

that are working, model programs that we can hold up for the rest of the country to follow.

Together we can demonstrate that, when our families lead the way, that we can do something in our community to make sure that each child born is born to a loving and a family able to care for them; and that teenage pregnancy can continue to see a decline in enrollment, in numbers; and that we can support young parents where we need to. It is a pleasure and an honor to be a part of this program.

STRENGTHENING U.S.-INDIA ECONOMIC TIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the recent disputes between the United States and India over nuclear and missile testing issues have not only resulted in political and diplomatic setbacks in our bilateral relationship. One of the major casualties of this year of antagonism has been the economic relationship between our two countries.

The historic free-market economic reforms that India initiated at the beginning of this decade have created vast opportunities for American participation in India's economic future. India's huge middle class represents a significant market, while India's infrastructure development needs offer opportunities for cooperation that will benefit both countries.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this past year has seen us lose some of the momentum of the previous 6 or 7 years. I am hoping to contribute to putting the U.S.-India economic relationship back on track, and I would like to offer some ideas on how we can do that.

Today I am introducing legislation to suspend all of the unilateral sanctions that the United States has imposed on India. Last year, Members of Congress, working on a bipartisan basis, approved a provision in the fiscal year 1999 Omnibus Appropriations bill that gave President Clinton authority to waive the sanctions during the fiscal year. But I think that a more permanent and less discretionary approach is now necessary.

There are some other legislative initiatives being proposed in this body and in the other body, the Senate; and this progress is encouraging, although some of the proposals may not go far enough.

My bill is drafted in such a way as to remove the current discretionary approach for waiving sanctions on a selective basis or an exchange for certain concessions by India. In a response to a letter I sent him earlier this year, President Clinton indicated that his administration will pursue an incremental approach to lifting sanctions in exchange for nonproliferation steps by India. But I do not think that this is the way to go.

I have been calling for months for a U.S. policy that turns away from the current stance of confrontation with India and towards recognition of India's legitimate security needs and the prospects for greater Indo-U.S. cooperation in both strategic and economic areas. Negotiations over our disagreements concerning nuclear issues should not destroy the burgeoning economic relations between America and India.

I am not only pushing for this legislation because of my concerns for how the sanctions impact on the people of India, although that is extremely important to me. As a U.S. Congressman, I am concerned that the remaining sanctions are causing American companies to lose opportunities to do business in India, while our economic competitors in Europe and Japan gain a major foothold in this great, emerging market.

Mr. Speaker, India is the fifth largest economy in the world. The private sector accounts for 75 percent of GDP. The country has 22 stock exchanges, over 9,000 listed companies, as well as the commercial banking network of over 63,000 branches. It has had stable democratic government since 1947. It has an independent judicial system and positive foreign investment policies. There is a skilled work force, including professional and managerial personnel. English is, of course, the preferred language for business and is spoken widely and fluently.

During a recent congressional delegation visit to India, the leadership of the Confederation of Indian Industry, considered to be India's major business organization, presented a wish list to radically improve our economic ties. Foremost on the list was, of course, the lifting of the sanctions.

CII's newly installed president has called on India's government to speedily approve economic reform legislation.

Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee currently leads a caretaker government, and new parliamentary elections are not scheduled until September. But the caretaker government is empowered to push through 11 key pieces of economic legislation that have been introduced in Parliament and vetted by the relevant committees. They include bills governing insurance regulatory authority, money laundering and foreign exchange management, securities contract and export/import. CII is also calling for reform in 19 key sectors of the economy, ranging from the financial sector and capital markets, to infrastructure and agriculture, to continued privatization.

It is clear that the leaders of India's private sector are intent on promoting an improved climate for trade and investment and are encouraging their government to do everything possible to achieve this.

I have spoken with many American business leaders, and it is clear that the U.S. business community is concerned about improving relations, and that lifting the sanctions is also on the top of their list.

