

The political pandering over this issue must end. How many children should we allow to become victims to gun violence? It's time for Congress to do the responsible thing and pass commonsense gun safety legislation. Kayla Rollins' family, as well as all families who lost a loved one to gun violence, deserve action.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a statement from Kayla Rollins's mother pleading for the Congress to pass immediate gun safety legislation.

Statement By Mrs. Rollins—March 1, 2001

Hello. I am Veronica McQueen. I am Kayla's mother. These are hard times for me and Kayla's brothers, sisters and her father, and for the rest of my family. Kayla's death was devastating. There is not a day that goes by I do not cry as I go on with my life without my daughter. A part of my heart went with her. It is so hard for me to think that I will never see her smile, laugh or play again. I can never hold her and kiss her again, or see her grow up, get married and have a happy life. The gun that killed my daughter in her first grade class room was a gun that could be loaded by a six year old child, concealed by a six year old child, and held and fired by a six year old child. Please, don't ever forget that. This is proof that there is need for gun safety devices and gun control. I come here today, two days after what would have been her seventh birthday. I am a mom with a terrible tragedy, and I hope it never, ever happens again. Thank you.

## HBCUs DESERVE PARITY

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2001*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, as a graduate of North Carolina A&T University, one of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), I cannot help but rise to express my shock over the outrageous decision by the majority members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce to exclude HBCUs from the new 21st Century Competitiveness Subcommittee. I know that my friends across the aisle have no intention of riding on the media coattails of what some people perceive as this past fall's denial of minority voting rights; nevertheless, the misguided decision to separate HBCUs as well as Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) and Tribally Controlled Colleges (TCCs) from non-minority higher education institutions on this subcommittee seems to play right into the hands of those who suggest that last fall's events were part of a concerted effort to deprive minorities of our right to vote.

Furthermore, placing these institutions of higher education into a new select education subcommittee which shares jurisdiction with juvenile delinquency, welfare, and child abuse seems to suggest that minority education is more social experiment than higher education program. I cannot tell you how disappointed I am to find out in the 107th Congress that my education is now considered second rate by those in the majority. I join with my fellow Democratic Caucus members in urging the Speaker of the House and the Majority in the

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

House to restore HBCUs, HSIs, and TCCs to their appropriate status as equal institutions of higher education.

### REMARKS HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

#### HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2001*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Peace Corps and to join in the celebration of this wonderful organization's 40th anniversary.

Since its founding in 1961, few government initiatives have captured the imagination of the American people like the Peace Corps. Born out of President John F. Kennedy's bold vision for the future, the Peace Corps has served to promote world peace and friendship for four decades.

Remarkably, since 1961 over 160,000 Americans have joined the Peace Corps, serving in 134 countries and bringing hope to millions of people around the world. By working to bring clean water to villages and towns, teaching children, helping start new small businesses and stopping the spread of dangerous diseases, Peace Corps volunteers have served as our nation's ambassadors of "good will" to the rest of the world.

I am pleased to have Philip Peredo, a former Peace Corps volunteer, serve on my staff in my District Office in Hackensack, New Jersey. As a Peace Corps volunteer from 1998 until just last year, Phil taught English language classes at Neijiang Teacher's University in the Sichuan Province of the People's Republic of China. The lessons Phil taught his students about America will long endure, just as the lessons he learned from his students will stay with Phil for the rest of his life.

Whether they are in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Central Asia, Eastern and Central Europe, or Central and South America, Peace Corps volunteers continue to make our world a better place.

For their idealism, for their commitment to achieving real progress for the less fortunate, I salute all Peace Corps volunteers, past and present. I wish the Peace Corps continued success in sharing America's promise with people around the world.

### THE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT RESTORATION ACT

#### HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2001*

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation addressing a serious issue for retired teachers and government employees across America. These public servants, after a lifetime of educating our youth and working for the taxpayers of America, find that their reward is a significant reduction in their Social Security benefits. It is time to end

*March 1, 2001*

this penalty and give these retirees the benefits they are due.

Retirees drawing a benefit from a private pension fund do not have their Social Security benefits reduced. Why should we do this to civil servants? We should be encouraging able and intelligent people to teach our children and work for the government, not discouraging them by slashing their retirement benefits. We must bring equity to the Social Security benefits of private sector and public sector retirees.

This legislation, the Social Security Benefit Restoration Act, will bring this equity to retirement benefits. This bill will simply eliminate the public sector benefit penalty enacted in 1983 and allow all civil servants to draw full Social Security benefits.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation. For every retired government employee and retired teacher in your district experiencing reduced Social Security benefits, I urge your support for this bill.

### HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

#### HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2001*

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 40th anniversary of the Peace Corps. Since 1961, over 161,000 Americans have offered their energy to improving conditions in over 134 nations around the world.

Reflecting the rich diversity of the United States, Peace Corps volunteers share a common spirit of service, dedication, and idealism. Peace Corps volunteers must participate in intensive language and cross-cultural training to help them better adapt to their new communities. In addition to learning the local language and adapting to new cultures, volunteers also help improve their surroundings. Corps volunteers work to bring clean water to underdeveloped communities, teach children, start new small businesses, and stop the spread of AIDS. The Peace Corps always goes about its mission with the knowledge that, with assistance, developing nations can take control of their own destiny.

Because the University of Wisconsin-Madison has been a leading producer of Peace Corps volunteers for over a decade, the Peace Corps has chosen to commemorate their 40th Anniversary at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Many of the first to serve in the Peace Corps were alumni of the UW-Madison. Since 1961, more than 2,500 alumni have dedicated a minimum of two years of their lives to help developing countries around the world. Almost 200 current graduate students, faculty, and staff have served in the Peace Corps. The Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVS) are an extremely active group in the 2nd Congressional District and a vital force in the Peace Corps community.

Forty years later, the Peace Corps continues to fulfill its promise by sharing one of our most precious resources: its citizens. The work of these volunteers has helped engender positive changes around the world. We, as