And officials throughout the government seem to regard their positions of public trust as licenses to steal from their own citizens.

Earlier this year, the people of Zimbabwe soundly rejected a constitutional referendum that would have given the president even greater powers. Commercial farmers, both black and white, as well as the commercial farm workers who comprise 26 percent of Zimbabwe's labor force, fought the referendum and won.

Surprised that anyone should dare question its authority, the ruling party, at the direction of the president, launched a brutal and cynical campaign to cow its political opponents into submission. Peaceful opposition demonstrators have been beaten, harassed, and detained by state security forces. Roving bands of political thugs for hire have beaten farm workers, killed farmers and livestock, burned crops, and stolen equipment. Corruption, greed, and dirty tactics have become the defining characteristics of a once-proud ZANU party leadership.

These activities have not gone unnoticed among Zimbabwe's neighbors and democratic nations around the world. Zimbabwe's law requires that parliamentary elections be held within the next few months. The intimidation and state-sponsored violence we have observed these past few months are designed to keep all power in the hands of the ruling party, which currently holds 147 or the 150 seats of parliament.

These tactics are not just misguided; they are also destined to fail. The people of Zimbabwe are patient. They are loyal. They are respectful of those who fought for liberation. But they are not cowards. They are not ignorant. And their patience is limited.

Every time a farm worker is beaten for asserting his right of free speech, ZANU loses support. Every time a Zimbabwean soldier dies in Congo for a war that means nothing to his family, ZANU loses support. Every time a field lies fallow because the farmers have been driven off, ZANU loses support. And every time land promised to the people winds up in the hands of a corrupt party official, ZANU loses support.

President Mugabe has made the gravest mistake any politician can make: he has underestimated the people he governs.

H. Res. 500 expresses the House of Representatives profound dismay at the practices of Zimbabwe's current leadership and our sincere wish that the people of Zimbabwe, who deserve the political freedoms many of them fought for, will remain steadfast in their peaceful pursuit of democratic reform.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the text of H. Res. 500 at this point in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

H. RES. 500

Whereas people around the world supported the Republic of Zimbabwe's quest for independence, majority rule, and the protection of human rights and the rule of law;

Whereas Zimbabwe, at the time of independence in 1980, showed bright prospects for democracy, economic development, and racial reconciliation;

Whereas the people of Zimbabwe are now suffering the destabilizing effects of a serious, government-sanctioned breakdown in the rule of law, which is critical to economic development as well as domestic tranquility;

Whereas a free and fair national referendum was held in Zimbabwe in February 2000 in which voters rejected proposed constitutional amendments to increase the president's authorities to expropriate land without payment;

Whereas the President of Zimbabwe has defied two high court decisions declaring land seizures to be illegal;

Whereas previous land reform efforts have been ineffective largely due to corrupt practices and inefficiencies within the Government of Zimbabwe;

Whereas recent violence in Zimbabwe has resulted in several murders and brutal attacks on innocent individuals, including the murder of farm workers and owners;

Whereas violence has been directed toward individuals of all races;

Whereas the ruling party and its supporters have specifically directed violence at democratic reform activists seeking to prepare for upcoming parliamentary elections;

Whereas the offices of a leading independent newspaper in Zimbabwe have been bombed;

Whereas the Government of Zimbabwe has not yet publicly condemned the recent violence;

Whereas President Mugabe's statement that thousands of law-abiding citizens are enemies of the state has further incited violence;

Whereas 147 out of 150 members of the Parliament in Zimbabwe (98 percent) belong to the same political party;

Whereas no date has been set for parliamentary elections in Zimbabwe;

Whereas the unemployment rate in Zimbabwe now exceeds 60 percent and political turmoil is on the brink of destroying Zimbabwe's economy;

Whereas the economy is being further damaged by the Government of Zimbabwe's ongoing involvement in the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Whereas the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization has issued a warning that Zimbabwe faces a food emergency due to shortages caused by violence against farmers and farm workers; and

Whereas events in Zimbabwe could threaten stability and economic development in the entire region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) extends its support to the vast majority of citizens of the Republic of Zimbabwe who are committed to peace, economic prosperity, and an open, transparent parliamentary election process;

(2) strongly urges the Government of Zimbabwe to enforce the rule of law and fulfill its responsibility to protect the political and civil rights of all citizens;

