

range of appropriate responses. Alternatives to incarceration will not work for all youth. But we need to ensure that even those youth who do serve time in correctional facilities are safe from abuse and have access to appropriate medical and psychiatric treatment.

Unfortunately, this is not currently the case. Each year, more than one million children come in contact in some way with the juvenile justice system. Over 100,000 of these youth are detained in a correctional facility.

The rate of mental disorders is significantly higher among the juvenile justice population than among youths in the general population. Federal studies suggest that as many as 60% of incarcerated youth have some mental health disorder and 20% have a severe disorder. In my home state of California, a recent study by the California Youth Authority found that 35% of boys in its custody and 73% of girls need mental health or substance abuse treatment.

In an article published in March of last year, reporter Fox Butterfield wrote in The New York Times that "jails and prisons have become the nation's new mental hospitals." In the article, Dr. Linda Reyes, a psychologist and assistant executive director of the Texas Youth Commission called the incarceration of adolescents with mental disorders "tragic and absurd." "The system we have created is totally ineffective," said Dr. Reyes.

Many youngsters in the juvenile justice system have committed minor, non-violent offenses or status offenses. The incarceration of these youngsters is often the result of inadequate local mental health services. These youngsters, their families, and society, could be better served if we made available appropriate local mental health, substance abuse, and educational services as an alternative to incarceration, particularly for first offenders and non-violent offenses.

Such services have proven more effective than incarceration in preventing troubled young people from re-offending and are less expensive than prison. In the long run, they are even more cost-effective to us as a society, because they increase the odds that a young person will become a responsible, productive, taxpaying citizen rather than a permanent ward of the state.

Last November, Amnesty International released a report indicating an increasing problem of youthful offenders being subjected to physical abuse and a lack of appropriate services. The report documents incidents in which youth were shackled, sprayed with chemicals, over-medicated, and even punished with electro-shock devices.

Amnesty International also found that 38 states housed juveniles in adult prisons with no special programs or educational services. Youth in these adult facilities are five times more likely to be sexually assaulted, twice as likely to be beaten by staff, and eight times more likely to commit suicide than children in juvenile facilities.

One incident in Amnesty's report involved a youth from California named Nicholas Contreras. At last count, the California Youth Authority's correctional institutions held 25% more youth than their specified capacity; but the state also sends hundreds of children to out-of-state facilities which would not be li-

censed under California's own state laws and which receive very little oversight from the authorities responsible for placing children in them.

Nicholaus Contreras died in March of last year at one such facility, while staff forced him to do "push-ups," despite clear signs of his poor physical health. His body was found with 71 cuts, bruises, and abrasions.

California has since stopped sending children to this facility and action has been taken by the state of Arizona against the individuals responsible. Perhaps if we had clearer rules and better oversight, however, conditions like those that contributed to Nicholaus' death would never occur, or at least would be corrected before they resulted in fatalities. Tragically, however, no such system is now in place.

The bill we are introducing today, the Mental Health Juvenile Justice Act, would help create alternatives to incarceration, particularly for first-time non-violent offenders, and improve conditions in youth correctional institutions by:

Providing funds to train juvenile justice personnel on the identification and need for appropriate treatment of mental disorders and substance abuse, and on the use of community-based alternatives to placement in juvenile correctional facilities.

Providing block grant funds and competitive grants to states and localities to develop local mental health diversion programs for children who come into contact with the justice system and broaden access to mental health and substance abuse treatment programs for incarcerated children with emotional disorders.

Establishing a Federal Council to report to Congress on recommendations to improve the treatment of youth with serious emotional and behavioral disorders who come into contact with the justice system.

Strengthening federal courts' ability to remedy abusive conditions in state facilities under which juvenile offenders and prisoners with mental illness are being held.

Our bill addresses important issues in the lives of our nation's young people and for all of our society. As Michael Faenza, President of the National Mental Health Association has said, "Treating young people, with or without mental disorders, in dehumanizing ways is not the answer to question of crime prevention and public safety. And it's not the way to make children productive, law-abiding, and caring citizens."

I look forward to working with my colleagues in enacting this legislation.

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of my colleagues to a resolution on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The following resolution was unanimously approved by 150 people from Vermont and New Hampshire who gathered at two events commemorating the fiftieth anniversary

of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I agree with their statement that "human rights, as articulated in the Declaration, will be best assured when all nations work in concert to promote and protect them."

