

bill. Furthermore, seniors in my district, during my most recent round of town meetings, were very supportive of the measure.

I hope that my colleagues in the House on both sides of the aisle will join me in working with the House leadership, the Committee on Ways and Means and its Subcommittee on Health, HCFR, and most importantly, the hospitals and seniors to ensure that the changes set forth in the Medicare Truth in Billing Act will become law.

AIRBUS, THE EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURER, A COMPANY THAT CANNOT FAIL

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to bring an important trade issue to the attention of my colleagues. Within the past 2 years, Boeing's share of the aircraft market has fallen from 70 percent to 50 percent. Boeing is losing market shares to Airbus, the European aircraft manufacturer.

Airbus was created in the early 1970s for the sole purpose of maintaining and fostering a European role in the production of large commercial jet aircraft. It is a combination of the major aerospace companies of France, Germany, the United Kingdom and Spain. Airbus, which is 60 percent owned by private companies, is not the property of the four European nations. However, it is still hard to view Airbus as a private business just like any other business.

First of all, Airbus does not operate as a public corporation but, rather, it has special legal status under French law. This special status allows member companies to pool resources without having to disclose specifics about their combined financial activities. Therefore, Airbus remains a financial mystery.

Also, France still has not completed the privatization of its aerospace firm, Aerospatiale. Given France's long history of substantial support to Aerospatiale, it is hard to believe that the French government will give up complete control of the company any time soon.

Perhaps most importantly, the European Commission has the ability to save Airbus from bankruptcy if the need ever arises. Therefore, Airbus, due to its government backing, is a company that cannot fail. This gives Airbus a tremendous advantage because it has the luxury of making its business decisions with very little risk compared to Boeing, which must defend its business decisions to questioning stockholders, not supportive government officials.

Airbus contends that it has earned its increased market share against Boeing by simply building the type of aircraft the airline industry wants to buy. It is important to note, however, that Airbus' success was achieved with significant governmental assistance. Because Airbus does not publish financial statements, it is difficult to know exactly how much government support it has received over the course of the years. However, it is known that the largest amount of financial support was provided in the 1980s when Airbus launched major development programs for new aircraft such as the A-320, the A-330 and the A-340. Therefore, Airbus was able to make new and different types of aircraft which helped attract new customers only because of increased, direct governmental aid.

Although most of the government aid was in the form of repayable loans, it was still a subsidy because it would have cost Airbus much more to raise money on the private market. It would be nearly impossible for a private company to obtain aircraft development funds at a government borrowing rate. It is true that Airbus must repay the government aid with interest, but only as aircraft are sold. Therefore, there is no risk for Airbus when it develops new products, because if customers do not buy their new product, Airbus does not have to repay the loans.

Again, Airbus, due to its government backing, is a company that cannot fail. It is no wonder that Boeing continues to lose market shares to Airbus. Airbus enjoys a tremendous competitive advantage because of the substantial and direct government aid it receives from four European nations.

Airbus is no longer a young company trying to enter the aircraft market. It is number two in the market and gaining on Boeing each and every day, yet Airbus still relies on substantial government support. This is not right. We should not sit idly by as Boeing continues to lose out simply because it does not enjoy the same protectionist treatment as Airbus.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, every year it is a solemn moment when we gather on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to remember and commemorate the victims and the survivors of the Armenian genocide, but this year the unspeakable crimes against humanity and genocidal acts perpetrated by the Turkish Ottoman Empire against the Armenian people carry an even more profound resonance. The desperate cries of the Armenian people as their villages were pillaged and burned, as their family mem-

bers and community leaders were murdered before the eyes of their children, as children were separated from their parents, as they were driven from their homes and forcefully marched into war camps and exiled, as the land worked by Armenian hands for generations was taken by force, the cries of these Armenians are echoed in today's headlines and broadcast from the Balkans.

In 1915, at the start of the systematic and premeditated genocide of the Armenian people by the young Turk government of the Ottoman Empire, there were no television broadcasts from the field to let the world see what was happening. There was no NATO to punish the Turks for their actions against a defenseless civilian population, and there was no resolve on the part of the international community to return Armenians to their homeland.

In the end, 1.5 million people perished at the hands of the Turks between 1915 and 1923, through direct killings, starvation, torture and forced death marches. Another million fled into permanent exile from their ancestral homes. An ancient civilization was expunged from its homeland of 2,500 years.

Mr. Speaker, scarcely 250 days away from the start of the 21st century, we remain a world of generations haunted by the ghosts of the victims of genocide, from the Armenians at the beginning of the century to the ethnic cleansing of Kosovar Albanians.

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In Worcester, Massachusetts, which it is my honor to represent, Mayor Raymond Mariano has designated April 24th as Armenian Martyrs Day, for that is really what we are talking about: A century of martyrs. It is important to remind the current generation and future generation that the seeds of the Holocaust and the seeds of ethnic cleansing were planted by the Turks in their genocide against the Armenian people at the beginning of the 21st century. When Raphael Lemkin coined the word "genocide" in 1944, he cited the 1915 annihilation of the Armenians as an example of genocide.

In Worcester, we are blessed with a number of survivors whose lives not only teach us the lessons of history, but also about the resiliency and dignity of the human spirit. I would like to name but a few of them today:

Marion Der Kazarian, Nevart Kinonian, Sara Sahakian, Almas Boghosian, Sarah Bulbulian, Aghavni Garabedian, Mary Kalashian, John Kasparian, Ovsanna Nordigian, George Ogden, Raffi Samkiranian, Hrant Yaghmourian and Nouemzar Sarkisian.

