

to perform service. I have witnessed horrific displays of young boys on the battle front who appear barely in their teens carrying assault rifles and even rocket-propelled grenade launches on television. We must continue to uphold efforts to stop this practice.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the administration's commitment to the women and children of Afghanistan; and the Women's Caucus looks forward to working closely with Secretary Rumsfeld to ensure dramatic increases in the United States' efforts to provide long-term humanitarian assistance.

As I have said each time I have come to this floor to address this issue, I stand in full support of providing direct funding to Afghan women-led organizations like the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan, which is RAWA, to ensure that the primary benefactors are women and children. If we are to have durable peace in Afghanistan, it is important, Mr. Speaker, to provide hope and rehabilitation to the Afghani children and youth in order to make them a constructive force for the rebuilding of their country.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2269, RETIREMENT SECURITY ADVICE ACT OF 2001

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107-289) on the resolution (H. Res. 288) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2269) to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to promote the provision of retirement investment advice to workers managing their retirement income assets, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPUBLICAN POSITION ON AIRLINE SECURITY

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, there have been some troubling comments made by our colleagues relative to the Republican position on airline security. There have been many comments made that we somehow do not treat this urgent matter with the due diligence that it deserves; and I want to underscore, as chairman of the Travel and Tourism Caucus, the co-chairman along with the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), that we take this very seriously; and I want to also underscore as a Floridian, tourism is our number one enterprise in our State.

It seems like we are all bickering over a potential whether we should hire 28,000-some workers and whether

those workers be part of the Federal system. Let me suggest to my colleagues that under the Republican version of the bill that is languishing in the other body for failure to compromise on some other positions, we suggest that we could do a blending at the discretion of the President and the Transportation Secretary, former Democratic Chairman Norman Mineta, that we look to see what is most appropriate for securing the terminals at our airports throughout our Nation.

Let me ask anybody who has owned a business or hired people before how long it takes to do background and training to get a workforce ready. Multiply that by 28,000 individuals, and my colleagues will see the complexity of the problem. It may not be a big problem for LaGuardia or JFK or Washington Reagan National or John Wayne and some of the larger airports in our country; but think of some of the smaller regional and rural airports where we must man that same security checkpoint.

Every Republican supports strict Federal rules and regulations. Every Republican is not satisfied with the status quo. Those that have accused us of somehow trying to be supportive of the current contract holders of this service are absolutely unequivocally wrong. In my case in Palm Beach County, I would love for the President of the United States and Mr. Mineta to contract with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department professional law enforcement officers, members of the Police Benevolent Association Union or Fraternal Order of Police Union, allow them to be contracted with to be on-site security screeners for our airports.

We can do that in a matter of 72 hours, deploying those people to that important checkpoint. That is what the flexibility provides the President the right to do; but under their version, it cannot be done that way.

We may hire 28,000 people ultimately, who knows. We will continue to negotiate and try and prevail in the opinion which we believe is the correct one, that we have a blending of responsibilities; but if we do not secure the entirety of the airport system, including those who work at the ramps, those who load the luggage, those who bring in the food carts, or those who clean the planes, we will have left a gaping hole in the security of our airplanes and our airports.

I applaud everyone in this Chamber who has worked hard on trying to get an aviation safety bill passed. I regret some are using false rhetoric in describing our leadership and others as not caring about public safety. I take umbrage and challenge those types of statements because they are absolutely, factually incorrect. We want safety. We want security. We will not

back away from these issues; but when my colleagues use one little political call that by hiring these 28,000 we have ensured some degree of safety, we are misleading people because it will take far too long, potentially 3 to 5 years, to even get this workforce up and running, and that in fact does not bring security to date. Our bill does.

I urge the other body to act. I urge them to compromise. I look forward to a bill for the President to sign and returning safety to our skies.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CYNTHIA PLASCENCIA

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

RESPONSE TO REPUBLICAN'S POSITION ON AIRLINE SECURITY

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I will respond to my colleague from the other side of the aisle. I am not here for that purpose, but just to say that it took 3 weeks to get a bill on the floor of the House, and we were in a parliamentary situation where we did not have any choice but to try to keep it out of conference committee. We lost and so it is still in conference committee. It is almost 2 weeks now since it went in there.

I do not necessarily think they all ought to be federalized either, but I think we should have moved on it a month ago, and we are not in charge. The Republicans are. And it took 3 weeks to get a bill on the floor of the House.

Let me get back to what I really wanted to talk about, Mr. Speaker.

This last week, last Monday on Veterans' Day, our holiday, I had a chance to go to one of our middle schools in my district, Burbank Middle School, and I rise to congratulate a young Burbank Middle School constituent, Cynthia Plascencia, for winning the Burbank Middle School essay contest on why tobacco is not for her. This contest is sponsored by the Texas Department of Health; and it is called A Week Without Tobacco or, in Spanish, Semana Sin Tobacco. I would like to submit a copy of Cynthia's essay for the RECORD.

Cynthia's essay gets to the real reasons why she does not smoke and why she does not want to let anything come between her and her dreams. Cynthia is not swayed by statistics, but I think I need to mention just a few because they highlight just what we are up against.

TOBACCO: WHY IT'S NOT FOR ME

Tobacco. A pleasant get away for some people, a disgusting habit for others. Now most 13 year old nerds, ahem, I mean, kids would argue that tobacco is bad. I'm cool with that, but when they are asked why it's bad, some would probably respond, "Uh, I dunno. My dad told me it was." At least to