

the ties of human sympathy and lifelong friendship with at least some of their classmates might have braked the homicidal slide.’

So, Mr. Speaker, I would say again, we need to go back to smaller high schools, even if in older buildings or even with fewer courses.

Let me mention one other thing, Mr. Speaker. Insight Magazine, a publication of the Washington Times, had a cover story a few days ago which said, almost all of these school shootings over the last 2 or 3 years have been done by young people who were taking or had recently taken very strong, mood-altering drugs such as Ritalin or Prozac.

I remember another article in the Knoxville News-Sentinel, which said we were prescribing Ritalin in the United States at six times the rate of any other industrialized Nation.

This article quoted a former top official of the DEA who said Ritalin had the same properties as cocaine and some of the strongest illegal narcotics. One study I heard about said Ritalin was most often taken by young boys who had both parents working full time.

I know some of this may be necessary, but I question whether we need it at six times the rate of other industrialized nations. Some of it may be essential, but some of these children may be just boys crying out for more attention.

We certainly should not be turning our children into drug addicts.

To sum up, Mr. Speaker, we need smaller schools and fewer drugs and more time and attention for our children.

HONORING NEW PSALMIST BAPTIST CHURCH ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize significant events that occurred 100 years ago, in the year of 1899.

A century ago our Nation was engaged in the Philippine-American War and ending the Spanish-American War. Two great literary works were being created by two of the few African-American authors, Booker T. Washington's *Up From Slavery* and W.E.B. DuBois' *The Philadelphia Negro*. Two automobile empires would begin to prosper, with the entrance of Henry Ford and David Buick into the industry; and Duke Ellington and Ernest Hemingway, and, most significantly, New Psalmist Baptist Church of Baltimore City were born.

As we reflect 100 years later on this rich history, it is my honor and privilege to congratulate my pastor, Dr.

Walter Scott Thomas, and my New Psalmist Baptist Church family on our 100th anniversary to be celebrated this week. What a blessing for our church celebration to be a part of a centennial anniversary of so many momentous events in our Nation's history.

From its meager beginnings in an alley, New Psalmist was guided by Reverend Junius Gray, its founder and visionary leader. From its home at Riggs Avenue and Woodyear Street to North and Druid Hill Avenues in Baltimore, Reverend Frederick Atkins took the reins and preserved the traditions and spirit of the church.

Over the years, New Psalmist Baptist Church has flourished, expanding from a membership of 5 to more than 5,000. Under the illustrious leadership of its current pastor, Dr. Walter Scott Thomas, the church has done the following:

Birthing 13 ministers; founded a fully accredited Christian school, grades pre-K through 5; an education ministry; establish a 3-year discipleship program; launched two radio broadcasts aired throughout the Mid-Atlantic region and a television ministry aired twice weekly; and established several outreach ministries, including those focused on seniors, youth, health and prison.

I was especially honored to welcome our Nation's top leader, President Bill Clinton, to our church on November 1, 1998.

Mr. Speaker, 100 years after the birth of New Psalmist, our Nation has also made tremendous strides. Our Nation has fought and won numerous wars and strives to encourage the principles of democracy worldwide.

African-American literature, movies and music have infiltrated American culture and have become widely recognized by the mainstream. The automobile industry has developed battery-operated and electric motor vehicles, and there are 39 African-Americans that have been elected to serve as Members of the United States House of Representatives.

Even with all of these changes, albeit positive, it is still good to know that some things do remain the same. New Psalmist remains a key cornerstone of spiritual leadership to my home district of Baltimore and to the Nation, as well as a source of inspirational outreach and education.

Pastor Thomas, associate ministers, officers and members have carried on a legacy of selfless dedication and commitment to the greater Baltimore community. Not only are souls being saved, but lives are being revitalized and uplifted. Members are educating Baltimore's youth, assisting in getting people to work, and ensuring that citizens are getting appropriate health care. In other words, the church is helping real people with real-life issues.

Walking in faith and working together for good, New Psalmist has pro-

vided leadership and strength to families, men, women and children, searching for a church home. Personally, Pastor Thomas and the members have had a profound impact and have been a constant source of strength in my life and that of my family's, and it is good to have my minister and my church to call upon in good and tough times.

So it is today that I applaud New Psalmist on its continued spiritual tradition and congratulate Pastor Walter Scott Thomas and my church family on its 100th anniversary.

MANAGED CARE REFORM

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, at first it was campaign finance reform, then it was gun safety and school violence; now it is health care reform where we see an unfortunate recurring pattern taking place by our Republican leadership.

Mr. Speaker, on issue after issue, the leadership uses its power to stomp out any real discussion on the House floor. Once again, those of us who care about patients' rights have no alternative, no alternative but to sign a discharge petition to force a discussion on managed care reform, because, my colleagues, serious proposals for meaningful health care reform have been rejected by the Republican leadership.

Why? I am not sure, but it certainly looks like they are trying to protect the profits of the managed care industry. And that is protecting managed care industry's profits over the protection of all of our constituents, every single Member of the House of Representatives and the people we work for.

While they claim reform would actually allow the Federal Government to interfere with the doctor-patient relationship, our families are left unprotected.

Democrats in Congress have been waiting 2 years to pass a Patients' Bill of Rights, because we are ready. We are ready to improve Americans' access to health care. On the other hand, the leadership in this Congress has taken their sham bill from last year, broken it into eight pieces, eight pieces that they want to sell this year as health care reform.

Well, we have to be clear about this. There is no real change in their piecemeal approach. Their same refusal to protect doctors and patients from the insult of an insurance clerk's ability to dictate medical treatment procedures remains. The American Medical Association, in fact, says that their package falls short of the mark; says it does not solve any of the problems our doctors and patients have.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, to put doctors and patients back in charge of our