children cannot guarantee that there will never be like Pianka and Columbine. As D’Alli says: “What set these kids apart? Why are they murderers? We may not have the answer any time soon.”

But detecting and treating mental illness in children is one way to reduce the risks of school violence. Researchers know that psychiatric disorders in children arise from a complex of factors—genetic, vulnera-

ability, social environment, history of traum-
atic experiences, level of psychological and cognitive strength. They also know that interventions—such as an elementary school can protect at-risk children.

“These are troubled kids,” continues D’Alli. “The whole concept is to treat [the problem] early. If you don’t, you’re not sure where it will lead.” So why isn’t there a louder outcry from parents and teachers for mental health services in schools? Part of the answer is money. Good mental health services are labor-intensive and costly. The other part is leadership.

President Bush was quick to express his sorrow. “When children reach their children right from wrong . . . our country will be better off,” he said. But this problem is not just a moral problem. It’s a medical one. And he can do something about it.

ATMOSPHERE OF TRUST MISSING IN BELARUS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this fall, the Belarusian Government is planning to hold their second presidential elections since independence. Judging by the continuing ac-
tions of the repressive regime of Aleksandr Lukashenka, free, fair, and transparent elec-
tions—consistent with Belarus’ freely under-
taken OSCE commitments—will be very dif-
cult to achieve. Elections will merely create an all-encompassing atmosphere of trust and a respect for basic human rights. Unfor-

tunately, recent actions in Belarus do nothing to encourage such trust.

Most recently, on March 25, Belarusian au-
thorities cracked down on participants of the Independence Day march, arresting and beating several protestors, subsequently fining and jailing some, including Belarusian Popular Front Chairman Vintsuk Vyachorka, who received a 15-day sentence on March 29, Ales Bialiatski, head of the human rights center “Viasna”, who received a 10-day sentence, and Yuri Belenky, acting chairman of the Con-
servative Christian Party, who also received a 10-day sentence. Also detained and beaten was 17-year-old Dmitri Yegorov, a photo-

journalist for a Grodno-based, non-state new-
paper. The day before, on March 24, Belarus’ KGB chief pledged on Belarusian television to inten-
sify surveillance of foreigners in order to pre-

vent them from interfering in the country’s do-

mestic matters.

On March 31, Lukashenka signed Decree #8, which essentially imposes restrictions from abroad offered to NGOs for democracy build-

ing and human rights, including election moni-
toring. Moreover, the Belarusian Government has claimed that the OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group’s (AMG) domestic election observation project does not conform with the Belarusian Constitution and Electoral Code, al-

though nowhere does the law address the conduction of election observation, and the gov-

ernment has resisted AMG efforts to convene a working group regarding the administrative dimension of the elections. Lukashenka him-

self has asserted that he would ban the train-
ing of election observers by non-Belarusian bodies, telling reporters: “There will be no guerrillas in Belarus.” Earlier this year, Lukashenka also accused the AMG for “ex-

acting their mandate.” The OSCE said they were planning to train some “14,000–18,000 fight-
ers” under the guise of election observers.

Mr. Speaker, I am also concerned about re-
cent assaults on religious communities. Last month, the Council of Ministers restricted visits by foreign clergy for “non-religious pur-
poses—including contact with religious and other organizations, participation in con-
ferences and other events, or charitable activi-
ties. Government officials are also refusing to register some Reform Jewish communities be-
cause they do not have “legal” addresses. In February, state-controller Belarusian television aired a documentary alleging Catholicism as a threat to the very existence of the Belarusian nation. And in January, leaders of Belarus’ Protestant community alleged that state news-
papers carried biased articles that present Pentecostals as “wild fanatics.”

Religious freedom is not the only liberty in peril. Freedom of the press and of self expres-
sion are also in jeopardy.

Editors of a variety of newspapers are being fined for violating the Law on Press and Other Mass Media. Various periodicals are being con-
fiscated and destroyed, and distributors of independent newspapers have been arrested. Youth organizations have been accused of en-

gaging in activities that weaken the Belarusian statehood and undermining socioeconomic stability. Teenagers have been arrested for picketing and protesting, and others have been detained for distributing newspapers or pasting stickers advocating reform and calling on the authorities to solve the cases of polit-
ically disappeared. Belarusian Television and Radio (BTR) has also canceled scheduled addresses to be made by potential presidential candidates or opposition leaders. The Deputy Minister of Education has ordered heads of the educational community to ban seminars conducted by the People’s University.

Lukashenka has also undertaken repressive acts against the potential presidential can-
didates and their families in an attempt to thwart their campaign progress.

Family members of former Prime Min-
ister Moskvich and former Defense Minister Chigir have been detained, and others have been threatened with arrest. Chigir’s wife has been accused of interfering with the work of the police, and his son, Alexander, has been charged with large scale larceny. Chigir is not the only potential candidate whose actions have been thwarted by Lukashenka. Semyon Donash’s meeting with potential voters at the Tourist Hotel was canceled on orders from the Mogilev authori-
ties and a director of the clubhouse of the Best Association of Hearing-Impaired People lost her job after hosting a February 3 voters’ meeting with Domash. Vladimir Goncharik, a labor leader, has had to deal with newly state-
created “unions” trying to muscle out unions supporting him. Two officials of a manufact-
uring plant were reprimanded by a Borisov city court for hosting a meeting between Chigir and employees at the plant.

When one looks at these and other recent actions of the Lukashenka regime, the ines-
table conclusion is that the regime has cre-
an unhealthy environment in advance of the elections. Mr. Speaker, the regime’s be-

havior is obviously not conducive to the pro-
motion of free and fair elections. A few weeks ago, President Lukashenka stressed the need to establish an atmosphere of trust in bilateral Belarusian-U.S. relations. I strongly encourage Mr. Lukashenka to translate his words into concrete deeds that will end this afraid and lead to the emergence of Belarus from its self-imposed isolation from the Euro-Atlantic community of democracies.

FHA SHUTDOWN PREVENTION ACT

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. LAFAULCE. Mr. Speaker, today, along with Representative FRANK, I will be introducing a bill I filed last Congress, the “FHA Shutdown Prevention Act.”

This legislation provides standby budget au-
thority for HUD to keep a number of FHA loan programs operating even when they run out of credit subsidy, by drawing on the profits from the other FHA specialty loan programs that make a profit for the taxpayer.

As Congress debates the issue of what we might do with the multi-billion dollar annual FHA surplus, I think most would agree that the first thing we should not do is shut down important existing FHA loan programs merely because of budget technicalities and Congressional and Executive inaction. Yet, that is precisely what looms on the near hori-
zon, for the second time in less than a year.

Last July, HUD was forced to suspend insur-
ance for a number of multi-family and sin-
gle family loans in the General Insurance/Spe-
cial Risk Insurance (GI/SRI) Funds. These in-
cluded a number of multi-family loan pro-
grams, the FHA reverse mortgage program, the 203(k) purchase-rehab program, and other important loan programs for low- and mod-
erate-income families. These programs were not suspended because FHA as a whole is unprofitable since all of the FHA loan programs combined make a net profit to the taxpayer of over $2 billion a year, according to CBO and OMB. These pro-
grams were not even suspended because the G/INSI Funds as a whole are unprofitable, be-
cause the profitable specialized FHA loan pro-
grams in the GI/SRI Funds make a profit suffi-
cient to pay for the few specialized loan pro-
grams that run a small loss.