

are making an effort, the administration, and I laud the administration for their efforts to try to get some of our trading partners to agree to stop those practices, to have more vigorous enforcement of copyright protections and intellectual property rights.

But now that we have just started to get some of those agreements on paper, it is time to get them in reality. And during the upcoming WTO talks in Seattle this fall, we are encouraging the administration and all of our trading partners to join us in making sure that we shine a spotlight on some of those agreements to find out if those agreements indeed are being honored, to help our trading partners recognize that, while we go forward on trade, we are going to go forward on protecting intellectual property; that, while we have got agreements in writing, now we have to have them in reality. Obviously, we hope, with our growing relationship with China, we will have this discussion.

Recently, I spoke with the ambassador from China, was in the audience, and reminded the ambassador that we are happy about the progress that we have made in our agreements with China in the hopes that they would help stop some of this piracy of intellectual property rights but that we wanted to use our future discussions to make sure that we help China move forward in reality to prevent the piracy that has gone on.

And I do not mean to single out China. This has been a difficult situation in many parts of the world. I simply think that we have got to be more aggressive in asserting our rights.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about what I think is one of the saddest failures of American public policy recently, and that is we have been abject failures at training people to fill high-tech and software jobs.

We have had tens of thousands of jobs go begging every year, go begging, because we have not educated our youth to take these jobs in a very high-paying industry, a very dynamic industry. And we ought to, in this Congress, look for every single way we can to develop the opportunities for our children so that they can take the jobs in the high-tech industry and, in fact, we do not have to go offshore, where we have been forced to go.

It is time for us to recognize our responsibility to our children and to our economic futures to make every child have access to training so that they can go into the software industry and the high-tech industry.

One little project we are working on in my district in the north Seattle area is with Edmunds and Shoreline Community College to try to build a tech center, the Puget Sound Technology Center, to try to get thousands of kids who now want access to this training to give them that opportunity to help fill these spots.

Mr. Speaker, these are the two things. This Congress can help truly the most dynamic industry perhaps in human history since the invention of the wheel, stop piracy of the hard-earned work of our software workers and let us make sure that our children can get into the industry.

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH—MAY 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend my colleague, Congresswoman EVA CLAYTON, for addressing a major concern in our society—teen pregnancy. The care and protection of children is, first and foremost, a family concern. When teenagers have babies, the consequences are felt throughout society.

Children born to teenage parents are more likely to be of low birth-weight and to suffer from inadequate health care, more likely to leave high school without graduating, and more likely to be poor, thus perpetuating a cycle of unrealized potential.

Despite a 20-year low in the teen pregnancy rate and an impressive decline in the teen birth rate, the United States still has the highest teen pregnancy rate of any industrialized country. About 40 percent of American women become pregnant before the age of 20.

The result is about 1 million pregnancies each year among women ages 15 to 19. About half of those pregnancies end in births, often to young women and men who lack the financial and emotional resources to care adequately for their children.

When parents are financially and emotionally unprepared, their children are more likely to be cared for either by other relatives, such as grandparents, or by taxpayers through public assistance.

We must have a goal that requires an unwavering commitment and aggressive action by both communities and families. It must be recognized that there is no magic solution to reducing teen pregnancy, childbearing, and STD rates, nor will a single intervention work for all teens. Because the decline from 1990 to 1996 is attributable to many factors, it is essential to continue and expand a range of programs that embrace many strategies. Experts agree that holistic, comprehensive, and flexible approaches are needed.

Taken as a whole, society has to view the dangerous consequences of teenage sexual activity as an ongoing challenge. We should want to protect our teenagers from the risk of premature parenthood and from disease, and we should want to protect the children they would struggle to raise. If we are serious about breaking the cycles of poverty and underachievement that, too often, result from kids having kids, then we must not be satisfied with the recent downward trends.

We must expand our efforts to help those teens who are at the greatest risk. Rather than becoming complacent because of the recent downturn, we must be more aggressive in implementing the positive lessons that contributed to the downswing and redouble our ef-

forts to cut the teen birth rate even more significantly.

We must begin to speak up and out to our young ladies about sex at an early age to prevent teen pregnancy. I thank my dear colleague for her leadership.

TECHNOLOGY ISSUES FACING CONGRESS

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to talk a little bit tonight on technology issues.

But first I would like to commend the preceding speakers, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK), for their important remarks about our police officers.

I was pleased to be with the President earlier today when he announced that, as of today, we are announcing grants for the officers that will bring the total up to 100,000 officers on the streets, in the neighborhoods, in the schools as part of the community-oriented policing program. I think it has been a great success, and today is a fine day to pay tribute to our police officers.

I would now like to turn to the subject of technology in our society and science and research and development. I am a scientist and a teacher, and before coming to Congress, I was Assistant Director at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory. I hold a patent for a solar energy device.

I have been using computers since the days that they were room-sized mainframes; and that is why I feel strongly about the role that technology plays in our lives, whether in education, in medicine, or in trade; and that is why I have spent a good deal of time in my first 4 months here on the job in Washington working on science and technology issues.

We live in a world where investment capital races around the globe at the touch of a key; where cars that we drive have more computing power than an Apollo spacecraft; where, in our economy today, there are no unskilled jobs.

Technology advances our society and opens up exciting new worlds of opportunity. Over the past century, Federal investments in computing, information, communications, and other sorts of R&D have yielded spectacular returns. Yet our Nation is underinvesting in long-term, fundamental research.

