

accelerate their democratic reforms, protect human rights, implement market-oriented economic policies, and enhance their mutual cooperation.

Under the Adriatic Charter, the United States and these three countries pledge to consult whenever the security of one of them is threatened, and the aspirant countries promise to continue defense reforms and undertake steps to enhance border security so they can contribute to regional stability.

Mr. Speaker, the Adriatic Charter is one more important step toward President Bush's goal of a Europe whole and free from the Baltic to the Black Sea. I commend and congratulate the people of Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia on the occasion of the signing of the Adriatic Charter.

□ 1015

AMBER ALERT

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor my colleagues in the House who helped to pass the recent Amber Alert legislation. Last week while I was home in Michigan I saw dramatic evidence of the impact this program can actually have.

Saturday afternoon, 3-year-old Jenna Hart was abducted as she sat in the back seat of her grandmother's car. Her grandmother had taken Jenna to the local Toys R Us to buy her precious granddaughter a few new toys. A man approached her in the parking lot and noted that her tire was flat and offered to fix it, which he did. He then got in the car and drove off with Jenna still strapped into her car seat in the back seat. The report of a missing little girl was issued and the Amber Alert system went into action. I saw the report on a local television station which described the make and the color of the car as well as the license plate number and, like everyone else, was keeping my eyes open looking for the suspect vehicle. Twenty-one hours later a man telephoned police and reported a suspect vehicle in the City of Detroit with a child in the back seat. It was Jenna. The little girl was returned to her family safe and sound, a vivid reminder that the actions that we take in this House can have a very positive impact on families across our Nation.

Because of the Amber Alert system and the watchfulness of thousands of interested citizens, little Jenna has been reunited with her family. May God bless her and her family.

IN RECOGNITION OF DENTON HIGH SCHOOL CHORALE

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, we probably should wish the gentlewoman from Michigan a happy birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize students from my district who are part of the Denton High School Chorale. Last week they had the prestigious honor of performing at the Pentagon at the invitation of the Air Force History Office under the award-winning direction of Mrs. Anne Smith. This patriotic group of 40 students sent musical CDs to the Pentagon and to the New York firefighters to thank them for their hard work and sacrifice after the tragedy of September 11, 2001.

Additionally, the Denton High School Chorale wanted to show their appreciation in person by performing a variety of choral pieces, including their favorite, "Homeland." The choir sang to military personnel in the courtyard of the Pentagon for an hour. A goal of this tour, which included a performance at Carnegie Hall in New York City, was to foster in the students a deeper respect for America and why it must be protected. I know that those who heard their concert were touched by their thoughtfulness. One serviceman responded with a note thanking them for helping him to remember what he is fighting to protect every day.

During these extraordinary times, their actions bring honor to Denton High School, to the great State of Texas and to our great Nation.

REFORM NEEDED AT UNITED NATIONS

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

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, as the President of the United States has indicated, the war against terror is far from over. The battle may be won but it is far from over. Therefore, I think it is important that the United Nations step up to the plate and reflect reality and serve in the positive role that it can. That is why I think H.R. 800 is a needed step toward reform at the United Nations. It reduces U.S. funding for United Nations commissions like the Commission on Human Rights which have been hijacked by terrorist nations. The latest outrage is Cuba. The dictatorship is in the midst of a brutal crackdown, having executed three men for trying to escape Cuba and imprisoned dozens of others for daring to speak out. The U.N. said nothing about the crackdown but elected Cuba to another term on the human rights panel. The current chair of that panel is Libya, that beacon of human rights. At the beginning of the year, Iraq was going to head the Conference on Disarmament. Iraq did not take over but remained on the commission. Iran chairs that conference. North Korea and Cuba also sit on the Disarmament Committee. This is all symptomatic of a culture of carelessness at

the U.N. It would not be as grave if not for the fact that the United States pays 22 percent of the United Nations' operating budget. Diplomacy and dialogue are important, but sometimes dollars are the only thing that makes sense.

