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Two million young girls are introduced into the commercial sex market each year. 130 million girls have undergone female genital mutilation. Every year 5,000 women and girls are victims of the so-called "honor killings." Four million women and girls are bought and sold worldwide, either into prostitution, marriage or slavery. Two-thirds of the 300 million children worldwide without access to education are girls.

In Africa, HIV-positive women now outnumber infected men by 2 million. In India, it is estimated that more than 5,000 women are killed each year because their dowries are not enough. Women are still underrepresented in governments and political parties.

Despite slow progress in some areas, the advances that have been made in the status of women in society must not be underestimated. Female genital mutilation has been outlawed in several African countries. Many Latin American countries have modified legislation to improve women's access to resources, education and health services. Several countries have adopted or amended their constitutions to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex. Bermuda, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, South Africa and Venezuela adopted various forms of domestic violence legislation. Chile, Cyprus, the Sudan, and Zambia outlawed discrimination on the basis of pregnancy or childbirth. Egyptian women gained divorce rights similar to men's.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the gains that women have made internationally and to acknowledge that we still have much to do in the struggle for equity and justice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. ALLEN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise tonight to participate in a discussion with my Democratic colleagues on the subject of special education. All of us have been traveling through our

districts talking to teachers and parents and students and school administrators, and we have found over and over again that the number one concern is the failure of the Federal Government to live up to its responsibility to pay the full 40 percent of the special education costs that were mandated by the Federal Government 26 years ago.

But we need to set this debate about special education in context, and particularly in the context of the debate over taxes we had here today. For all of the sound and fury of the debate this afternoon, the differences were fairly simple. On the one hand the Republicans were advocating for an important part of what is an overall \$1.6 trillion tax cut over the next 10 years. \$1.6 trillion.

On the other hand, the Democrats were arguing for a corresponding part of what overall would be an \$800 billion tax decrease over 10 years, half the size of the Republican tax cut.

Now, the reason the debate was so intense and the reason Members on the Democratic side of the aisle felt so strongly about this subject is that the numbers were not being put forth accurately.

For example, if we are going to give back either \$800 billion as the Democrats proposed in terms of tax cuts or \$1.6 trillion in tax cuts as the Republicans proposed, those are not the amounts by which the debt is reduced because if you have a substantial tax cut, then that money is not available to pay down the Federal debt and, therefore, interest on the Federal debt would be higher than it would be otherwise.

On the Republican side, that \$1.6 trillion tax cut, if enacted as passed by the House today, means that we will have over 10 years \$400 billion of interest that we have to pay on the national debt that we would not have to pay if that tax cut were not enacted. On the Democratic side the corresponding number is about \$100 billion to \$150 billion extra in interest that we will have to pay, and what is true for tax cuts is true for spending.

Here is the fundamental problem. If you set aside the Social Security trust fund and the Medicare trust fund, the Bush tax cut, \$1.6 trillion in tax cuts plus \$400 billion in additional interest on the national debt plus \$300 billion in order to fix the alternative minimum tax, very quickly you find that the Bush tax cut reduces the surplus by about \$2.4 trillion to \$2.5 trillion.

If that tax cut passes the other body in the form that it passed here today, we are in trouble as a country because that tax cut slams the door on any effort to provide a Medicare prescription drug benefit for our seniors any time in the next 10 years if current projections hold. That tax cut, the Republican tax cut, slams the door on the use of general revenues at any time in the next 10 years to shore up Medicare and Social Security and extend the life of those two vital programs.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the program that we are here to talk about tonight, the Republican tax cut slams the door on any ability to fully fund special education.

I know we have a number of Members on our side wanting to speak, but just to lay this in context and say it simply, right now in the year in which we are in, we spent \$6.3 billion on special education. The mandate that we required the States to meet 26 years ago to provide a free and appropriate education for children with disabilities, and when we said 26 years ago that the Federal Government would meet 40 percent of the cost of that program, we do not even come close. This year \$6.3 billion represents just under 15 percent of the total cost of special education in this country. That is a long way from the 40 percent that this Congress talked about when the mandate was imposed.

In our districts, teachers, school administrators, parents, and even students understand that there is not enough money for special education, that local funds are being drained out of regular education programs in order to pay for special education, and that the local property taxpayers are taking a hit. We can help all of these groups if we would simply step up to the plate this year, reduce the tax cut and fully fund special education.

The last thing I will say is this. If we do not do it this year, it is not likely to happen any time in the next 10 years. The reason is that full funding is an extra \$11 billion. We do not run surpluses most years. It has taken a hard climb to get to them, and now we have the opportunity to use some portion of this Federal surplus to meet the Federal Government's obligations. This is not a new program. It is simply doing what we are obligated to do, what we ought to do for our children and for our school districts, our parents and teachers around the country.

Mr. Speaker, I am joined tonight by a number of Members, and it is a particular pleasure to recognize the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) who helped organize this special order tonight.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague from Maine, and I thank you for yielding.

The gentleman from Maine set the stage very well. What happened on the floor here just a matter of a couple of hours ago was really putting the cart before the horse. There are certainly justifiable tax cuts. I know that my constituents back in New Jersey are only too eager, as the President says, to get a refund on overpayments. The President came here and said in the joint session when he gave what would be called a State of the Union address that he was asking for a refund. But the reason this was the cart before the horse is because it is hard to know what the amount of overpayment is because we have no budget proposal that comes in advance of this tax cut vote.