

Mr. Speaker, I have introduced H.R. 4017, which would reinstate the ban on North Slope oil exports. I believe we should not export any oil when the U.S. must import oil for our own Nation's use. I hope that those of my colleagues who are interested in lowering fuel prices, ending discriminatory pricing, and decreasing our dependence on foreign oil will join me in cosponsoring this important legislation.

#### HONORING SENATOR MAURINE NEUBERGER

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

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to follow the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and to precede the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY) in honoring former Senator Maureen Neuberger, an accomplished Oregonian and a true trail blazer.

Senator Neuberger made her mark nationally when her husband, Dick Neuberger, died and she beat five opponents to fill the vacant Senate seat. However, she was already familiar to Oregonians as a State legislator, party organizer, and as a teacher.

Senator Neuberger was a trail blazer because she was not only the third woman elected to the other body, but also because she championed many of the same issues which continue to bedevil us today, like education and health care reform. She sponsored one of the first bills to mandate health warning labels on cigarettes, a measure which is commonplace today. Senator Neuberger is an inspiration to women, to Oregonians, and to all Americans.

On a more personal note, Senator Neuberger came to a function in support of me early during my campaign, and I was deeply honored that she was there. Quite frankly, I was a little bit mystified because she has such a large presence in the State, and I was such a dark horse candidate. It was just a sign of her genuine interest in public affairs in Oregon that she came that day to that event, and she came with her great friend, Bud Forrester, also a gentleman who had been very active in our community for many, many decades.

She and Mr. Forrester passed away on the same day very recently; and in passing away, these two great public servants on the same day, they are, in essence, an Oregon version of the Jefferson and Adams story where two great Americans died on the same day, the 4th of July, over 150 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Neuberger will be greatly, greatly missed by me, by Oregonians, and by all Americans; but her devotion to civil service and her strength and determination will be remembered in Oregon and around the country for years to come.

#### REAUTHORIZATION OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, in the 5 years I have served in the House of Representatives and thinking back on all of the public meetings I have held, I can think of few that are as poignant as the one I held yesterday concerning the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

Years ago I witnessed firsthand the mental and physical damage caused by domestic violence and sexual assault. As a patient advocate and rape counselor, I was on the front lines in emergency rooms when victims were brought into the hospitals for treatment. Unfortunately, though, for many, domestic violence was a dirty little secret with which they lived. Fear of their abusers, fear for their children and families, a lack of self-esteem, as well as fear that no one in authority could offer guaranteed safety and security, kept them from speaking out.

In 1994, Congress addressed this problem head on through the creation of the Violence Against Women Act known by the acronym VAWA. This landmark legislation was the first time the specific needs of victims of violence were directly addressed by the Federal Government. Yesterday, I brought together advocates, law enforcement officials, and those who work with victims' services, to discuss the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. In addition, I asked New York State Senator Vincent Leibell, Putnam County District Attorney Kevin Wright, and Westchester County Deputy District Attorney MaryEllen Martirano to join us so the group could benefit from the exchange of ideas from their experiences as well. Also the mayor of Mount Kisco, New York, Pat Riley, was with us, so we had all levels of government.

The fight against domestic violence cannot be won alone. It is only through the cooperative effort of Federal, State and local people that we can assist victims of violence so that we can begin to end the cycle of violence. Yesterday, we began that effort.

Mr. Speaker, there is violence in one out of every four American homes. One of the most alarming things I found while working in New York's emergency rooms was that many women are sometimes unable to receive treatment. Services were not available in many areas. Today, however, thanks to the Violence Against Women Act, services have become more common; yet without reauthorization of this critical legislation, these shelters will have to shut down.

Another topic we discussed during this meeting was legislation I introduced last fall, the READY Act. This bill, entitled Reducing the Effects of Abuse and Domestic Violence on

Youth, speaks to the effects on children of witnessing and experiencing domestic violence. Between 20 and 40 percent of chronically violent children have witnessed extreme parental conflict. One study has found that boys who witness their fathers batter their mothers have a 1,000 percent higher battering rate themselves than those who did not.

In order to try to address these problems and end the cycle of violence, the READY Act creates a grant program for multilevel interventions to create a more supportive, cooperative system in communities. Another gives grants for age-appropriate curriculum developed in coordination with community agencies and schools to teach children about how to deal with violence.

Through encouraging partnerships between entities like the courts, schools, physical and mental health care providers, child protective services and battered women's programs, we can build upon the existing services to develop programs to specifically address the special needs of children in domestic violence situations.

In addition, the READY Act creates a grant program for safe havens, for visitation and visitation exchange. Sadly, children are often used as pawns in these situations; and, therefore, visitation exchange is one of the most dangerous times for battered women. Supervised visitation programs would greatly enhance the safety of both the mother and the child and help ease the potentially volatile situation.

Mr. Speaker, as we look to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, I hope we will be able to recognize the need to expand the programs under it, to include the important measures. Some of these successes of the Violence Against Women Act include the Mount Kisco New York Police Department's implementation of a bilingual domestic violence hotline, as well as their implementation of a primary aggressor checklist for responding officers when arriving at the scene of a domestic dispute. VAWA funds have been used by the New York district attorney's office to hire seven additional staff people to address the special prosecutions division.

Thanks to VAWA grants, the Pace University Women's Justice Center has been able to institute a program training public safety workers about sexual assault and public service announcements about the full faith and credit provisions included in the VAWA Act.

Other VAWA grants have provided victims' agencies like the Northern Westchester Shelter, legal service assistance, which otherwise their clients would have to do without. Beyond formal legal assistance, the Violence Against Women Act enables trained volunteers to act as legal advocates.

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My Sister's Place in White Plains used grants to train volunteers who will accompany women to court when