(3) supports those international efforts to assist with land reform which are consistent with accepted principles of international law and which take place after the holding of free and fair parliamentary elections;

(4) condemns government-directed violence against farm workers, farmers, and opposition party members;

(5) encourages the local media, civil society and all political parties to work together toward a campaign environment conducive to free, transparent and fair elections within the legally prescribed period;

(6) recommends international support for voter education, domestic election monitoring, and violence monitoring activities;

(7) urges the United States to continue to monitor violence and condemn brutality against law abiding citizens;

(8) congratulate all the democratic reform activists in Zimbabwe for their resolve to bring about political change peacefully, even in the face of violence and intimidation;

(9) recommends that the United States send a bipartisan delegation under the auspices of the International Republican Institute and the National Democratice Institute for International Affairs to observe the parliamentary education process in Zimbabwe; and

(10) desires a lasting, warm, and mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and democratic, peaceful Zimbabwe.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY HONORS ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATE JOHN WEINGART

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a truly outstanding citizen of Central New Jersey. Each year the New Jersey Environmental Lobby presents the Frank J. Oliver Environmental Award to individuals who have contributed in a special way to the protection and preservation of New Jersey's environment. This year, the NJEL has chosen to honor an individual who has devoted many years, both professionally and personally, to the protection of New Jersey's resources and its citizens. Today, I rise in honor of John Weingart for his tireless efforts to preserve New Jersey for future generations.

John Weingart is a man of many talents. He has worked for the Department of Environmental Protection, serving there as Assistant Commissioner before leaving to become the Executive Director of the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Siting Commission. In the later capacity, he instituted several innovative concepts, including the idea of a voluntary self-selection process for municipalities interested in the siting facility. Although his efforts did not succeed in obtaining such a site, his approach is worthy of mention.

Even more surprising was John's reaction after all possible avenues had been explored. At this point, this government agency head did the unthinkable: he suggested that they disband his agency and that he and the other professionals seek employment elsewhere. Mr. Speaker, John is a true public servant who had the courage to eliminate his own job.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of John Weingart serve as an excellent example to all citizens of New Jersey. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in congratulating John Weingart for his recognition by the Environmental Lobby.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS OF INDIAN ORIGIN

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPIO). AAPIO is an outstanding professional organization with over 36,000 physicians of Indian origin practicing across the nation. The Northern California Chapter of AAPIO will hold its annual meeting on May 13, 2000 in Fremont, California, a major city within my 13th Congressional District. The Northern California Chapter represents approximately

700 physicians and allied health professionals in Northern California and constitutes the local chapter of AAPIO.

Northern California AAPIO Chapter President Dr. Subroto Kundu and President Elect, Dr. Srinivas Ramachandran are among the officers, the Board of Trustees and AAPIO members providing exemplary leadership within the 13th congressional district and all of Northern California. These individuals work to insure the integrity of health care delivery and are committed to the well-being of the communities in which they serve.

I applaud the Northern California Chapter's continuing efforts to organize and promote community service events, such as Health Fairs and Community Medical Education Seminars, upholding the physician's role in society to treat, teach, and guide individuals to good health.

AAPIO physicians provide their time and energy in community service and leadership. They are actively involved in healthcare related issues on the local, state and national level and represent the majority of physicians who serve our uninsured and under-insured populations.

As the AAPIO Northern California Chapter gathers on May 13, I wish them success at their Annual Meeting. I am confident AAPIO will continue to meet our healthcare challenges and will renew their commitment to community service and involvement.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2000

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, on April 12, I led an hour of debate on the topic of prescription drug coverage for senior citizens. I read three letters from seniors around the state of Michigan who shared their personal stories with me. On that day, I made a commitment to continue to read a different constituent letter every week until the House enacts reform. This week, I will read a letter from Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Crook.

Modern medicine has changed dramatically over the last three decades. When Medicare was created in 1965, most medical treatment was provided in hospitals. Surgery and other inpatient treatments were the norm and Medicare coverage for long hospital stays was a priority. Today, with the benefit of breakthrough pharmaceutical discoveries, many diseases can be controlled and treated with medication rather than lengthy hospital stays. Routine surgeries and procedures are performed on an outpatient basis. Medicare needs to be modernized to reflect these changes in our nation's healthcare delivery system. The number one advance in medical science of the 20th century is the development of life-saving drugs. It is critical that Medicare covers prescription drugs, so that seniors can have access to the best and most medically advanced treatments.