I call the attention of my colleagues to this resolution and ask that it be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for their benefit:

RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO FULLY IMPLEMENT THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

We call upon the United States government to ensure that the laws, actions, programs and policies of the United States, both foreign and domestic, including government import, export, business and development policies affecting the welfare of all of the peoples of the world, be consistent with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its two implementing International Covenants of 1966;

Further, we urge the United States government to:

Ratify the 1966 Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the 1992 Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;

Satisfy all of its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, including the Statute of the International Court of Justice with a declaration under Article 36 which recognizes that Statute as compulsory;

Abide by Article 6 of the United States Constitution, which states that all treaties signed and ratified by the United States government are the law of the land;

Acknowledge that the United Nations was created by international treaty and therefore payment of UN dues without conditions is an obligation with the force of American law.

We also call on the governments of all nations to mandate in every school under their jurisdiction, the teaching of the principles and methods of non-violent social change, the history of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and how people throughout the world have struggled and continue to struggle to make it a lived reality in the life of every person, everywhere.

Unanimously approved by 150 residents of Vermont and New Hampshire who gathered at two events commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Further endorsed by the American Friends Service Committee (Vermont), the United Nations Association (Vermont), the World Federalist Association (New Hampshire and Vermont) and Amnesty International (Hanover, NH).

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ANTI-SEMITIC STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE RUSSIAN DUMA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, racism, ethnic hatred, and xenophobia are the bane of any civilized society. Our own country has had to battle with these phenomena in the past and continues to do so today.

In Europe, with the end of the Cold War, we have unfortunately seen a resurrection of racist attitudes and activities that had not been eradicated with the defeat of Nazism, just driven underground.

In Russia, a nation whose past has seen terrible instances of anti-Semitism both in the Tsarist and Communist eras, anti-Semitism had seemingly been exiled to the pages of rabidly nationalistic newspapers catering only to the political fringes. Unfortunately, anti-Semitism has now come in out of the cold into more comfortable confines—specifically into the halls of the Russian State Duma, the lower house of the Russian Parliament. In fairness, I should say that anti-Semitism has found refuge in the ranks of one particular political party in the Duma—the Communist Party. Last October, at two public rallies, a Communist Party member of the Duma, Albert Makashov, threatened “the Yids” and other “reformers and democrats” with physical retribution for allegedly causing Russia’s current problems.

Incidentally, I have seen films of Mr. Makashov’s performance. It is quite sobering.

When conscientious members of the Duma attempted to censure Mr. Makashov, the Communist Party majority voted down the resolution, and substituted a watered down resolution condemning ethnic hatred in general.

In early December, at hearings in the Duma, Communist Party member and chairman of the Defense Committee, Victor Ilyukhin blamed President Yeltsin’s “Jewish entourage” for alleged “genocide against the Russian people.” In response to the public outcry, both in Russia and abroad, Communist Party chairman Zyuganov explained that the Party had nothing against “Jews,” just “Zionism.”

Mr. Speaker, it would be hypocritical for me or any other member of this body to pretend that racism and anti-Semitism do not occasionally rear their ugly heads in our own political process. However, the leadership of the two major American political parties consistently rejects racist or anti-Semitic individuals as officeholders or candidates for office. For instance, the national Republican Party leadership has disassociated itself from a former member of the Ku Klux Klan running for office on the Republican Party ballot in Louisiana. Similarly, when a local Klan leader in California ran for Congress on the Democratic Party ticket a few years ago, the national party leadership repudiated his candidacy and refused to support him. That is why it is so disappointing to see the leadership of the Communist Party in Russia attempt to rationalize anti-Semitic statements made by its members.

Incidentally, I should add that since these incidents Mr. Makashov and Mr. Ilyukhin have stated that in the next parliamentary elections they will run on a ticket separate from the Communist Party.

In any event, I believe the Congress should unequivocally condemn the anti-Semitic statements made by members of the Russian Duma. With this in mind, today I am introducing, along with Mr. HOYER, Mr. WOLF, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. PORTER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. SALMON, a resolution which condemns anti-Semitic statements made by members of the Russian Duma while commending actions taken by fair-minded members of the Duma to censure the purveyors of

anti-Semitism within their ranks. In addition, this resolution commends President Yeltsin and other members of the Russian Government for their forceful rejection of such statements. Finally, this resolution reiterates the firm belief of the Congress that peace and justice cannot be achieved as long as governments and legislatures promote policies based upon anti-Semitism, racism, and xenophobia.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join us in support of this resolution.

