

prevention education poses a threat to the Latino community and efforts to stop the spread of HIV.

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day allows us to actively open our eyes and bring light to the epidemic. It is a day of hope for the future of a world without HIV and AIDS. On National Latino AIDS Awareness Day, I ask that we remember those who have lost their lives because of AIDS, show compassion and support for those living with the disease, and pray for all families and communities whose lives have been touched by HIV/AIDS.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 4, 2004, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall Nos. 487, 488, and 489. The votes I missed include rollcall vote No. 487 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to S. Con. Res. 76, recognizing that November 2, 2003, shall be dedicated to A Tribute to Survivors at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; rollcall vote No. 488 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass S. 1814, to transfer Federal lands between the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior; and rollcall vote No. 489, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 567, Congratulating the American Dental Association for sponsoring the second annual Give Kids a Smile program.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote Nos. 487, 488, and 489.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES PATRICK SHINOGLE FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Charles Patrick Shinogle, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 261, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Charles has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Charles has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Charles Patrick Shinogle for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING TREVOR MICHAEL CARVER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Trevor Michael Carver, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 261, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Trevor has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Trevor has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Trevor Michael Carver for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A BILL FOR LONG-TERM ENERGY SECURITY

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a bill that would provide long-term energy security and greater consumer protection to the American people.

The legislation would permit the Secretary of Energy to use any supplies in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in excess of 700 million barrels to address sustained price increases in gasoline or oil that could have an adverse impact on the Nation's economy. Currently, the President may authorize a release of supplies from the SPR to provide economic relief from petroleum price increases, though such an act would need to be in response to a sustained reduction in supply. This legislation would expand that authority for cases when price increases were not attributable to a shortage, such as international volatility, a major shift in demand, or a decline in refining capacity.

The consistently high prices our Nation is paying for petroleum—today, oil reached \$53 per barrel—threaten to damage our economy and stifle growth. Furthermore, they remind us of how reliant our Nation is on foreign sources of oil. With volatility in Iraq and elsewhere, major hurricane damage to energy facilities in the Gulf of Mexico, rising demand in nations such as India and China, and OPEC's apparent inability or unwillingness to reduce world oil prices, the United States has reached a point where we have little influence over a major factor affecting our economic well-being. It is therefore imperative that we increase the size of the SPR both to protect our Nation in a time of strife as well as to insulate our economy from problems in the petroleum market.

I have no illusions that this legislation will solve our Nation's energy crisis. In fact, the new release authority would not even enter into effect until the SPR surpassed 700 million barrels, which will not occur until next year at

the earliest. We must adopt this new long-term goal as part of a larger effort to reduce our reliance on foreign oil, pursuing a comprehensive energy policy that encourages alternative fuel sources and energy efficiency. I look forward to working with my colleagues to see this measure enacted into law.

CONCERN ON PROPOSED NEW TAXES ON CIGAR MANUFACTURERS

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my grave concern about the proposed new taxes on cigar manufacturers included in the FSC/ETI conference report. This new tax, which was not included in either the House or Senate version of the FSC/ETI legislation, amounts to \$282 million. Companies in the State of Florida will pay more than 75 percent of this tax increase.

I do not know how this new tax provision appeared in the conference report, but it is bad policy. This is supposed to be a jobs bill for all Americans, but I am afraid that this new tax will cost jobs in my state. For the historic Florida cigar industry, this provision is nothing more than a tax increase and job killer.

Since cigar manufacturers generally do not use the types of tobacco being "bought out," it is improper to impose a new tax on them under this bill. We should not increase taxes on industries unless the new tax has something to do with the purpose of the new program. The cigar industry should not subsidize the cigarette and smokeless tobacco industry. I hope that this issue will be revisited in the near future and a correction can be made to reverse this ill-conceived tax increase.

IRAQ IS EVER MORE DANGEROUS

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, the land of the "not quite right" has turned into the land of the ever more dangerous and difficult. I returned to Iraq last week on a Congressional fact-finding mission after less than a year since my previous visit. The trip gave me an opportunity to hear from our troops in the field, meet with military commanders and visit with some Iraqi citizens.

Unquestionably, the mission in Iraq has become more dangerous and difficult. The insurgents have expanded their support. They are more sophisticated, coordinated and lethal in their tactics. They enjoy sanctuaries in some major cities and they are exploiting the lack of progress in rebuilding the Iraqi infrastructure to their advantage.

Our troops are doing a terrific job under difficult and dangerous circumstances. We can all be proud of our men and women in the military who are following their orders, carrying out their missions and sacrificing so much to give the Iraqi people a chance for a more peaceful and prosperous future. But they

seem tired and stretched very thin. I had lunch and dinner with many of our soldiers from Wisconsin during my trip. Nothing makes you more proud to be an American than the chance to see our soldiers performing their duties under trying conditions. They are all well-trained, well-motivated and represent the best America has to offer.

Fortunately, the conditions for most of our soldiers have improved from a year ago. The supplies have caught up to them. They have a good selection of food and beverages. Most have air-conditioned places in which to sleep. Communications back home have gotten much better and on-line education courses are offered to those interested in continuing their education.

But when they go out on patrol, they don't know who the enemy is, where the next ambush is going to come, and whether they are going to get back to camp in one piece. Many have to go out on patrols seven days a week. They return to get some sleep before they go out again the next day. They would gladly welcome a cold beer when they do finish their shift (alcohol is prohibited in Iraq) and they hate the "stop-loss" orders that prevent them from being rotated out of Iraq at the end of their tours.

