

wonder why I am introducing a bill so late in this congressional session. In fact, I could have waited to introduce this bill at the start of the next session, but I see this as a critical problem that needs to be addressed starting now. The Glenn Commission only released its report a few weeks ago, and I believe it is important to get to work as quickly as possible to address the recommendations of this commission.

We should not wait until next year to address an issue that will have such a huge impact on the future of our children and our country. If we are going to make a difference in the education and the lives of our citizens, it is imperative that we start making changes right away.

The gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and I are trying to do this, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as I stand here and think about how the economy is booming, we talk about how many jobs that have been created; yet we have record unemployment, and we are passing bills to bring people over under the H-1B visas to take the better jobs. Now, I do not have a problem with that, Mr. Speaker; but we have got to educate the people here so that we do not continue to do this forever.

It has been said that a school is four walls and a roof with a future inside. If that is true, then we need to start to look at the investments that we make in education. I have heard far too much about the trillion dollar tax break and far too little on the investment in our future, which is with our young people. It is very simple. It is so easy. And this administration has taken a lead in standing firm and holding the line, hopefully until we can get some of these issues addressed.

All of us know we need additional teachers and after-school programs. We all know that we need to do something about our buildings. In my State of Texas there are buildings that have more portables than the main building, and some of the portables are a block from the first restroom that kids can go to. I do not believe that we think that all of this ought to be left to the local districts because they simply cannot afford it when the districts are poor.

Mr. Speaker, this is a wealthy Nation. This is a Nation that can do about whatever it wants to, and I do not believe that we are thinking soundly when we are willing to leave here without addressing the real needs of our future, which is our students. We have to get rid of these leaky inadequate buildings that have no heat, no running water, and are not even in a condition

to be wired properly for today's education. Yet we continue to talk about how much we can give for a tax break.

I do not know why it is so difficult to understand that kids simply cannot grasp what they are being taught if they are in a class with too many other children and only one teacher. In my State of Texas, the ratio is one teacher for 22 children. That is really above the national average, but every one of those asks for a waiver each year so that they can have even more students in a class. Just imagine young children coming to school for the first time and finding themselves in a class of 25, 30, and 40 children with one teacher. We wonder why they do not do well on tests and wonder why they drop out or start being absent from school. No child wants to feel that they are being left out, and yet that is what we are getting when we have our classes that are too large because we do not have enough teachers.

One of the reasons we do not have enough teachers is because we do not pay them adequately. If we graduate young teachers now from college that are well prepared for today's classrooms, they can get a job making twice as much almost anywhere else. We have got to address the issue of educating our young people, and we have to acknowledge that we have a long ways to go in many of these communities.

The answer is not vouchers for a private school. I do not have a thing against private schools. I think whoever wants to send their children to private schools should be able to do that. But I do not think it should be with taxpayers' money while we are neglecting the public schools, which is where 90 percent of the children have to go. Imagine kids still going to school in areas that are not safe, where half the teachers are eligible for retirement, but they simply cannot retire because they do not have anyone to replace them. They go into schools that are not equipped with our technology and computer hardware that we all say we have to have.

In spite of all this, Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership stands in the way of bringing a bill to the floor to just spend a portion of what we call the surplus to address these basic needs. I am hoping that we can remember our ABC's. A, for additional teachers and additional after-school programs. Without additional teachers, my own State will lose something like \$146.8 million to reduce overcrowded classroom sizes.

And B is for building improvements. Current estimates indicate that my State faces \$13.7 billion in costs for school modernization; 76 percent of the schools in Texas report a need to upgrade or repair buildings.

And C, of course, Mr. Speaker, is reducing classroom size. Hopefully, that is simple enough that all of us can remember that and not go home this session without addressing this.

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

(Ms. NORTON address the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHRISTINE MARTIN, NEW J-SCHOOL DEAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my congratulations to Christine Martin, who was recently named dean of the Perley Isaac Reed School of Journalism at West Virginia University.

Dean Martin lead the school of journalism in an interim capacity for 1 year before receiving a permanent appointment. In that short term, she has greatly contributed to a first-class faculty with the addition of award-winning journalists George Esper and Terry Wimmer.

Mr. Speaker, in tribute to this talented, well-respected educator and journalist, and in recognition of her many achievements, I provide for the RECORD a recent newspaper article written on the occasion of her appointment as dean and extend my congratulations.

MARTIN SELECTED AS NEW J-SCHOOL DEAN

(By Chandra Broadwater)

Christine Martin, a West Virginia University journalism professor and interim dean of the Perley Isaac Reed School of Journalism, was selected as the permanent dean of the school last week.

The selection of Martin formally concluded a nationwide search for the position.

Martin was named to the post of dean after the search was narrowed down to three total finalists.

"I think that the school of journalism will be very well served with Chris as dean," Dean Bill Deaton of the College of Human Resources and Education and chair of the Journalism Dean Search Committee said. "She's demonstrated through her progress as interim dean her ability to effectively work with different media in the school."

Martin will be the first woman to lead the school and the sixth dean in its history.

"I've worked with Chris since I came to WVU in 1996 and I had also known her from a Pennsylvania paper that we both worked at," journalism professor and search committee member Leslie Rubinkowski said. "I know her as being an excellent journalist and good editor. She brings a lot of these qualities to her job."

Rubinkowski also acknowledges that Martin did a great job in getting projects within the journalism school started.