Mr. Speaker, we must finally get beyond the unproductive approach of con-

frontation and work towards policies that will promote improved opportunities for cooperation between the world's two largest democracies. I hope that the legislation I am introducing today will contribute to that process.

FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WITH KOSOVO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Weldon) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to describe a plan that we have been working on for the past 5 weeks in cooperation with the various parts of the administration to provide a framework for a negotiated settlement of the Kosovo crisis.

Today, for approximately 1 hour, 11 members of this body who traveled with me to Vienna, Austria, 2 weeks ago to meet with our Russian counterparts in the Duma met with the Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in her office. She was accompanied by the Under Secretary of State, Tom Pickering.

It was a very constructive discussion with Members on both sides of the aisle engaged in a constructive way to let the Secretary know that our ultimate objectives and purpose are identical to what the President and what she wants to achieve, and that is an honorable settlement that is done in line with the five principles that the NATO countries have agreed to.

We spent a great deal of time outlining the process that we have used, and we cited the fact that we were asked to get involved by our Russian Duma counterparts approximately 5 weeks ago.

We explained to the Secretary that tomorrow, in the Committee on International Relations, there will be a public hearing where all 11 Members of Congress from the far right to the far left will present an overview of why this particular framework should move forward and why this Congress and this House should go on record in sync with the work of the Russian Duma to provide a process whereby the U.S. and Russia can assist in getting the objectives that NATO wants, and that is to bring Milosovic to understand that the world community is coming together in an effort to solve this crisis quickly.

Timing is of the essence, Mr. Speaker. Russia is going through turmoil right now. I just got off the phone with my second conversation with the Duma leadership today. As you know, they have sacked Primakov. On Saturday of this week, the Duma will vote on whether or not to impeach Yeltsin as the President of Russia.

We need to understand that we have a significant opportunity here, an opportunity to work constructively with the Russians, using their leverage to bring Milosovic to terms that our government, that our President, that our Secretary of State want to see achieve.

I encourage all of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the bipartisan work of the 11 Members of Congress who are reaching out to provide a framework that will allow this conflict to be ended.

I am more optimistic than ever. The Russians are faxing us a letter at this very hour expressing their desire to pass the same document in the Russian Duma. Let us not lose this opportunity to show Milosovic that Russian leaders across the spectrum, American leaders across the political spectrum are coming together with a common agenda which says Milosovic must in the end agree to the conditions that NATO has established to end this conflict. Together I think we can finally end this crisis.

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. BARRETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be here tonight to discuss the problem of teen pregnancy. May is Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month, and it is a perfect time to focus our attention on this problem.

Let me start by saying that teen pregnancy prevention is a classic case of good news/bad news. The good news is that we are making progress, but the bad news is there is still much to be done.

Let me begin by focusing on the good news. Teen pregnancy rates have dropped, and we should congratulate those who are working hard on this problem. There are many, many programs of all different kinds out there making a real difference.

In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the area I represent, our community has responded to the problem of teen pregnancy by mobilizing residents, community-based organizations, the faith community, government, and the private sector in a results-based consortium designed to reduce teen pregnancy and promote programs and services for teen parents and their families.

We also cannot overlook the efforts of parents who are taking the time to have those difficult discussions with kids about responsibility and teen pregnancy. Studies show that teens want to hear from their parents and that this has had a positive effect. We need to congratulate those teens who are making responsible choices in a very pressured world.

□ 1900

All of this has helped bring the rate of teen pregnancies down from a peak of 117 for every 1,000 young women from ages 15 to 19 in 1990 to 101 in 1995. This is a 14 percent drop, which brings the rate to its lowest level since 1975. It dropped again 4 percent between 1995 and 1996.

In this decade, the birthrate for these teens has dropped 16 percent and it has dropped among all races, and the birthrate among 15 to 17-year-olds declined faster than 18 to 19-year-olds. In Wisconsin, my home State, there has been a 16 percent drop in the teen birthrate from 1991 to 1996.

