transport and the political and scientific difficulty of the problem. A mechanism to find a workable solution was created. These tools permitted the EPA to establish the ozone transport assessment group to recommend ways to reduce ozone transport in the Northeast.

From these recommendations, EPA may issue rules requiring States to tighten ozone control to prevent the transport of ozone. These are known as the State implementation plans, or SIP. In addition, individual States may petition the EPA to force States suspected of contributing to their problem to reduce the offending emissions.

I am proud to represent a State that has been a leader in the attempt to reduce ozone pollution, which may be more commonly known as smog. It rises when emissions from power plants and cars combine with heat and sunshine. In the Northeast, we have been reducing our emissions on an average between 2.5 and 2.6 pounds of emissions per megawatt hour, whereas in the Midwest it is still in excess of 6.6 pounds.

In the Northeast, we have complied with the regulations; we have made the investments. The industries have gone ahead and done what they were supposed to have done, and have been at a competitive disadvantage, but have followed the letter of the law. All we are asking for today, and tomorrow with a dear colleague to Members here in this body, and Members in the Senate that have completed a dear colleague, and signatures to the EPA, is to enforce the regulations which they already have on the books. We are not asking for any new laws. We are not asking for any new approaches. We are simply saying to adhere to the law that is there.

EPA deserves a pat on the back for the work that they have done in bringing this issue to the forefront. They have the administrative capabilities to implement and to finish the action which they started. As a matter of fact, today in a conversation in our office with the EPA, I was told that they have promulgated regulations, which I will submit for the record, which will take effect on November 30, 1999 and will allow for a 2- or 3-month window beyond that time period before they will require the States to have a plan to reduce their emissions so that we can reduce our ozone pollution, so that we can reduce the threat to respiratory asthmatics and others with health conditions not to mention the environmental conditions of our land and our watersheds and the infecting of our crops where we see that the continued pollution is causing tremendous economic and social and health costs to all of our citizens.

This is not just within Maine or within New England. We are looking at the New Jersey shore, an industrial park in Newark; we are looking at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, a popular vacation spot on Lake Michigan; we are looking at the remote Door County in Wisconsin, a popular vacation get-away in the Midwest, which has been plagued with twice as many dirty days as Milwaukee; and the Great Smoky National Park South by Atlanta.

So this is a problem that is national in scope. The EPA has the tools to do the work. My colleague, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN), has initiated legislation, and in working towards that effort, we are going to continue to put the full focus and force on EPA to do their work.

Mr. Speaker, I am providing for the RECORD the information regarding EPA's promulgation of a rule.

The EPA expects to promulgate a final rule based on this proposal on or before November 30, 1999, when the interim stay expires. To address the possibility of any delay of this final rulemaking, however, EPA is also taking comment on an extension of the interim final stay of the April 30 NFR in the event that EPA needs more time to complete the final rule. The EPA does not expect to need to promulgate such an extension, but if it were necessary, EPA anticipates that a two- or three-month extension should suffice. Providing for a possible extension, if necessary, ensures that the automatic trigger deadlines now in place will not become effective through a lapse in the stay before EPA completes this rulemaking. Under this schedule, the 3-year compliance schedule for source subject to an affirmative finding would still be triggered in time to ensure that the intended emissions reductions are achieved by the start of the 2003 ozone season, as described in the April 30 NFR.

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

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

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

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

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

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

INTRODUCTION OF THE ''FIRST'' ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, almost 2 years ago, the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues held an important hearing on the subject of brain development from birth to age 3. One witness said something that day that really hit home with me. That witness was Dr. Edward Zigler, the sterling professor of psychology at Yale University, commonly known to all of us as the father of Head Start. Dr. Zigler said that there is nothing more important to a child's development than the bonding between the infant and parents during the first few months after birth.

I remember how I felt listening to Dr. Zigler that day, because I knew how few babies get that kind of start in life. If today's children are lucky enough to have both parents living at home, chances are that both work outside the home, and it is just too hard, if not impossible, for new parents to take time off from work without pay for very long after the birth of a new baby.

I decided right then and there that I would introduce a bill to provide paid family leave to all parents. First, I met with Dr. Zigler, however, and got his support. Since then I have spent 2 years meeting with parents, meeting with parent and child advocates, meeting with doctors, researchers, business and labor representatives, and meeting with my colleagues to figure out what is the best way to provide wage replacement as well as job protection for new parents.

What I learned is that there is not one best way to meet the needs of new parents. In fact, there are many different opportunities to provide this benefit. Some States are already providing income-protected leave for new parents through their temporary disability insurance plans, such as my State, California. Several other States are looking into using a surplus in their unemployment insurance funds for this purpose. Others would like to build on the existing Family and Medical Leave Act. That is why I have introduced the Family Income to Respond to Significant Transitions Insurance, or the FIRST Act, which is a companion bill to legislation of the same name introduced by Senator DODD in the other body.

The FIRST Act gives States an opportunity to create paid family leave programs for new parents as well as paid leave for other family needs. The FIRST Act does not tell States how to provide income-protected leave, but it helps them carry out the program of their choice by authorizing $400 million to share in the cost of providing wage replacement for new parents.

Mr. Speaker, the recent tragedies in our Nation's schools and communities compel me to ask the question, ''Who is taking care of our children?'' We all know that during those critical first months it should be the child's parents, the child's mom and the child's dad. But families are struggling to make ends meet, and our children are getting left behind.

Sure, the Family Medical Leave Act gives parents the right to take leave when a new baby joins the family. The fact is, however, that a recent study found that nearly two-thirds of the employees who need family and medical