

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, this Congress is built upon a common desire to promote democratic ideals throughout the world. But as we strive to encourage democracy in developing nations, something is sorely amiss in our China policy.

When the CEOs of multinational corporations lobby for increased trade with China, they talk about access to 1.2 billion Chinese consumers. What they do not say is that their real interest is 1.2 billion Chinese workers, workers whom they pay 10 cents, 20 cents, 30 cents, 40 cents an hour.

These CEOs will tell us that increasing trade with China will force China to improve, that engagement with China will bring democracy to that Communist dictatorship. But as we engage with developing countries in trade and investment, democratic counties in the developing world are losing ground to more authoritarian countries. Democratic nations such as India are losing out to more totalitarian governments such as China where the people are not free and the workers do as they are told.

In the post-Cold War decade, the share of developing country exports to the U.S. for democratic nations fell from 53 percent in 1989 to 34 percent in 1998. Corporate America wants to do business with countries with docile work forces that earn below poverty wages and are not allowed to organize to bargain collectively.

In manufacturing goods, developing democracies' share of developing country exports fell 21 percent, from 56 percent to 35 percent. Corporations are relocating their manufacturing to more authoritarian regimes where the workers do not talk back for fear of being punished.

Western corporations want to invest in countries that have below poverty wages, that have nonexistent environmental standards, that have no worker safety standards, that have no opportunities to bargain collectively. As developing nations make progress toward democracy, as they increase worker rights, as they create regulation to protect the environment, American business punishes them by pulling its trade and pulling its investment in favor of other totalitarian governments.

Decisions about the Chinese economy are made by three groups: the Chinese Communist Party, the People's Liberation Army, which controls a significant number of the business that export to the United States, and, third, Western investors. Do any of these three want to empower workers? Does the Chinese Communist Party want the Chinese people to enjoy human rights? No. Does the People's Liberation Army want to close the labor camps? I do not think so. Do Western investors want Chinese workers to bargain collectively? Obviously no. None of these groups, I repeat, none of these groups, the Chinese Communist Party, the People's Liberation Army, and Western investors,

none of these groups have any interest in changing the current situation in China. All three profit too much from the status quo to want to see human rights and labor rights improve in China.

The People's Republic of China ignores the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights. The People's Republic of China ignores the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. They ignore the State Department's country reports, and the People's Republic of China has broken almost every agreement they have made with the United States. Why would the Chinese government pay any attention to the congressional task force? Passing PNTR, passing permanent Most Favored Nation status trading privileges for China, will only confirm that China's behavior will continue and worsen.

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

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

#### WOMEN'S ISSUES

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

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I spoke earlier on equal pay day, May 11, which is today, which indicates that women have had to work 4½ months longer than men to achieve equal pay. I wanted to comment a little further on that with some statistics, and then I want to go into an invitation to women as well as men to join all of us on Sunday, Mother's Day at the Million Mom March for common-sense gun legislation.

But, first of all, let me mention, women have made great strides in education and in the work force. When one looks at the statistics, the majority of undergraduate and master's degrees are awarded to women. Forty percent of all doctorates are earned by women. More than 7.7 million businesses in the United States are owned and operated by women. These businesses employ 15.5 million people, which is about 35 percent more than the Fortune 500 companies worldwide.

Women are running for elected office in record numbers. When I was first elected to the House in 1987, there were 26 women in the House and two in the Senate. In 2000, we now have 58 women serving in the House and nine in the Senate. It sounds like quite an addition. Not enough. Not enough, but certainly we can see there has been an increase.

While many doors to employment and educational opportunity have opened for women, they still get paid less than men for the same work.

Women who work full time earn less than men employed for the full time. The average college graduate woman earns a little more than the average male high school graduate. Full-time working women earn only about 73 cents for every dollar that a man earns.

That number, as I mentioned before, African American women earn only 63 cents for every dollar. Hispanic women earn only 53 cents for every dollar. We need to remember the struggle for equality is not over. Although women are and continue to be the majority of new entrants into the workplace, they continue to be clustered in low-skilled, low-paying jobs. Part-time and temporary workers, the majority of whom are women, are among the most vulnerable of all workers. They receive lower pay, fewer or no benefits, and little, if any, job security.

Women account for more than 45 percent of the work force and, yet, they are underrepresented and face barriers in the fields of science, engineering, and technology, especially.

Recently, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the most prestigious science and engineering university in the country issued a report revealing that female professors at the school suffer from pervasive discrimination.

For all of those reasons, that is why I introduced the Commission on the Advancement of Women in Science, Engineering and Technology Development Act. That was passed in the previous 105th Congress and signed into law. This Commission has met many times during this past year, and we will release their report in June of this year.

The Commission's report will help us find out what is keeping women and minorities and persons with disabilities out of technological fields at this critical time. In addition, we will have ascertained what are effective and productive policies that can address the underrepresentation of women in the sciences and could help alleviate the increasing shortage of information technology workers and engineers.

I see this as the first step in encountering the roadblocks to women in our rapidly evolving high-tech society, and it is going to help women finally help to breakthrough that glass ceiling and the silicone ceiling in the fields of science, engineering and technology.

Let me also point out that, as women retire, we are understanding the economic problems of the elderly. Women are affected in disproportionate numbers because we tend to have lower pension benefits than men. Pension policies have not accommodated women in their traditional role as family care givers.

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Women move in and out of the workforce more frequently when family needs arise, making it more difficult for them to accrue retirement credits.