The fact is that, on the whole, Federal support and corporate support for research in technology and in science is seriously underfunded. Research programs intended to maintain the flow of new ideas and to train the next generation of researchers are funded at only a fraction of what is needed, turning away hundreds of excellent proposals.

Compounding this problem, Federal agency managers are often faced with insufficient resources to meet all the research needs and, as a result, they are naturally favoring research that has short-term goals rather than long-term, high-risk investigations. While this is undoubtedly the correct short-term decision, the short-term strategy for each agency, the sum of these decisions threatens the long-term welfare of our Nation.

In one area, the President's Information Technologies Advisory Committee recommends that Federal investment in information technologies research and development be increased by more than \$1 billion over the next 5 years, something that I support.

We need to invest in our future and in our citizens. For example, there are today more than 340,000 high-paying information technology jobs open. They are open right now in the United States despite efforts in the past year to relax our immigration regulations in large part to fill those positions. We cannot seem to fill these jobs fast enough. Our educational system has not caught up to the demand for high-technology workers.

As a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on the Budget, I have begun work to enhance our Nation's technology education programs so we can have students who are ready to enter the workforce with the skills they need and to have teachers who know how to teach them.

Only 20 percent of teachers say they feel qualified to use modern technology and to teach using the computers that are available to them. Only 20 percent. How can we expect students to learn if teachers are not up-to-date on what to teach?

I make a point of visiting schools in my district, schools like the Hi Tech High in Monmouth County that I visited last week. I know that we are making progress, but we have a ways to go.

I believe when it comes to technology, and for just about any other issue, the Federal Government should help, not hamper, innovation.

One of my first acts after taking office was to round up the New Jersey delegation and, together with my Republican colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), send a letter to the House Committee on Ways and Means chairman, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER), supporting the Federal R&D tax credit, the permanent extension of that tax credit.

How can we in Congress expect business to plan for the future, especially in a technology-driven State like New Jersey, unless they know that they can count on this deduction permanently? We have renewed the R&D tax credit nine times. It is high time now that we make it permanent.

Mr. Speaker, this is important. Making these crucial investments will help our people in areas like education in the workplace and in solving the problems in everyday life.

WHAT IS GOING RIGHT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE OF AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, this evening I would like to address two different areas.

The first area I would like to talk a little bit about is, I have been back to my district, which is the State of Colorado. I go back to my district every weekend. But, obviously, with the tragic situation that took place there a couple weeks ago, that is a large topic of discussion; and, of course, it should be. So this evening I would like to talk a little bit about our young people, our young men and women, of that generation, that age group, the situation out there in Colorado.

Then I would like to shift focus and cover a second area that I think should be of keen interest to all of us, an area in which we have a lot of interest right now, whether by choice or not, we do have a lot of interest, and that is in Kosovo, and talk in some detail about what do we do now in Kosovo.

Let me say that, in regards to the situation at the Columbine High School in Colorado and parents and teenagers and adult relationships with their children, there are a few areas that I would like to cover.

First of all, I want to stress about what is going right. Obviously, what has gone wrong has been the front news story in all of our national newspapers and our national publications and our topics of discussions; and sometimes we seem to focus a little more on what is going wrong than what is going right. So I want to talk a little bit about that this evening.

I want to move from that to talk about the TV shows, Jenny Jones, some of these other people in the talk shows. I will move from that to talk a little on moments of silence in schools. We will talk a little about video violence. We will talk a little bit about what the responsibilities are of Hollywood, of the Internet and, finally, what the responsibility should be of our law enforcement and, of course, things like gun shows and so on.

Let me, first of all, start out with, and I think it is very important that I precede the extent of my comments with what is going right with these young people.

I have for years since I have been in the United States Congress had the privilege of going to a variety of

schools throughout my district. Now, my colleagues have got to picture the Third Congressional District. It is a very interesting district in the State of Colorado.

First of all, geographically, it is larger than the State of Florida. Second of all, there are lots of economic diversity within that congressional district. For example, some of the wealthiest communities in the United States are in the congressional district that I represent, Aspen, Colorado; Vail, Colorado; Beaver Creek, Steamboat, Telluride, Durango, Crested Butte, a number of communities like that that have a great deal of wealth.

But at the same time, down in the southern part of the district that I represent, we have the poorest area of the State of Colorado: the San Luis Valley community, San Luis Castilla, Conejos, and so on. So there is a lot of diversity.

But I teach in schools regardless of the economic diversity. I teach in schools throughout the district. And I wanted to relate to my colleagues a few of the things that I find when I go out there and talk to these young people and listen to these young people and visit with these young people.

Let me say this, and I want to make it very, very clear: Despite what has happened in the last couple of weeks, we all should remember that, with this generation, these young men and women, that there is a lot more going right with that generation than there is going wrong.

This situation that we had in Colorado is much like a horrible plane crash. The morning after, we get up; and we are suspicious of all airplanes; we are suspicious of the industry. And the same thing happens here, and we focus on the disaster that took place.

Clearly, it is appropriate that we focus on that so we can hope to avoid that in the future. But do not let it darken the cloud about how many good kids we have out there, good young men and women, and good parents, by the way.

It is amazing when I go to these classes, class after class after class, they are not a bunch of rotten kids out there. Sure, we came up with a couple rotten apples down there at Columbine. They did a horrible thing. These are bad kids. And I am not one of these people reluctant to say that these two young men that shot and murdered all those people were bad kids.

But, in my opinion, that is not reflective of that generation. That generation has some of the brightest and most capable individuals of any generation this country has ever had. There is a lot that we can look forward to in this country. There is a lot that that generation can look forward to with our country.

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First of all, obviously the United States of America has more freedoms