

too much for them and their families to bear. Workers have been fired. Many were put on the street with no severance pay, no insurance, and no assistance to make ends meet. Management has reverted to using interrogation and coercion to keep workers in line.

This is simply outrageous. I know as a union member how important unions are to ensure better jobs and basic protection of rights. I will do all I can to assure that their rights are protected.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHIL-LICOTHE POLICE OFFICER LARRY COX

(Mr. NEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Chillicothe, Ohio, police officer Larry Cox.

Officer Cox was a man of dignity and compassion. A 19-year veteran of the Chillicothe police force in Chillicothe, Ohio, Officer Cox was a devoted law enforcement official who had dedicated his life to one of our Nation's noblest fights, keeping our children away from drugs.

As a DARE officer, Officer Cox was able to provide impressionable elementary school students with the guidance and support that many could not find elsewhere.

This past Thursday evening as Officer Cox walked home from visiting his parents in Chillicothe, Ohio, he surprised a fleeing robbery suspect who then shot and killed him in an utterly senseless act of violence.

It is times like these that we question the world we live in, but we must not let this senseless act blind us from the goodness that is all around, the compassion of our teachers, the innocence of our children, and the ultimate bravery of our law enforcement officials. For it is these things that Officer Cox was born of and ultimately died for.

So I stand here today to honor the life of Officer Larry Cox, to honor each and every law enforcement official that risks their life to protect the most treasured pieces of our community. Officer Cox understood these treasures and the paramount importance of caring for others; and though his body has left us, his spirit of bravery, dignity, and compassion will forever be found in our communities.

CLOSING THE HEALTH CARE DIVIDE: PRINCIPLES FOR ADDRESSING RACIAL AND ETHNIC HEALTH DISPARITIES

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to announce the adoption of the Democratic principles that will be unveiled today that will seek to eliminate racial and ethnic health care disparities.

The community that I represent is multicultural. Sixty percent of the residents are Latino, 20 percent are Asian Pacific Islander, and 40 percent of those residents in my district were born outside of the United States, and many of them cannot afford to pay for medical coverage.

Unfortunately, our health care system is not meeting the needs of all these people, who in most cases are children.

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For racial and ethnic minorities, as for most all communities, the lack of health insurance is a major barrier in quality health care. In our Nation, there are over 43.3 million people who do not have any form of health care coverage.

A staggering 1 in 3 Latinos in this country are uninsured. Actively challenging the racial and ethnic inequalities affecting all branches of our health care system is key to helping the Latino community achieve better health care.

These Democratic principles address the many health disparities plaguing our communities. I strongly support these principles and stand united with my colleagues to end racial and ethnic health disparity. We must make this a national priority for our country.

SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. CHOCOLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHOCOLA. Madam Speaker, Social Security was created in 1935, and over the decades has become a vital resource to millions of Americans. But demographic realities have changed over the past 70 years. Now fewer workers, more retirees, and longer life spans will cause Social Security's promised benefits to exceed the system's income by 2017.

If we do not act now to strengthen Social Security, the system that so many depend upon today will be unable to meet its promises to tomorrow's retirees, and it will burden our children and grandchildren with exhaustive taxes.

The Social Security Trustees, the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board have all agreed that the sooner we act, the smaller and less abrupt the changes will be.

So, Madam Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to consider all the options now and work toward a bipartisan solution that renews Social Security's promises for future generations.

TRIBUTE TO HARLINGEN HIGH SCHOOL

(Mr. HINOJOSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Harlingen High School for being selected as one of the 2005 College Board Inspiration Awards. Harlingen High School is one of three exemplary high schools in the Nation being honored for their steadfast commitment to fostering student success in some of America's most poverty-stricken communities.

Each school receives a prize of \$25,000 to use in furthering its academic goals. The Inspiration awards recognize outstanding work in improving the academic environment and helping economically disadvantaged students achieve the promise of a higher education.

I would like to congratulate the superintendent, Dr. Linda Wade; the principal, Richard Renaud; the teachers, students, and entire school community for their prestigious award. Harlingen High School is truly an inspiration for all of us who value education and academic excellence for all students.

For the Hispanic community, it reaffirms our core faith in our own potential. Over 87 percent of the students at Harlingen High School are Hispanic and many of them are bilingual. Their motto is: "In relentless pursuit of student success."

I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting Harlingen High School for its achievement and applauding the College Board for sponsoring the Inspiration Awards. May each year be more competitive than the last.

CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION NOTIFICATION ACT

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, America as a Nation must defend life from the moment of conception to natural death. Later today, the House will take up H.R. 748, the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act, introduced by my good friend, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN). This bill will protect minors and their parents from inconsistent State abortion laws.

Currently, 23 States require a parent to be involved in a child's abortion decision, while 27 do not. This bill would prosecute anyone who transports a minor to a State without parental consent laws with the purpose of undermining parental rights. It requires that any time a minor goes for an abortion, the physician must at least try to notify the parents.

Madam Speaker, we need to make sure that we have serious parental involvement in these difficult and potentially dangerous decisions. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this reasonable measure and vote "yes" on H.R. 748 later today.

ETHICS CRISIS IN THE HOUSE

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House