less likely to lie to a parent, 30 percent less likely to commit a violent act of any kind, and they are less likely to drop out of school and have better relationships with friends and family.

So for that reason I am introducing today a bill called Mentoring for Success. What this bill does is it provides grants to expand mentoring through new programs and existing programs throughout the country that supposedly, I believe, would probably reach about 200,000 young people in our country. It also would provide for training of mentors, background checks on mentors; and it would study the long-term effects of different types of mentoring programs. Right now there are a lot of them out there. We do not know exactly what is most effective, and this would provide for a study that would provide more data and more information.

Currently we spend billions of dollars on incarceration, on juvenile justice programs, and once someone is caught up in the juvenile justice system or the criminal justice system, oftentimes they just drop out of it. So we need to spend more time on the front end of the process, and mentoring is certainly a very viable alternative and something that I hope that all people would certainly consider.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is very important. I think it is something that we really cannot afford not at this time to address.

THE TIME IS RIGHT FOR TAX REFORM

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives completed the third piece of President Bush's promised tax relief agenda. I have been proud to support President Bush with my vote in favor of all three of the components of this proposal.

But now that we have succeeded in the House with tax relief legislation, we must begin to turn our attention to tax reform legislation. For that reason, I have come to the well of the House to tell my colleagues that soon I will introduce in the 107th Congress my fair tax proposal. This proposal, which will be introduced as H.R. 2525, as it was in the 106th Congress, is bipartisan, cosponsored by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON), my Democrat colleague.

This is a serious proposal supported by academic research from Harvard, Stanford, Boston University, MIT, and more, and it is a popular proposal being supported by the over 400,000 members of Americans for Fair Taxation, and having had nearly $20 million privately raised and spent on economic and market research to support this effort.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell my colleagues what we discovered. There is not a mechanism for a business to pay a fair tax, which I have had several sessions in my life, and I never had that secret drawer where money piled up behind me to pay the corporate share of the payroll tax, the corporate income tax, or the accountants and attorneys to avoid the tax. It all gets embedded in the value of the product that is purchased by consumers, and the only tax-payers in the world are consumers who finally consume the product and all of the taxes embedded in it. Research we have had done at Harvard's economics department suggests that 22 percent of what one pays for at retail for personal consumption is the embedded cost of the IRS.

My friends, a fair tax is a national retail sales tax with a rate of 23 percent. You will pay 1 percent more for your cost of living, but you will get to keep your whole check, the whole check, including the payroll tax will no longer be taken out.

By authorizing this one sales tax, we will eliminate the personal income tax, the business income tax, the payroll tax, the death tax, the capital gains tax, the self-employment tax, and the gift tax. And, in doing so, we eliminate the IRS and all of its associated problems.

If anyone read this morning’s Washington Post, Treasury Department employees, acting as citizens, making phone calls to the IRS helpline to get help with tax returns, tell us that 47 percent of the responses they received from the IRS people were in error. That is up from 25 percent 4 years ago. But our Treasury Department in which the Social Security resides tells us that 47 percent of their responses are incorrect. They have the system. It is time for it to go away.

I believe that the time for tax reform has come. While I certainly believe that the fair tax is the best change, I believe we should have an open debate on others. I am willing to talk about the flat tax. It is better than the current system. I also believe that we virtually passed the flat tax in 1986 with only two levels of taxation and eliminating many of the deductions, and we have amended it 6,000 times since then. For as long as we know something about you and where you make your income and how much you make and how you spend it and invest it, we can find ways to tax it. America deserves this debate so we can totally revamp the system.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that the sales tax is regressive and hits most heavily on the poor. I want to say that the poor are paying it. Everything rich or poor buys has a 22 percent burden of the embedded cost of the IRS. Getting rid of the IRS will undo that burden. We also provide a rebate at the beginning of every month, for every household, rich or poor, to offset the entire tax consequences of spending up to the poverty line. The Federal Department of Health and Human Services tells us that poverty level spending, which is $8,500 for a household of 1, will be enough spending to provide the necessities, the essentials of living, food, clothing, health care, housing. We believe that anyone should be able to buy those essentials with no tax consequences, and our rebate will cover those.

Mr. Speaker, if anyone is interested in becoming a part of this effort, contact me or the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON). We cannot change this world alone, but with the help of our colleagues and the enthusiasm of America, we will.

SUPPORT THE MENTORING FOR SUCCESS ACT

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Mentoring for Success Act which we filed earlier today. This bill authorizes $100 million for competitive grants to be allocated by local school districts and nonprofit community-based organizations for the purpose of starting up mentoring programs for high school students, to encourage them not to drop out of high school, to reduce their involvement in gangs, and also to improve the performance for children, elementary and middle schools.

The chief sponsor of the Mentoring for Success Act is the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE). I am proud to be the original cosponsor of this important legislation.

I would like to address just three points today. First, I would like to talk a little bit about the background of the sponsors of this bill and why it is so important to us. Second, I would like to talk about the educational benefits of this bill. Third, I would like to talk about the crime prevention benefits of this bill.

First, with respect to the sponsor of this legislation, there is probably no Member of Congress who has had more success with mentoring young people than the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), a former coach.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is very important to us. Second, I would like to talk about the educational benefits of this bill.