This is real progress, but this in no way means the problem is solved. We have a long way to go and we cannot give up. We must support programs that work. For that reason, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the bill sponsored by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), which would arrange for evaluation of public and private prevention programs for effectiveness and feasibility of replication and would give grants for effective programs.

If we let up, then the bad news of this story gets bigger and our kids lose. If our kids lose, then all of society loses. And here is the bad news. The United States still has the highest teen birth rates in the developed world. Four out of 10 American girls become pregnant at least once by the age of 20.

In Wisconsin, we still have a teen birthrate of 37 per 1,000 females, and in Wisconsin 84 percent of these occur to unmarried teens, while 21 percent of teen births are repeat births.

Children born to teenage parents are more likely to be of low birth weight, to suffer from inadequate health care. They are more likely to leave high school early without graduating. They are more than 10 times more likely to be poor than children born to women age 20 and over. They are more likely to continue a cycle in their family of poverty and lack of choices. And they are twice as likely to be abused and neglected as are children of older mothers. Nearly 80 percent of teen mothers eventually receive public assistance, and two-thirds never finish high school. And let us not forget one of the most important statistics: Girls of teen mothers are 22 percent more likely to get pregnant as teens themselves.

So what are we to do? First, we have to find programs that work and make sure they are funded. Again, to that extent, the bill of the gentlewoman from New York should be passed. We need to keep our eyes and ears open in our communities to find out what works, for example, after-school activities, and then come back here and integrate that into policymaking.

Most importantly for young girls, they have to have hope in their lives. They have to have a dream. They have to be able to look beyond their teenage years and know that there is a reason to wait before becoming a mother. And the same is true for young boys. We have to include boys in this discussion as well.

As parents, we need to talk to our kids. Again, studies show that teens want to hear from their parents. The National Campaign presented figures last year that show that one-fourth of parents say that the biggest barrier to

talking to their kids about sex is that they are uncomfortable talking about it. Only 17 percent of teens feel this is the biggest barrier. As parents, we just need to get over this. The positives so outweigh any uncomfortableness that we may feel.

We have to make sure that there is adequate, effective information out there for teens. Some teens cannot or will not ever get the information from their parents. We need to support the organizations that get the materials out there, so that when teens rely on other teens for information, it is correct and positive.

Most importantly, we must never stop loving our teens, we must never stop loving our children and we must never give up.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1512, THE FIREARM CHILD SAFETY LOCK ACT OF 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, children are killing children. This madness, this destructive behavior must stop. Gun-related violence has plagued our Nation and jeopardized the safety of our children.

According to statistics from the Centers for Disease Control, more than 5,000 innocent boys and girls have lost their lives due to unintentional firearms related deaths. Between 1983 and 1994, 5,523 males between the ages of 1 and 19 were killed by the unintentional discharge of a firearm.

Currently, a child dies from gunfire every 100 minutes in America, 12 times the rate of the next 25 industrialized nations combined. Each day in America, 14 children die from gunfire, a classroom full every 2 days.

Mr. Speaker, it is our responsibility, no, it is in fact our obligation as parents and leaders to protect our Nation's children from the senseless deaths caused by the unintentional and intentional discharge of firearms.

To address this problem, I have reintroduced my bill, the Firearm Child Safety Lock Act of 1999. My bill, H.R. 1512, the Firearm Safety Lock bill, will prohibit any person from transferring or selling a firearm in the United States unless it is sold with a child safety lock. In addition, this legislation will prohibit the transfer or sale of firearms by federally licensed dealers and manufacturers unless a child safety lock is part of the firearm.

A child safety lock, when properly attached to the trigger guard of a firearm, would prevent a firearm from unintentionally discharging. Once the safety lock is properly applied it cannot be removed unless it is unlocked. This legislation will protect our children and increase the safety of firearms.

The bill also has an education provision, which provides for a portion of