Forty percent of our troops in Iraq are Guard and Reserve Units. They are there for 1 year once their boots hit the ground. With training and preparation before deployment, our Guard and Reserve are away from their families and jobs for up to 18 months. And many that have returned home are being put on notice for future activation and deployment. Clearly, such a sacrifice on so few for so long is unsustainable.

I was surprised by the lack of progress in rebuilding the Iraqi infrastructure to meet the basic needs of the people, such as: running water, electricity, garbage pick-up and a good workable sewer system. Of the \$19 billion appropriated to rebuild Iraq only \$1 billion has been spent so far. I spoke to one Iraqi woman and asked if she felt her neighbors are growing impatient. She chuckled and said "we're tired of being patient. We've been patient for 35 years, we want results now."

The Iraqis are a people who believe that if the United States can put a person on the moon, then we are capable of helping them so much more. They see our impressive military with all the technology rolling through their communities and they are wondering why we can't get their water running or their electricity hooked up. And the insurgents are quick to pin the blame on us. But without security it will be difficult to make significant progress with reconstruction. It's hard to walk into a neighborhood with a hammer in one hand and a gun in the other.

Nor are the Iraqi Security Forces trained and equipped sufficiently to assume more of the security responsibility themselves. Many of the Iraqi forces and their families are being targeted themselves by the insurgents and there are numerous instances of insurgents penetrating these forces for their own advantage. But helping the Iraqis to develop the capability to provide for their own security is our ultimate exit strategy and it seems we've wasted a good year in doing that.

What then needs to be done? First and foremost, we need to make sure our troops are getting everything they need to do their job effectively and safely, which includes dou-

ble reinforced steel vehicles to protect our troops against roadside bombs, the weapon of choice by the insurgents. We need to enhance security so there is a safe environment for the Iraqi people to participate in the national elections by January. That means trying to work with Iraqi Security forces to take away the insurgents' sanctuaries and diminish their capability. We need to step up our efforts in employing local Iraqis to rebuild their own country. There is a direct correlation between those areas with a high unemployment rate (70 percent in some places) and from where the insurgency is coming. We need to ask for more help from NATO and countries in the Arab League to provide training and equipment for a new Iraqi Security Force so we can begin to fade into the background and eventually bring our troops home.

Cutting and running is not an option. It would guarantee chaos, possible civil war, a sanctuary for international terrorism and a power vacuum that Iran would be more than happy to fill in the region. But our leaders in this country need to level with the American people. Our task in Iraq will not be easy. It has already become more difficult. More international support would alleviate the high cost we are now paying in both lives and money as well as add legitimacy to what we are trying to accomplish with the Iraqi people. It is not a lost cause, yet. But our window of opportunity is closing rapidly.

LEGALITY OF AIRBUS SAS

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for President Bush's decision to seek a ruling from the World Trade Organization regarding the legality of subsidies to Airbus SAS from various European governments, as well as his decision to withdraw from the 1992 agreement in which the United States agreed to allow a reasonable amount of these subsidies.

Twelve years later it is clear that this aid, particularly launch assistance, has done tremendous harm to fair and open competition in the large aircraft marketplace.

It is unfortunate that this pact withdrawal and appeal to the WTO was necessary. However, our friends and allies across the Atlantic chose not to recognize that Airbus SAS is now a profitable company and that they no longer need this overly generous government assistance.

Mr. Speaker, this is a step towards creating a level playing field for America's workers in the aviation manufacturing industry.

I commend the President for taking this important step and I look forward to this Congress continuing to work with the administration to ensure that the men and women of our aircraft manufacturing workforce—the finest in the world—are able to continue to compete in the global market.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACHER TRAINING EXPANSION ACT OF 2004

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Teacher Training Expansion Act of 2004. Right now, too many of our Nation's "special needs" children are underserved. This bill seeks to improve education for all of our children by increasing support for public and private organizations that train teachers to meet the challenges of special education.

Specifically, the Teacher Training Expansion Act of 2004 would authorize the Secretary of Education, under the auspices of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), to give grant preference to local educational agencies that train teachers to use special education techniques.

Currently, about 80 percent of students with learning disabilities receive the majority of their instruction in general education classrooms. According to the U.S. Department of Education, 50 percent of disabled students between the ages of 6 and 11, and 30 percent of disabled students between the ages of 11 and 12, are taught in regular classrooms. These numbers indicate a 10 percent increase in inclusion over the last 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, these numbers demonstrate that IDEA, one of the most comprehensive bills addressing equality in education, must continue to expand training of special education teachers. IDEA requires that:

to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities . . . are educated with children who are not disabled, and that special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be attained satisfactorily. IDEA Sec. 612 (5) (B)

As more children with disabilities enter general education classrooms, it is critical that general education teachers and personnel are adequately trained to adapt curricula to suit their needs. Regular education teachers and personnel must collaborate with special education teachers to ensure that the best individualized approaches are utilized for the integration of disabled students into the classroom.

My bill, the Teacher Training Expansion Act of 2004, encourages this crucial kind of staff development. Because local educational agencies, private and public organizations are at the forefront of training teachers who work with disabled students, these groups should be eligible to receive the highest consideration when awarding grants.

By enabling these agencies to receive grant preferences, we will help our teachers gain the skills they need to work effectively with disabled students in mainstream classrooms. Education is central to changing the way disabled students are viewed by their peers, but it also helps disabled students cultivate the intellectual and social skills they need to compete in society.

To ensure that inclusion and mainstreaming benefits all students, teachers must be trained appropriately. With adequate funding, the