the path to reform and prosperity than by eliminating the marriage tax penalty.

Ladies and Gentleman, we are on the verge of running a surplus. It's basic math.

It means Americans are already paying more than is needed for government to do the job we expect of it.

What better way to give back than to begin with mom and dad and the American family—the backbone of our society.

We ask that President Clinton join with Congress and make elimination of the marriage tax penalty . . . a bipartisan priority.

Of all the challenges married couples face in providing home and health to America's children, the U.S. tax code should not be one of them.

Lets eliminate The Marriage Tax Penalty and do it now!

Mr. Speaker, I include the following for the RECORD.

Do Americans feel that it's right to tax a working couple more just because they live in holy matrimony?

Is it fair that the American tax code punishes marriage, our society's most basic institution?

WELLER-MCINTOSH II MARRIAGE TAX COMPROMISE

Weller-McIntosh II, H.R. 3734, the Marriage Tax Penalty Elimination Act presents a new, innovative marriage penalty elimination package which pulls together all the principle sponsors of various legislative proposals with legislation. Weller-McIntosh II will provide equal and significant relief to both single and dual earning married couples and can be implemented immediately.

The Marriage Tax Penalty Elimination Act will increase the tax brackets (currently at 15% for the first $24,650 for singles, whereas married couples filing jointly pay 15% on the first $41,200 of their taxable income) to twice that enjoyed by singles; the Weller-McIntosh proposal would extend a married couple's 15% tax bracket to $49,300. Thus, married couples would enjoy an additional $8,100 in taxable income subject to the low 15% tax rate as opposed to the current 28% tax rate and would result in up to $1,215 in tax relief.

Additionally the bill will increase the standard deduction for married couples (currently $6,900) to twice that of singles (currently at $4,150). Under the Weller-McIntosh legislation the standard deduction for married couples filing jointly would be increased to $8,300.

Weller and McIntosh's new legislation builds on the momentum of their popular H.R. 2456 which enjoyed the support of 238 cosponsors and numerous family, women and tax advocacy organizations. Current law punishes many married couples who file jointly by pushing them into higher tax brackets. It taxes the income of the families' second wage earner—often the woman's salary—at a much higher rate than if that salary was taxed only as an individual.

MARRIAGE PENALTY EXAMPLE IN THE SOUTH SUBURBS

	Machinist	School teacher	Couple	Weller/McIntosh II
Adjusted Gross Income	$30,500	$30,500	$61,000	$61,000
Less Personal Exemption and Standard Deduction	6,550	6,550	11,800	13,100 (Singles 2)
Taxable Income	23,950 (.15)	23,950 (.15)	49,200 (Partial .28)	47,900 (.15)
Tax Liability	3,592.5	3,592.5	8,563	7,185

Marriage Penalty: $1378; *Relief: $1378. Weller-McIntosh II Eliminates the Marriage Tax Penalty.*

The repeal of the Marriage tax was part of the Republican's 1994 ''Contract with America,'' but the legislation was vetoed by President Clinton.

GAMBLING IS DESTROYING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I just read today in The New York Times on the front page an article entitled, ''Those Seductive Snake Eyes: Tales of Growing Up Gambling.''

The bad news is that gambling in this country is growing. The worst news is that the gambling addiction is growing fastest among young people. The article says,

> There is a growing concern among experts on compulsive gambling about the number of youths who, confronted with State lotteries, the growth of family-oriented casinos, and sometimes lax enforcement of wagering laws, gamble at an earlier and earlier age and gamble excessively.

The story quotes a recent Harvard Medical School study which was conducted by Dr. Howard Shaffer which found that the rate of problem gambling among adolescents is more than twice the rate for adults. Twice the rate of adults, and these people are going to soon be adults.

The article is shocking. It cites stories of young people who have hit the bottom at a very young age, and all because of gambling.

One young man got hooked on gambling as a teenager. The problem was so bad his parents had to put locks on all the rooms and closets in the house so he would not run out and sell the family's belongings to gamble. He has been to prison twice for credit card fraud and writing false checks. Later in the article he talks about how he first got interested in gambling. When he was growing up, he used to help his grandmother pick lottery numbers at a neighborhood store, and then he used to go gambling with her on trips to Atlantic City. He would wait for her outside the casinos peering into the windows wishing that he could play.

The New York Times piece said that at one high school in the northeast U.S., kids said they knew a fellow student who was a professional bookie who booked bets right there at the high school. Amazingly, that school set up a mock casino as part of its prom night festivities. The school principal said the students had no problems with the various games. They knew them all well and apparently needed no coaching.

This is a problem everywhere in America, all over this country. According to the article, an LSU University study conducted last year found that among Louisiana young people age 18 to 21, 1 in 7 were, and I quote, ''problem gamblers, some of them pathological, youths with a chronic and progressive psychological disorder characterized by an emotional dependence on gambling and loss of control over their gambling.''

Everyone in this country is worried about tobacco use among teenagers, and I am too, but we have another problem, Mr. Speaker, that all of us have to address, and that is the problem of gambling in this country.

I hope the country wakes up, although I believe the country is far ahead of the Congress and far ahead of the elected officials, because every time gambling is on a referendum, they vote it down. But I hope the governors wake up, all of them who are trying to ply gambling and raise money by lotteries, I hope they wake up.

Lastly, I hope this Congress wakes up. And I will tell my colleagues, nobody in this Congress who cares about people and talks about these problems ought to be taking any political activity money from the gambling interests, because if my colleagues will read this story in today's New York Times to see how this is ruining our young people, how then can one rationalize that one has taken money from the gambling interests?

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues, I plead with my colleagues, read today's New York Times and see what is happening to our young people.

DEFENDING THE INTEGRITY OF THE CENSUS BUREAU

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I applaud my colleague from the other side of the aisle, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), for his very important statement. He is absolutely correct.

Today I rise to defend the integrity of the Census Bureau. Repeatedly, in an argument over a fair and accurate census, the opponents of accuracy have suggested that they would support the use of modern technology if they could be assured that the process would not be manipulated for political purposes.

Perhaps Jim Hubbard, the representative of the American Legion said it best at last week's meeting of the Secretary's Census 2000 Advisory Committee. He said that the only way that the census numbers could be manipulated