

Under this bill, a criminal who commits a violent crime against a pregnant mother will be charged with a second offense on behalf of the second victim, the unborn child.

My home State of Missouri, along with 23 other States across our Nation, already recognize that unborn children who are victims of crimes must be protected from the violent actions of criminals. This legislation will extend the same level of protection to all mothers and their unborn children which is currently afforded to the mothers and children of Missouri and half the States across our country.

Our vote today will send a clear message to the criminals around this Nation that the laws of this land will not tolerate the violent actions against the mothers and their unborn children and will hold criminals strictly accountable for their heinous crimes.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 503, Mr. Speaker.

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MORE MONEY NEEDED FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for more money for our public schools. Our public schools desperately need increased funding as we prepare our students for the next generation for the 21st century. Schools must modernize facilities, provide better training and pay for teachers, reduce class size, and provide innovative learning experiences.

That is why I support the New Democrat's Three R's bill. This bill will increase education funding by \$35 billion over 5 years. Right now we only spend 7 percent of our Federal budget on education. That means that some of our most needy schools are not getting enough funding. We need to do more for these schools, and we can.

Let us be honest here: We know that putting more money into the system is not going to solve all our problems. If our schools do the work and use this money to meet their goals, we will reward them with additional funding. But if they do not meet their goals after 3 years, there has to be accountability.

But there is a major difference in the way we approach funding in our schools and the way President Bush approaches it. While the President sends funding to the States without any direction, our approach is that we should send our Federal dollars back to our school districts.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to give all of our schools the help they need by supporting the Three R's.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXTREMISTS DRIVING UP ENERGY COSTS

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, people all over this Nation are seeing their gas prices and utility bills go way up. Well, they can thank the environmental extremists, who have stopped or delayed almost every type of production in this Nation.

All over the country, small groups of elitist environmentalists protest every time anyone tries to drill for any oil, dig for any coal, cut any trees or produce any natural gas. This destroys jobs and drives up prices and really hurts the poor and working people the most.

Most of these environmentalists seem to come from wealthy families, and perhaps they do not realize or care how much they are hurting lower income people. Their rules and regulations drive small businesses and small farms out of business, and thus help the extremely big businesses who fund them.

But unless people want their gas and utility bills to go much, much higher, they had better start opposing the left wing socialism that is prevalent in much of the environmental movement today.

TRIBUTE TO LUTRELLE FLEMING PALMER

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a veteran journalist, a political organizer, a constituent, a neighbor, and a long-time friend, Mr. Lutrelle Fleming Palmer. He recently retired after 50 years of hard-fought and committed activism.

Since 1950, Lu Palmer has been using the power of the pen and the radio to relay firsthand accounts of the triumphs and struggles of African Americans.

As a newspaper reporter, mainstream columnist, and black radio commentator, Lu always did it his way. He frequently took unpopular stands on highly controversial issues. Courageously, he always did so in a very public manner, because for Lu, informing his people was a top priority.

In 1981, he began to organize the politically independent organization, Chicago Black United Communities, or CBUC. Once again, Lu's motivation was to inform and galvanize the black community. The visionary efforts of Lu and CBUC were so successful that he is credited with playing a pivotal role in producing Chicago's first African-American mayor, Mayor Harold Washington.

Lu Palmer's talents, vision, insight, independent spirit and love for his peo-

ple is commendable and should be recognized by this Congress.

So today, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the 50 year-career of the legendary Chicago radio and political activist, Mr. Lutrelle F. Palmer, Lu Palmer.

PROTECTING PREGNANT WOMEN AND UNBORN CHILDREN

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the House will today be taking up a very important piece of legislation, H.R. 503, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act. It is a very carefully constructed bill which will fill a gap which presently exists in Federal law.

Right now, under Federal law it provides no additional punishment for criminals who commit an act of violence against pregnant women and kill or injure the unborn children that they might be carrying.

I want to commend the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) for his leadership in preparing this long overdue piece of legislation. Let us protect pregnant women in this Nation, and let us also protect the innocent unborn children that they are carrying.

THE MEDICAID SAFETY NET HOSPITAL IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2001

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

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, there are 42.6 million uninsured Americans. The critical care needs of this population, when met, is often provided by safety net hospitals. These institutions provide such care, often at a financial loss to the most needy among us.

Today the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) and I will introduce the Medicaid Safety Net Hospital Improvement Act of 2001. This bipartisan measure raises the floor for Federal Medicaid allotments to States for hospitals that serve the uninsured from 1 percent to 3 percent, alleviating some of the growing burden of providing uncompensated care to many of our Nation's uninsured.

The legislation provides a more level playing field by raising the amount of Federal funds to States that have been undercompensated and does not impact the Federal allotments to other States.

As Congress considers policies for improving health care access to America's uninsured, we must not abandon the safety net already in place. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting these critical hospitals and the vulnerable populations who depend on them.