

to put a leash on runaway spending and tax increases.

States with similar initiatives on supermajority requirements for tax increases experience greater economic growth, lower taxes, and reduced growth in government spending. The Federal Government needs to be put on the same fat-free diet by making it more difficult to raise taxes on hard-working men and women and thereby shifting the congressional focus to the bloated spending programs of the Federal bureaucracy.

Mr. Speaker, the facts speak for themselves. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the tax limitation amendment.

AMERICA NEEDS STRONG TOBACCO LEGISLATION

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, there are those here in Washington who believe that we do not need strong tobacco legislation. The other day the tobacco industry announced that it was withdrawing from settlement negotiations. But we need strong legislation because what is happening back at home is criminal.

Let me give my colleagues an example. I am proud of my home State of Maine, but back in Maine we have a smoking problem. We just did a survey in Maine, and it shows that teenage girls are smoking at a higher rate than boys and that the smoking rate of young girls has increased by 30 percent since 1993.

As one of our officials said, "Now the slogan 'you've come a long way, baby' has different meaning in Maine." As our Human Services Commissioner said, we would call out the Marines, the National Guard and the Border Patrol if we thought that the Colombian drug cartel was on their way to addicting one-quarter of America's youths, but the tobacco industry has free reign.

It is time to call a halt. It is time in this session for strong tobacco legislation.

□ 1415

FREE IV NEEDLES TO ILLEGAL DRUG USERS IS NOT COMMON SENSE

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

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, every so often we notice that the President cannot manage to keep his liberal demons away. In the early days, it was gays in the military and socialized medicine. Now the President has decided it is a good idea to provide free IV needles to illegal drug users, free IV needles to illegal drug users.

I am just wondering what polling the President has been doing lately, be-

cause the moms and dads I talk to are very worried about illegal drugs. Most Americans do not have a Ph.D. in psychology, but they do have a lot of common sense. Many of them know what happens to an addict surrounded by enablers.

Now we have the mother of all enablers, the Federal Government, encouraging the use of needles to drug abusers so that they might continue abusing drugs "safely." Maybe that is what passes for common sense in this administration.

SUPPORT THE TWO-THIRDS TAX LIMITATION AMENDMENT

(Mr. BARTON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we are going to have the tax limitation amendment to the Constitution on the floor of the House for a vote. It is a pretty straightforward amendment. It says, to raise your taxes, it will take a two-thirds vote of the House and a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

For those of you that had fractions in elementary school, you know that two-thirds is a larger fraction than one-half. If you translate that into math, it means, in the House, it will take 292 votes to raise your taxes and, in the Senate, it will take 67 votes to raise your taxes.

The tax burden on the American people has gone up from 1 percent on the first \$3,000 of net income in 1914 to over, if you are a senior citizen, over 85 percent of any income if you are filing jointly with a spouse of over \$34,000 in income. That is an increase of the marginal tax rate of over 4,000 percent in the last 75 years. It is time to stop that.

Let us pass the two-thirds tax limitation amendment to the Constitution of the United States tomorrow afternoon on this floor and send it to the Senate; and, hopefully, they will pass it and send it to the States.

REDUCE TAX BURDEN FOR HARD- WORKING AMERICANS

(Mr. THUNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, last week when I was in South Dakota, I stopped at a gas station in Aberdeen. The woman working behind the counter there gave me a clear message. As I was paying for my gas, she looked me in the eye and said, Congressman, working families need lower taxes.

This woman is one of the unsung heroes in America today. She works. Her husband works. Together, they are trying to make a car payment, a house payment and a day care payment and put food on the table.

She is not asking for a new government program to help or do any of these things. She is just asking the

government to take less of her paycheck.

I think that is a pretty reasonable request because, right now, the tax burden of this country is 38 percent; and 38 percent of that hard-working woman's pay is going to the government at the State, local, and Federal level. That is inexcusable.

We need to lighten the load carried by taxpayers and reduce the overall tax burden to only 25 percent. God only asked for 10 percent. Surely the government can get by with 2½ times that amount.

TOBACCO ADVERTISING IN THE MOVIES

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

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, what do Kermit the Frog, Rocky Balboa, Superman, and James Bond have in common? They have each played the main character in movies that advertise tobacco.

That is right. Big tobacco has paid millions of dollars to place their deadly products in films like The Muppet Movie, Rocky II, and Superman. Philip Morris even paid \$350,000 so that James Bond would light up in License to Kill.

