

our environmental technology, our health care industry, our agriculture and food processing industries.

Fifth and finally, in the interest of world peace, it is absolutely a mistake to isolate China, a nation with the world's largest standing army, an estimated 2.6 million member force.

America's democratic allies in Asia support China's entry into the World Trade Organization because they know that a constructive relationship with China and a stable Asia offers the best chance for reducing regional tensions along the Taiwan Strait and for avoiding a new arms race elsewhere in Asia and throughout the world.

As I work to pass PNTR for China, I am fully aware of the controversies surrounding this vote. Indeed, humanitarian and environmental issues remain important to me in our dealings with China, but I refuse to believe that if we walk away from China our national interest would be better served. In fact, I am positive to do so would greatly deter from our ability and our credibility to push reform in China and around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, as General Colin Powell has said, and I quote, from every standpoint, from a strategic standpoint, from the standpoint of our national interest, from the standpoint of our trading interest and our economic interest, it serves all of our purposes to grant China this status.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

INTRODUCTION OF LIVE LONG AND PROSPER ACT

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, May is Older Americans Month, a time for Americans to celebrate the many contributions our seniors have made to this country. It is also a time to reflect upon the changing look of our society and to advance policies that meet the needs of this and future generations of older Americans. By the year 2030, the number of older Americans is expected to be more than double, to 70 million, representing one-fifth of our total population. As the number of elderly Americans increases, the need for long-term home or institutional care will become even more pressing.

Are we now prepared to meet this future need? The sad fact is that neither the public nor the private sectors have adequately planned to meet this demand. In most cases, they are not aware that Medicaid requires divesting of assets and they do not understand that Medicare provides only minimal

long-term care coverage. As for private insurance, it currently finances only an estimated 7 percent of long-term care expenditures.

Given America's ticking demographic time bomb, it is imperative that Congress address this issue now. That is why I rise today to introduce the Live Long and Prosper Act, which directly addresses what we must do now to help meet the needs of older Americans of the future. This comprehensive legislation builds upon the long-term care financing provisions created by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

To better prepare the public for long-term care expenses, first the bill provides for an above-the-line income tax deduction for the cost of long-term care insurance premiums for the taxpayer, his or her spouse and dependents. It also allows employers to provide long-term care insurance coverage as part of a cafeteria plan. Surprisingly, long-term care insurance currently is not allowed under these types of employer-employee arrangements.

Third, the bill would provide a personal exemption to the more than 7 million Americans who provide long-term custodial care for a relative in their home. Together, these provisions represent a market-based solution to the ever-growing demand for long-term care services and financing. But financial incentives alone will not advance the public's understanding of the need to plan for long-term care nor will they spur public debate on what more must be done.

The Live Long and Prosper Act calls for a biannual national White House summit on long-term care. The summit will bring together experts in the fields of long-term care insurance, retirement savings, care givers and others and will be cohosted by the President and congressional leaders. Its goal is to design and develop recommendations for additional research, reforms in public policy and improvements required in the field of long-term care insurance.

The bill also directs the Department of Labor to create and maintain an outreach program, to include public service announcements, forums, educational materials, and long-term care Internet sites. The Department of Health and Human Services will conduct studies focusing on the future demand for long-term care services and public and private options to finance them.

Finally, the bill contains several other provisions designed to improve awareness of and to strengthen the process for long-term care information delivery.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, the Center for Long-term Care and Financing describes long-term care as the sleeping giant of all U.S. social problems. Demographic changes, quality of care concerns, the rising cost of nursing home care and limited public finances all cry out for action in this area and

call on this body to make long-term care a top policy priority.

I believe that the Live Long and Prosper Act is a comprehensive first step in what should be a bipartisan effort to address this vital issue. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the bill and join me in this effort.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4475, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. REYNOLDS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-626) on the resolution (H. Res. 505) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4475) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4392, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

Mr. REYNOLDS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-627) on the resolution (H. Res. 506) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4392) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

IN SUPPORT OF TOUGH GUN LEGISLATION AFTER THE MILLION MOMS MARCH

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today a week after the Million Mom March to remind the Congress that even though the march is over, the cause is not. On the eve of the march, some argued that we were being rabble-rousers and troublemakers. They argued then and they still argue that we are too emotional in pulling for tough gun control legislation, common sense gun control legislation. The National Rifle Association argues that we need, and I quote, gun education and not gun legislation, end of quote.

Well, as we all know, you cannot teach a child not to be a child. We all know that children often lash out in anger, without thinking, and they later wish that the things done and said can be taken back. But once a trigger is