

the leadership of this House pandered to the narrow interests of the gun lobby and did not even give us the opportunity to vote on the bill passed in our Senate. Instead, they presented us with two separate bills designed to kill gun safety measures in this House.

The American people deserve a better Congress than that. They deserve a Congress that places more importance on human life, more importance on our children's sense of safety in their classroom, and on the parents' peace of mind, instead of pandering to the fringe interests of the gun lobby.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a Member of this House barely more than 6 months. When I came here my mission was to serve my district and the American people and to do everything within my power to ensure their safety. Our Constitution and the Congress' primary focus has always included the protection of our citizens safety. Last week's vote betrayed that intent, and even worse, was a great disservice to the American people.

Several Members on the other side of the debate raised concerns about upholding the Constitution's Second Amendment, the right to bear arms. Of course I and others support upholding the Constitution. However, I totally disagree with those who contend that requiring a 3-day background check on firearms buyers at gun shows or that requiring child safety locks on all gun sales is an infringement on peoples second amendment rights. What a bunch of horsefeathers. These modest gun safety measures do not prevent responsible citizens from owning guns. They simply ensure that guns do not end up in the hands of criminals likely to purchase them without adequate background checks and then misuse them.

Let us look at the known facts. In the 5 years the Brady bill has been in operation, that is the one that requires the 3-business-day waiting period for gun purchase, more than 400,000 illegal gun sales, two-thirds of which involve either convicted felons or people with a current felony indictment, were blocked. This is clear evidence that this law works and we are on the right path.

However, we still have much work to do. Vice President GORE recently told the U.S. Conference of Mayors in New Orleans that a new government study show that about two-thirds of all homicides involve the use of a handgun. Also, consider that domestic violence often turns into homicide in many instances where guns are readily available, and that law enforcement officials support gun safety because it saves police officers' lives.

It is no wonder that a recent Pew Research survey found that 65 percent of this Nation believes gun control is more important than the right to bear arms. This battle for sensible gun control is not over. Those of us who be-

lieve in closing gun loopholes will continue to fight to tighten our laws and ask for their enforcement.

Two months ago I spoke to hundreds of members of families and friends of murdered victims assembled in Rose Hills Memorial Park to honor their slain loved ones during victims' rights week. I pledged to them that I would work to ensure that we establish laws and programs that will prevent the additional loss of innocent lives, and to strengthen victims' rights.

I intend to keep that pledge. I intend to serve the American people and not special interests. I also intend to uphold the Constitution. Therefore, I proudly pledge to continue to fight and support reasonable gun safety legislation on behalf of America's children and our families.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2084, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. REYNOLDS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-196) on the resolution (H. Res. 218) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2084) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ADDRESSING AMERICA'S TEACHER SHORTAGE CRISIS

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

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we are about to have a major problem on our hands in this country. We have more and more children entering in our schools than we have seen in a generation. At the same time, we face a massive retirement as more and more of our teachers begin to reach retirement age.

In fact, we are going to need over 2 million new teachers over the next decade. In my home, Florida, a growth State, we are going to need over 7,000 teachers just in Hillsborough County, one county that I represent.

Fixing our education system is like a three-legged stool. We have to modernize our schools, we have to build them the right size the first time, we need to reduce class size, especially in the early grades, so we can return control of the classroom back to the teachers, and we need to begin preparing to replenish the ranks of our teaching profession with the very best and brightest we can find.

Along with the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER) who spoke earlier

this evening, I will be introducing legislation on Thursday that offers one approach to attract more qualified people into our teaching profession. Our bill is referred to as the Transition to Teaching Act. It is modeled after the very successful Troops to Teachers law in this country which has resulted in more than 3,000 retired members of the military choosing to become math, science, and technology teachers since 1974. More than 270 of these men and women alone are now teaching in Florida schools.

The Transition to Teaching Act expands the Troops to Teachers program so that any midlife career professional can consider making a change in the teaching profession, and like the Troops to Teachers program, will qualify for up to a \$5,000 grant or stipend to cover the cost of returning to a college or university to complete the coursework necessary to be trained as a teacher and certified as a teacher in the State where they choose to go.

In exchange for that training, we and the taxpayers of our country will expect at least 3 years of teaching, and we have targeted our bill towards those schools that have the highest percentage of students from an impoverished family where we face the greatest challenge in attracting teachers. We will expect the recipients of this grant to spend up to 3 years teaching in one of these schools, to help begin to fill the ranks of our dwindling number of teachers.

Yesterday in my home, Tampa, I met with three highly qualified individuals who formerly served in our military and are using those life experiences to be very successful teachers, Ronald Dyches, Al Greenway, and Karen Billingsley.

Ronald Dyches told me it had always been his dream to be a teacher. When it came time to retire from the military, the Troops to Teachers program was there to help cover some of the costs to pay the bills of going back to school before he could begin to earn a salary as a teacher. He told me it was always his dream to be a teacher, and that grant helped him realize his dream. Now he is doing a terrific job. As a matter of fact, as a veteran he helped design a course on the history of the Vietnam War that is not only being used in his high school, it is being used in other high schools in the Hillsborough County area. He is simply one example of some of the very talented and mature people who have worked in other professions, who can be brought into our schools.

