

our high school students, for our college students, for our post-college students to ensure that they are going to have the academic skills that are needed to fill the tremendous demand for employees in the technology sector.

EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS, PREVENTION AND EDUCATION ACT OF 2000

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, food is one of life's greatest pleasures. Food is also one of life's greatest necessities. Yet, for many, food is the enemy, and the act of eating is torture.

Today it is estimated that 5 to 10 million Americans suffer from eating related diseases, including anorexia, bulimia, and binge eating disorder. As many as 50,000 of these individuals will die as a direct result of eating-related illnesses. High school girls are the most common victims of these deadly diseases, but a significant number of males also experience eating related problems.

We are all aware of the medical complications that result from anorexia or bulimia: malnutrition, liver damage, gum erosion, and, as I mentioned previously, even death. However, an often-overlooked consequence of eating disorders is the negative impact they have on a child's educational advancement. Due to lapses in concentration, loss of self-esteem, depression, and engaging in self-destructive behaviors, students with eating disorders often see their school performances decline.

Listen to how one young woman in my district described the destruction wreaked on her life by an eating disorder. I quote, "I am a 16-year-old girl with anorexia. Having this disease has been the most horrible experience of my life. It completely takes control of your life. It breaks up your family, friends, and your actual thinking decisions. I have had this disorder for over a year and a half. Over that year and a half, I have slowly been killing myself."

Despite the social and physical devastation these diseases inflict on young people, such as the girl I just mentioned, very few States or school districts have adequate programs or services to help children suffering from weight-related disorders.

It is for this reason that I rise today to introduce the Eating Disorders Awareness Prevention and Education Act of 2000. This legislation is made up of three separate but interrelated sections. Together these provisions are designed to raise national awareness of the problems caused by eating disorders and to expand opportunities for parents and educators to address them at the school level.

This last goal is particularly crucial, as 86 percent of all eating disorder problems start by the age of 20. It is

even more important when one considers that 10 percent of all victims report the onset of their illness by the age of 10.

Here is a quick summary of what the Eating Disorders Awareness Prevention and Education Act will do to combat this growing problem. First, the legislation provides States and local school districts with the option of using title VI funds, also known as the Innovative Strategies State Grant Program, to set up eating disorder prevention, awareness, and education programs.

This provision is consistent with congressional efforts over the past decade to raise educational achievement and increase student performance across the board.

Let us face it, a student suffering from an eating disorder is not going to perform at the highest achievement levels. This was confirmed during conversations with educators in my home State of Illinois. Over and over again, they told me about students whose grades dropped substantially or in some cases had to withdraw from school because of an eating disorder.

The second major provision of this bill is to conduct a joint study by the Department of Education and the National Center for Health to report to Congress on the impact eating disorders have on educational advancement and achievement.

The study will evaluate the extent to which students with eating disorders are more likely to miss school, have delayed rates of development or reduced cognitive skills. The study will also inventory the best practices of current State and local programs to educate youth about the dangers of eating disorders as well as assess the values of such programs.

The third and final section of this legislation calls for the Department of Education and Health and Human Services to carry out a national eating disorder public awareness campaign. This campaign will be similar to the anti-drug campaign now run by the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Mr. Speaker, eating disorders present a serious threat to health and educational advancement of our Nation's children. They must be addressed.

The Eating Disorders Awareness Prevention and Education Act gives States, local school districts, and parents the tools to address this problem at its root, in schools and classrooms across the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank those of my colleagues who have joined me in introducing this bipartisan legislation.

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

(Mr. WU addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

COLOMBIA IS NOT VIETNAM

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

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, we are about to consider a supplemental appropriations bill here in Congress. One of the things I keep hearing is, is the antinarcotics effort in Colombia going to lead us into another Vietnam. The ridiculous thing is that it shows what happens when we have a President without a clear foreign policy and no clear definition of compelling national interests.

We are certainly embroiled in another potential Vietnam. It is Kosovo. If one looks at the front page of the Washington Post today, it says "Kosovo Attacks Stir U.S. Concern. Official Says NATO May Have to Fight Ethnic Albanians."

When we were on the ground just before we voted the funds here in the House and Senate to support this effort, visited the camps of the Kosovars in Macedonia and other places, they said, no, we are not going to go back under the Serbs. Of course we are going to fight to take over this. We are going to be independent. There was not a single person who did not believe that they were going to continue their internal civil war.

What defines a clear compelling national interest is how it relates to the United States. In this bill, we are putting money back into the military that the President stripped out for Kosovo, but I do not hear complaints about that.

But in Colombia, we do have a clear compelling national interest, and it is most certainly not like Vietnam. In Vietnam, we were across the other side of the continent. Here, Colombia is a 2-hour flight from Miami, Florida, and produces 80 percent of the cocaine that comes into the United States, the drugs that are on the streets of Fort Wayne of northeast Indiana and all over this country.

Colombia has 40 million people. It is the second largest country in our hemisphere known historically as the area of the Monroe Doctrine, the fifth largest economy, and the oldest democracy in Latin America. This is not a propped up government like we were dealing with at multiple times in Vietnam. This is a democratically-elected government. In fact, the narco-guerillas do not have any popular support unlike the Viet Cong, which we could argue about how much they had.

But here is the latest approval ratings in Colombian polls: 73 percent for the Catholic Church, 71 percent for the Colombian National Police, 69 percent for the Colombian military, 9 percent for the terrorist paramilitary, and only 4 percent for the FARC and ELN. They know they do not even have the popular will in any village in their country. They control rural areas by force, but they do not control the major metro areas. The only way they can control the rural areas is by force.