

have all warned that current fiscal policy is unsustainable over the long-term.

What is needed now is a clear commitment to address these issues in a straightforward, generationally equitable and bipartisan manner. Achieving consensus around the hard choices that must eventually be made will require open minds and bipartisan cooperation. Your legislation would establish a process to do just that.

Recently, The Concord Coalition organized a forum with experts from across the political spectrum to discuss the possibility of establishing a bipartisan commission to deal with our longterm fiscal outlook. Three conclusions from the forum stand out:

The commission must have meaningful participation and input from a broad range of views. Bipartisan support is essential to enacting and maintaining policies that will put the budget on a fiscally sustainable course.

The commission should have a broad mandate with no limitations on what policy options the commission can consider or preconditions on what must be included—or not included—in a proposal. Everything must be on the table, including revenues as well as entitlements and other spending.

The commission should engage the public in a dialogue about the long-term fiscal challenges and the tradeoffs that will be necessary to bring about a more secure and sustainable economic future.

The Concord Coalition commends your proposal because it recognizes each of these conclusions. The SAFE Act would establish a bipartisan commission of experts and legislators appointed by the President and Congressional leaders of both parties. The Commission would be directed to hold hearings across the country and incorporate the input from the public in its report. This is a very welcome provision. The public should be treated as if it were, in effect, a member of the commission. Doing so will enhance the commission's credibility and help build acceptance for its recommendations. Our experience hosting meetings around the nation on this issue has demonstrated that when the American people are armed with the facts and given the opportunity for honest dialogue, they are willing to set priorities and make the hard choices that often are not made in Washington.

Most importantly, the Commission would be allowed to consider all policy options to address the imbalance between long-term spending commitments and projected revenues, including reforms of entitlement programs and tax laws. In our view, this is an essential prerequisite for attracting well-respected individuals to serve on the commission and for finding solutions that are both substantive and politically viable.

We particularly commend you for your willingness to consider constructive suggestions for changes to achieve broader bipartisan support and increase the prospect that the commission will produce a balanced proposal that can be enacted into law. In that regard, we would suggest a few changes that we believe would strengthen the bill and help ensure the commission receives the bipartisan support essential to its success.

We believe the commission would have greater credibility if the appointees were more evenly divided between parties, potentially with some commission members appointed jointly or as a result of bipartisan consultation. Further, we would suggest that the commission have bipartisan co-chairs. We would also encourage you to consider a more expansive legislative process, which would allow for greater debate of policy tradeoffs by allowing the consideration of budget neutral amendments. Those who oppose the priorities and tradeoffs rec-

ommended by the commission should be challenged to say what they would do instead and given the opportunity to put forward alternative policies to address the problem.

A commission isn't a silver bullet that will solve our fiscal problems by itself. It will still take action by Members of Congress and the administration to adopt the tough choices. But a commission with credibility and bipartisan support could provide the leadership necessary to ensure that these issues receive the attention and serious consideration they deserve.

You deserve great credit for your willingness to undertake the difficult but absolutely essential task of focusing attention on the tough choices our nation faces. The Concord Coalition stands ready to assist in any way that we can.

Sincerely,

ROBERT L. BIXBY,
Executive Director.

DEFEATING THE TERRORISTS ABROAD—NOT AT HOME

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, yesterday afternoon as I was reading *The Examiner*, a Washington daily, I came across an editorial that summed up my view of our current conflict in Iraq and the overall global war on terrorism. I applaud *The Examiner's* editorial staff for declaring what is largely an unpopular view among the mainstream media.

The editorial follows.

[Jan. 11, 2007]

DO WE DEFEAT THE TERRORISTS IN IRAQ NOW OR FIGHT THEM HERE TOMORROW?

WASHINGTON.—President Bush could not have been more frank or honest with the American people than he was last night. That said, the central issue remains today what it has been since the first plane crashed into the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001: Are we as a nation willing to do whatever is required to win the war on terrorism?

Iraq is today the central front in that war, and the president is doing all within his power to defeat the terrorists there now so that we don't have to fight them here in the future.

The president believes the war in Iraq can be won by increasing American troop strength for a period as the Iraqis themselves assume greater responsibilities for securing their country and by increasing U.S. economic aid to rebuild infrastructure and provide jobs.

Calling this troop movement a "surge" was unfortunate because it conveyed the idea of something that isn't going to happen—putting more U.S. soldiers on the ground than we have had heretofore. In fact, as *The Examiner's* Bill Sammon reported yesterday, even with the "surge" announced last night, we will still be a few thousand short of the high water mark of 160,000 U.S. troops a year ago.

