

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

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Imagine this, Mr. Speaker. The IRS kicks down your door without a warrant and takes everything. Then the IRS, without a warrant, raids your partner's home. They arrest him at gunpoint in front of his small children and take everything. Then the IRS goes to your business, they question your customers, they threaten your employees, they take everything that is not nailed down.

Sound incredible? Not for the IRS. It was later ruled that the IRS was guilty, guilty, guilty. Guilty of assault, guilty of illegal search and seizure and guilty of false imprisonment.

Beam me up, Congress. When the IRS starts acting like Nazis, that is right, listen to the word, Nazis, Congress must step in and Congress must solve this dilemma for the American people.

I am asking you to cosponsor H.R. 3277, my bill that will stop illegal searches and illegal seizures.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MONROE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of serving on the board of trustees for the Monroe Regional Medical Center in my hometown of Ocala, Florida. It is an honor for me this morning to take the floor to recognize the 100th anniversary of this wonderful hospital.

In 1898, the Marion Surgical Hospital was organized into two rooms on the third floor of an office building in Ocala, Florida. Since then, the hospital has been in different locations under different names but its mission has remained constant, serving the medical needs of those within the community.

We are proud that our hospital provides care for patients without regard to race, religion, national origin or financial status. The Monroe Regional Medical Center has changed dramatically from its modest beginnings. It is now a modern 323-bed, acute-care facility. This is a not-for-profit hospital. It is owned and supported by our community.

I appreciate this opportunity to pay tribute to the fourth oldest hospital in the State of Florida for 100 years of service. Congratulations.

#### CONGRESS MUST ENSURE THAT MANAGED CARE IS QUALITY CARE

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, health care is in transition. Private and public purchasers of health care are turning to managed care. Today, more than 160 million Americans are in managed care plans.

The shift to managed care has implications for health care quality. Managed care must be more than managed cost.

On the cover of today's Washington Post is a story about a woman who fell from a cliff while hiking. She had fractures to her skull, arm and pelvis. Her HMO refused to pay her hospital bills, saying she had failed to obtain preauthorization. Only after several court battles did the HMO pay anything for this woman's care.

This is unacceptable. Individuals must have access to and payment for emergency care in any situation that a prudent layperson would regard as an emergency. Every American deserves quality care. Managed care reforms are necessary to ensure that managed care is quality care.

#### AMERICANS DEMAND COMPLETE OVERHAUL OF IRS AND REFORM OF TAX CODE

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Associated Press released its results on the latest survey conducted on how much Americans trust their government. Well, not surprisingly, it found that out of every 10 Americans only three or four believe their government will do the right thing most or all the time. Mr. Speaker, more than 60 percent of Americans do not trust their government.

This survey also asked people what they felt about various government agencies in Washington that increasingly intrude into their daily lives. Well, not surprisingly, the numbers showed that the IRS has dropped significantly. Of all the government agencies, the IRS has the lowest approval rating of all. Truly shocking? Not really.

Now, even though there is a strong message here, I have absolute total confidence that my liberal colleagues and defenders of big government will ignore it. However, the message is clear: The people demand a complete overhaul of the IRS and real reform of our Tax Code and now is the time to act.

#### REPUBLICAN INACTION ON TOBACCO

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this year Congress has been the do-nothing Congress. The Republican leadership sits idle while each day 3,000 children get hooked on tobacco products. Of those, 1,000 who start today will die early because of tobacco-related diseases. This is an epidemic that deserves congressional action now.

While the Republican leadership continues to cash in on big tobacco cam-

paign contributions, Democrats today will roll out legislation that stops tobacco companies dead in their tracks from peddling their poison to children.

So far in this Congress we have managed to rename airports, post offices and public buildings. Congress needs to step up to the plate and pass tobacco legislation for America's children. The evidence is clear: Big tobacco has pushed their product onto children.

Democrats are fighting to prevent tobacco companies from this nasty habit. The Republican leadership would rather protect their special interest friends than protect the Nation's children from joining the tobacco ranks. The American people will not stand for this inaction.

#### CONGRESS MUST TAKE ACTION NOW TO STOP IRS ABUSE

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

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I learned as a child from reading the Bible that tax collectors have never been popular, and that, I suspect, will never change. But I do not think that that can explain the growing hostility of more and more taxpayers towards the IRS.

Now, I know that our liberal friends will dismiss that out of hand, saying how easy it is to bash the IRS. But they demonstrate in doing this that once again they simply do not care how good decent American taxpayers are treated by the IRS. We were elected to care and to do something about this runaway agency.

The fact is people are unhappy with the IRS for a very good reason. There is clearly an abuse of power. I am talking about honest, average Americans facing an audit, who make an honest mistake and then are treated as criminals by the IRS, while the courts turn their back on the fact that these people deserve due process. Mr. Speaker, we must, in the Congress, do something about this abuse.

#### LOIS CAPPS WINS 22ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ELECTION IN CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my soon-to-be colleague, Lois Capps. Lois won an impressive victory in yesterday's special election in California's 22nd Congressional District. She won the election 53 percent to 45 percent with a margin of more than 12,000 votes.

The message from this special election is clear: The Democratic agenda, providing education opportunities, putting 100,000 new teachers in our classrooms, providing affordable and safe child care, access to health care and