Our bill can help move people from the boardroom to the classroom, from the firehouse to the schoolhouse, from the police station on Main Street to the school on Main Street.

Let us work together to bring more qualified people into our teaching profession. Let us reach out to people who

might consider realizing their dream and making that change to a second career in teaching. Let us get together and pass this legislation, and begin to deal with the need to have quality teachers as more and more students are in our schools.

GUN CONTROL

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, it was pretty outrageous last week that the Republican leadership had the nerve to offer a watered-down version of the Senate gun safety legislation. It was clear to all that watched and listened that 80 percent of the Republicans were willing to wait until there is more blood on our hands before passing real gun control legislation, legislation that would make it harder for kids to get guns.

But thankfully, 80 percent of the Democrats and 20 percent of the Republicans know that our children should be worrying about hitting their books, not about getting hit by a bullet. They know that our children should see Gunsmoke as an old TV rerun, and not a reality in their daily lives. And they know that our children must be safe in their schools, their neighborhoods, and their homes.

Increased gun safety measures will save the lives of thousands of young people every year. Regardless of our political agendas, we have to put our children first.

Fortunately, last week good sense prevailed and the legislation that would not close the gaping loopholes in our gun laws and would not make our children any safer failed. Mr. Speaker, now we have another opportunity, an opportunity to consider meaningful anti-violence legislation, rather than legislation that sounds helpful but rings hollow. We need commonsense anti-violence legislation, and we need to now.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, some of the most effective programs that we should and could be considering would begin at the preschool level. We know that the early years of a child's life are pivotal in determining their personality, determining their values and their conscience. So we must stop Band-Aid approaches that put guns in the hands of youth and put criminals behind bars after the fact.

Instead, we must do some real crimefighting at the source through effective prevention programs. In other words, let us not do what we have been doing with the staggering amount of money and a staggering lack of success. Let us not lock up people behind bars, never mind where they bought their gun.

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Never mind where they bought their gun or never mind what made them so crazy in the first place because today's kids are trying to be older faster, and they do not know how to do it, and they should not have to do it. A lot of them come from homes with only one parent, and a lot of them live in poverty.

Unfortunately, the clear connection between poverty and antisocial behavior continues to be an afterthought. We think we can stumble our way to make sense of security by some puny legislation, by putting people behind iron bars instead of protecting them and preventing them from being in trouble in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, we must address the problem of youth violence in terms of prevention and in terms of effective punishment. We should be implementing solutions based upon what research, what judgments, and what other practitioners have indicated about what is needed to reduce juvenile crime and delinquency.

That is why we must step forward with real solutions. Following the good sense of 80 percent of the House Democrats and 20 percent of the House Republicans, we can strengthen gun control laws, and we can invest in prevention programs so our children will not result in violence to settle their problems.

IOM REPORT ON SILICONE BREAST IMPLANTS

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Institute of Medicine released its report on silicone breast implant research. It evaluated past studies on the association between silicone implants and diseases as well as considering the frequency of complications including rupture, the need for additional surgeries, and problems with contraction.

Perhaps the Institute of Medicine's most important directive was to recommend areas of future research concerning silicone breast implants.

The IOM, the Institute of Medicine, report points to the undeniable need for additional scientific research on the long-term outcomes and local complications of silicone breast implants. In fact, the report states these complications occur frequently enough to be a cause for concern and to justify the conclusion that they are the primary safety issue with silicone breast implants.

Although the rate of implant rupture and silicone leakage has not been definitively established, a recent analysis of implant failure conducted by the University of Florida found silicone

breast implant rupture at a rate of 30 percent at 5 years, 50 percent at 10 years, and 70 percent at 17 years.

However, in information sent to women considering implants, manufacturers currently are grossly underestimating the rupture rate at 1 percent.

The Institute of Medicine, the IOM, also concluded that the information concerning the nature and relatively high frequency of local complications and reoperations is an essential element of adequate informed consent for women undergoing breast implantation.

Therefore, the IOM recommends the development of national model of informed consent of women undergoing breast implantation to ensure women fully understand the risks associated with silicone implants.

Women have the right to choose to get breast implants, but Congress has the responsibility to make sure that they are fully aware of the risks associated with these products.

For these reasons, I, along with the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) and nearly 45 cosponsors have introduced H.R. 1323, the Silicone Breast Implant Research and Information Act.

This bill promotes independent research at NIH in order to ensure impartial, scientifically sound studies on silicone breast implants. To date, there have been no National Institutes of Health, NIH, clinical studies of mastectomy patients who have had implants.

With the level of attention and controversy on this issue, supporters of H.R. 1323 believe leadership from NIH is critically important.

Our legislation would also require the FDA to strengthen informed consent procedures in clinical trials and institute better follow-up mechanisms for consumer complaints. Because the FDA has never approved silicone breast implants for the market, it is crucial that women and their doctors have access to accurate information concerning the possible risks.

Finally, the Institute of Medicine, the IOM, recommends additional research to determine safe levels of silicone in the human body. Everyone has some level of silicone in their body. However, there has never been any research to establish a safe level of silicone. How can scientists be expected to determine whether silicone is causing diseases if we do not know what is the safe level?

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to look at H.R. 1323.

JUVENILE DIABETES

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to call to the attention of