

said to me "Los quieren tantos que ni quierens que el viento les pegue." *Translation: You love them so much that you don't even want the wind to hit them.*" She was right. On Mother's Day 2000 I will march with my mother and my three sisters, along with our husbands and children to say to Congress "Ya Basta! Enough is enough!" There is no love like that of a mother, and our passion will be our "weapon" against intransigent purveyors of violence and destruction."—Victoria R. Ballesteros, Los Angeles, CA

"This fight has been going on silently for far too long. The focus has gone away from childrens safety to politics. I am honored to be a part of the million mom march and do so because, as the mother of four children (ages 15 to 1) it is my responsibility to do everything within my power to ensure a safe future for them and their families. Millions of us will be unstoppable."—Jacquie Cofer, Jupiter, FL

"I am petrified every day that my children leave our home to go to school because in Louisiana EVERYONE (but us, it seems) has guns and hunts. My older son tells me that all of the kids in his 6th grade class hunt with guns. I am not ok with that as a mom or as an American.

Responsible gun laws means waiting periods, limits on sale AND limits on the ages of those using them. NO CHILD SHOULD USE A GUN. Any parent who says they want to teach correct use of guns to a child is asking for trouble and putting my child at risk. I am with MMM 100% as a woman, mom, social worker, and human being!"—Barbara Pierce, Natchitoches, LA

"A close friend of mine once found a little boy that had been accidentally shot in the head by a friends' dads' gun. To this day she will never in a million years forget what it felt like to have that little boy tug and pull at her shirt during his last few moments alive. Had there been a trigger-lock on that firearm his life could've been saved. . . . As well as so many others . . ."—Angelique, Imperial Beach, CA

"As a physician assistant, I have had ample opportunity to see just what a bullet, fired by a gun, does to human flesh. Believe me, it is thoroughly disgusting, wholly obscene, sinful. Now, relate that description to the body of a child. Lastly, think of your own child . . .

Do you still want to do nothing?"—Patricia Hoppen, Saugerties, NY

"At 16 years old I was shot while baby-sitting and suffered permanent damage to my wrist. Now that I have a one month old son I want to insure that he, or any other child, doesn't suffer as I did."—Carol, Alpharetta, GA

"We have been quiet for too long. I'm tired of watching the NRA dictate arms control. I think there are more of us than them, and we need to get more vocal about it."—Stephanie, NY

"As a former ER nurse, never once did I see a robber shot by a home owner! All of the shootings were by people who knew each other."—Ivy, PA

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. METCALF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. STABENOW addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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INTRODUCTION OF THE U.S. CAPITOL FIRE PROTECTION ACT OF 2000

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, as the Twenty-first century dawns, fire remains a serious threat to life and property, especially for the U.S. Capitol, House and Senate office buildings, the Library of Congress, and their occupants and visitors. Today, with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), co-chair of the Congressional Fire Caucus, and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS), I am introducing a bill intended to enhance fire protection of the United States Capitol complex and the safety of the thousands who work in or visit the complex every day.

No one can deny that the Architect of the Capitol, the official responsible for operation and maintenance of the complex, has taken steps to improve fire safety on Capitol Hill. However, recent reports warn that much work remains in order to make these buildings safe. A December 1998 report by the House Inspector General found the condition of House's fire-protection systems, such as alarms and sprinklers, to be "deficient." A follow-up report just issued by the Inspector General warns that the AOC continues to take a "haphazard approach" to fire protection throughout the House complex.

A January 2000 complex-wide inspection by the Office of Compliance identified numerous violations of occupational safety and health standards made applicable to the Congress by the 1995 Congressional Accountability Act. The Compliance Office subsequently issued eight citations requiring corrective actions, including two requiring prompt implementation of a program of inspection, testing and maintenance for key fire-protection systems and equipment.

This Congress must take every reasonable step to make fire protection of the Capitol complex and its occupants a top priority. To assist the Architect in fulfilling his responsibilities in this area, and to enhance the status of fire-safety and protection efforts, out bill will create within the Architect's office the position of Director of fire Safety and Protection. Reporting directly to the Architect, The Director will coordinate and take charge of fire-protection activities and work to bring the Capitol complex into compliance with the applicable codes and standards established by the prestigious National Fire Protection Association. The work of the NFPA acknowledges the difficulties associated with protecting historic buildings like the Capitol from fire, and our bill provides the Architect the flexibility he needs to preserve the Capitol's historic character. The measure requires the Architect to report regularly to key House and Senate committees on his fire-safety and protection efforts.

Mr. Speaker, there are doubtless several reasons progress on fire protection of the Capitol complex has not been more rapid, but the simple reason is that the subject has not received sufficient attention. By creating a high-level official within the Architect's office to carry out all fire-safety duties, this bill will correct that problem, expedite progress, and make clear that Congress is serious about protecting the complex and its occupants from fire. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

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

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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LACK OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG INSURANCE COVERAGE IN MEDICARE, AN INTOLERABLE SITUATION IN AMERICA TODAY

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

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an intolerable situation in America today, the lack of prescription drug insurance coverage in our Medicare program. Seniors are simply not receiving the prescription drug coverage that they so desperately need. Prescription drugs did not play a significant role in health care when Medicare was created back in 1965, but today the advances in pharmaceuticals have made prescription drugs a fundamental part of the typical senior's health care.

While seniors represent only 12 percent of the population, they account for more than one-third, more than one-third, Mr. Speaker, of the prescription drugs used in our country each year.

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The typical American who is 65 or older uses 18 prescription drugs a year, and 85 percent of the beneficiaries of