THE CARE GIVERS TAX REDUCTION ACT

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Care Givers Tax Reduction Act, which will update the Dependent Care Tax Credit to more accurately reflect the costs of providing care to loved ones.

A great deal has happened in this country since 1982, including the price working families pay to care for their children or aging parents. While the cost of quality care has dramatically increased, the amount families can take as a tax credit has eroded during the past seventeen years. In fact, inflation has eroded 60 percent of the value of the current credit since it was last adjusted. It is time for Congress to update the tax credit to more accurately reflect the true costs of providing care for families in our districts.

Our workforce is rapidly changing and middle aged adults are becoming members of the sandwich generation—providing care for both their children and their aging parents. Currently, the federal tax credit available to provide financial assistance for care is the Dependent Care Tax Credit. This credit is currently non-refundable so families with no tax liability are not able to benefit from the dependent care tax credit.

The tax credit has not been adjusted for inflation since 1982. Currently, the tax credit only allows taxpayers to use the first \$2,400 of expenses for one child or dependent and the first \$4,800 of expenses for two or more children or dependents. These levels are woefully low and do not reflect the real costs in our districts. The Care Givers Tax Reduction Act of 1999 will update this credit and raise the levels to more accurately reflect the cost of providing care—\$4,000 for one child or dependent and \$8,000 for two or more children or dependents. Finally, my legislation ties future amounts of the tax credit to inflation.

Furthermore, my legislation would allow the maximum tax credit of 30% to families with an adjusted gross income of \$18,000. For every \$3,000 more of adjusted gross income, the percentage of the tax credit would be reduced by one. The phaseout would end at 12% for families earning over \$69,000 in adjusted gross income. Under my proposal, a family of four with two children in child care earning \$32,000 will see their taxes reduced by \$2,000. My legislation would not diminish any credit a family currently receives but would allow low and middle income families to re-

ceive more for providing care to their children and aging parents.

This legislation will provide much needed financial assistance to working families for their child care needs. For example, Elaine, a single mother in Rhode Island, earns \$28,000 a year as a clerk for a local utility company. Her salary puts her just above the amount with which she would be eligible for assistance from the state to help pay for the child care needs of her two children. Unfortunately, the weekly cost for quality care for her two children amounts to more than \$200. Assuming her children are in day care for 52 weeks of the year, her child care costs would amount to over \$10,000. This situation occurs far too frequently, with parents earning too much to qualify for assistance but not enough to afford quality child care without any assistance.

Currently, Elaine would receive the maximum tax credit of \$1,440 to help her pay for child care expenses. However, if she had no tax liability, which is often the case with lower income workers, she would not be able to receive a refund for her expenses. Under my legislation, Elaine would be eligible for a refundable tax credit of \$2,080.

This legislation will make child care more affordable for Elaine’s family and other working families of our country. I ask my colleagues to join with me in support of updating this tax credit so more families can benefit.

EAGLE SCOUTS HONORED

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to bring to the attention of my colleagues, twenty-seven outstanding young individuals from the 3rd Congressional District of Illinois, who have completed a major goal in their scouting career.

The following young men of the 3rd Congressional District of Illinois have earned the high rank of Eagle Scout in the past months: Christopher Jesionowski, Gerald Reid, Jr., Charles R. Dattilo, David W. Kurzawski, Kenneth R. Cechura, Matthew J. Tiffany, Carl Marcanti, Adam Ramm, Daniel David Grabacki, Brian T. Meyer, James Joseph Pesavento, Andrew Paul Marhoul, Corey G. Zadlo, Joshua S. Anderson, Jacob P. Anderson, William (Bill) Skobutt, Gregory Prawdzik, Mark Tatar, Jason M. Wolff, Richard J. Michals, Matthew A. Nemchausky, Tomasz Sokolowski, William F. Urso, Eric Michael Dusik, Paul Mervine, Preston Gale, and Keith Klikas. These young men have demonstrated their commitment to their communities, and have perpetuated the principles of scouting. It is important to note that less than two percent of all young men in America attain the rank of Eagle Scout. This high honor can only be earned by those scouts demonstrating extraordinary leadership abilities.

In light of the commendable leadership and courageous activities performed by these fine young men, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the above scouts for attaining the highest honor in Scouting—the Rank of Eagle.