

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on this Congress to get its priorities straight and invest in public education to strengthen America.

Yesterday, Microsoft's Bill Gates told the Joint Economic Committee, and I quote, "Among the many high-tech issues before this Congress, none carries greater importance for our future economic vitality than education." I couldn't agree more.

But this week, Mr. Speaker, this House will consider a bill that guts education funding to finance a massive irresponsible tax package. We should be investing in education so that America can compete and win in the New Economy, but this misguided bill cuts education by \$2.9 billion, with a "b."

The bill cuts \$1 billion in targeted investments to improve teacher quality and recruit new teachers. The bill repeals 100,000 new teachers planned to reduce class sizes, many of whom are now teaching. The bill rejects the administration's plan to renovate 5,000 school facilities that need urgent safety and health repairs. It cuts 53,000 poor children from Head Start, and the list goes on.

Mr. Speaker, I am for responsible tax relief for our families, but we ought not to cut taxes on the backs of our children and jeopardize America's competitive economic opportunities.

DEATH TO THE DEATH TAX

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I welcome people of all points of view to this Chamber and to this well, but facts are stubborn things.

Perhaps if the Washington bureaucrats at the Department of Education were better educated in mathematics, they could tell us where \$18 billion appropriated by this Congress ended up. Here is a major hint: it did not end up in the classroom helping teachers teach and helping children learn.

So when we have the litany of shame, remember the real shame is the people who ask for more and more and yet less and less responsibility in actually helping our children learn with the money we send to Washington.

Mr. Speaker, another case in point: a lady now in her 80s, dependent on Social Security. Twenty years ago, her husband died and the IRS came to her and said she owed Uncle Sam \$800,000. The family business was sold.

Is that compassionate? Is that an irresponsible thing? I think it is irresponsible, not compassionate. Let us put the death tax to death and ask for more responsibility.

HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT: AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the House to take action on the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1999.

Today marks the second anniversary of the death of James Byrd, Jr., who was maliciously dragged from a speeding car along a back road in Jasper, Texas. His murderers had no problem with him other than the fact that he was black.

The Hate Crimes Act will protect individuals like James Byrd and others who have been attacked because of race, color, sexual orientation, religion, gender, or disability. In our society, rich with diversity, the desire for peaceful living is uppermost. It is past time for Congress to set and maintain civilized standards of peaceful diversity.

Hate crimes, like any other crime, should be unallowable and punished. Innocent people should not be allowed to be reaped upon just because of their race, color or gender.

Mr. Speaker, this is an idea whose time has come. I urge its immediate consideration and passage.

NO TAXATION WITHOUT RESPIRATION

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

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, we associate many symbols with death such as the Grim Reaper, tombstones, coffins, hearses and, of course, the IRS standing by any ordinary American who draws on his last breath.

Americans who work their entire lives to leave their families a savings account, farm, or small business are robbed at death by Federal taxes that devour 37 to 55 percent of everything they created. In the cruelest of ironies, families are often forced to sell these well-intentioned gifts in order to afford the taxes.

Mr. Speaker, this week the Congress will decide on whether to repeal the death tax. It is an issue that transcends party politics.

The Colonists rallied around the slogan, "No taxation without representation." This week let us agree: No taxation without respiration. May the death tax rest in peace.

HATE CRIMES: A FORM OF DOMESTIC TERRORISM

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

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, on this 2-year anniversary of the brutal drag-

ging death of James Byrd, I rise to ask congressional leaders to let us vote on the Hate Crimes Prevention Act before we adjourn this year.

Hate crimes are meant to instill fear and that fear is not only targeted at the immediate victim of the crime, the fear is experienced by all members of the group.

Hate crimes are different from other violent crimes because they seek to terrorize an entire community. This sort of domestic terrorism demands a strong Federal response, because this country was founded on the premise that a person should be free to be who they are without fear of violence.

I know that hate crime bills cannot cure the hate that still resides within some in our country. But this legislation can provide more protection for victims and send an important message that hate crimes against any group are a serious national problem. Let us pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act this year.

PRESERVING THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, imagine an American working and sacrificing their entire life, hoping to one day be able to pass the fruits of their hard work on to their family. Then imagine that after they die, the Federal Government swoops down like an enormous vulture, grabs what they have earned and saved as if it is a carcass, and tosses the remains to their relatives.

That, Mr. Speaker, is the death tax. Every year, the death tax ravages thousands of family-owned businesses and farms to the tune of \$46 billion in tax penalties and administrative costs.

No American family should be forced to pay 60 percent of their savings and their business or their farm in taxes when a loved one dies. By repealing the death tax, we will help to preserve thousands of family-owned farms and small businesses across the country that will not have to be sold just to pay this onerous tax.

Mr. Speaker, we are not just ending a tax; we are attempting to preserve the American dream.

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN FOOD OR MEDICINE

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

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last week, I went on a hunger tour in Appalachia in parts of Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia; and I heard about a man by the name of Tom Nelson who is one