

24 is projected to reach 1.2 billion, signifying a 17 percent increase in population worldwide. In many parts of the developing world, almost half of all girls under 18 are married and child-bearing, despite the fact that children born to women younger than age 20 are one and half times more likely to die before their first birthday than those born to mothers between ages 20 and 29.

We must, therefore, recognize the problems associated with rapid population growth among young people. Governor Angus King of Maine has proclaimed the week of October 20–26th of this year as World Population Awareness Week, and I would like to support Governor King in this effort by entering his proclamation into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Whereas, more than one billion people—one sixth of the world's population—are between the ages of 15 and 24, the largest generation ever in this age bracket; and

Whereas, nearly half of the world's population, and 63% in the least developed countries, is under the age 25; and

Whereas, 17 million young women between the ages of 15–19 give birth every year, including some 13 million who live in less developed countries; and

Whereas, early pregnancy and childbearing is associated with serious health risks; and

Whereas, the choices young people make today regarding their reproductive lives will determine whether the world population stabilizes or continues to grow.

Now, Therefore, I, Angus S. King, Jr., Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim October 20th–26th, 2002 as Population Awareness Week throughout the State of Maine.

THE MENTALLY ILL OFFENDER TREATMENT AND CRIME REDUCTION ACT OF 2002

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 24, 2002

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing The Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act, the companion to a bill introduced in the Senate last week by Senators DEWINE, LEAHY, GRASSLEY, CANTWELL, BROWNBACK, and DOMENICI.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, over 16 percent of adults incarcerated in U.S. jails and prisons have a mental illness. In addition, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention reports that over 20 percent of youth in the juvenile justice system have serious mental health problems, and many more have co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders. The majority of these individuals have illnesses or disorders that are responsive to treatment. With access to this care there is great potential to reduce the number of mentally ill individuals in adult and juvenile corrections facilities and improve public safety.

In the 106th Congress, Senator DEWINE and I successfully passed America's Law Enforcement and Mental Health Project (P.L. 106–515), which created a Department of Justice grant program assisting State and local governments with the establishment of mental health courts. Mental health courts provide specialized dockets in non-adversarial settings

to bring mental health professionals, social workers, public defenders and prosecutors together to divert mentally ill offenders into a treatment plan. The goal of a mental health court is to expand access to mental health treatment, improve the community's response to mentally ill offenders, and reduce recidivism among the mentally ill population.

The Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2002 is phase two of the mental health courts demonstration program and represents a significant commitment to solving the problems caused by the significant proportion of individuals in our criminal justice system who are struggling with mental illness. A main goal of this legislation is to facilitate the necessary collaboration across all levels of government and among all relevant agencies so that the mentally ill receive proper treatment. The bill will create a new competitive grants program in the Department of Justice. Criminal justice and mental health treatment agencies will be required to apply together, compelling the collaboration that is needed to get those who are mentally ill and coming in contact with the criminal justice system, the mental health and substance abuse treatment, education, job training and placement, and housing they need. Grant funds could be used for a variety of types of programs, including pre-booking diversion, jail treatment/diversion, mental health courts and other courts, and transition back into the community.

The bill also calls for an Interagency Task Force to be established at the Federal level. Task Force members will include: the Attorney General, the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Labor, Education, Veterans Affairs, and Housing and Urban Development; and the Commissioner of Social Security. The Task Force will be charged with identifying ways that Federal departments can respond in a coordinated way to the needs of mentally ill adults and juveniles.

In addition, the bill directs the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a list of "best practices" for criminal justice personnel to use when diverting mentally ill offenders from incarceration into treatment.

Finally, the bill strives to comprehensively address these issues by providing grant funds for pre-booking diversion, re-entry programs, and community supports such as housing and job-related services. This kind of comprehensive approach is the key to ensuring mentally ill individuals have the support they need to live healthy lives: public safety improves; and our criminal justice system no longer struggles to treat an increasingly mentally ill population.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill and make our communities safer for all.

HONORING SANDRA BRIGHT

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 24, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work and tireless dedication in the field of education on the part of Sandra Bright of Platteville, Colorado.

Mrs. Bright is a Colorado native and a graduate of the University of Northern Colorado

with a B.A. degree in Psychology and Education with a secondary teaching certification. In 1973 Mrs. Bright began to develop what would become the ABC Child Development Centers with one preschool of 35 children. Today, she owns operates 11 licensed child care centers with approximately 1000 children and 140 employees providing child care, educational enrichment programs, school programs and summer camps, all with a non-denominational Christian values curriculum.

Mrs. Bright is also a continual advocate for early childhood education not only in her community, but also at the Colorado State Capitol and in Washington D.C. She has served as a committee member on three Weld County District 6 committees, served as chairman for the Weld County Child Care Center Director's Association, sat on the board of First Impressions in the Governor's office of Early Childhood Education Initiatives, served as chairman of the Colorado Child Care Licensing Advisory Committee, and served as President and Vice-President of the Colorado Child Care Association. In addition to this, Mrs. Bright has also stayed on top of current legislation as the chairman of the Greeley/Weld Government Affairs Committee and the Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance.

When she is not busy with community activities or her business, Sandra and her family enjoy many of the outdoor activities that Colorado has to offer, including sailing, snowmobiling, skiing, rafting, and mountain biking. With her husband, Randy, the Brights have raised three grown sons and now have two 3-year-old grandchildren.

Please join me in honoring this remarkable resident of Colorado's Fourth Congressional District, Mrs. Sandra Bright of Platteville.

ECONOMIC STEWARDSHIP? ARE YOU BETTER OFF?

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 24, 2002

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, as we return home to our Congressional Districts, I believe that each of us should ask our constituents a slightly modified version of the question made famous by former President Ronald Reagan: "Are you better off than you were two years ago?" Clearly, we are not. The economy, under the stewardship of the House Republican Leadership and the Bush Administration, is faltering. In just two short years, we've gone from creating millions of new jobs to losing our many gains; from enjoying a budget surplus to projecting mounting deficits; from addressing the backlog of infrastructure needs to losing more ground.

And we should expect our constituents to ask us: What are your plans to revitalize our economy and solve the most pressing domestic problems facing our Nation? The response of the House Republican Leadership and the Bush Administration can be summed up simply: tax breaks for the rich. And when that doesn't work, more tax breaks for the rich.

House Democrats have a different economic plan, one that takes proactive measures to protect existing jobs and create new family-wage jobs. Today, I would like to talk about the state of the economy and a Democratic