

As a member of the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, and as the Representative from one of the most technologically literate congressional districts, I know that technology is the future of education in America.

Education technology has the potential to ensure that every student in America achieves the highest learning goals. However, education technology can accomplish this goal only if every student has access to technology and all educators know how to use it.

President Clinton has endorsed this goal in his Technology Literacy Challenge. The Technology Literacy Challenge asks public and private resources to join together to ensure that all children in America are technologically literate by the 21st century. The BEST Act supports the Technology Literacy Challenge by recognizing businesses which show an exemplary commitment to joining with local schools to improve the teaching and use of education technology.

Members of the House and Senate who choose to participate in this program ask local and State education agencies and schools for nominations. The business to be honored is then chosen by a board of qualified individuals. All the businesses which are chosen are honored locally by the participating Member of the House or Senate. In addition, each year the White House holds a national ceremony to give recognition to these businesses. It is important to note, however, that no taxpayer funds are used for this ceremony. My bill specifically states that the ceremony does not take place unless all costs are donated by private contributions.

Mr. Speaker, education has always been a bipartisan issue in Congress. Last year, when the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities and the Science Committee held a joint hearing on education technology, Members on both sides of the aisle were excited to hear about the ways education technology is being used in many schools right now to help students achieve the kind of critical thinking they need to perform in the high skill jobs of today. But, it is not enough for a few lucky schools to offer education technology to their students. The BEST Act will encourage public/private partnerships in every community and every State that will ensure that all of our students and their teachers have the equipment and the know-how they need today to learn to the standards of tomorrow.

I hope my colleagues from both sides of the aisle will cosponsor the BEST Act. Join with me, schools, and businesses across the Nation to make sure that every school in America has the education technology it needs to make American students the best in the world.

NEW WEAPON FOR FIGHTING
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 1996

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to inform my colleagues of a new initiative in the fight against domestic violence.

Six municipal police departments in Cobb County, which is in the 6th District of Georgia,

are being equipped with special instant camera packages for use in their police cars. The camera packages, which are being purchased with donations as part of a public/private partnership, will be used to document cases of domestic violence, leading to undeniable proof of abusive activity.

As we are all aware, domestic violence can cause irreparable harm with the most devastating effects on our children. Children who grow up in an abusive home environment often demonstrate abusive relationships later in life with their spouses or children. It's important that we break the cycle of violence that is so damaging to the families of America.

I believe that the use of the camera packages will be of great assistance to police officers in their fight against domestic violence, and I commend Solicitor General Ben Smith, the Polaroid Corp., and citizens and civic groups like the Acworth Carrie Dyer Woman's Club for their efforts in this endeavor. I would encourage all of my colleagues to support similar programs in their own districts.

[From the Marietta Daily Journal, Apr. 25, 1996]

USING PICTURES TO PROSECUTE
POLICE USE CAMERAS TO BATTLE ABUSE
(By Dennis Smith)

In the early morning of July 20, 1994, Glen Troy Bramlett entered the Paulding County home of his estranged wife, Nancy, and their three children, bent on making good on a previous threat to kill his wife.

Armed with a shotgun, a .44-magnum pistol, a knife and nearly three gallons of gasoline, the Smyrna man murdered his wife of 22 years with two 12-gauge shotgun blasts as the victim slept next to their 2-year-old daughter.

The slaying occurred just days after Nancy Bramlett filed for divorce, seeking an end to a long and abusive marriage. The toddler was not injured, but evidence at the scene indicated Bramlett intended to kill his children as well. But those plans changed, and Bramlett shot and killed himself instead.

On Wednesday morning, 16-year-old Jessica Bramlett recounted the story of her shattered family to about 20 elected officials and about 30 city and county police officers, as well as a handful of domestic violence victims.

The group had gathered in a Cobb County courtroom to kick off a fundraising campaign, as both county and municipal officials are focusing their efforts on domestic violence with plans to equip every police cruiser in the county with a new weapon—a Polaroid Instamatic camera.

Through a public/private partnership with Polaroid, officials hope to raise funds to buy the cameras through donations.

In honor of Mrs. Bramlett and other victims of domestic violence, authorities are hoping both individuals and businesses will contribute to the Nancy Bramlett Domestic Violence Memorial Fund—which is set up to fund the purchase of at least 230 Polaroid police packages.

The price tag for each camera package—which includes special lenses, film and other tools for police to gather domestic violence evidence—has been reduced from more than \$200 to \$59.95.

The Polaroid Corp. also has agreed to train officers in use of the cameras, which officials say will be used to take pictures of battered women to be used in the prosecution of the men who inflicted the wounds.

The officers present Wednesday got a crash course in use of the cameras and were allowed to practice their skills on models,

whose faces were made up with fake bruises and bloody cuts.

Cobb Solicitor General Ben Smith, whose office prosecutes most cases of domestic violence and is spearheading the fundraising effort, said the cameras are an important tool in making the case against a wife beater.

"Cases of domestic violence are the most difficult to prosecute," said Smith, referring to victims who often refuse to cooperate with authorities after the initial incident.

As an assistant district attorney in 1991, Smith prosecuted Bramlett for making terroristic threats, as the man told his wife he would shoot her when she picked up their children from an elementary school in Smyrna. When Bramlett was arrested at that time, he was armed with two handguns.

Smyrna police had also investigated incidents of spousal abuse at the couple's home.

"Nancy did not want to prosecute," Smith said. "All she would tell me was, 'Mr. Smith, you simply don't understand.'"

"Hard evidence is the way to solve these problems," Superior Court Judge Mary Staley told the group of officers. "When you show [the pictures] to a person and say, 'You did this!', it's a very powerful message."

Once each police car in Cobb and its six cities is equipped with a camera, Cobb County will be the first community in Georgia and one of only 15 nationwide which have cameras in every police cruiser, said Barbara Poremba, a marketing representative with Polaroid.

Only a handful of other Georgia communities use instant photography in documenting domestic violence injuries, she said.

Angela Straker, who survived a gunshot wound to the head that was inflicted by her husband, suffered years of torment at the hands of Charles B. Straker. She told the officers that victims are often reluctant to come forward because they are in an embarrassing situation.

"It's very difficult. It's much different than trying to stop a cigarette habit . . . it's like brainwashing," said Ms. Straker, who was nearly paralyzed and still has a bullet lodged in her head.

"Whenever you're in a situation where you're being choked, beaten," she said, "it's humiliating. It has destroyed my whole life, my whole family".

Mrs. Straker, choking back tears, added that when her husband is released from his 20-year prison sentence, her "nightmare" will begin all over again.

Those who wish to contribute to the camera fund can call Jennifer Christian in the Cobb Solicitor's Office at 528-8554. Smith said those purchasing a camera can dedicate that purchase in memory or honor of a family member or friend, and an inscription will be placed on that camera.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LEO CORBIE AND
DR. CAROLYN GRUBBS WILLIAMS

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 1996

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Leo Corbie for his dedicated service as acting president of Bronx Community College. I will also like to honor Dr. Carolyn Grubbs Williams, who is succeeding Dr. Corbie as president of Bronx Community College.

Dr. Corbie was born in New York City. He moved to the Bronx after spending his early childhood in Harlem. He received a bachelor