

Because no community in America is immune to the plague of school violence, and because we, as a Nation can no longer sit idly by while violence in our schools continue to rise, I sent a letter to the President on June 24th encouraging him to listen to the solutions of the American people from coast to coast and border to border.

For America to achieve success in combating school violence in our local communities, we must first address three important issues. First, the Federal Government must redirect its resources to States to focus on this problem at the local level. Secondly, our communities must continue to improve cooperative relations among local agencies whose job it is to address this problem associated with school violence.

Finally, it is important that any conference bring together, in a round table discussion, several representatives from local and Federal law enforcement agencies, courts, city councils, and school boards to develop local solutions to a national problem. Mr. Speaker, our children deserve no less.

#### AGRICULTURE EXPORT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1998

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

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, with 40 percent of American agricultural commodities and products being exported, the American farmer is more reliant on international markets than any other sector of the U.S. economy. That is why it is so important that the U.S. lay out specific agricultural trade negotiation objectives.

Today, I am pleased to introduce the Agricultural Export Enhancement Act of 1998. Until recently, farm exports had soared over the past several years. However, too many trade barriers prevent billions of people from buying our products. Our trade negotiators need to focus their attention on eliminating tariffs, subsidies, and other foreign regulations that limit what we sell overseas.

This legislation would establish those negotiating objectives. I would suggest that it is a good bill for many Members of this House to support.

#### MANAGED CARE

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, the way that Americans choose and obtain and pay their physician has changed drastically over the last 10 years.

Ten years ago, less than 30 percent of the people with health care insurance coverage were in managed care programs. Today, approximately 75 percent of insured employees are covered by managed care plans. A large amount of that 75 percent is questioning whether they are served well by that system.

The result is a health care system which is dominated by economic tools, limited budgets, limited hospital budgets, waiting hospital lines, waiting lines also with the managed care program. Many managed care constraints now limit what we can do.

Our goal must be to provide health care with increased health care coverage for this country. This is a national challenge. In Congress, we need to meet that challenge.

Supporting H.R. 3605, the Patients' Bill of Rights Act, is a first step in achieving health care reform. This bill will allow patients and doctors, not the insurance company, to control the length of stay, the quality of care. Mr. Speaker, I encourage you and my colleagues to join me in supporting of this bill.

#### FALSELY ACCUSED BEHAVIOR VERSUS GUILTY BEHAVIOR

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, imagine you are falsely accused of crimes. You know that you are innocent, but the people who know the truth simply are not talking. People who could prove you are innocent, it turns out, are the Secret Service personnel who are constantly by your side and that could testify that all of the scurrilous accusations are, in fact, untrue. So your task is to convince everyone you know to come forward, to prove your innocence, and to clear your name.

Let us think about this for a minute. If a person is falsely accused of wrongdoing, clearly what must be done is to demand the people who know the truth to come forward and tell the whole world what they know. On the other hand, someone who is guilty of wrongdoing acts in a strikingly different manner. In such a case, all manner of excuse is given to prevent people from coming forward to tell what they know.

You do not have to be a Perry Mason fan to know the difference between a behavior of a falsely accused person and one that is guilty.

#### PROTECT MEDICAL PRIVACY: REJECT BIG BROTHER

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, Big Brother is back, this time in the form of a previously unpublicized provision in the law that would require every single American to have a special identification number. That number would allow every notation in his or her medical record to be tracked. Tracked by who knows who.

We have seen it before. We have seen it in the 1-800-Big Brother scheme that would require the Federal Government to sign off on each and every job hiring in this Nation. We have seen it in pro-

posals for some sort of national ID card. Now we are witnessing an unprecedented attempt to invade the privacy of one's medical records.

When most of us voted for legislation that would allow individuals to take their health care insurance with them when they changed jobs, we were not voting for a hidden provision to allow medical ID numbers.

Let us face it, medical records are extremely sensitive. This Member is going to work vigorously to protect the medical privacy of every American. Let us reject this latest example of Big Brother.

#### PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, all across New York and across America, many people are being denied access to the health care that they need. They are also being denied access to the doctor of their choice and the health care professional that they would like to consult and be advised by in order to get the health care they need.

Access to prescription drugs also is being denied to Americans. These drugs are needed to alleviate the health care conditions that they have. The problem is that our health care delivery system is out of control because it is increasingly controlled by bureaucrats and insurance companies.

