

pervasive, and susceptible to terrorist attack.”

Imagine a terrorist blowing up a chemical storage facility and releasing a cloud of toxic gas, threatening the lives of millions of Americans.

The time to act is now, and that is why I have introduced the Chemical Security Act. I am glad the Committee on Homeland Security has started this process, but it cannot stop there. My own committee, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, which has jurisdiction over chemical security, must now follow suit, because the consequences of inaction are just too great.

SUPPORT THE HYDE U.N. REFORM ACT OF 2005

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House will consider a very important bill that aims to institute long overdue United Nations reform. It is tragic that at a time of numerous scandals that have characterized the U.N. over the past decade, we can see that they have been no accidents. Rather, they have been the result of a flawed structure that gives rise to passing the buck at best, and corruption, profiteering and collusion at worst.

The litany of scandals reads like a rogues gallery, everything from sexual misconduct, rape and sex trafficking to embezzlement, fraud and general mismanagement. Other examples include the notorious oil-for-food scandal or the U.N.'s egregious record of the mistreatment of the State of Israel.

□ 1015

It is clear that at a time when the international landscape is polluted by enemies of freedom who have no interest in world order, the U.N. must seek to distinguish itself by its integrity and leadership, rather than by its misdeeds.

We must save the United Nations from itself. Let us render our strong support for the Henry Hyde United Nations Reform Act of 2005 before us tomorrow.

STRENGTHEN OUR SCHOOLS

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, many of the children with the greatest capacity to learn will not be finishing their school year because they did not have a school year. I am talking about children under 5 who are often left behind because too few States offer universal, voluntary, State-funded, pre-K programs.

Democrats believe every parent who wants to send a young child to pre-K

should have that opportunity, regardless of their income. Democrats are committed, as part of our “Democrats’ New Partnership for America’s Future,” to working with States to establish, expand, or improve high-quality, pre-K programs.

The bottom line is: pre-K works. Children who participate are more likely to excel academically, go to college, and hold a secure job, and less likely to require special education, to have delinquency problems, or slip into welfare dependency.

This is the educational equivalent of preventive health care. As childhood immunizations allow us to avoid debilitating illness, similarly, high-quality pre-K reduces the need for remedial efforts and produces more successful adults.

Like all educational issues, this is fundamentally an economic issue. High-quality pre-K is a desperately needed investment in our children, their future, and our Nation’s economic strength.

Mr. Speaker, our global competitors do not wait until children turn 5 to begin their formal education. Why should we?

AMBASSADOR EVANS DESERVES THE AWARD

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, John Evans, recently received an award from the American Foreign Service Association for constructive dissent that is intended to “foster creativity and intellectual courage within the State Department bureaucracy.”

Last year, the winner was critical of the Iraq war.

Ambassador Evans’ constructive dissent was calling the deaths of 1.5 million Armenians at the hands of the Ottomans in 1915 genocide. Our national policy towards the 1915 events calls it a tragedy, but not genocide.

So Turkey was very upset, as were a number of “very serious people” at the State Department. And this award, intended to encourage dissent, was revoked.

Obviously, the State Department was concerned about upsetting our ally, Turkey, though the facts seem to support the ambassador here. The sad thing is that an award intended to encourage dissent has now reinforced the powers that be. It seems the State Department is okay with dissent from the policy of a Republican President in Iraq, but it opposes dissent from a policy that denies the truth.

So much for intellectual courage.

DEMOCRATS’ EDUCATION AGENDA

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the House Democrats’ positive education agenda, which includes specific steps to promote opportunity by strengthening our schools.

In my home State of California, nearly half of Latino and African American high school students failed to graduate in the year 2002. In Los Angeles, California, the situation is even worse. Just 39 percent of Latinos and 47 percent of African American students graduated from high school.

It is frustrating to see these staggering statistics, while Republicans insist on giving tax cuts to the very wealthy while shortchanging vital education programs. Republicans have failed American students.

The Democratic plan calls for boosting college opportunity, affordability, improving teacher quality, fully funding No Child Left Behind, and expanding pre-school opportunities for our children.

For these reasons, I support the Democratic agenda for a strong and equitable education system for all Americans. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the need to secure our borders has never been greater. Thousands of illegal immigrants are crossing our borders on a daily basis, and every public service is taking a financial hit from illegal immigration. Whether it is education, health care, or law enforcement, our State and local governments are being stretched to the limit.

That is not even the worst of it. Illegal Mexican immigrants are given a 32-page guidebook, paid for and contributed by the Mexican Government, providing tips on how to obtain benefits, avoid arrest, and blend into our society once they have crossed our border.

Recently, a Denver area police officer was shot and killed by an illegal immigrant. That illegal alien had been pulled over and ticketed three times in the previous 7 months by officers who never asked him about his immigration status, even though he had only a Mexican driver’s license and no insurance. The sad thing is that the officers did everything correctly, according to the police manual.

Mr. Speaker, our immigration policies are badly broken. When they get in the way of justice being served, it is time for strong enforcement of our laws and to secure our borders.

TIME TO TAKE STEPS TO BEGIN WITHDRAWING U.S. TROOPS FROM IRAQ

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