

all who knew her. Too often we think an act of domestic violence does not occur on our street, in our hometown, or to people and families we know, but this act of violence tells me that no street, no community, no hometown is immune.

There are other victims of domestic violence who are often overlooked. Each year an estimated 3.3 million children are exposed to violence committed by family members against their mother or caretaker. During 2002 in Kansas alone, there were over 8,000 cases where children were the victims of domestic violence. Children who see violence are more likely to commit or suffer violence when they become adults. The cycle of despair continues from one generation to the next.

While the realities of domestic violence are grim, we do have hope. Our hope stems from the belief that with education, resources and support, victims of domestic violence can overcome their circumstances. Hope is what sustains and motivates the nine domestic violence centers I represent in my rural 69-county district. These agencies help advocate for victims, provide essential services, and spearhead efforts to increase domestic violence awareness throughout most part of rural Kansas.

I would like to highlight one such effort. In Emporia, the SOS, Inc., agency recently partnered with the Girl Scout Council of the Flint Hills, and their Studio 2 Be Troop, including 40 girls, ranging from the ages of 11 to 17. This effort focused on teaching these youth about domestic violence and the legal system. The highlight of this year-long project was a mock trial event that the youth participated in during the month of September. The troop girls were the defense and prosecution teams, the jury, and even the victims of crimes. This project was supported by the legal community, and many lawyers and judges gave their time to work with these Girl Scouts. This project taught the participants that domestic violence is not okay and our communities should take it very seriously. This project was a one-of-a-kind experience for these girls, and garnered significant national attention.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to recognize October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Thankfully, we have made progress in raising awareness and attention to domestic violence and providing assistance to victims. However, it is a problem that certainly has not gone away. We must not forget about these crimes that disrupt homes and destroy families. It is estimated that 2 million acts of domestic violence will take place this year in the United States. According to a recent study, in my home State of Kansas one domestic violence act occurs every 24 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for continued support and assistance for the domestic violence programs we in Congress have responsibility for.

GUN LIABILITY

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

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will take up the National Rifle Association's top legislative priority for the 109th Congress. We will vote on legislation granting the gun industry unprecedented immunity from liability lawsuits. Nearly no other consumer product manufacturers or sellers have this kind of protection.

The NRA says this bill will prevent frivolous lawsuits that may bankrupt the gun industry, but a closer look reveals this bill tries to fix a problem that actually does not exist.

Over the past decade, there have been over 10 million lawsuits filed here in the U.S. and only 57 involved the gun industry. According to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, no lawsuit against the gun industry has ever been dismissed as frivolous by a judge. Some of these suits have been dismissed for other reasons, and some have been successful. The point is the current system does work.

Unworthy cases are not coming to trial so why do we need to close the courthouse doors to those who were legitimately victimized by gun industry negligence or incompetence? Do not let the NRA rhetoric fool you. This legislation is not about protecting an honest gun dealer who legally sells a gun to someone who later commits a crime. This legislation protects cases of gross negligence that lead to the injuries and death of unsuspecting victims.

For example, the owner of the Bull's Eye Shooter Supply Store in Washington State was successfully sued because he could not account for over 239 guns in his inventory. One of these guns was the Bushmaster used in the D.C. sniper killings. The D.C. sniper murderers were allowed to get their hands on a gun because of a gun seller's negligence. But now, House leadership thinks the D.C. snipers' victims should not have their day in court.

We should not let negligence and incompetence that results in death or injury go unpunished in any industry. Stripping away the threat of legal action will seriously jeopardize efforts to make guns safer. Without the threat of liability suits, the gun industry will have no financial incentive to incorporate gun locks, smart gun technology, and safety triggers into their products.

Imagine if similar legislation were passed 40 years ago to cover the auto industry. Today our cars would not have seat belts, air bags or antilock brakes.

Mr. Speaker, instead of stopping non-existent frivolous lawsuits, we should be protecting the public from gun violence. I submitted amendments to this bill to the Committee on Rules. One amendment will allow liability lawsuits against those who negligently sell cop killer bullets. These are bullets

that are similar to the ones used in the murder of my husband and critically wounded my son in 1993.

I will also seek to continue negligence lawsuits against those who irresponsibly sell large-capacity clips. Large-capacity clips were used in the Long Island shooting which took down my husband and son and many other family members. If we had smaller clips, we would not have had as many killings on that train. If we did not have the cop killer bullets out on the streets, maybe my son would not have been injured so severely, and there is a possibility my husband might be alive.

These clips represent a serious homeland security threat if a terrorist were to use them. Without the threat of lawsuits, guns may end up in the hands of people who should not have them.

Mr. Speaker, we already have lost 33,000 Americans a year to gun violence. We lose 5,200 children per year. Independent studies show that gun violence costs our health care system over \$100 billion a year. The average cost of each firearm fatality, including medical care, police services, and lost productivity is over \$1 million. I can testify because my son's bills are over that.

But the Department of Justice says only 2 percent of Federal gun crimes are prosecuted, and 20 of the 22 Federal gun laws on the books are not effectively enforced. We need to give our law enforcement agencies the tools to do their jobs efficiently.

We cannot proceed with this legislation unless we can ensure the National Instant Background Check is fully effective. Currently, half of the States have entered less than 60 percent of the felony convictions into the NICS system. In 13 States, and my colleague just talked about domestic violence, restraining orders are not accessible through the NICS system.

