

Most women prisoners are poor when they enter prison, and therefore cannot rely on anyone else for financial assistance. These women already face limited prenatal care, isolation from family and friends, a bleak future, and the certain loss of custody of the infant.

The ban on reproductive health services for women in prison cuts off their only opportunity to receive much needed care, it denies them their constitutional rights, but most importantly, it denies them their dignity. Mr. Chairman, we must stop this assault on women's right to choose. I urge my colleagues to support the Norton amendment.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to myriad amendments to the Commerce, Justice, State and the judiciary appropriation bill to either dramatically reduce or eliminate funding for the Advanced Technology Program [ATP] at the Department of Commerce. High technology companies play a key role in preparing our communities for the 21st century, and the ATP is critical to those efforts.

The ATP program is one of the strongest links in the Government-industry partnership to enhance U.S. competitiveness in a global marketplace. The Government support provided through the ATP is especially critical for long-term, high-risk, pre-competitive initiatives where the initial investment will not be recovered for several or even decades. Without these essential technology programs, U.S. industries will be at a disadvantage to the rest of the world. The ATP provides the high technology industry with the ability to develop breakthrough technologies by allowing companies to close the gap between technology development and commercialization.

I find it ironic that the \$185 million designated for the ATP is being characterized as corporate pork, particularly since the House recently voted to order \$5 billion worth of new B-2 bombers from defense contractors—bombers that the Air Force, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Commander in Chief all argued were unnecessary. If ordering five billion dollar's worth of unnecessary military equipment from defense contractors isn't corporate pork, I don't know what is. This is especially true given the fact that defense contractors don't kick any of their own money into the construction of a B-2, unlike those companies that participate in the ATP.

Mr. Chairman, high technology companies: are the engine of job creation in the United States and contribute to the overall well-being of the United States economy. Nationally, the number of high tech jobs increased 6 percent from 1993 to 1995. In Oregon alone over 10,000 new jobs were created from 1990 to 1995; provide the greatest number of high-paying and high-skilled jobs to Americans, Nationally, high technology companies provide over 4 million jobs and provide an average wage of about \$47,000, well above the national median. In Oregon high technology workers were paid an average of \$46,319 in 1995, 84 percent more than the average wage of all private sector workers in the State; and contribute to improving the balance of trade in relation to our major competitors. Nationally, U.S. exports exceeded \$140 billion—about one-fourth of all U.S. exports, in 1995. In Oregon, high technology companies account for 46 percent of all State exports, for a total of \$4.3 billion in sales.

The Federal Government should be doing all it can to improve our Nation's competitive

outlook, and a strong high technology sector in the economy is critical to meeting that goal. By cutting or eliminating the ATP, we would remove an important tool that high technology companies use in partnership with the Federal Government to hasten the speed of technological progress and bring new products to the marketplace. It's these type of partnerships that drive economic success in communities across the country.

I urge my colleagues to oppose any attempts to reduce funds for the Advanced Technology Program.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. MOLLOHAN] and the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX]. This amendment would increase funding for the Legal Services Corporation from \$141 million to \$250 million. I applaud both of my colleagues for their leadership on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, one of the cornerstones of our constitutional democracy is the premise that all citizens should have competent legal counsel in a criminal or civil justice matter. Nevertheless, the reduction in funding for the Legal Services Corporation in this bill undermines that premise.

Mr. Chairman, the Legal Services Corporation is a modest but vitally important and effective program that assists millions of needy families in gaining access to the civil justice system in cases relating to domestic violence, landlord-tenant disputes, consumer fraud, child support, and other legal matters.

This program is the only means of assuring that poor children, battered and abused spouses, the elderly, the disabled, migrant workers, and other low-income individuals have access to legal representation in civil cases.

Mr. Chairman, the Legal Services Corporation has provided affordable legal assistance to 5 million Americans in 1995 alone. Legal Services clients are as diverse as our Nation, encompassing all races and ethnic groups and ages. Older Americans represent 11 percent of the clients serviced by legal services programs. Over two-thirds of legal services clients are women, most of whom are mothers with children. For children living in poverty, a parent's access to legal services can prove to be the difference in securing support from an absent parent, obtaining a decent home in which to live, or receiving equal and fair access to educational opportunities.

Mr. Chairman, the representation of women and children who are victims of domestic violence has always been a high priority for the Legal Services Corporation and its grantees. In 1996, local programs closed 50,000 cases in which the primary legal issue was the representation of women seeking protection from abuse.

In my home State of Maryland, while costs and demands on the law have augmented, funding for general civil legal services has fallen by over 30 percent. In 1996, because of reduced funding levels, legal aid offices in the State of Maryland have closed. Currently, the Legal Services Corporation only has the capacity to serve less than 25 percent of the eligible population.

Mr. Chairman, by reducing funding, the Congress will continue to tell battered women in our Nation that they have no legal refuge against abuse, the elderly that their right to legal resources has been eliminated, and de-

frauded consumers that no legal protections exist. The words, as emblazoned on the Supreme Court Building, "equal justice under law," would not apply to all if funding were to be cut for this program.

Mr. Chairman, I practiced law for 20 years. As a lawyer, I was one of 130,000 volunteer lawyers registered to participate in pro bono legal services, encouraged by the Legal Services Corporation. During my service, I discovered that our civil justice system does belong to the rich and powerful in our Nation. Rare is the day when poor Americans receive equitable treatment.

Mr. Chairman, by increasing funding for the Legal Services Corporation, we will send a powerful message to the American people that our civil justice system does not belong just to the wealthy and privileged in our Nation; it belongs to all citizens. I, therefore, urge my colleagues to vote in support of this amendment.

To conclude, I thank the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. MOLLOHAN] and the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX], for their leadership on this issue.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of New Jersey) having assumed the chair, Mr. HASTINGS, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2267), making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

PERMISSION TO FILE CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2203, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the managers on the part of the House may have until midnight tonight, Thursday, September 25, 1997, to file a conference report on the bill (H.R. 2203), making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year 1998, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of New Jersey). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO ANGOLA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 105-135)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed: