

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.