuals and persons of faith, we have to remember that this is a moral issue also. I want to remind you of the Scripture, "To whom much is given, much is expected." It's also an

economic issue though; for every \$1 spent on food stamps, \$1.79 is placed into the economy.

THE FOOD STAMP CHALLENGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. On Thursday, I will join my colleague Representative BARBARA LEE, Catholic Charities USA, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the National Council of Churches, and several other Congress Members that my colleague mentioned to participate in the Food Stamp Challenge, an effort to draw attention to the crisis of hunger in America.

□ 1100

As part of the challenge, participants will eat on the average SNAP allotment. That's what we call it now. There's no more food stamps. Now people get a card that they can actually use to charge the food. But we'll eat on the average SNAP allotment of \$1.50 per meal for a week.

Having participated in this event in the past, I know it is extremely difficult to eat a healthy diet under such strict budgetary guidelines. Nevertheless, SNAP is the difference between chronic hunger and a basic meal for 45 million Americans.

Now, obviously, that means I'm going to give up any Starbucks coffee. But even the \$1 coffee that I was able to buy in the cloakroom just before I came out here is something that will be just too precious to spend. That's almost a whole meal's worth just to buy that cup of coffee.

In 2010, 14.5 percent of American households were food insecure, meaning they lacked the capacity to put enough food on their tables. They relied on nutrition programs like SNAP to make ends meet.

In this, the wealthiest country in the world, one out of four American children is now food insecure, meaning there are nights that they go to sleep hungry. It really is a moral issue, as my colleague pointed out.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—that's SNAP—provides an essential safety net for American families. More than half of SNAP recipients are children.

The Republican budget passed in the House—with no Democratic support, I might add—would cut \$127 billion from SNAP over the next decade, a 20 percent cut. The House Agriculture appropriations bill—passed, again, with no Democratic support—would also cut the SNAP program.

You know, these may be just numbers, \$127 billion here and several billion dollars there, but their effects are very real for people across the country. I recently received dozens of messages on paper plates from EZRA Multi-Service Center in Chicago. They rely on SNAP to make ends meet, and they