Along with all of the other members of the Armenian-American community in Worcester in the Third Congressional District of Massachusetts, they enrich the life of our communities and society.

If there is one lesson of the 20th century, it is that these heinous acts against humanity will continue if we allow ourselves to forget history. We must all commit ourselves to never forget. That is why I am proud to join my colleagues, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), on their bill to officially observe the Armenian Genocide, to have the United States officially recognize this period of history as the Armenian Genocide, and to have the United States press the Turkish government to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide.

Yet, in the shadow of Kosovo, our Nation and other nations still resist acknowledging the Armenian Genocide. Last May, the French National Assembly passed a bill to publicly recognize the Armenian Genocide of 1915. This spring the French Senate and the government of France, under pressure from Turkey, are in a turmoil over whether to approve this legislation. In the United States, we find the government of Turkey attempting to influence our universities, to pretend these acts of genocide against the Armenian people did not happen, and we find U.S. strategic interests in arms sales to Turkey are more influential in setting our foreign policy priorities than acknowledging the truth about acts that took place 84 years ago.

That is because in 84 years, the truth of the Armenian genocide is still powerful and still resonates in current events, and that is why it must be officially acknowledged, why it must be taught in our schools, remembered in our houses of worship and honored in our communities. Now, more than ever, we must recognize, acknowledge, commemorate, mourn and remember the Armenian Genocide. To do less is to doom future generations to repeat and relive these horrors.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) in particular for their leadership on this issue, and I hope that this government will do the right thing.

NATIONAL DISCUSSION CALLED
FOR CONCERNING CAUSES AND
SOLUTIONS FOR VIOLENCE
AMONG NATION'S YOUTH

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, everyone was horrified by these terrible shootings in Littleton, Colorado yesterday. This is one of the worst tragedies that has ever occurred in this Nation. There is nothing worse that can happen to parents than to outlive one of their children, and certainly, the sympathies of all of us go out to the families who lost loved ones in Colorado yesterday.

Many years ago I taught American government and journalism at T.C. Williams High School here in Alexandria, Virginia. I go to 75 or 80 schools each year and have 15 or 20 school groups visit me here in Washington, as well as speaking to many, many youth groups through the year. I am around thousands of teenagers each year. So this tragedy has really been on my mind last night and today.

I remember several months ago, after one of these other school shootings, I was driving to the airport here in Washington to go home to Tennessee. The national head of the YMCA was on the CBS national radio news. He said something that I have never forgotten. He said that our children are being neglected today in this country as never before in our history.

I am a father too. In our quest to get ahead, almost all of us in our quest to get ahead and to make more money and really to feel better about ourselves, we are not spending nearly enough time with our children.

No one can ever fully explain these shootings that occurred yesterday. I am sure there are many reasons for these horrible events. There is far too much violence on television and in the movies. There is too much warped, weird stuff on the Internet. I know we are supposed to worship the computer today, but much of what is on the Internet is harmful, especially to children, and parents should realize that.

But probably the thing that concerns me the most is the trend toward mega schools, bigger and bigger schools. I read not long ago that the largest high school in New York City had 3,500 students, and then they broke it up or divided it up into 5 different high schools and most of the drug and discipline problems became much, much better. When students have to go to huge high schools such as the one in Littleton yesterday, most young people are not able to make a sports team or be a cheerleader or be president of a group. Most students are just numbers and feel anonymous. Most can handle this okay, but some unfortunately resort to weird, warped or at times even criminal behavior to get noticed or a desperate cry for attention. Young people who feel good about themselves would never do anything even remotely close to the horrible events that occurred in Littleton yesterday.

I think another thing that has caused many serious problems is the breakup of the family. Before coming to Congress, I spent 7½ years as a criminal court judge in Tennessee, trying felony criminal cases. I have always remembered that the first day I was judge they told me that 98 percent of the defendants in felony cases came from broken homes. I know that many, many wonderful people, many successful people have come from broken homes. But I read thousands of reports

over those years which said, the defendant's father left home when defendant was two and never returned; defendant's father left home to get pack of cigarettes and never came back.

Then, after I came to Congress, I remember reading in one of the Washington papers a few years ago that two leading criminologists have studied 11,000 felony cases from across the country and they found that the biggest single factor in serious crime, bar none, nothing else was even close, was father-absent households.

So I rise today to make a plea for fathers to stay with their children. This is so very important, and there are so many young people growing up in this country today without the love or the discipline or the encouragement or the support or the combination of all of those things that they really need. If the families keep breaking up at such a tremendous rate in this country, we are going to see problems continue to grow and grow and horrible events such as we saw in Littleton yesterday.

Yet, there is a government role, because in 1950 the government at all levels, the Federal Government took about 4 percent of the income of the average family, the State and local governments took another 4 percent, and many mothers had the privilege of staying home with their children. And now, government at all levels takes about 40 percent of the income of the average family and regulatory costs take another 10 percent, and so many, as FRED THOMPSON said one time, Senator FRED THOMPSON said, one spouse works to support the family while the other spouse works to support the government. Many mothers who would like to stay home with their children do not have that choice or that option. So if we could decrease the cost and size of our government, it would help more families stay together because most families break up in arguments over finances.

When we put all of this together, it is hard to explain, but we need to have a national discussion, Mr. Speaker, about the causes of events such as what happened in Littleton yesterday, and we need to do everything we possibly can to see that nothing like that ever happens again in this country.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 84TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARME-
NIAN GENOCIDE

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as I have for the past 6 years, to acknowledge the atrocities suffered by the Armenian people at the hands of the Ottoman Turks over 84 years ago. This Saturday, April 24, will mark the 84th anniversary of the Armenian