China's human rights record has worsened, and we need to take action to ensure that the citizens of China, just as we do for all people, every-where, have the basic rights we enjoy. For all people, every-where, the United Nations Human Rights Council should adopt a resolution at the 57th Session of the General Assembly condemning human rights violations in China and Tibet.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in calling upon the People’s Republic of China to end its human rights abuses in China and Tibet.

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, today I call upon the government of the People’s Republic of China to immediately end its continuing human rights violations in China and Tibet.

I also endorse H. Res. 56, that strongly supports an American resolution at the 57th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland, calling upon the government of the People’s Republic of China to end its human rights abuses in China and Tibet. As the leader of the free world, we must always encourage the same basic rights we enjoy, for all people, everywhere.

The State Department recently reported that China’s human rights record has worsened.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BON TON SHOPPE ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE ROGERS
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Stella Wingerter and her family on the 40th anniversary of the Bon Ton Shoppe Inc.

Stella Wingerter founded the company in 1961 with the first store opening in Farmington, Michigan. That first store was only 1200 square feet. Now, however, Stella and her family own and operate four stores, totaling more than 6,000 square feet, with locations in Farmington, Livonia, Millford and Bright- ton, Michigan. Forty years of enterprise in southeast Michigan is a strong testament of Stella Wingerter’s dedication to their business, their employees and their community.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Stella Wingerter and her family on 40 years of success and wish them many more in the future.

TAX CREDITS FOR SCHOOL TEACHERS

HON. RON KIND
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced legislation that will provide elementary and secondary school teachers with a $500 refundable tax credit when they purchase books, supplies, and equipment out of their own pockets.

With limited resources being stretched to the limit in many public schools, teachers have been incurring out-of-pocket expenses averaging $448 to $1,000 a year. According to the National School Supply and Equipment Association, more than half the money teachers spend in this manner is on instructional mate-rials such as flashcards and workbooks, while the remainder is spent on supplies such as chalk, paper, and pens.

Although current law allows teachers a tax deduction for the school supplies they purchase but for which are not reimbursed by their schools, this provision can be very complicated and does not serve the majority of teachers.

To receive the tax benefit, teachers need to file a Schedule A for itemized deductions, and they must have incurred expenses that exceed a full 2 percent of their adjusted gross income. For example, let’s say a teacher earned $50,000 in adjusted gross income, and spent $1,100 on out-of-pocket expenses: with the current formula, the actual deduction would only be $100.

Under my proposal, teachers who incur out-of-pocket expenses but do not meet the current income stipulations would still receive a tax credit. A tax credit is more beneficial than the current deduction because it will allow teachers to utilize the benefit, particularly teachers with low salaries and those in disadvantaged schools.

My Congressional district in western Wiscon-sin is home to no less than 75 public school districts. I find it unconscionable that teachers must supplement school needs with their own hard earned income to ensure every student receives the same quality education. This bill represents much needed short-term relief, but also renews our long-term commit-ment to maintaining America’s excellence in education. By supporting our teachers in their efforts to provide a quality education to all of our children, we support the very future of our country. Without a doubt, education is the cor-nerstone of a healthy, productive society, and today’s investment represents tomorrow’s fu-ture success. As we continue the federal gov-ernment’s role in guaranteeing affordable edu-ca-tional opportunities, our commitment to our teachers is one step in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this measure and the scores of dedicated teachers across the nation who spend their own money on classroom materials needed to educate our children. Their sacrifices to allevi-ate a problem in the structure of education funding should not go without some benefit. I would encourage my colleagues to support this legislation and give our nation’s teachers the credit they deserve.

CALLING UPON THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO END ITS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CHINA AND TIBET

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