

Our collaboration represents the shared commitment of the NGO community and the diamond industry to work together to secure passage of this legislation sponsored by Senators Dick Durbin, D-Ill., Russ Feingold, D-Wis., and Michael DeWine, R-Ohio. We thank the Senators for introducing this bill, which accommodates the concerns of both the diamond industry and the NGO community. We also wish to thank Reps. Tony Hall, D-Ohio, and Frank Wolf, R-Va., for their commitment to ending the conflict diamond trade.

We are determined to work together to secure rapid enactment of this legislation, which represents the best efforts of the NGO community and diamond industry to develop a workable system for keeping conflict stones out of the United States.

The conditions placed on the importation of diamonds and diamond jewelry in the legislation are designed to support and encourage the work of the 38 countries that are part of the Kimberley Process, which is developing an international system to stop trade in conflict diamonds. The standards being developed by participants in the Kimberley Process, which includes governments, NGOs and the diamond industry, are expected to be presented in final form to the United Nations General Assembly by the end of this year.

Passage of this legislation also will enhance the confidence of U.S. jewelers and consumers that American purchases of diamonds and diamond jewelry are not unwittingly benefiting abusive insurgencies in Africa.

We collectively call upon the U.S. Congress to pass the Clean Diamonds Act in this session of Congress and urge President Bush to sign it into law.

POEM BY ANASTASIA HAYES-STOKER

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2001

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to submit a remarkable poem written by Anastasia Hayes-Stoker, a young student at Shakelford Junior High School in Arlington, Texas. Anastasia's poem was the overall winner of the "Do the Write Thing" Challenge. This contest, sponsored by the National Campaign to Stop Violence and partnered with the Arlington Jaycees, challenges middle school students to write an essay about the negative impact of violence in their lives and offer possible solutions to the problems they face today.

Anastasia's poem speaks to the truths of the challenges our youth face in coping with violence. In my role as Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Working Group on Youth Violence, I listened to teachers, law enforcement, counselors, parents, and students. Over and over again, I heard about the need to mentor our youth and provide a safe haven for them to go. However, it is often only when we hear our children's voice, that our attention is grabbed. Anastasia has managed to convey, in a beautiful way, how she, and others in her generation, feel about the violence in her school, her appreciation for community involvement, and a child's need for family and love.

Drug dealing, students stealing All around the campus

Tempers flaring, kids are swearing All around the campus

Fist to cuff, fights are a must All around the campus

Backed to the wall, who do you call? All around the campus

Punches thrown, lives are blown All around the campus

Guns and knives, someone dies All around the campus

Families shrinking, parents drinking Children are abandoned

Marriage ending, no time for spending Children are abandoned

Domestic violence, kept in silence Children are abandoned

Learned aggression, whose oppression? Children are abandoned

Repeat behavior, where's your savior? Children are abandoned

Fight or flight, who sleeps at night Children are abandoned

Crime prevention, good intention Community united

Neighborhoods watched, gang fights botched Community united

Security in the hall, protects us all Community united

Mentors handy, hope feels dandy Community united

Cops on the street, don't miss a beat Community united

My home, safety zone Strong parental influence

Curfews made, allowance paid Strong parental influence

Loving brother, like no other Strong parental influence

Self-respect, family honor to protect Strong parental influence

Lead by example, self worth is ample Strong parental influence

Loving silence, no need for violence Strong parental influence

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING GOALS AND IDEAS OF AMERICAN YOUTH DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 124 to celebrate our youth as the future of the United States and to support the goals and ideas of America's Youth Day.

It is our ultimate priority and our duty to fulfill the five promises established by the Alliance for Youth organizations. The first promise holds adults accountable for reaching out to the young people in our community. By mentoring, participating in a big brother/big sister program, through peer counseling and even through daily contact with our youth, we can communicate that we care. The majority of schools and communities across the country are safe places for children to thrive. By recognizing the people and organizations in our communities, we show our appreciation for living up to the "promise" of being caring adults and treating our youth with respect.

No matter what the subject, education is the best hope for any child's success. Education comes from all aspects of a child's life—at home, at school, in the playground and from every person they know. All communities can participate in building a circle of love and responsibility around every child.

Young people are faced with issues today that were unheard of a generation ago. In the

past, 21 school-related, violent deaths occurred in the United States. No child is untouched by challenges and hardships that we may not even understand and all children need, more than ever, to have caring adults who will listen and support them.

Children are our future teachers, doctors, farmers, industry workers, and political candidates. Celebrating American Youth Day, encourages our young people to stand at the helm of their own destiny. As leaders, teachers, parents and as friends we can guide children to practice safe and respectful behavior, allowing young people to create their own identity and character.

As a former educator, I believe the cooperative effort of parents, students, teachers and the community are all necessary to combat the current violence in our schools. It is a fact that students with attentive and involved parents are less likely to be more successful in school while avoiding drugs and violence.

I support the passage of H. Res. 124, to recognize the importance of children and to recognize America's Youth Day and I thank Secretary of State Colin Powell for his leadership in creating "America's Promise to Youth." Fulfilling the Promises celebrates our youth and the strength of all of our communities to provide for a strong future.

FEDERAL EFFICIENT MOTOR-VEHICLE FLEET ACT, H.R. 2263

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, our Nation is plagued by an energy crisis that is only becoming worse. The Bush Administration has taken a pro-active stance on energy through the release of its National Energy Policy in May, 2001. For the past eight years, our Nation was subjected to the last Administration's 'wait and see' energy policy that was reactive rather than pro-active.

Mr. Speaker, there is a saying in the military that "the best leaders, lead by example." That trait must be adopted by the Federal Government, it must lead by example. That is why I am sponsoring the Federal Motor-Vehicle Fleet Lead By Example Act of 2001. The Act mandates that ten-percent of the vehicle fleet purchased by the Federal Government must be comprised of hybrid-Electric vehicles (HEV) and other high-efficiency vehicles, which are vehicles that are powered by alternative sources of energy (sources other than gasoline and diesel). Hybrid-Electric Vehicles are motor-vehicles with fuel-efficient gasoline engines assisted by an electric motor.

These Hybrid-Electric Vehicles' motors and their engines work more efficiently than the standard internal combustion engine. The upside of these engines is that they do not have the driving limitations that all-electric cars have. While the technology seems new to us, the global automobile manufacturers have been experimenting with fuel-efficient technology since the 1970's.

These vehicles boast increased gas mileage that in some cases is exceeding conventional vehicle gas mileage by as much as 25%. Toyota's Prius, a four-seater, averages 52 miles per gallon in stop and go city traffic and 45