More important than the raw numbers is how those troops are deployed.

The president acknowledged last night that mistakes were made in the days leading up to the U.S. action in Iraq and the first phases of building the post-Saddam Hussein Iraq. Working with increased Iraqi military and police forces, our strengthened forces

will now be able to rectify the biggest of those mistakes: failing to eradicate the insurgents completely and not disarming private militias like that of Moqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi Army. Special attention is to be devoted to Baghdad and Anbar province, with Iraqi army units in the lead.

There will be more U.S. casualties in coming months. But the only way to affirm the sacrifice of American blood and material resources in Iraq is persevering and winning. Iraq is not Vietnam unless congressional Democrats heed extremists like Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-MA, and withdraw funding for the American war effort in Iraq as they did in 1974, which led directly to the fall of Saigon in 1975.

The killing fields followed throughout Southeast Asia as the victors took revenge upon those who looked to America for protection and freedom. The killing fields will come again if America fails now because Iraq will dissolve into chaos and then a jihadist totalitarianism.

Many Rubicons are being crossed on Iraq. There will be no crossing back if we heed the ignoble call to retreat.

IN MEMORY OF DARRENT
WILLIAMS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Darrent Williams, the Denver Bronco professional football player from Fort Worth, Texas, who passed away at 24 years of age on January 1, 2007.

Darrent Williams will forever be remembered as a talented and compassionate young man who not only loved his family and friends but also proved to be dedicated to his teammates and his adopted city of Denver.

Raised as an only child by his mother Rosalind Williams, Darrent grew up in Fort Worth where he attended O.D. Wyatt High School located in my congressional district. Excelling at three different sports, Mr. Williams received scholarship opportunities from multiple universities. Wanting to stay close to his home in north Texas, Mr. Williams decided to play football at Oklahoma State University. While at Oklahoma State, he was one of only four college players since 1996 to record double-figure interceptions while scoring at least five touchdowns. He was also a Jim Thorpe Award semifinalist, and in 2003 tied at 13th in the Nation with six interceptions. Due to his incredible performance at Oklahoma State, in 2005 Mr. Williams became the Denver Broncos' second-round draft pick and would soon be a starter.

Mr. Williams became known as the "Denver Bronco Kid," a nickname that would spread across the Nation as others recognized his energy, enthusiasm, and talent. As a young professional football player, he not only excelled at the game but also brought strength and cooperation to the team. He was a special person with unbelievable character, and he will continue to be admired by many across the country.

Throughout his life, Darrent Williams portrayed qualities that warmed the hearts of those around him. It was these traits that won

the hearts of many. I extend my sympathies to his family and friends, and may this young man be an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING CENTENARIAN VERA
WENTWORTH OF HERNANDO
COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Vera Wentworth of Hernando County, FL. Vera has done something that all of us strive to do, but that very few of us will ever accomplish, celebrate her 100th birthday. Born December 19, 1906 in Hartland, ME, Vera received her degree in the 1920s from a college in Farmington, ME. One of the early teachers who worked in a one-room schoolhouse, Vera kept a pot-belly stove filled with wood to keep the children warm. As a testament to the hardiness of Maine residents, Vera taught at different schools throughout Maine for 49 years. Her fondest childhood memory was the day her father bought her a new car while she was in college.

Married to Neal Felker in the early 1920s, Vera was blessed with three children, two boys and one girl. While her husband sadly passed away in the late 1940s, Vera remarried Harold Wentworth in 1954. She also raised Harold's 2-year old son, and she now has a combination of seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Vera gets the most pleasure these days from being with her family. Although she lived alone surviving cold winters in Maine till she was 97 years old, she moved to Hernando County in 2002 to be closer to her daughter and her son-in-law. Vera's daughter says the proudest moments in her mother's life was the ability to teach for 49 years, and that she would have taught longer if they didn't require her to retire.

Vera's advice to young people today is, "go to church, respect your parents and get an education." Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Vera Wentworth for reaching her 100th birthday. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as her.

HONORING THE CITY OF BAR-
BERTON DR. MARTIN LUTHER
KING, JR. DAY OF SERVICE

HON. BETTY SUTTON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Ms. SUTTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Barberton Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. The City of Barberton located in beautiful Summit County, Ohio has played host to this meaningful event. Dr. King's ideals of freedom, justice and opportunity need to be celebrated now more than ever.