Too many of those not allowed to buy guns slip through the cracks of our background check system. That is why I submitted an amendment to permit negligence lawsuits against the gun industry until 90 percent of the felony convictions and other disqualifying criteria are included in the NICS database.

I have introduced H.R. 1415, a bill to give grants to help the States keep their NICS information current and accurate. Honest gun sellers do not want to sell criminals guns. My amendment would give them the peace of mind that all of their sales are to responsible gun owners. However, we still should not give breaks to dishonest and incompetent gun sellers by giving them immunity from lawsuits resulting from their negligence.

But if the gun lobby and its faithful servants in leadership insist on taking up this bill, we must make sure safeguards are in place to protect the public.

Mr. Speaker, our priorities are misplaced when it comes to preventing gun violence. We need to change the dialogue.

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

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

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

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

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

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

WE SHOULD NOT CUT FOREIGN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the Bush administration's allies in this Congress are making another truly astounding foreign policy blunder, one that jeopardizes decades of painstaking effort toward peacemaking in the Middle East. Bush allies are proposing to sever our established U.S. military relationship with Egypt at a time when diplomatic ties in the region are more vital than ever.

At great sacrifice, Egypt has forged a leadership role in the region and remains committed to peace and progress. Yet rather than stemming terrorism, Bush congressional allies are doing, with their retrograde proposal, just what they did with Iraq: Miscalculating, failing to shape robust diplomatic initiatives, and setting the region up for more terrorism, more bloodletting, and more instability. They want to act tough first rather than smart first.

They are hastening more instability as antagonism to the United States grows. Does anybody in the White House recognize that Middle East terrorism is going up, not down? Does anybody notice that polls across the Middle East show a majority of Arabs are now opposed to U.S. policy?

Zogby International polls indicate that Arab public attitudes towards the United States are declining. And according to the Pew Research Center, solid majorities in many predominantly Muslim countries surveyed still express unfavorable views of the United States.

At a time like this, cutting foreign military assistance to a strong ally risks a vital blow to our relationship with this most populous Arab nation and friend in the region. Ultimately, our troops cannot win militarily when

the Iraqi war is being lost politically and diplomatically across that region.

The Bush administration's allies in this House are truly ill-advised and ill-timed to sever America's 25-year military commitment with Egypt. Let us remember it was Egypt's valiant President Anwar Sadat who in 1979 stood shoulder to shoulder in peace efforts with President Jimmy Carter and President Menachem Begin of Israel on the White House lawn. I was there as a witness to that majestic day when the most important peace accord of that era was signed, the Camp David Accords.

Yes, Egypt's President walked toward peace, and a few months later was assassinated for his vision. We should honor and remember that sacrifice.

Egypt is the most populous Arab nation and the most influential in the region, strategically positioned adjacent to the Suez Canal on the borders of Gaza, Israel, Libya and Sudan. Egypt is the nation that has sent 750 troops to safeguard the Gaza withdrawal of Israelis to begin historic resettlement of Palestinians.

The Bush allies are not only dead wrong but absolutely wrong; wrong historically, wrong diplomatically, dangerously wrong. Egypt has been a strong ally to the United States and the Middle East for 25 years. Egypt has provided support in the Middle East peace process. The peace between Egypt and Israel is a template for which peace between Israel and other Arab countries can be achieved.

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Egypt provided troops and facilitated transportation in the region during Desert Storm, and they continue to provide support in Iraq and Afghanistan today. They stand ready and willing to provide needed training for Afghan and Iraqi troops to aid in the stabilization of those countries at no cost, though neither country has taken them up on this offer yet.

And Egypt has facilitated diplomatic relations among Arab governments and the Iraqi interim government. Not only are they a politically strategic ally; they are also an important economic ally. U.S.-Egypt trade totals almost \$4.5 billion, and last year we had a trade surplus with that country of \$1.8 billion. Funds that we offer in aid to Egypt come back to this country in trade.

Former President Anwar Sadat had the ultimate vision and courage in 1979. He knew peace required courage. It requires international cooperation as well and mutual support. He understood peace assures human progress, and he gave peace a chance.

Let us not be unwise and turn our back on America's military relationship with Egypt, an alliance he helped establish, an alliance that has endured, an alliance that has broadened, an alliance that has made peace across that region possible. Possible in our time.

I would hope that the President's allies in this Congress would remove the

proposal they have on the table to sever our foreign military assistance and our relationship with Egypt. It could not be more wrong and more poorly timed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 397, PROTECTION OF LAWFUL COMMERCE IN ARMS ACT

Mr. GINGREY, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-248) on the resolution (H. Res. 493) providing for consideration of the Senate bill (S. 397) to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages, injunctive or other relief resulting from the misuse of their products by others, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 554, PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN FOOD CONSUMPTION ACT OF 2005

Mr. GINGREY, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-249) on the resolution (H. Res. 494) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 554) to prevent legislative and regulatory functions from being usurped by civil liability actions brought or continued against food manufacturers, marketers, distributors, advertisers, sellers, and trade associations for claims of injury relating to a person's weight gain, obesity, or any health condition associated with weight gain or obesity, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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

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

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.