Furthermore, the price of prescription drugs is rising at a dramatic rate and we need to do something to make prescription drugs more affordable. According to Bureau of Labor Statistics, drug prices rose by 306 percent between 1981 and 1999, while the Consumer Price Index rose just 99 percent during the same period. In other words, prescription drug prices have increased at a rate three times higher than inflation.

The letter I will read tonight comes from a couple who reside in Hillsdale, MI. I am saddened to say, their story is not unique. I have asked seniors from all over Michigan to send me their personal stories about the prices they pay for prescription drugs and many of them send me copies of their bills. Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Crook sent me a bill that shows they paid over $1,125 for their prescription drugs last year. Here is their story.

"Madam, we have a income of $800 a month between the two of us. Beside, we have our household costs. We can't go [out] or do anything because [it] takes all of our income for the cost to live. Some weeks [we] wonder just how long we can go on. It [our prescription drug bill] keeps going up in cost and [we] cannot live. Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Crook."

Mr. and Mrs. Crook and thousands of older Americans like them need our help. Creating a Medicare prescription drug benefit to help cover the costs of their medications would make a big difference in their finances and in the quality of their lives. These seniors are a part of the "greatest generation ever" who helped build the strong economy we are enjoying today. Our nation is in economic good times and I believe it is time to fix the Medicare program so that it includes a prescription drug benefit.

TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT Of 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I support this bill

The exploitation of our world's girls and young women in sex trafficking is a tragic human rights offense.

Many of these women are kidnaped, sold, or tricked into brothel captivity.

And this does not happen just in countries miles away form our own. Each year women from all over the world are brought into the United States, for the sole purpose that they be bought and sold by American citizens for commercial sex.

I am happy to see that Congress is addressing this issue.

It is important that we protect the victims of the sex trade industry, and punish the predators that exploit the women.

This bill takes a significant step towards making a difference in the lives of women around the world.

It authorizes a new visa for trafficking victims to provide protection to the women and children that are brought into the United States and forced into prostitution.

The bill establishes initiatives to prevent trafficking through education, and authorizes assistance to the native countries of sex trafficked victims to help stop the industry.

And by establishing new criminal provisions and increasing penalties for traffickers this bill punishes traffickers for profiting from the victimization of women.

Of course there is more that needs to be done to stop the many human rights abuses inflicted on women around the world.

Preventing the trafficking of women is an important step in stopping the booming sex trade industry.

I commend the Representative from New Jersey for this legislation and I join with him and urge a "yes" vote on this bill.

RECOGNIZING PLAINSBORO TOWNSHIP AS AN "EDUCATION TOWNSHIP"

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Township of Plainsboro, New Jersey, as an "Education Township." It is, in fact, the town that schools built.

Plainsboro was founded on the principle of local education. For many years there were only four one-room schoolhouses that served the children of this particular area of Central New Jersey. In 1908, a large wood-frame two room schoolhouse was built. These schools and the teachers who taught in them, were paid and maintained under the Boards of Education of Cranbury and South Brunswick townships.

As the local population increased, the people of the Plainsboro area wanted a larger four-room school for their children. The school Boards refused. Plainsboro's representative on the Board of Education, John Van Buren Wicoff (an attorney at law and a lifelong resident who had attended the public schools in Plainsboro) tried to persuade the Cranbury Board of Education to build a larger school. When efforts failed to provide money for the school, the people of Plainsboro petitioned the New Jersey State Legislature to create the Township of Plainsboro.

The legislation to establish the Township of Plainsboro was approved April 1, 1919. Among the first act taken was the construction of a new four-room school built of stone.

For many years the 6th grade graduates of Plainsboro elementary school attended a 7th and 8th grade Junior High School in Princeton and then went on to attend Princeton High School.

As time passed, it became apparent that Princeton High School could no longer accommodate the growing school-age population of the area. As a result, Plainsboro and its neighbor, West Windsor, required both junior and senior high schools.

In 1969 a proposal was drafted to create a regional based school system that would provide public education from kindergarten through the 12th grade for the children of both Plainsboro and West Windsor. Voters in both townships overwhelmingly approved the proposal.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the West Windsor-Plainsboro School System is one of the best in the county.