Barberton originally started out as a collective of small farms owned by various individuals. In January of 1890, the Barberton Land Development Company purchased 600 acres

of land that would eventually become Barberton. Over the next 2 years, William A. Johnson plotted and surveyed the land leaving an indelible mark on the city. In this short time, the population of Barberton grew at such leaps and bounds that a reporter from the Beacon Journal remarked that the city had grown by "magic." This moniker stuck and to this day, the city is nicknamed "Magic City." The population boom of Barberton exemplifies Dr. King's dream of opportunity.

All Americans know of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s stature as a national hero. From his celebrated "Letter from Birmingham Jail" to his organization of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Dr. King demonstrated that eloquent words followed with significant action could affect social change without resorting to violence. His "I Have a Dream" speech movingly spelled out his dream of racial equality and propelled the issue to the forefront of national consciousness.

In closing, I commend the City of Barberton and all the organizations that have spent countless hours organizing this celebration honoring Dr. King's birthday. Dr. King's dedication to racial, social and economic justice is a model that the world should emulate now more than ever.

STEM CELL RESEARCH
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, let me be clear: I fully support stem cell research and its potential to solve many of the world's most complex medical mysteries.

Many scientists have concluded that certain types of stem cells, called pluripotent stem cells, may one day be used to develop treatments for debilitating diseases.

Some of these types include cells derived from adult stem cells, umbilical cord blood, amniotic fluid and finally, human embryos.

Federal funding of embryonic stem cell research began in 2001 when President Bush announced a policy that allowed researchers to destroy and conduct research on stem cell lines that had come from human embryos already destroyed prior to August 9, 2001.

This policy did not encourage or offer incentives from the government to destroy human life for research.

Yet the newly elected Democratic majority chose to bring a bill to the House floor today that forces taxpayers to encourage and fund the destruction of human life for embryonic stem cell research.

This legislation also has no protections to ensure human embryos can not be cloned by researchers who receive this funding and access to destroyed human embryos.

It is disheartening that the Democratic leadership wants to force all taxpayers to fund the destruction of human embryos for research, regardless of any moral and ethical concerns they may hold.

Stem cell research is currently legal in the United States. In fact, nothing in any past federal legislation or policy would ban privately funded embryonic stem cell research.

Yet private investors are reluctant to fund embryonic stem cell research that destroys human life and many have chosen to look for alternatives that offer better results.

In this world, we are measured by our treatment of the most delicate and weak among us. And in the world of science, there are lines that must be drawn when the destruction of innocent human life is at stake.

CHRISTIANS CONTINUE TO SUFFER
IN INDIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, just before the new Congress convened, many of us celebrated Christmas with families and friends. I hope that every one of my colleagues, old and new, had a very happy Christmas and holiday season. But Christmas is another anniversary also for the Christians of India. Since Christmas 1998, 8 years now, India has been focusing its persecution in large measure on Christians.

In September, the convent and school of Loreto were violently attacked by the violent Hindu organization the Bharatiya Janata Yuva, a youth arm of the BJP, which is the political arm of the RSS, a Fascist organization that published a book on how to get minorities, including Christians, falsely implicated in criminal cases. A BJP spokesman demanded a high-level inquiry into the school, according to the Tribune newspaper of Chandigarh, saying it engaged in "irrational behavior." As I noted at the time of the attack, apparently, being a Catholic is irrational behavior and "unscientific activity" in the world of Hindu militants.

Over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland have been murdered in India. Nuns have been raped, priests have been murdered, Christian schools and prayer halls have been attacked. Laws have been passed requiring the permission of the Hindu regime before one may be baptized. Christians have faced jail time, as well as threats and physical violence, just for sharing their faith.

Missionary Graham Staines was sleeping in his jeep with his two young sons when they were surrounded by a mob chanting "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. The mob then burned Staines and his sons to death. Missionary Joseph Cooper of Pennsylvania was beaten so severely that he had to spend a week in an Indian hospital. Then the Indian government threw him out of the country. Police gunfire broke up a Christian religious festival on the theme "Jesus is the answer." Is this the secularism that India is so proud of?

It would be bad enough if Christians were the only ones suffering. But they are not. Sikhs, Muslims, Dalits, and others have also felt the lash of Indian repression. The time has come for freedom in the subcontinent. The time has come for the persecution to end.

Madam Speaker, there is a way to help bring freedom and secularism to the people of south Asia. We should end all U.S. aid and trade with India until everyone within its jurisdiction enjoys full human rights there. And now that we have a new Congress, we should go on record in support of freedom everywhere in South Asia. There is no better time