

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the Committee on Education and the Workforce subcommittee under the direction of the gentleman from California (Mr. RIGGS) is going to hold a special hearing on the question of school choice options for the children of D.C.

As we know, Washington, D.C., has some very, very good schools and schools that we can be proud of. But unfortunately, it has some very tragic failures of schools. And in these hearings tomorrow, the gentleman from California (Mr. RIGGS) and his committee are going to focus on this number, 7,573, one out of every 10 families in the city who qualified for low-income scholarships to take their children from a school that was failing the children to a school where they would have new opportunity, who are left disappointed because we have not yet been able to convince the President to sign a simple bill that takes \$7 million of additional money and allocates it to scholarships for these children.

I would like to talk for a moment about just one of these children, little David, nine years old, finally got from a school where he was frightened, where he was intimidated, where he felt himself to be a failure, to a school where the other students respected him, appreciated him, the teachers nurtured him.

He was liked and popular because he got good grades in math and science. Because he got good grades in math and science, he was popular with the other students, he was popular with the teachers, and he had a new self-esteem.

David's mother unhappily does not do well in her personal life. She is not often there for David. His father, unfortunately, is even more rarely there for David and uses him as a lookout for illegal transactions when he does pay any attention to him.

But David has found a joy in his life. Because somebody thought enough of this child to give him a helping hand, David gets himself up every morning, gets himself on the bus, gets himself to school where he will make of himself a successful and happy man in his adulthood, caring more than he was ever cared, for his own children.

These are the things we can do if we just care enough to reach out to these children, one child at a time.

#### HELP FOR D.C. SCHOOLS

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I just want to correct the record. The District is nobody's burden and no one's responsibility except the responsibility of the residents of the District. I correct what the Speaker said in that regard.

The majority claims it wants to help, it wants a D.C. voucher bill to help D.C. youngsters. How can such a claim be credible when a veto of vouchers has

been promised and a lawsuit would be inevitable?

Do Members want to help? Our youngsters need help now. Twenty-five percent of our students will be attending a newly established summer program to keep them from failing, to quickly improve their performance and even to offer advanced work and enrichment as the city pressures themselves to new and more vigorous standards.

Do my colleagues want to help? Help these 25 percent who need our help now. Vouchers for 7,000 kids will not do it.

#### BOUNTY HUNTERS

(Mr. HUTCHINSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, in July of 1994, Jrae Mason, a grandmother, was sitting on the front porch of her house in Manhattan when she was approached by two strangers, bounty hunters who believed her to be a woman who had skipped bail in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Despite Ms. Mason's protests to the contrary, these strangers handcuffed her and forcibly took her to the police station. Despite police verification that she was who she said she was, the bounty hunters forcibly took her from New York to Alabama in handcuffs, in essence, kidnapped her.

In Alabama, Ms. Mason finally convinced authorities that she was the wrong person. It was not hard to do since she looked nothing like the bail jumper.

Three-and-a-half days and 910 miles later the bounty hunters finally acknowledged their error. Did they send her back to New York on an airplane? Of course not. They paid for a bus ticket to send Ms. Mason home.

Is it not time for a little accountability in the bounty hunter profession? Skilled professional bounty hunters want it. Our law enforcement community wants it. And certainly innocent Americans want it.

This will be the subject of a hearing in the Committee on the Judiciary tomorrow. I urge my colleagues to support the Citizens Protection Act.

#### PASS SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION LEGISLATION

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, this Congress must take action to address the serious need for school construction in this country for our children.

Across this country at this very moment more than 52 million school children are attending class. Unfortunately, far too many of these children are not being educated in modern, well-equipped facilities where discipline and order foster academic achievement.

Unfortunately for many of our Nation's school children, class is being taught in a trailer, in a closet, in an overstuffed or run-down classroom.

Mr. Speaker, the General Accounting Office has identified more than \$112 billion in school construction needs in America. As a former State superintendent of our State's schools, I know that North Carolina needs more than \$6 billion to build new school facilities for our children.

For example, there are as many as 13,000 children in Wake County, North Carolina, alone right now being educated in trailers. Experts at the Department of Education project that my State's high school enrollment will grow by more than 27 percent in the next decade.

Mr. Speaker, no student in America should be forced to attend class in substandard facilities. No teacher in America should be required to struggle in overcrowded classrooms, and no child in America should be condemned to school in a trailer. We need to fix it now.

#### UNFAIRNESS IN TAX CODE: MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, why is enactment of the Marriage Tax Elimination Act so important? Do Americans feel that it is fair that our tax code imposes a higher tax penalty on marriage? Do Americans feel that it is fair that 21 million American married working couples pay \$1,400 more in taxes than an identical couple with identical incomes living together outside a marriage? Do Americans feel that it is right that our tax code actually provides an incentive to get divorced? Of course not.

The marriage tax penalty is unfair and it is wrong. The marriage tax penalty results when you have two individuals who choose to marry and their combined income, when they file jointly, pushes them into a higher tax bracket.

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Twenty-one million married working couples pay this tax penalty, on average \$1,400 a year. And on the south side of Chicago and the south suburbs I represent, that is 1 year's tuition at a local community college; that is 3 months' worth of day care at a local child care center.

The Marriage Tax Elimination Act now has 238 bipartisan sponsors and would immediately eliminate the marriage tax penalty. The marriage tax penalty is unfair, it is wrong. Let us eliminate it and let us eliminate it now.

#### CONGRESS MUST STEP IN AND SOLVE IRS ABUSE

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House