

cars involved. TV stations would broadcast Amber Alert crawlers across the front of their screen, which would resemble severe weather warnings.

I unveiled the Amber Alert in my district. Please join me and the gentlewoman from New Mexico in our efforts to recover missing children and curb abductions as a cosponsor of the bill. The health and safety of our children is in Members' hands.

#### THE DEMOCRAT EDUCATION AGENDA

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the minority leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), delivered an important address outlining the education agenda our party will pursue next year under a Democratic Congress. This agenda reflects our commitments to take bold action to make public schools strong and effective and to add, not replace, the efforts being made at the local level.

I applaud the minority leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), for his efforts that began more than a year ago in a series of meetings at the Madison Building over dinners and good conversations.

Here is what we as Democrats propose on education: establish a major new partnership with States to lower class size and assure that every child has a qualified teacher; offer new investments while holding schools accountable for the results; make quality preschool available to every child; and provide direct grants and tax breaks to upgrade and modernize school facilities.

We have set down our marker. I look forward to working with the then Speaker, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), in a Democratic House to move it forward.

#### PASS THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT BEFORE THE END OF SESSION

(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, the women of America want the other body to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. This landmark legislation, which the House has reauthorized, has saved lives and rescued countless women from the vicious cycle of family violence.

From 1993, when the act was enacted, to 1997, the rate of intimate partner violence fell and the number of female victims of intimate violence dropped. American women have VAWA, the Violence

Against Women Act, to thank for these gains.

But there is so much more that needs to be done. In 1998, three out of four victims of intimate-partner homicide were women. The number of women killed by an intimate partner increased 8 percent between 1997 and 1998. Women need VAWA so they can protect themselves and their children from domestic violence.

The Violence Against Women Act saves lives. I urge our colleagues in the other body, pass VAWA before the end of this session.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members should avoid urging action by the other body.

#### THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT MUST BE REAUTHORIZED NOW

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It is just unthinkable that we should leave Washington and end this session without reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act.

Last week, by a powerful 415 to 3, this body overwhelmingly affirmed our responsibility to addressing and protecting the needs of all victims of domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault. Every 15 seconds someone in our country is battered. Every day, four women die in this country as a result of domestic violence.

Every person, woman, man, or child, should feel safe at home and in their neighborhoods. We must ensure that all victims, including immigrant women, are able to report and flee from domestic violence without threats of persecution or deportation.

We have the opportunity in these remaining days to pass VAWA. We should do it now.

#### TIME FOR CONGRESS TO PASS VAWA

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

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I will follow the Speaker's instructions in terms of not admonishing any other entity of the United States Congress. I would simply rise today to say that we need to have the Violence Against Women Act passed by the Congress and sent to the President for his signature.

Last Wednesday this House unanimously passed VAWA by a vote of 415

to 3. We must urge anyone else who can do that to do that.

VAWA expired on September 30. On September 30, the light went out on justice across this country on behalf of all of the women and children who are victims of violence or who are potential victims, including immigrant women.

Without this critical funding, programs serving women and their children will cease to exist. This is not a political game. It is the lives and well-being of women and children across this country that are at stake, that are vulnerable.

I would urge further consideration of VAWA by the United States Congress.

#### ON THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEDICARE, CONGRESS SHOULD REPAIR GAPS IN COVERAGE

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

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, this year we celebrate the 35th anniversary of Medicare. The program has benefited over 93 million Americans since it was signed into law on July 30, 1965, by President Johnson.

Yet, our health care system has changed dramatically since then, with medical technology in many ways leading the way, and Medicare has not kept pace with that. I am concerned about the widening gap between the Medicare program and the cutting edge of medical technology.

I am concerned because it means that more than 90,000 Medicare-aged people in my district cannot gain access to advanced treatment and technologies they need. As Congress looks at adjustments to the program, we must act now to repair the gaps in Medicare for the next 35 years of medical innovation.

Medicare's procedure for adding new technologies to the program involve coverage, coding, and payment decisions. Unfortunately, problems and delays have occurred at each of these stages. The result is that now it can take more than 4½ years or more to make the latest breakthrough treatments available to beneficiaries.

I believe that Medicare patients have waited long enough for a program that gives them access to the advanced medical technologies they need. That is why I am pleased to lend full support of H.R. 4395, the Medicare Patient Access to Technology Act, a bipartisan bill which hopefully we will pass this session, and which will lead to 21st century medicine for Medicare beneficiaries.