

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, in honor of International Women's Day on March 8, 68 of my House colleagues and I sent a letter to the Secretary of State urging the Bush administration to support U.S. ratification of CEDAW, the U.N. convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

Ratified by 166 other nations, CEDAW establishes a universal definition of discrimination against women and provides international standards for equality in education, health care, employment, commercial transactions and public life.

This Congress, I have reintroduced House Resolution 18, and I ask my colleagues to become cosponsors. Let us send a message loud and clear to women in this Nation and all over the world that the United States is truly committed to protecting women's rights.

#### A CASE OF SELECTIVE INSANITY?

(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, this morning we had a guest chaplain who opened our session with prayer. We have a full-time chaplain. So does our Senate. So do a lot of athletic teams and our military services each have a large number of chaplains.

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And our schools have condoms.

Mr. Speaker, I wish that you could help me and at least 150 million other Americans understand why chaplains and prayers are good for our House of Representatives, good for our Senate, good for our athletic teams and good for our soldiers and sailors and marines and airmen. And condoms are good for our kids. Is this a case of selective insanity?

#### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, historically domestic violence has been a silent epidemic. According to a recent study conducted by the Commonwealth Fund, almost 4 million women are physically abused each year in the United States.

Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women in this country, where they are more likely to be assaulted, injured, raped or killed by a male partner than any other type of assailant.

However many politicians, intentionally or unintentionally, have not dealt with this serious and destructive epidemic. In my district alone, judicial

levels have been totally insensitive to the plight of victims of domestic violence to the extent of sending perpetrators home on home monitors, with ankle bracelets; and they eventually go out and kill the victim without being noticed by the system until it is way too late.

We need to expand the Call to Protect program, continue funding through VAWA and demand that the Violence Against Women Office in the Department of Justice becomes permanent.

We can tackle the undiagnosed treatment of women before it matures into violence by conducting early prevention to teach young people the importance of supporting and respecting one another.

#### TAX RELIEF AND A BUDGET FOR EVERY FAMILY

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, this week the House Committee on the Budget will take the first step towards passing the budget for fiscal year 2002. Our budget is a bold and responsible statement that places the concerns of hard-working American families ahead of the concerns of the Washington bureaucracy.

With budget surpluses in Washington, we have an opportunity to shore up Social Security, protect Medicare, pay down our record amount of debt, and provide relief from enormously high tax burdens.

Federal taxes are the highest they have ever been since World War II. When you combine the overall tax burden of local, State, and Federal governments, plus the cost of regulations, folks are giving almost half of what they make back to their government. This is unacceptable and needs to be changed.

Without a doubt, working Americans need a break. This is not the time for politicians in Washington to point fingers of blame at the current state of the economy. We must rise above the partisan bickering and pass legislation that will provide immediate and meaningful relief to hard-working American families.

#### DANGERS OF ARSENIC LEVELS IN DRINKING WATER

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to call to the attention of the Members of the House an issue of great public concern because it affects public health.

In 1997, this Congress directed the Environmental Protection Agency to

upgrade standards for arsenic across the country. The standards that we have today have been in effect since 1942. They are 50 parts per billion of arsenic in drinking water. All around the world, countries have raised the standards to 10 parts per billion, because arsenic in drinking water is known to cause cancer of the bladder, the urinary tract, lung cancer, and other ailments.

The backtracking on this rule that took place earlier this week is of great concern to all of us. The Bush administration has announced that it will not follow through on reducing arsenic in drinking water. This is a threat to the health and safety of more than 31 million Americans who now drink water with elevated levels of arsenic. Most of these people live in the southwestern portion of our country.

I call upon the Bush administration and this Congress to stick by the raising of these standards for arsenic in drinking water. This is a matter of grave concern for public health and safety.

#### WELCOMING COACH RICK PITINO BACK TO KENTUCKY

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

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, when the people around this country think about Louisville, Kentucky, a number of positive images come to mind. We are known as the hometown of sports legends Muhammad Ali, Pee Wee Reese, Denny Crum, and Paul Hornung. We are known as the home of the greatest 2 minutes in sports, the running of the Kentucky Derby. And, of course, we are home to the world-famous Louisville Slugger baseball bat.

Mr. Speaker, another sports legend, Rick Pitino, has returned home to Kentucky, this time as head basketball coach at the University of Louisville. Coach Pitino is no stranger to our State. He led the University of Kentucky Wildcats to a national championship in 1996.

We are thrilled to have Coach Pitino back where he belongs, in the Bluegrass State. No one likes to win basketball games more than Coach Pitino. But more importantly, he will set a great example for our children and young adults, inspiring them to set high goals and then work hard to achieve success.

Coach, welcome back to Kentucky and to the University of Louisville.

#### URGING CONGRESS TO LIMIT TRASH IMPORTATION

(Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)