

I want to express my appreciation for the work that today's compromise represents to the Senate leaders, who bring tremendous energy and capabilities to this work, to the diamond industry, and to the non-governmental organizations.

Matthew Runci, of Jewelers of America, and Eli Izhakoff, of the World Diamond Council have done superb work bringing together the very different members of the

As valuable as the industry's efforts have been, the Campaign to Eliminate Conflict Diamonds is the real father of this success. The human rights activists and members of the humanitarian and faith communities who launched that campaign, along with the organizations they represent, have done heroic work that has brought us to this point.

First, they have catapulted this issue into the consciousness of Americans who never give Africans a thought otherwise—and made many people think for the first time about what our sparkly tokens of love and commitment symbolize to many people at the other end of the supply chain.

Second, they have worked with the industry at every level to convince jewelers and industry leaders alike of the urgent need for an effective and immediate solution. That required standing up to a powerful industry while simultaneously remaining flexible enough to work with it when the situation warranted that.

Third, they have persuaded a quarter of our nation's elected representatives, one by one, to support this call for clean diamonds—a call that until today put Members of Congress on the side of faraway African victims and at odds with jewelers in every Congressional district.

And last, they have done all this without resorting to the easy answers and hype that could destroy consumer confidence in diamonds and devastate the economies of the countries they benefit.

It took too long to get to this day, but it would not have come without these organizations and individuals, particularly Holly Burkhalter, Adotei Akwei, Amanda Blair, Rory Anderson, Bernice Romero, Ann Wang and Danielle Hirsch. They are a dedicated and tireless group, and I commend their commitment to this compelling human rights cause.

It is with pleasure that I submit for inclusion in the Congressional Record the joint statement by the World Diamond Council and the steering committee of the Campaign to Eliminate Conflict Diamonds. It calls on Congress to pass the Clean Diamonds Act this year, and on President Bush to sign it into law, and I commend it to my colleagues' attention.

If we heed this call, we can make today the milestone it has the potential to be, the moment history marks as the beginning of diamonds' transformation, from a curse on too many Africans, to a blessing for all the people whose lives they touch. I urge my colleagues to give this call the serious consideration it deserves, and to seize this historic opportunity.

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE WORLD DIAMOND COUNCIL AND THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE CAMPAIGN TO ELIMINATE CONFLICT DIAMONDS

The World Diamond Council and the non-governmental community represented by Physicians for Human Rights, Amnesty

International, OxfamAmerica, World Vision, World Relief and the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism support the Clean Diamonds Act being introduced today in the Senate. This legislation will create a system to prohibit the U.S. import of conflict diamonds and impose serious penalties on those who trade in them.

Our collaboration represents the shared commitment of the NGO community and the diamond industry to work together to secure passage of this legislation sponsored by Senators Dick Durbin, D-Ill., Russ Feingold, D-Wis., and Michael DeWine, R-Ohio. We thank the Senators for introducing this bill, which accommodates the concerns of both the diamond industry and the NGO community. We also wish to thank Reps. Tony Hall, D-Ohio, and Frank Wolf, R-Va., for their commitment to ending the conflict diamond trade.

We are determined to work together to secure rapid enactment of this legislation, which represents the best efforts of the NGO community and diamond industry to develop a workable system for keeping conflict stones out of the United States.

The conditions placed on the importation of diamonds and diamond jewelry in the legislation are designed to support and encourage the work of the 38 countries that are part of the Kimberley Process, which is developing an international system to stop trade in conflict diamonds. The standards being developed by participants in the Kimberley Process, which includes governments, NGOs and the diamond industry, are expected to be presented in final form to the United Nations General Assembly by the end of this year.

Passage of this legislation also will enhance the confidence of U.S. jewelers and consumers that American purchases of diamonds and diamond jewelry are not unwittingly benefiting abusive insurgencies in Africa.

We collectively call upon the U.S. Congress to pass the Clean Diamonds Act in this session of Congress and urge President Bush to sign it into law.

POEM BY ANASTASIA HAYES-STOKER

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2001

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to submit a remarkable poem written by Anastasia Hayes-Stoker, a young student at Shakelford Junior High School in Arlington, Texas. Anastasia's poem was the overall winner of the "Do the Write Thing" Challenge. This contest, sponsored by the National Campaign to Stop Violence and partnered with the Arlington Jaycees, challenges middle school students to write an essay about the negative impact of violence in their lives and offer possible solutions to the problems they face today.

Anastasia's poem speaks to the truths of the challenges our youth face in coping with violence. In my role as Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Working Group on Youth Violence, I listened to teachers, law enforcement, counselors, parents, and students. Over and over again, I heard about the need to mentor our youth and provide a safe haven for them to go. However, it is often only when we hear our

children's voice, that our attention is grabbed. Anastasia has managed to convey, in a beautiful way, how she, and others in her generation, feel about the violence in her school, her appreciation for community involvement, and a child's need for family and love.

Drug dealing, students stealing All around the campus

Tempers flaring, kids are swearing All around the campus

Fist to cuff, fights are a must All around the campus

Backed to the wall, who do you call? All around the campus

Punches thrown, lives are blown All around the campus

Guns and knives, someone dies All around the campus

Families shrinking, parents drinking Children are abandoned

Marriage ending, no time for spending Children are abandoned

Domestic violence, kept in silence Children are abandoned

Learned aggression, whose oppression? Children are abandoned

Repeat behavior, where's your savior? Children are abandoned

Fight or flight, who sleeps at night Children are abandoned

Crime prevention, good intention Community united

Neighborhoods watched, gang fights botched Community united

Security in the hall, protects us all Community united

Mentors handy, hope feels dandy Community united

Cops on the street, don't miss a beat Community united

My home, safety zone Strong parental influence

Curfews made, allowance paid Strong parental influence

Loving brother, like no other Strong parental influence

Self-respect, family honor to protect Strong parental influence

Lead by example, self worth is ample Strong parental influence

Loving silence, no need for violence Strong parental influence

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING GOALS AND IDEAS OF AMERICAN YOUTH DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 124 to celebrate our youth as the future of the United States and to support the goals and ideas of America's Youth Day.

It is our ultimate priority and our duty to fulfill the five promises established by the Alliance for Youth organizations. The first promise holds adults accountable for reaching out to the young people in our community. By mentoring, participating in a big brother/big sister program, through peer counseling and even through daily contact with our youth, we can communicate that we care. The majority of schools and communities across the country are safe places for children to thrive. By