

trade restrictions against non-Parties. As Secretaries Albright and Cohen have recently underscored, ratifying the CWC before it enters into force is in the best interests of the United States.

The CWC contains a number of provisions that require implementing legislation to give them effect within the United States. These include: carrying out verification activities, including inspections of U.S. facilities; collecting and protecting the confidentiality of data declarations by U.S. chemical and related companies; and establishing a "National Authority" to serve as the liaison between the United States and the international organization established by the CWC.

In addition, the CWC requires the United States to prohibit all individuals and legal entities, such as corporations, within the United States, as well as all individuals outside the United States, possessing U.S. Citizenship, from engaging in activities that are prohibited under the Convention. As part of this obligation, the CWC requires the United States to enact "penal" legislation implementing this prohibition (i.e., legislation that penalizes conduct, either by criminal, administrative, military or other sanctions).

Expedient enactment of implementing legislation is very important to the ability of the United States to fulfill its obligations under the Convention. Enactment will enable the United States to collect the required information from industry, to provide maximum protection for confidential information, and to allow the inspections called for in the Convention. It will also enable the United States to outlaw all activities related to chemical weapons, except CWC permitted activities such as chemical defense programs. This will help fight chemical terrorism by penalizing not just the use, but also the development, production and transfer of chemical weapons. Thus, the enactment of legislation by the United States and other CWC States Parties will make it much easier for law enforcement officials to investigate and punish chemical terrorists early, before chemical weapons are used.

As the President indicated in his transmittal letter of the Convention: "The CWC is in the best interests of the United States. Its provisions will significantly strengthen United States, allied and international security, and enhance global and regional stability." Therefore, I urge the Congress to enact the necessary implementing legislation as soon as possible.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this proposal and its enactment is in accord with the President's program.

Sincerely,

JOHN D. HOLUM,  
*Director.*

IN SUPPORT OF WEI JINGSHENG

**HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 1997*

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues today in submitting a CONGRESSIONAL RECORD statement on behalf of Mr. Wei Jingsheng, a Chinese dissident and political prisoner.

Mr. Jingsheng's book, "The Courage To Stand Alone: Letters from Prison and Other Writings," was scheduled for publication yesterday. I would like this statement to stand as support for Mr. Jingsheng, his fight for free-

dom of speech, and for the cause of democracy in China today. Eighteen years of prison confinement have not caused him to waver in his quest for freedom. In the face of relentless attacks, his spirit remains unbroken.

He has endured unlawful imprisonment, by China's own standards, for expressing his belief in democracy for China. He is allowed to be tormented by his prison cellmates, his mail has been confiscated, his reading material is censored, and he is barely permitted to see his family. His lengthy and torturous prison term has led to the severe deterioration of his physical health. He is in dire need of medical attention which the Chinese Government continues to deny to him. This oppression and injustice must stop.

I urge the Chinese Government to reconsider its actions and treatment against Mr. Jingsheng. I urge my colleagues to join with me and speak out against the abuses being suffered by Mr. Jingsheng. Let us not turn a blind eye to the plight of Wei Jingsheng and others like him in the world who believe in the promise of democracy. The end to this suffering will only come when we, as a collective, consistently speak out against the violation of human rights throughout the world.

SEAT BELTS ON SCHOOL BUSES

**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 1997*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to require seat belts on school buses. Since this is National SAFE KIDS Week, this is an appropriate time to introduce a bill to improve the safety of school bus travel for our Nation's children.

My legislation would prohibit the manufacture, sale, delivery, or importation of school buses that do not have seat belts, and impose civil penalties for those that do not comply. Our Nation's schoolchildren deserve safe transportation to and from school, and their parents deserve peace of mind. We have a responsibility to provide both.

National SAFE KIDS Week is dedicated to preventing unintentional childhood injury, the No. 1 killer of children ages 14 and younger. Since 1985, over 1,478 people have died in school bus-related crashes—an average of 134 fatalities a year. School bus occupants accounted for 11 percent of these deaths. Just last year in my State of Wisconsin, there were more than 950 school buses involved in crashes and over 450 occupant injuries.

Every year, approximately 394,000 public schoolbuses travel about 4.3 billion miles to transport 23.5 million children to and from school-related activities. These numbers argue for the highest level of safety we can provide. I believe my bill is a step in this direction.

I urge my colleagues to also support this important legislation, which has been endorsed by the American Medical Association and the American College of Emergency Physicians. We must work together, at the local, State, and Federal level to prevent school bus injuries.

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

**HON. WALTER H. CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 1997*

Mr. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, as a Representative for the 22d District of California, I am honored to bring to the attention of my colleagues the achievement of Yi-Hui Lee, a senior at Dos Pueblos High School. Yi-Hui Lee was awarded a \$500 scholarship by the Santa Barbara League of Women Voters for her paper entitled "Making Democracy Work."

I commend Yi-Hui Lee on her outstanding essay and hope that her enthusiasm for American democracy will continue as she enters the University of Los Angeles next year. I would like to present this paper to my colleagues.

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

(Yi-Hui Lee)

American democracy is a system of government that serves the people through representation. This is achieved through the collaboration of a Constitutional bureaucratic framework, the Bill of Rights, and political tolerance. The United States' Constitution, and its inevitable bureaucratic framework, is structured to maintain checks and balances within the government, which, in return, prevents the rise of any unscrupulous demagogue and seeks the true interests of the people. The Bill of Rights further extends this objective by ensuring individuals' rights to liberty, thus, fostering a higher development in people's political efficacy and involvement. Nevertheless, even with this established Constitutional framework, the public's minimal tolerance is essential in making democracy work. The absence of any one of these factors will make *participatory* democracy different from the one existing in the United States today.

By decentralizing governmental powers and providing an equitable bureaucratic structure, the Constitution makes American democracy into the currently practiced, Aristotle definition of the "rule of many." This type of government exists under the creation of a shared power among the judicial, executive, and legislative branches, each one of which watches over the other and assures the checks and balances of the system. As a result, when no one body of government has potential to dictate, the ideal of American democracy that all may be heard is preserved. On a smaller scale, the structure of Congress was adjusted to counteract the difference in population of the states by working under a bicameral legislature. In order to maintain a democratic freedom, in which both majority and state views are heard, the "Great Compromise" was organized and established. The Great Compromise reconciled the interests of both small and large states by creating a House of Representatives—apportioned on the basis of population—and a Senate—consisting of two senators for each state. By working under this bureaucratic framework, the checks and balances made through decentralization and equal representation allows all sides to present their views.

The Bill of Rights is another crucial element in making participatory democracy possible in America. Because Americans live under the protection of the first ten amendments, they find themselves more open to publicly voicing their opinions and raising their political efficacy and involvement. The youth of this generation have actively demonstrated their high awareness of and deep concern for some of the most controversial