DAANGEROUS 15-PASSENGER VANS

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

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw Members' attention to the dangers of 15passenger vans. These vans have been associated with more than 500 traffic fatalities since 1990. In 2001, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found that when these vans are fully loaded they have a rollover risk that is six times higher than when there are only five people in the van. I have become alarmingly aware of the danger of these vans when a church group from my district rolled over 2½ times while driving to a religious retreat. Four passengers died in this tragic accident. Only later did I find out that these vans are infamous for getting out of the control of the driver and rolling over.

My colleagues can see firsthand what can happen when these vehicles lose control. This happened again last year when a van carrying firefighters who were on their way to fight a wildfire raging in Colorado lost control and rolled over more than four times, killing four of the firefighters.

These vans were initially designed to carry freight, not people, but now they are widely used by airports, hotels, and other organizations to transport customers and schoolchildren. I have introduced H.R. 1641, the Passenger Van Safety Act, along with Senator SNOWE, to make sure that these needless tragedies end and that the most precious cargo, our children, get home safe and sound.

I encourage my colleagues to join me and Senator SNOWE in cosponsoring this important safety bill.

JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH PACKAGE

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues in the House to support a real jobs and economic growth package. It is time to bring much-needed stimulus to our economy and to bring renewed hope to American workers. There are currently several million Americans actively looking for work and unable to find it. For those individuals and those families, it is imperative that we do all that we can to put this willing, able and well-qualified workforce to work. We must provide

the means for economic growth and job creation. That is what creates jobs. We need to put more money in the hands of American workers to spend and invest so that jobs can be created. When individuals have more disposable income, they spend it or invest it, and that improves the situation of businesses. When businesses have more money at their disposal, they can expand and hire more people. Tax relief creates jobs. It is that simple. The more people we have working, the more money we will see spent and invested in this country. The more money we see spent and invested in this country, the quicker the economy will rebound. The quicker the economy rebounds, the better off we will all be.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues in the House to work together in a bipartisan manner to enact meaningful prescription drug relief for America's seniors. During the first week of the spring district work period, I toured five rural community centers across my district, and I will be continuing that tour, but the thing I heard on the first tour and will hear through the rest of the year is why has Congress not passed prescription drug reform? Guaranteeing all senior citizens the right to choose a voluntary prescription drug plan under Medicare while strengthening Medicare for the future are fundamental building blocks to improving the overall health care system. Congress has risen to meet many challenges in the past and we must meet this one.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to ask ourselves, why have we not passed prescription drug reform? The time has passed for partisan politics. There are too many seniors facing the horrific choice of whether to buy food, pay their mortgage or rent, or purchase the prescriptions that they need.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 100) to restate,

clarify, and revise the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 100

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. RESTATEMENT OF ACT.

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 (50 U.S.C. App. 501 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

“(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ‘Servicemembers Civil Relief Act’.

“(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

“Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

“Sec. 2. Purpose.

“TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

“Sec. 101. Definitions.

“Sec. 102. Jurisdiction and applicability of Act.

“Sec. 103. Protection of persons secondarily liable.

“Sec. 104. Extension of protections to citizens serving with allied forces.

“Sec. 105. Notification of benefits.

“Sec. 106. Extension of rights and protections to Reserves ordered to report for military service and to persons ordered to report for induction.

“Sec. 107. Waiver of rights pursuant to written agreement.

“Sec. 108. Exercise of rights under Act not to affect certain future financial transactions.

“Sec. 109. Legal representatives.

“TITLE II—GENERAL RELIEF

“Sec. 201. Protection of servicemembers against default judgments.

“Sec. 202. Stay of proceedings when servicemember defendant has notice.

“Sec. 203. Fines and penalties under contracts.

“Sec. 204. Stay or vacation of execution of judgments, attachments, and garnishments.

“Sec. 205. Duration and term of stays; co-defendants not in service.

