the House for 1 minute and to revise
and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, tonight at 6 o’clock we will be
seeing the faces of gun violence. We are
going to have a vigil. I invite all the
Members here to take part in that.

Six and a half years ago, James
Gorycki and his wife, Joyce, who were
friends of mine, and my husband, Den-
nis, were killed.

Joyce has one daughter. I have one
son. Today happens to be my son’s
birthday, and I am very happy that he
is still with me.

It has been one year since we debated
on closing the gun show loophole, and
we have done nothing about it. I am
hoping that still before this session
ends that we will meet and try to re-
duce gun violence in this country.

It has been one month since we have
had the Million Mom March, where
moms and dads and families across this
Nation came and said to Congress, let
us do something about gun violence.

We live in the United States of Amer-
ica. We can do a better job on reduc-
ing gun violence. And tonight, unfortu-
nately, we will see the faces of so many
men, women, and children that have
died.

I hope that my colleagues will join
us.

SCHOOL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH
PROGRAMS

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

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, part of
providing our children with quality
education is making sure they are
healthy and well fed. School breakfast
and lunch programs which provide free
or discounted meals to low-income
children are an integral part of a
child’s school day.

The program relies on families to
truthfully reveal their incomes when
applying for subsidized meals and
schools and administrators to imple-
ment the programs honestly and effi-
ciently. And when parents or schools
fail to do this, it is the children who
suffer.

Take the case of the Commonwealth
of Puerto Rico, which overcharged
the Federal Government an estimated $23
million for its school lunch program.
The Commonwealth failed to pay $11.5
million of its share of program ex-
penses, which were instead billed to
Washington. It also served free meals
to all of the schoolchildren, including
those from upper and middle class and
wealthy families.

Now, that $23 million could have fed
thousands of indigent schoolchildren.
What a senseless waste, Mr. Speaker.

NATION THAT DOES NOT HONOR
FLAG DOES NOT HONOR FREEDOM

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, in
America it is illegal to burn trash. It is
a $10,000 fine to damage a mailbox. But
even though it is Flag Day in America,
we can burn the flag today, we can trash
the flag, we can even urinate on the
flag.

Think about it. Is it any wonder that
Americans are losing respect for our
Government?

Soldiers literally died carrying our
flag into battle, and Congress protects
mailboxes.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker.

A Nation that does not respect nor
honor their flag is a Nation that does
not respect their people nor honor
their freedom.

I yield back the pledge of allegiance
to our flag and to the Republic for
which our flag stands.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr.
Speaker, no senior citizen or disabled
American should be forced to choose
between buying food and paying for the
prescription drugs they need. It is that
simple. Yet, for thousands of seniors,
this is a choice they have to make.

The average Medicare recipient uses
18 and a half prescriptions a year.

Some conditions are treated very suc-
cessfully with medication, but it fre-
quently comes at a high price.

For example, stroke patients take
clot-busting jobs that can cost upward
of $1,700 a year. For seniors on a fixed
income, this is a staggering sum.

The Republican plan helps seniors
facing this choice. It offers affordable
options that allow Medicare recipients
to choose a plan best fitting their
unique medical needs.

By providing prescription drug
coverage for everyone, Republicans want
to make sure that no senior citizen or
disabled American falls through the
cracks.

SECTION 527 GROUPS POSE
THREAT TO DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I am deep-
ly disappointed that the House leader-
ship has continued to delay debate on
real campaign finance reform.

According to a Washington Post edi-
torial, they claim to be seeking only to
strengthen reform. In fact, their goal is
to kill it. It turns out they do not like
disclosure, they like the dark.

527 groups are tax-exempt, political
organizations which try to influence
elections. They raise and spend mil-
ions of dollars to influence our Fed-
eral campaigns, with no disclosure
whateversoever.

These groups pose a grave threat to
our democratic process. The American
public is demanding action now.

The gentlemen from Texas (Mr.
DOGGETT) and the gentlemen from Kan-
sas (Mr. MOORE) have good bills that
deal with a real issue at hand, plugging
the loophole in the Tax Code that
allows undisclosed funding and unlimited
spending.

This discharge petition is about
bringing these bills to the floor for a
vote. We need to bring a little sunshine
into this system. Let us pass a mean-
ing disclosure bill.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE
FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr.
Speaker, in 1968, the average senior citi-
zen spent just $64 a year on prescrip-
tion drugs. Thirty years later, the
average senior spends about $348 a year
on prescription drugs.

In 1968, seniors spent about 2.4 per-
cent of their annual income on pre-
scription drugs. And in 1998, seniors
spent a little over 4 percent. That is al-
most double in just 30 years.

Some seniors even have to choose be-
tween food and filling their prescrip-
tions. This inevitably leads to higher
costs for Medicare. And more impor-
tantly, some of these seniors suffer de-
spite the fact that their illness is treat-
able.

We can work together for a respon-
sible and effective plan to provide pre-
scription drug coverage for all, and it
is coverage that will be affordable and
available for all seniors.

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

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

Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. Speaker, I rise
today to talk about another of the
10,000 American children who have been
abducted to foreign countries.

Miranda Budiman was abducted from
Georgia by her father, Mr. Clements
Iwan Budiman, on Halloween of 1998
when she was 4 years.

Mr. Budiman and his wife, Tara, were
paralyzed prior to the abduction and
Ms. Budiman had primary custody of
Miranda.

On October 29, 1998, Mr. Budiman had
taken $10,000 cash advance from his