

reflects only the incidences where a police report was actually filed. Domestic violence knows no boundaries, crossing all economic, race, and other barriers to disrupt families.

VAWA funds critical programs that assist millions of battered women and children nationwide. Congress took the right steps last year by fully funding the VAWA programs administered by the Department of Justice; however, several critical programs in the Department of Health and Human Services were funded at amounts well below what was needed and what was authorized in VAWA 2000. Some VAWA programs were not funded at all. We just found out that the President's fiscal 2004 budget would cut \$19.2 million from crucial VAWA programs. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing these cuts. At a time when States face a looming budget crisis and a broad spectrum of important programs are slated for funding cuts, I believe that we owe it to families caught in the devastating cycle of domestic abuse to fully fund all VAWA programs.

SUPPORTING THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 743, the Social Security Protection Act of 2003. This is a piece of legislation that strengthens Social Security for all those hard workers who have worked their entire lives paying their payroll taxes and protects those beneficiaries who rely on others to manage their affairs and their benefits. Our Nation's retirement system gives economic security to those hard workers, and they deserve a secure retirement system. Therefore, as Members of Congress, one of our first priorities must be to protect and ensure that Social Security benefits are there for our seniors.

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Thankfully, this piece of legislation does just that. Many beneficiaries, it seems, are unable to manage their own affairs and depend on other representatives to take care of them for it. Unfortunately and sadly, there are others that are not so reputable and considerate in taking care of those affairs, and therefore, we are fortunate indeed to have H.R. 743, which will crack down on the wrongdoings and strengthen oversight and enhance penalties and collection for the benefits misuse.

If we are going to ensure Social Security and the promises of Social Security to our seniors, we must enact this legislation for our future benefits for our seniors of this Nation.

A SAFEPLACE FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES PROVIDING MUCH-NEEDED SERVICES

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, for over 25 years, a concerned group of Austinites now operating as SafePlace have delivered invaluable services to victims of domestic violence. Special thanks go to Kelly White for her leadership and to Laura Wolf for her development work during these tough economic times.

I joined them yesterday here in the Capitol to hear the moving words of Kimberley Wiseman and announce the involvement of SafePlace with the Office for Victims of Crimes in expanding services across the country at 10 different sites, from Tucson to Worcester, to assist individuals with disabilities, who have about twice the rate of victimization from domestic violence as those who are without disabilities.

Despite our concerted efforts to address domestic violence, the Department of Justice reported just last week that there were almost 600,000 cases of violence against women in America during 2001. Of these, at least one in five involve domestic violence. That is why it is so very important that we here in Congress act to provide full federal funding under the Violence Against Women Act to support local efforts like SafePlace, to give them the resources to both counsel and assist those who are victims of domestic violence, but, equally important, to prevent it in the future.

END DOUBLE TAXATION OF DIVIDENDS

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

Mr. CHOCOLA. Madam Speaker, President Bush said in his State of the Union address, "The best and fairest way to make sure that Americans have more money is not to tax it away in the first place."

Fundamental tax reform will allow all Americans to keep more of their own money instead of sending it to Washington, and abolishing the double tax on dividends is an important first step.

Under current tax law, income earned by corporations is taxed twice, both at the corporate level and the individual level. Ending the doubling taxation of dividends would benefit millions of Americans who invest in successful companies, either directly or through retirement accounts like IRAs.

Eliminating this extra tax burden will provide \$20 billion in tax relief to Americans this year alone, resulting in higher levels of economic output and job creation, again starting this year.

Fixing this flaw in the Tax Code is particularly good for seniors. Almost half of all savings from the dividend exemption would go to taxpayers 65 and older. The average savings for the 9.8 million seniors receiving dividends would be \$936.

Madam Speaker, it is fair to tax companies profits. It is unfair to tax that profit again when it is distributed to individuals. For the good of our economy and the good of all Americans, Congress should move quickly to end the double taxation of dividend income.

RECOGNIZING THE SECOND ANNUAL STOP VIOLENCE WEEK IN WASHINGTON

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of those fighting domestic violence in our communities.

Historically we have viewed domestic violence as a woman's issue, and statistics tend to support that school of thought. Nearly one-third of American women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives, every 2 minutes a woman is raped in the United States, and more than 500,000 women are stalked every year.

But as we all become more educated on the causes and the effects of such actions, we realize that this is a problem that is not gender-biased, but one that touches every aspect of our society. It affects families, children, friends and even coworkers.

More and more, men are joining the voices in the fight against domestic violence, and I applaud them for having the insight to understand that this is more than a woman's issue and that it is everybody's responsibility. And I applaud organizations like the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence for continuing to raise awareness of this issue and for all who join them to protect women across this country and in the world.

STOP VIOLENCE WEEK IN WASHINGTON

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Stop Violence Week in Washington.

The Violence against Women Act has rescued countless women from the vicious cycle of family violence, but there is so much more to be done. That is why we cannot abandoned our commitment to protecting women from domestic abuse and sexual assault here at home and around the globe. We cannot let the campaign to wage war with Iraq drown out our war against domestic violence and sexual assault.

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 an 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.