

**URGING MEMBERS TO COSPONSOR
REAUTHORIZATION OF THE VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN ACT**

(Mrs. MORELLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, 5 years ago Congress passed the landmark Violence Against Women Act and changed the way this Nation addresses the crimes of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Today, because of that, there are more investigations and prosecutions with stiffer penalties, including life sentences for those who cross State lines to commit domestic violence. Communities across the country are training police officers on how best to respond to family violence calls.

Today there is a National Domestic Violence Hotline, which provides a lifeline to the more than 8,000 callers each month. There are more shelters and counseling services provided for the women and children who are faced with danger in their own homes. Children who experience domestic violence have stronger advocates and support within the judicial system. These programs have made a significant difference in the health and happiness of hundreds of thousands of women and children and families.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the 5-year reauthorization of the programs under the Violence Against Women Act. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsorship. There is no excuse for domestic violence.

**FAIRNESS MUST BE PRACTICED
WITH RESPECT TO APPOINTMENT
OF CONFEREES**

(Mr. ROEMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago, with strong Democratic support, the House of Representatives, in a bipartisan way, passed the education flexibility bill. This bill is about old values and new ideas: old values of local control of our schools, new ideas of added flexibility for increased student performance.

When we appointed conferees to this bill last night, our leadership did not appoint a single Democrat who supported the bill on the House Floor. We had a majority of Democrats support the bill in committee, a majority of Democrats support the bill on the House Floor, but yet no Democrats who supported the bill were appointed to conference and supported the bill on the House Floor.

We can talk about Republican and Democratic civility and fairness, we can talk about better ratios and funding, but we need to practice that fair-

ness with our appointments to conference.

In Abraham Lincoln's words, with malice towards none, with charity towards all, these need to be reflected outside our party and within our party.

THE VETERANS' BUDGET

(Mr. SWEENEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, growing up, one thing I learned from my father, a veteran of the Second World War, was that when you shake hands and make a promise with someone, you stick to it. This might seem a little old-fashioned, but it is a value I will never forget.

Our service men and women enlist in the Armed Forces with a simple understanding. To their country they pledge their youth, their dedication, and if need be, their lives. In return, their country promises that veterans will have some basic needs provided for when they leave active service.

The Clinton-Gore administration has broken this promise to our Nation's veterans. The administration's budget neglects our veterans' health care needs. The VA faces cost increases of more than \$1 billion, and a shortfall of more than \$100 million in medical insurance collections. In other words, our veterans are shortchanged by \$1 billion under the President's budget.

If we add those costs up with the Clinton-Gore proposal, do we know what that amounts to? Disaster. Our veterans deserve better. That is why I support the largest increase in history for VA medical care over the administration's budget request. The majority's \$1 billion increase over the Clinton-Gore budget for veterans will head off predicted closures of needed VA facilities. This is our promise to veterans, and we are going to keep it.

CENSUS UNDERCOUNT

(Ms. SANCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of an accurate Census, and the use of adjusted data to compensate for the chronic undercount of people that occurs in each Census.

In 1990, the Census missed almost 21,000 people in my congressional district in Orange County. This is the equivalent of over \$54 million lost over a 10-year period. Only nine of California's 52 congressional districts were more undercounted than my own. We lost a lot of money, and we pay taxes.

In the city of Anaheim, my own hometown, we were undercounted by over 7,000 people, and as a result, Anaheim lost \$1.5 million in Federal funding, job training, law enforcement,

emergency shelters. These were all underfunded because we were not getting our Federal dollars. It would have made our streets safer, we would have had shelter for the homeless, we could have trained the unemployed.

I urge my colleagues to support the use of adjusted Census data, and challenge them to make all Americans count.

THE CRISIS IN KOSOVO

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a heavy heart. I would like to talk about the budget, saving social security, saving Medicare, but I think the crisis in Kosovo demands our attention.

The Constitution says, "We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution of the United States."

Article 1, section 8, says "The Congress shall have the power to declare war." I wonder when we are going to accept responsibility for our actions and debate a declaration of war when we are about ready to bomb a sovereign state. If we want to do that, let us accept our responsibilities, and let us do it as a body.

Until that time, let us not hide behind the curtains or the skirts of the President of the United States under the War Powers declaration. Let us get some guts and let us fight for freedom.

**LET US FULLY FUND THE BUDGET
TO PROVIDE FOR VETERANS'
NEEDS**

(Mr. SANDERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, as the sound of war today reverberates throughout this Chamber, let us take this opportunity to make sure that we do not forget about the veterans of past wars, the men and women who have put their lives on the line defending this country.

Frankly, the President's budget is grossly inadequate in terms of protecting veterans' needs, as is the Republican budget. In the State of Vermont, the Veterans Administration hospital at White River Junction is under significant financial pressure, and that is true at VA hospitals all over this country.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when some are proposing huge tax breaks for some