

While the world we live in today seems to be constantly changing, too many women, both in and outside the United States, continue to spend their days living in fear and wondering what might happen to them if they even try to end their abusive relationships. These women are counting on us to fund the programs to ensure that they have access to the emotional and legal support services needed for victim recovery. To forget their needs is not an option.

SUPPORT THE HOMETOWN HEROES SURVIVOR BENEFITS ACT

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, our Nation's firefighters, law enforcement officers and EMS workers are truly our hometown heroes. When we call them, they risk their lives for all of us.

The Federal Public Safety Officers Benefit provides the families of public safety officers who are killed in the line of duty with a one-time financial benefit. Yet too often the families of public safety officers who are killed by or die of a heart attack or stroke while performing their duties are denied these benefits.

Last week, with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and over 70 of my colleagues, I reintroduced this Hometown Heroes Survivor Benefit Act to correct this technicality in the law. H.R. 919 is a bipartisan bill to provide the benefits to the families of public safety officers who are killed by heart attack or stroke while on duty or within 24 hours after participating in a training exercise or responding to an emergency situation.

Madam Speaker, this is exactly the type of bipartisan legislation that should pass this House, and I urge all my colleagues to join me in honoring our hometown heroes by supporting H.R. 919.

COME HOME TO AMERICA

(Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, today I join with a number of concerned shareholders to encourage Tyco to come home to America. Formerly a resident of New Hampshire, Tyco renounced its U.S. corporate citizenship in 1997 and left for Bermuda. For many of these corporate expatriates, the sunny climate of Bermuda is not the main draw; it is the lacks regulatory structure and the low taxes that lure these former U.S. companies to island tax havens.

For Tyco, it has meant the ability to avoid \$400 million in U.S. taxes. Joint Tax has estimated that if all these cor-

porate expatriates were to pay their Federal income taxes again, as legislation I have filed would require, listen to this, we would save \$4 billion in tax revenue.

Certainly, as we discuss the "shared sacrifices" during a wartime economy, should these corporations not contribute as well? We are sending our children, men and women off to Iraqi shores, and we are asking these corporate patriots to go to Bermuda?

Today, Madam Speaker, I urge shareholders to approve proposal article number 7, despite the opposition of Tyco's management, and, Madam Speaker, I urge the Republican leadership to bring up my bill, the Corporate Patriot Enforcement Act, so we can tell all of these corporate expatriates, come home to America.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND WELFARE

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the need to address domestic violence against women within the context of our welfare system.

One in every three welfare recipients has experienced domestic violence in the 12 months prior to receiving welfare assistance. Making women choose between financial security and physical safety is appalling. The provisions in the bill which urge marriage and have programs to get people married, which will encourage some women either to stay in a abusive relationship or marry an abuser, is not the way welfare should be moving for economic security. This is no way to promote that.

Women have the right to financial stability and physical safety for themselves and for their children. Welfare's means for promoting success and economic stability should come through education and training and other responsible ways.

Education is the number one predictor of future opportunities in the work force. We should be putting our limited and valuable resources toward these proven vehicles of helping women, instead of throwing it away on unproved programs to urge people to get married. There is no question we are going to put more women in harm's way with those kinds of programs.

DEDICATE RESOURCES TO ENDING ALL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, you will hear throughout this Stop Violence Week the horrifying statistics of how many women are abused by their partners in their own homes, how many women are raped by men that

they know, and how many women and girls worldwide face violence on a daily basis. Yet, despite this crisis at home and abroad, the administration's budget cuts funding for Violence Against Women programs by nearly \$20 million.

There continues to be no funding for transitional housing for victims who are fleeing violence and need services and support to get back on their feet. The Department of Justice has yet to establish a strong and independent Violence Against Women Office, despite the fact that Congress passed legislation in the last Congress requiring this. And now the Attorney General wants to establish new regulations making it harder for women who face gender-based persecution in their countries to seek asylum in the United States.

We must work hard to end all violence against women, and it is time that we dedicate the resources needed to achieve this goal.

RESTORE CUTS MADE TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT PROGRAMS

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to illustrate the great necessity for services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

According to the Department of Justice, every year in the United States, 4.9 million people are victimized by their intimate partners. In order to break free of violence, these victims seek assistance through the National Domestic Violence Hotline, local shelter programs, rape crisis centers and transitional housing programs.

The Violence against Women Act of 2000, VAWA, authorized funding for these essential programs. In his State of the Union address, the President listed domestic violence services as important and worthy of Federal funding. Yet the President's 2004 budget cuts over \$19 million from VAWA programs. This cut may seem minimal. However, for victims of domestic violence it could mean the literal difference between life and death.

I stand before you today and ask that Congress restore the cuts made to the VAWA programs in the President's budget in order to preserve essential services to victims of domestic violence and their children. Without full funding for these programs, women's lives are literally in jeopardy.

FIGHTING HEART DISEASE

(Ms. CARSON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, this is Women's History Month, where we underscore the contributions of women across this world, and we also underscore, Madam Speaker, the challenges that women face.