

As Members of Congress, we have the responsibility to work in a bipartisan manner to provide our teachers, parents, students and school officials with a safe, drug-free learning environment. Our students, their education, their future and their safety demand no less.

Mr. Speaker, with a heavy heart, I yield back the balance of my time and pray for the families in Colorado.

ONE CITIZEN, ONE VOTE

(Mr. CUMMINGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the fundamental principle of one citizen, one vote. Sadly, high campaign costs and fund-raising abuses are eroding this essential feature of our democracy.

In 1976, \$540 million was spent on all elections and 20 years later, in 1996, that figure had risen to an alarming \$4 billion.

Our political process has become a marketplace where a higher value is placed on economic and fund-raising activities than on political ideology, accountability and service.

The American people want political commitment, not a political market. They want a system where inequalities generated by the market economy do not undermine political equality. Let us give the American people what they want: Equal access and a commitment to service instead of campaigns. Let us pass bipartisan campaign finance reform and revive the guarantee of one citizen, one vote.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

(Mr. RADANOVICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROGAN); the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR); the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), and a bipartisan group of legislators in introducing a resolution to bring together all the U.S. records on the Armenian Genocide and to provide this collection to the House Committee on International Relations, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the Armenian Genocide Museum in Yerevan, Armenia.

U.S. archives contain extensive documentation of the widespread opposition to Ottoman Turkey's brutal massacres and deportations. They contain, as well, records of the unprecedented efforts of the American people to bring relief to the survivors of this, the century's first genocide.

In introducing this legislation, we challenge those who would deny genocide, past or present.

Please add your name today as a co-sponsor of this legislation and join

with me at the Armenian National Committee's Genocide Observance being held this evening at the Rayburn House Office Building.

SISTER TO SISTER FLY-IN

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, for several years I have sponsored the Sister to Sister Fly-In, an event that allows women from my district to come to Washington and discuss issues that are important to them, issues like health care, child care, improved public education, and protecting Social Security.

Today, I would like to welcome some 50 women from Georgia's 4th Congressional District who are here with me to experience firsthand how our political system works and how they, as women, are changing the landscape of American politics.

Currently, 65 women serve in the U.S. Congress, a record 9 in the Senate, and a record 56 in the House. Although we have been shut out of the political process in the past, we have always been in the vanguard of social change, including women like Rosa Parks, whom we honored yesterday with the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The increased participation of women in the political process is a must for ensuring that women have an equal say in the crucial issues that affect us all.

STOP THE VIOLENCE

(Ms. DUNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, there are no words to describe the tragedy that took place yesterday at Columbine High School in Colorado. As a mother, I can only empathize with those parents who were waiting for hours to find out if their son or daughter was able to leave that school safely.

These young people have seen more in a few hours than any of our Nation's children should see in a lifetime. Parents whose children were one month from graduating, one month from starting a brand-new chapter in their lives are now grieving with an inconceivable loss. This community has a heartache no one in his worst nightmare could ever have imagined.

After the school shooting in Springfield, Oregon last year, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and I teamed up in an effort to do something to stop the violence on our Nation's school grounds. There is no cure-all, but the Schoolyard Safety Act will help by beginning awareness before the tragedy occurs.

We know that legislation is not the final solution. High school students at Columbine reported they knew the sus-

pects in the shooting were troubled, youths who needed our help long before the tragedy occurred. But how do we help these children before they act out violence?

A discussion needs to take place with our students across the Nation. We need to talk to our children, after they get home from school, every night at the dinner table, on weekends, to find out what they are thinking, what they are feeling. The solution is found with our children.

Mr. Speaker, nothing can stop the heartache of the community of Littleton, Colorado. We can only pray for students and families and pull our communities together to stop violence.

TRAGEDY IN COLORADO

(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, as a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce and a father of three children, I rise to ask for the prayers and join in the grieving for the families that lost children in Littleton, Colorado. We lost, reports indicate, maybe 16 of our children. We have lost more children in one day than we have lost in four weeks of bombing in Kosovo. We have lost children in Pearl, Mississippi and Paducah, Kentucky. We have lost children in Jonesboro, Arkansas and Springfield, Oregon. We have lost children to violence throughout the last several years.

While our children are entitled to a very good education and safe schools, we also need to enforce discipline in our schools, to target these children that are coming to school with problems in an early fashion, and we need to enforce the values in American society.

When we have guns in society, we are going to have guns in our schools. When we have violence in society, we are going to have violence in our schools. And when we have hatred in society, that hatred is going to permeate into our schools.

Let us, as Madison said, have a larger vision of America. Let us have and engage in a national dialogue to stop this hatred and violence in our schools.

ASKING AMERICANS TO PRAY FOR FAMILIES IN LITTLETON, COLORADO

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, 15 years ago a childhood friend of mine from Athens, Georgia, Ross Fox, moved out to Denver to start his career and raise his family.

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Yesterday, as I heard, as did millions of other Americans, about the tragedy that went on in Littleton, I thought immediately of Ross and 17-year-old Richard Fox and 15-year-old David Fox. I did not know if they went to Columbine or not, so I called Ross. His wife Paloma answered the phone and said they did not go there, that Ross wanted to talk to me.

