

law that bans free speech and was used to suppress a wide range of dissenting opinions, from criticism of Turkish government institutions to opposing official Turkish denial of the Ottoman campaign of genocide against its Armenian population. Under the all-encompassing phrase “insulting Turkishness” a citizen in Turkey can receive a prison sentence of up to three years, with the offence being increased 50 percent if the so-called offence is committed abroad.

Nearly 100 journalists and intellectuals have been prosecuted under Article 301—including Nobel Prize author Orhan Pamuk. Many informed observers believe Hrant Dink’s prosecution under Article 301 opened him up to a campaign of harassment and death threats from ultra-nationalists, which led to his eventual murder. To this day, citizens of Turkey live under threat of this gag-law, with Hrant Dink’s own son prosecuted because he reprinted his father’s newspaper articles.

This is not the actions of a true democracy—it is reflective of how a totalitarian state would behave.

And, this is not the Turkey we—the United States of America—have aligned our country with.

Amnesty International has called for a complete repeal of this punitive legislation.

The European Commission has repeatedly asked for its repeal.

One year ago, Members of Congress, their staffers, and members of several communities came together to watch “Screamers”—a film about genocide in the last century featuring amongst others, Hrant Dink. Here, in the halls of Congress, we saw watched as Hrant Dink discussed the problems of Article 301.

Just two days after the film’s premier, Hrant Dink was shot dead. A man who only wanted to speak the truth about historical fact. A man who wanted every citizen to be equal. A man we should applaud here in America for his courage and dedication to democracy.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring the memory of Hrant Dink and continuing to urge the repeal of Article 301.

ECONOMIC GROWTH PACKAGE

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, one year into a liberal Democratic majority in Congress the economy is struggling. The big government policies of the new majority are taking their toll. High gasoline prices, the sub-prime market crisis in housing, and news that inflation is at a seventeen year high, all demand a bipartisan stimulus package in the next thirty days. Congress must act; and must act swiftly.

I submit that Congress must focus economic relief on the kind of stimulus that will create jobs and growth for small businesses and family farmers. The real antidote to the impending downturn is more money in the hands of the wage-earner, and the wage-payer. This is, and always has been, the pathway to prosperity in the American economy.

INTRODUCTION OF “THE DEBBIE SMITH REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008”

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, Along with Representatives JOHN CONYERS and LAMAR SMITH, I am introducing “The Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2008.” I have been working on the issue of DNA technology since 2001 when I, along with former Representative Steve Horn, held a hearing in the Government Reform Committee where we heard from a courageous rape survivor, Debbie Smith. Debbie recounted her horrifying story . . . how on a Friday afternoon in March 1989, she was in the kitchen of her home in Virginia, when a masked intruder broke in and blindfolded and robbed her. He then took her to the woods nearby and savagely raped her. Years later, Debbie learned that DNA processing techniques had produced a “cold hit” identifying her assailant, who had been jailed 6 months after her assault for another crime. He was charged with Debbie’s rape in 1995, freeing Debbie from a life of fear.

It was for Debbie, and the thousands of rape survivors like her, that I authored a bill to provide Federal funding to process the unconscionable backlog of DNA evidence. Originally introduced in 2001, “The Debbie Smith Act” was signed into law in 2004 as part of “The Justice for All Act,” comprehensive legislation that ensured that DNA evidence could be used to convict the guilty and free the innocent.

Since 2004, millions of dollars in funding have been appropriated under the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program to process thousands of unprocessed DNA evidence kits across the country. Because this groundbreaking program’s authorization expires at the end of FY2009, “The Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2008” extends the program through FY2014.

According to the Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network, every 2 minutes someone is sexually assaulted somewhere in the United States. DNA evidence does not forget and it cannot be intimidated. By processing this evidence, we can prevent rapists from attacking more innocent victims and ensure that the survivors and their families receive justice.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LEROY HIGH SCHOOL ON THEIR 2007 2A STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. BONNER of Alabama. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Leroy High School on their 2007 2A Alabama State Football Championship.

Head coach Danny Powell led the Bears to their second straight Class 2A state football championship. The title is the third for Leroy in past four seasons and the third for Coach

Powell in the last two years. Like Coach Powell, I am so proud of his players, and I know they worked hard for this great accomplishment.

The Leroy Bears proved they are a team of champions in their victory on December 7, 2007, at Legion Field in Birmingham. They defeated Fyffe High School in a thrilling fourth quarter comeback to win the state crown.

Both teams had strong support from their families and fans. They traveled to Birmingham to support and cheer on their team. The fan support is a strong symbol of encouragement.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Leroy High School on their winning season and state championship. This school deserves public recognition for this great accomplishment.

I extend my congratulations to each member of the team and coaching staff:

LEROY HIGH SCHOOL ROSTER

1—Stephen Scoggins, 2—Aerik Davis, 3—Laurence Powell, 5—Grant Brown, 6—Josh Ervin, 7—Jerome Taylor, 8—Jared Elmore, 9—Patrick Wilson, 10—Josh Trotter, 11—Patrick Rivers, 12—Brandon Jones, 14—Paul Gartman, 15—Clint Moseley, 16—Alan James, 17—Zach Flowers.

18—Kenny Mitchell, 19—Ryan Daugerty, 20—Sammie Coates, 21—Johnny Williams, 22—Victor Lovick, 23—Andrew Williams,

24—Michael Bracy, 25—Clent Collins, 26—Terrence Brown, 27—Rob Reeves, 28—Phillip Ervin, 30—Deon Smith, 31—Luke Griffin, 32—Terrence Yelder, 33—Chris Weaver.

34—Detrick Powell, 35—Chet Elmore, 37—Jarrette Davis, 38—Andre Thomas, 43—Avery Nash, 44—John Truitt, 45—Tobais Roper, 46—Christian Smith, 47—Crayton Motes, 48—TJ Brannon, 51—Cody Overstreet, 52—Eddie Satterfield, 53—Anthony Payne, 54—Johathan Hammons, 55—Cody Childs.

56—Raymond Williams, 57—Jonathan Woodyard, 58—Keith Barnes, 59—Jacob Trujillo, 60—Chris Powell, 61—Tyler Faith, 62—Kyle Hayes, 63—James Foster, 64—Neil Hayes, 65—Brett Ayers, 66—Marquis Land, 67—Johnathan Sullivan, 68—Micah Bailey, 69—Tyler Chastain, 70—Frank Turner.

71—Devin Byrd, 72—Harris Long, 73—Aaron Williams, 74—Coby Powell, 75—Kendall Williams, 76—Jonathan Overstreet, 77—Tevin Anderson, 79—Payton Goldman, 83—David Morris, 84—Matt Delegal, 85—Ronny Reed, 88—Ross Reed, 89—Cody Sullivan, 90—Tyler Brown, 98—Richard Weaver, 99—Scottie McBride.

Head Coach: Danny Powell, Assistant Coaches: Jason Massey, Emanuel King, Matt Braun, Jason Rowell, Rodney Loper, Tony Nader, and Saul Worthy.

HONORING CYNTHIA “CINDY” HARRISON

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cynthia “Cindy” Harrison for nearly twenty years of hard work and dedication as Bainbridge Island’s head librarian. After two decades of extraordinary service, Cindy is retiring from Bainbridge Island Public Library. In 2006, Cindy was recognized with the highly-coveted New York Times Librarian of the Year Award, bringing her library national recognition