

of cocaine, a wave of methamphetamines and illegal hard designer drugs are coming into this country and affecting our youth, our schools, our cities and our streets.

Mexico has failed to extradite a single drug kingpin trafficker to the United States to stand trial.

The facts are that Mexico has failed to adopt a maritime narcotics agreement with the United States.

The facts are that the United States drug enforcement chief, the chief of our DEA, Tom Constantine recommended against certification of Mexico according to the Washington Post. Let me quote what he said in a confidential assessment by the Drug Enforcement Administration. It says that the country has had a continued impunity to arrest or to detain the country's biggest drug traffickers.

Let me quote. During the past year, the analysis reads, the government of Mexico has not accomplished its counternarcotics goal or succeeded in cooperation with the United States Government. The level of drug corruption in Mexico continues unabated. This is from the director of our United States Drug Enforcement Agency.

The Mexican government is involved in corruption from the street level to its highest offices and ministries.

Mexico has refused to authorize United States law enforcement agents to carry weapons for their own protection.

The scope of Mexican drug trafficking has increased significantly. This is not just my opinion, this is also the opinion of our Drug Enforcement Agency.

Again heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine continue to enter the United States in unprecedented quantities.

Let me tell my colleagues what this tidal wave of drugs is doing. We have 2 million Americans in prison. I am told that nearly 80 percent of those who are incarcerated in the jails and prisons of the United States are there because of their relationship to drugs, drug abuse or a drug-related crime. Heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine use by our youth has skyrocketed. We must decertify Mexico. I ask for Members' cosponsorship of this joint resolution.

SALUTE TO ROCKY FORD, COLORADO AND THE BOETTCHER FOUNDATION

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

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, Rocky Ford, Colorado is one of the greatest places on earth. Rarely do great families, prosperous entrepreneurs, genuine leaders and abundant agriculture coexist in such prodigious proportions as they do in Rocky Ford.

Rocky Ford was doubly blessed recently to receive an important private grant which promises to move a signifi-

cant community project closer to completion. The objective of my remarks is to highlight this event and the people of Rocky Ford and to further call the Nation's attention to this great city and to the foundation which has made the municipality even greater.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Colorado's Boettcher Foundation, which has consistently improved the lives of Colorado's residents through grants for community projects and scholarships for students. The State of Colorado has clearly benefited by the work of the fine men and women of the organization and we all owe them a great debt of thanks. Today along with my constituents in Rocky Ford, I applaud the foundation specifically for its generous gift to the city and its people of funds to expand the Rocky Ford community center.

The funds donated to the city have allowed for a very special addition to the center. In order to complete the project, the city submitted a proposal and now that it has been approved, the grant will be sufficient to complete the new center, joining the new and old centers via a construction passageway. I join the city of Rocky Ford in extending our warmest thanks to the Boettcher Foundation.

Furthermore, I would like to offer my thanks to the Boettcher Foundation as a whole. The grant awarded my constituents in Rocky Ford is one of many that have aided projects across the State. Thanks to the foundation, dozens of Colorado programs serving thousands of its citizens have received funding. These programs range from athletic opportunities for disabled youth to housing services to community buildings. Every corner of our great State has at some point been aided by the helping hand of the Boettcher Foundation. We are all the better for it.

As we recognize the Boettcher Foundation and its many contributions, let us remember that it is individuals and groups such as this one that cause America to thrive. Their generosity and good deeds are a credit to the State of Colorado and to the Nation.

Again, Mr. Speaker, congratulations to the good people of Rocky Ford and our friends at the Boettcher Foundation.

FEDERAL COMMITMENT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, today all over America our schools are inadequate, overcrowded and literally falling down. In Miami students learn to read and write in temporary trailers. Here in our Nation's capital, schools have been closed for violating the fire code. In New York City, students dodge falling plaster and attend class in hallways and cafeterias. It is really ex-

traordinary to me after having visited so many of the schools in the metropolitan region of New York that in the United States of America youngsters go to school with plastic actually holding up the ceiling. This, in the most prosperous and advanced Nation in the world. It just does not make any sense.

A 1996 GAO report confirmed the worst. Record numbers of school buildings across America are in disrepair. One-third of all schools serving 14 million students need extensive repairs. About 60 percent of schools need to have roofs, walls or floors fixed. With school enrollment skyrocketing, this problem will only get worse. It is time for the Federal Government to act. This is a local problem that demands a national response. Our school modernization bond proposal will allocate \$19.4 billion for zero interest bonds to fix old schools and build new ones all across the Nation. This is absolutely an essential idea that is creating a partnership between the Federal, State and local governments. The Federal Government should not assume the total responsibility, but we have an obligation to build that partnership. If the Federal Government can help States build prisons and roads, then certainly they should be able to help build schools.

Just look at some of the numbers. Due to the baby boom echo, the children of baby boomers filling the schools, particularly the high schools across the country are once again bulging with students. The demand for school facilities will continue to be high. School enrollment is projected to continue to climb over the next several years, growing from 52.2 million in the 1997-98 school year to 54.3 million by the year 2006-07. With school enrollments rising at the same time that the budgets for building new classrooms have been constrained, overcrowding has become a common problem.

I say to my partners on the other side of the aisle, if we really want to keep down property taxes, then in addition to building roads and highways and bridges and prisons, we have a responsibility to help with our schools. Because of this partnership, it will keep down the local property taxes. This is everywhere.

In California, a 35 percent increase in high school enrollment is projected. In North Carolina, 27 percent increase. In Arizona, 25 percent. In Nevada, 24 percent. In Massachusetts, 23 percent. In Rhode Island, 21 percent. In Georgia, 20 percent. In Virginia, 20 percent. In Texas, 19 percent. And on and on. The bottom line is we have to build schools. The Education Department estimates that 6,000 new schools will have to be built over the next 10 years in response to this rapid growth in school enrollment.

What do poor building conditions have to do with our students' achievement? According to all the studies that have been done, there is a direct connection. For example, a 1991 study of