

herself points out, "As far as education in general, in the schools where I go, I see wonderful, dedicated teachers who a lot of times are spinning their wheels trying to think, 'What is it that I need to do to improve what we're already doing?' Probably the most consistent thing I hear from teachers is the lack of training. From their university training they don't feel adequately prepared to teach reading, I see good things, but a lot of frustration."

Sadly, many of our students across the country do not have mastery of this basic skill of reading. The 1998 National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP) has found that 69% of 4th grade students are reading below the proficient level and that 85% of minority 4th grade students, most of whom are in Title I programs, are reading below the proficient level. Many of these students will end up in special education.

Studies indicate that at least half of the students being placed in Special Education programs have not been taught to read. The cost of Special Education—federal, state and local—is exceeding \$60 billion each year. The cost to those who never learn to read adequately is much higher. The job prospects for functionally illiterate adults are slim. Opportunities for those who cannot read are few.

Reading is fundamental. To ensure mastery of these skills, correct teaching methodology is essential. According to the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development the ability to read depends on one's understanding of the relationship between letters and the speech sounds they represent. Intensive instruction in phonics teaches this skill—the 26 letters used to symbolize about 44 speech sounds and the most common ways they may be spelled.

The National Reading Panel's report on successful reading strategies which was released on April 13, 2000 echoes this point. After reviewing 30 years of reading research, the reading panel found that the most effective reading programs include instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary.

The research in support of intensive, systematic phonics is widely available yet teaching colleges often neglect to provide their students with the skills to teach this body of knowledge. Too often, teachers like Kathy graduate without the tools to successfully teach reading. These teachers are deeply devoted to children and want to teach the best they can, yet they lack essential teaching skills. Until teaching schools adopt successful reading instruction methods, the only place teachers can learn these is in workshops like the ones Kathy provides.

This is but one of the reasons Kathy is an education hero. In addition to helping children learn to read, she is providing other teachers the means to become excellent teachers. She is fighting the fight against illiteracy and arming others to do the same. Because of teachers like Kathy, I am hopeful that the literacy deficit in our country will become a thing of the past. It is for this reason that I will be presenting Kathy with a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for her service to Indiana next week. Her commitment to children and literacy is outstanding.

I would like to thank the National Right to Read Foundation for selecting this wonderful Hoosier to receive the Patrick Groff Teacher of the Year Award.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak about this very special woman. I am reminded of the words of Historian Henry Brooks Adams who once said, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops."

THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
ACT

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I support the Violence Against Women Act ("VAWA"). On September 26, 2000, this Body voted to reauthorize VAWA in a vote of 415 to 3. Our colleagues in the other Body are now considering the reauthorization of this important legislation.

In my career as a judge and prosecutor, I witnessed many instances in which violence tore at the fabric of family life, causing harm to women and children.

The Violence Against Women Act would ensure a comprehensive approach to combating violence through the tools of family services, community initiatives, training for law enforcement, and educational programs. The Act would also protect women with disabilities, many of whom are unable to advocate on their own behalf.

This Body's support of VAWA indicates widespread recognition of the problem of violence against women, and that it must stop. I urge that our colleagues in the other Body reauthorize this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN
SIDNEY YATES

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished legislator, a paragon of virtue and a national treasure—Congressman Sidney Yates from my home state of Illinois. I am deeply saddened by the news that Sid Yates died last night. I join my colleagues in taking the time to honor this truly remarkable man for his invaluable contribution to this nation. During this time of sorrow for his family, I want them to know that I hold them in my heart and in my prayers.

Mr. Yates was first elected in 1948, and for four decades served as a member of the Appropriations Committee. I am honored to now fill his seat. As the member who coined the appropriations moniker "College of Cardinals," he spent 20 years as Chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. Sidney Yates was a staunch advocate for the arts, and a defender of the environment. He embodied all that is just and virtuous about public service. Through his exemplary tenure, Sidney Yates typified what it truly means to be called, "the honorable."

Mr. Yates was considered to me, generous with his time and extremely helpful to me as a new legislator. On December 14, 1995, Mr.

Yates introduced me after I took the oath of office, and continued to serve as a guide and teacher. As the Dean of the Illinois delegation, his courageous and principled stands on issues and legislation were inspirational—this despite great pressure to do otherwise.

I believe I speak for every member of this body when I say we will continue to be guided by the light of Sid Yates' leadership, public service, experience and wisdom. I will miss my good friend and trusted mentor.

ANTI-GAY VIOLENCE IN VIRGINIA
HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED FOR EXPANDED HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I was extremely disappointed that the conference committee on the defense authorization legislation voted to drop the hate crimes provision from the bill. As president Clinton said, yesterday, dropping this provision is a serious error. The hate crimes provision had strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. This legislation simply provided that all persons should be treated the same under our nation's laws, and it is a principle that all of us here in the Congress should support.

Mr. Speaker, a tragic incident just a few days ago in Roanoke, Virginia, has only served to highlight the need for this legislation. Ronald Edward Gay shot and killed Daniel Lee Overstreet simply because he was gay. Mr. Overstreet worked for Verizon network and was well liked by all who knew him. But he happened to be in a gay bar, when Ronald Edward Gay entered the bar and shot and killed him because, in Gay's words, he wanted to waste some "faggots". Like Matthew Shephard before him, Daniel Lee Overstreet was a victim of blind, impersonal hatred and bigotry.

The brutal attack in Virginia and the rise in hate crimes based on sexual orientation shows the need for Congress to adopt comprehensive hate crimes legislation. If we fail to enact this legislation, more and more people will continue to suffer from hate crimes in our country. According to the FBI, hate crimes based on anti-gay violence increased 14.3 percent from 1997 to 1998—even as the overall crime rate decreased. Hate crimes based on sexual orientation have nearly tripled since the FBI began collecting statistics in 1991, and in 1998 such crimes comprised 16 percent of all hate crimes—some 1,260 crimes nationally.

Mr. Speaker, the majority of Americans believe that now is the time to pass the expanded hate crimes legislation. According to recent polls, 63 percent of independent voters say they are "less likely" to vote for a candidate opposed to hate crimes legislation. These voters believe as I do, that hate crimes legislation does not make murdering someone who happens to be homosexual a greater crime than murdering someone who happens to be heterosexual as its opponents charge. Rather, it sends a message throughout our nation that hate crimes will not go unnoticed and they will not go unpunished.

Mr. Speaker, with the recent anti-guy violence in Virginia and the increasing number of