We need a Patients' Bill of Rights which will allow Americans to get the health care they need, access to health care professionals and the professional medical advice they need, not from insurance company bureaucrats, but from health care professionals, the doctors that they want to consult.

That is why the democratic proposal for a Patients' Bill of Rights is so important. The hearing is going on now. We need to get that bill to the floor and get it passed.

#### BABY PHOENIX

(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, I rise today to share the story of Baby Phoenix, first known survivor of a partial-birth abortion. Last week, in the A-Z Women's Center in Phoenix, Arizona, a 17-year-old was scheduled to abort her baby.

The abortionist began a partial-birth abortion on what he thought was a 23-week-old baby. However, as he continued the procedure, he realized that he was actually committing a partial-birth abortion on a 6-pound, 2-ounce baby girl.

Instead of continuing this procedure in which the doctor would stick scissors into the back of the girl's head and then vacuum her brains out, the

abortionist decided to stop the abortion and deliver the 6-pound, 2-ounce little girl.

What if this abortionist had continued the partial-birth abortion? Would he have been convicted of killing Baby Phoenix? Absolutely not. Under our Nation's abortion law, the doctor could have continued the partial-birth abortion and delivered Baby Phoenix dead.

Our Nation's law protects this infanticide, the right of the doctor to kill a baby just because she is not fully outside her mother's body. Like Baby Phoenix, my son Dan was only 6 pounds when he was born. I remember cradling him in my hands. He was so tiny, but so perfect.

Those that oppose the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act support the right to kill babies like these. We should vote to override the President's veto of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act and pass it into law this year.

#### IRS REFORM BILL

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, my constituents in the third district of North Carolina have expressed their appreciation for this Congress for passing the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform bill, which awaits the President's signature.

This is an opportunity for President Clinton to sign into law legislation that protects American taxpayers from IRS abuse and prove to the American people that he is willing to work with this Congress to provide substantial tax reform for all Americans.

The IRS Reform bill is long overdue legislation that would shift the burden of proof from the hard-working American taxpayer back to the IRS where it belongs. In addition, taxpayers will receive 74 new rights and protections that will help reduce the power of the Internal Revenue Service and bring fairness to a corrupt system.

I urge the President to sign the IRS Reform bill and to work with the 105th Congress to continue providing hard-working Americans with a tax relief they need and rightly deserve.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4193, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 504 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 504

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for

consideration of the bill (H.R. 4193) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with section 306 or 401 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The amendments printed in part 1 of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. Points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, for failure to comply with clause 2 or 6 of rule XXI are waived except as follows: page 88, line 10, through page 89, line 6. If an unprotected provision is stricken on a point of order, the Committee of the Whole shall immediately consider the amendment printed in part 2 of the report of the Committee on Rules if offered by Representative Johnson of Connecticut or her designee. That amendment shall be considered as read, be debatable for 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The amendment printed in part 3 of the report of the Committee on Rules may be offered only by Representative Young of Alaska or his designee, may be offered only at the appropriate point in the reading of the bill, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendments printed in the report are waived. During consideration of the bill for further amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. During consideration of the bill, points of order against amendments for failure to comply with clause 2(e) of rule XXI are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

□ 1030

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for one hour.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 504 is an open rule which waives all points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with section 306 or section 401 of the Budget Act of 1974. The rule provides one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule further provides that the amendments printed in the Committee on Rules report accompanying the resolution shall be considered as adopted.

The rule also waives clause 2, prohibiting unauthorized appropriations and legislative provisions, and clause 6, prohibiting reappropriations in an appropriations bill, of rule XXI against the bill, except as follows: Page 88, line 10, through page 89, line 6.

The rule makes in order those amendments printed in the Committee on Rules report, which shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided between a proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to amendment. The rule also waives all points of order against amendments printed in the Committee on Rules report.

Mr. Speaker, the rule permits the Chair to accord priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. It allows the Chair to postpone recorded votes and reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed votes, provided that voting on the first of any series of questions shall be not less than 15 minutes.

The rule waives points of order against amendments for failure to comply with clause 2(e) of rule XXI, prohibiting non-emergency amendments to be offered to a bill containing an emergency designation under the Budget Act.

Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4193, the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1999 was reported by the Committee on Appropriations by voice vote. The bill appropriates a total of \$13.4 billion for fiscal year 1999, which is roughly \$800 million less than the President's request and roughly \$700 million less than what was appropriated last year.

The bill's spending level is equal to the subcommittee's 302(b) allocation