

committed, even if almost shockingly, a prosecutor can get a rare, unusual jury to return a death sentence, the trial judge sits as the 13th juror and must later approve the verdict or grant a new trial or sometimes a lesser sentence. Following the trial judge, both State and Federal appellate courts review the case. Usually at least 30 or 40 judges review a death sentence before it is carried out, and many of these judges are philosophically opposed to the death penalty. There seems to be a real drum beat in the media to do away with capital punishment.

I urge my colleagues and others to look very closely at this before they jump on this particular band wagon.

#### SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS IN AMERICA

Mr. DUNCAN. Secondly, Mr. Speaker, another important, but unrelated issue of national concern is the impending teacher shortage. This is a very artificial, political government-produced shortage. It has come about only because the teachers' unions and colleges of education want to drastically restrict and limit and control the number of people allowed to teach in the Nation's public schools.

If a person with a Ph.D. and 30 years of experience, say a chemist, wanted to teach after working for years for the Government, he cannot do so under the rules in most States today. If a small college went under and a professor with 25 years of teaching experience, let us say a professor of English, wanted to move to a public school, he could not do so in most States today. If a very successful businessman wanted to teach for a few years as a way to contribute back to society, he could not do so today, despite all of his great wealth and success and experience. Why? Because they would not have the required degrees in education.

So school boards are restricted to hiring 22-year-olds with no experience because they have taken a few education courses over people with Ph.D.s and great experience and success and knowledge who have not had the education courses. This makes no sense at all at any time, but it is crazy in a time when there is or is about to be a teacher shortage. School boards should never hire an unqualified teacher, but they should be given the flexibility and freedom and power to hire people who have great knowledge or experience or success in a particular field, even if they have never taken an education course. If they could do this, there would be no teacher shortage in this country. There are hundreds of thousands of experienced, well-trained, well-educated people with degrees and even graduate degrees who have not taken education courses, but who could and would make great teachers, if only government regulations would give them the freedom and opportunity to do so.

#### HIV/AIDS, THE WORLD'S DEADLIEST DISEASE

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to discuss one of the most challenging and life-threatening public health issues facing the global community, HIV infection and AIDS. I will also highlight significant actions our government and fellow Americans have taken to combat this threat.

HIV/AIDS is now the world's deadliest disease with more than 40 million persons infected worldwide. Not surprisingly, the pandemic affects the most vulnerable citizens of our global community. In fact, nearly 95 percent of infected persons live in the developing countries, with sub-Saharan Africa being the hardest hit of any other region in the world.

The statistics are startling. New HIV infections in Africa have numbered more than 1.4 million each year since 1991. That is an average of more than 3,800 new HIV/AIDS infections per day. Nearly 6,000 will die within this same time frame. Mr. Speaker, 23.3 million adults and children are infected with the HIV virus in the region, which has about 10 percent of the world's population, but nearly 70 percent of the worldwide total of infected people.

Life expectancy in these nations has been reduced by the disease to between 22 and 40 years. Some sub-Saharan African countries could lose as much as a third of their adult population by 2010, and 16 African countries have an HIV infection rate of more than 10 percent. South Africa is 20 percent, Zimbabwe and Swaziland are at 25 percent; and in Botswana, which has the highest infection rate in the region, 36 percent of adults are HIV infected.

When I hear these daunting statistics, I am reminded of a quote by John F. Kennedy. He said, "Mankind must put an end to war, or war will put an end to mankind." HIV/AIDS and its death toll have declared war on our humanity. We must fight back. All sectors and all spheres of society have to be involved as equal partners in fighting this assault. The health sector cannot meet this challenge on its own, nor can one government or nation. It is imperative that we have a collective global effort.

Although I do believe we can do more, I am proud to say that the executive and legislative branches of our government, as well as the private sector, have taken significant steps in that direction. Earlier this month, the U.S. Export-Import Bank extended up to \$1 billion in financing to 24 sub-Saharan African countries to buy anti-AIDS drugs. The financing will be combined with a \$500 million commitment from the World Bank to help these countries purchase reduced-priced drugs, buy medical equipment, and develop specialized health services.

More recently, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), along with

the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON), and the Congressional Black Caucus successfully offered an amendment adding \$42 million to the Infectious Disease Account for international HIV/AIDS funding in the House-passed version of the fiscal year 2001 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act. The amendment increased this important funding for HIV/AIDS to the President's original budget request of \$244 million, which is \$190 million over current-year funding.

Additionally, during the 13th International Annual AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa this month, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced a round of grants amounting to \$100 million to prevent AIDS in mothers and children, assist AIDS orphans, and relieve suffering in dying patients. Of this funding, a \$50 million grant will go to Botswana, the country in sub-Saharan Africa with the highest HIV infection rate. That will be matched mostly through drug donations by the U.S. Merck Pharmaceutical Corporation.

When the history of this war is written, it will record the collective efforts of societies. Future generations will judge us on the adequacy of our response. I commend the Ex-Im Bank, my colleagues in this House, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for their compassion and foresight in addressing this issue.

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#### TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to comment this evening to this body on the 10th anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act.

I want to make a quote: "I now lift my pen to sign the Americans With Disabilities Act and say, let the shameful wall of exclusion finally come tumbling down."

That was spoken by President Bush on July 26, 1990. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on how far we as a Nation have come since that summer day 10 years ago when I was honored to be an original cosponsor of the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Today, I joined another President and disability advocates at the F.D.R. Memorial, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, to commemorate this landmark law.

I want to discuss a little bit what has happened in the decade since its enactment, but I would like to recognize for about 40 seconds the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS), who would like to make a comment.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I join with the gentlewoman in the celebration of