“Sec. 206. Statute of limitations.

“Sec. 207. Maximum rate of interest on debts incurred before military service.

“TITLE III—RENT, INSTALLMENT CONTRACTS, MORTGAGES, LIENS, ASSIGNMENT, LEASES.

“Sec. 301. Evictions and distress.

“Sec. 302. Protection under installment contracts for purchase or lease.

“Sec. 303. Mortgages and trust deeds.

“Sec. 304. Settlement of stayed cases relating to personal property.

“Sec. 305. Termination of leases by lessees.

“Sec. 306. Protection of life insurance policy.

“Sec. 307. Enforcement of storage liens.

“Sec. 308. Extension of protections to dependents.

“TITLE IV—LIFE INSURANCE

“Sec. 401. Definitions.

“Sec. 402. Insurance rights and protections.

“Sec. 403. Application for insurance protection.

“Sec. 404. Policies entitled to protection and lapse of policies.

“Sec. 405. Policy restrictions.

“Sec. 406. Deduction of unpaid premiums.

“Sec. 407. Premiums and interest guaranteed by United States.

“Sec. 408. Regulations.

“Sec. 409. Review of findings of fact and conclusions of law.

“TITLE V—TAXES AND PUBLIC LANDS

“Sec. 501. Taxes respecting personal property, money, credits, and real property.

“Sec. 502. Rights in public lands.

“Sec. 503. Desert-land entries.

“Sec. 504. Mining claims.

“Sec. 505. Mineral permits and leases.

“Sec. 506. Perfection or defense of rights.

“Sec. 507. Distribution of information concerning benefits of title.

“Sec. 508. Land rights of servicemembers.

“Sec. 509. Regulations.

“Sec. 510. Income taxes.

“Sec. 511. Residence for tax purposes.

“TITLE VI—ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

“Sec. 601. Inappropriate use of Act.

“Sec. 602. Certificates of service; persons reported missing.

“Sec. 603. Interlocutory orders.

“TITLE VII—FURTHER RELIEF

“Sec. 701. Anticipatory relief.

“Sec. 702. Power of attorney.

“Sec. 703. Professional liability protection.

“Sec. 704. Health insurance reinstatement.

“Sec. 705. Guarantee of residency for military personnel.

“SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

“The purposes of this Act are—

“(1) to provide for, strengthen, and expedite the national defense through protection extended by this Act to servicemembers of the United States to enable such persons to devote their entire energy to the defense needs of the Nation; and

“(2) to provide for the temporary suspension of judicial and administrative proceedings and transactions that may adversely affect the civil rights of servicemembers during their military service.

“TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

“SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.

“For the purposes of this Act:

“(1) **SERVICEMEMBER.**—The term ‘servicemember’ means a member of the uniformed services, as that term is defined in section 101(a)(5) of title 10, United States Code.

“(2) **MILITARY SERVICE.**—The term ‘military service’ means—

“(A) in the case of a servicemember who is a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard—

“(i) active duty, as defined in section 101(d)(1) of title 10, United States Code, and

“(ii) in the case of a member of the National Guard, includes service under a call to active service authorized by the President or the Secretary of Defense for a period of more than 30 consecutive days under section 502(f) of title 32, United States Code, for purposes of responding to a national emergency declared by the President and supported by Federal funds; and

“(B) in the case of a servicemember who is a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, active service.

“(3) **PERIOD OF MILITARY SERVICE.**—The term ‘period of military service’ means the period beginning on the date on which a servicemember enters military service and ending on the date on which the servicemember is released from military service or dies while in military service.

“(4) **DEPENDENT.**—The term ‘dependent’, with respect to a servicemember, means—

“(A) the servicemember’s spouse;

“(B) the servicemember’s child (as defined in section 101(4) of title 38, United States Code); or

“(C) an individual for whom the servicemember provided more than one-half of the individual’s support for 180 days immediately preceding an application for relief under this Act.