Ross, who is a successful stockbroker out there, had come home earlier to hug his children and to meet them in the driveway as they went rushing out to see their dad and embrace. They did not go to Columbine, but their friends did. As recently as Sunday, David had been playing basketball with kids from Columbine.

As I called them last night, they did not know if their friends were victims or survivors. The sadness, the confusion, the overwhelming frustration and anguish, was just too much for them. As we talked on the phone last night, I think both of us had tears in our eyes.

We do not know the easy solutions, the quick answers. The tendency in society is to rush out and say we need to change this law or pass this bill, or maybe get this off TV. We do not really know what would be the one panacea that would end this sort of strange, bizarre, peculiar, repugnant type behavior and incidents.

One thing we do know: Right now this country is united with the families of the victims; that they have our sympathy and they have our prayers. As the Speaker called for prayer today, we ask other Americans to pray, and perhaps we should remember that unlike high school kids throughout the country, at least this institution can openly say a prayer for them.

COMMERCE COMMITTEE LEGISLATION TO AMEND NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, this Congress is on the verge of making a monumental mistake.

As we speak, the House Committee on Commerce is trying to pass legislation that would dump more than 70,000 tons of lethal nuclear waste just 90 miles from my hometown, Las Vegas, home to over 1 million men, women, and children.

What is worse, this bill proposes to move this waste on our Nation's highways and rail lines through 43 States through the backyards of 50 million Americans.

Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that this mobile Chernobyl will create between 200 and 400 potential deadly nuclear accidents. I ask my colleagues if such an accident occurred in their district and

they voted for this legislation, what possible explanation could they give their constituents? Who would they send to clean up the radioactive mess, or care for the radioactive injured?

There is an alternative. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson has come up with a good plan to keep the deadly radioactive waste off our Nation's highways and railways. He wants the Energy Department to take control of nuclear waste at our Nation's reactor sites.

Please vote against this horrible mobile Chernobyl before it causes a nuclear accident.

GRIEVING FOR VICTIMS OF SENSELESS VIOLENCE IN LITTLETON, COLORADO

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, first, Pearl, Mississippi; then, West Paducah, Kentucky; then Jonesboro, Arkansas; then Edinboro, Pennsylvania; then Springfield, Ohio; and now, Littleton, Colorado. It all seems too much to bear.

We have no cure-all answers, quick and easy solutions, only questions and prayers. Parents pray for many things in life: that their children grow up to share the same values they tried to teach them, that they realize all their hopes and dreams, that they feel love, and that they love people and life.

One thing they all pray for is that their children spend their days in a safe and wholesome environment at school. There are too many schools in America where the children are not safe, where the environment is not wholesome, where positive values and experience do not triumph. It is a failing, and we must work together to answer the prayers of parents who worry every night about their children's safety.

Today we express our sorrow. We all pray and grieve for those suffering from the senseless violence in Colorado.

VETERANS' MEMORIAL

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, to change the subject a little bit, today, along with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOHN MURTHA), I will introduce legislation to authorize a memorial to honor our wounded and disabled veterans. This memorial, the only one dedicated to disabled veterans, would give the American people an opportunity to honor and express gratitude to those who sacrificed so much for our freedom.

We must never forget the terrifying human costs, physical, psychological,

and spiritual, that so many paid that we might be free. They were citizen soldiers, everyday Americans who were willing to make the ultimate sacrifice, and who offered themselves for the good of all. They should never be forgotten.

This memorial will stand forever as a tribute to our disabled veterans and their sacrifices for our great Nation.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIANS ASK REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP TO BRING MANAGED CARE REFORM TO THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE FOR DEBATE

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, in the last weeks dozens of national health organizations launched a nationwide online petition demanding the passage of comprehensive Bill of Rights. This would protect the basic rights of patients enrolled in managed care plans.

In my district north of the Golden Gate Bridge, even though we have some very good health maintenance organizations, people are telling me that they are very concerned about whether their health plan will be there when they need it. So they are getting on this petition, and they are asking the Republican leadership to bring the Patients' Bill of Rights forward so that we can debate it here in the Congress.

They are calling on the Speaker of the House to bring managed care reform to the Floor of the House, managed care reform that will guarantee access to emergency room care, ensure that doctors and patients, not insurance companies, have the final word on medical decisions, and give patients recourse when care is denied.

It is pretty basic, Mr. Speaker. In our health care system patients should be number one, not the almighty dollar.

OFFERING PRAYERS TO THE GRIEVING AFTER A SENSELESS TRAGEDY

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

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, there is little that can be said during such moments of tragedy such as what the Nation witnessed yesterday in Colorado. There are thousands of disaffected, terribly disturbed teenagers across the country, but few will resort to violence. In this case, two of them did. Their violence was of a self-destructive sort resulting in their own self-inflicted deaths after they took the lives of innocent children.

It is all too easy for armchair psychologists to draw hasty conclusions about what explains this tragedy and