Have your children or grandchildren ever seen Disney movies like Who Framed Roger Rabbit or Honey, I Shrunk the Kids? What about Kevin Costner's Field of Dreams? More tobacco advertising.

These are things we hardly notice, but tobacco companies pay millions of dollars to have their products in movies for one purpose, to get anyone who views the movies, including children and teenagers, to smoke that brand of cigarette.

Let me give you an example. Clint Eastwood's Bridges of Madison County, Robert Redford's A River Runs Through It, Paul Hogan's Crocodile Dundee, Rick Moranis' Little Shop of Horrors, Michael Keaton's Mr. Mom, Kenny Rogers' Coward of the County, and John Travolta's Grease, all full of paid advertising from the tobacco industry.

Mr. Speaker, this has got to stop somewhere. When will the people of America wake up and see where they are getting had on this deal?

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion 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 4 of rule XV.

Such roll call votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 5 p.m. today.

CARE FOR POLICE SURVIVORS ACT OF 1998

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3565) to amend Part L of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3565

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Care for Police Survivors Act of 1998".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' DEATH BENEFITS.

(a) NATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS WHO HAVE DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.—Section 1203 of Part L of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796a-1) is amended to read as follows: "The Director is authorized to use no less than \$150,000 of the funds appropriated for this part to maintain and enhance national peer support and counseling programs to assist families of public safety officers who have died in the line of duty."

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION.—Section 1205 of Part L of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796c) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Bureau is authorized to use appropriated funds to conduct appeals of public safety officers' death and disability claims."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. McCOLLUM) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. McCOLLUM).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on May 15, less than a month from now, the families of police officers who died in the line of duty will gather on the west front of the Capitol and remember the courage and sacrifice of their fallen loved ones at the 17th annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service. These grief-stricken survivors will be joined by thousands of police officers and distinguished guests from around this nation. This solemn event marks the conclusion of National Police Week.

Among the most important activities occurring during Police Week are special seminars and programs for the families of police officers killed in the line of duty, including a day of fun for their children at the FBI's training academy at Quantico, Virginia.

I mention this, Mr. Speaker, because it is directly related to the legislation we are considering today, H.R. 3565, the Care for Police Survivors Act of 1998.

This bill will, among other things, enhance the programs available to the families of fallen police officers during National Police Week. It will allow groups like Concerns for Police Survivors, or COPS, as it is called, to expand their current services to these families in crisis. COPS sponsors the Police Week seminars that I just mentioned.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 35675 makes two simple but important amendments to the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Act which was signed into law more than 20 years ago. The bill will substantially improve the way the families of police officers and firefighters who die in the line of duty are cared for during the most difficult moments of their grief.

First, the bill authorizes the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance to expend not less than \$150,000 out of the Public Safety Officers' Benefits program to maintain and enhance national peer support and counseling programs to assist families of public safety officers who have died in the line of duty.

Current law limits or caps the amount the Director can spend for this purpose to \$150,000. This change will not require any new funding. It simply allows the Justice Department to spend more of the funding it now receives on these support services.

The need to assist the families of fallen police officers and firefighters is far greater than the cap will allow. Organizations such as Concerns for Police Survivors and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation are attempting to reach hundreds of family members each year who suffer the horrible tragedy of losing a loved one employed in public safety. Among the many services provided by Concerns for Police Survivors are grief seminars, training for line-of-duty death notification, and special programs for the children of fallen police officers.

H.R. 3565 will reduce the current backlog of cases pending before the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Office by authorizing the expenditure of PSOB program funds on outside hearing officers. Under current law, the PSOB Office must wait an unreasonably long period of time for the availability of a Justice Department hearing officer to hear the appeal of a family member whose application has been turned down.

By permitting the PSOB Office to use its program funds to pay various expenses related to the appeals of rejected death and disability claims, we will shorten the agonizing wait of family members attempting to be heard on their claims. Again, this change does not increase the overall cost of the PSOB program.

Mr. Speaker, as I said in the committee markup, there is nothing that we can do to fully heal the emotional wounds of husbands, wives, children, moms, and dads caused by a police officer's or firefighter's death in the line of duty. It is a crushing blow. With this

legislation, we can only hope that there might be greater solace found in the most severe moments of otherwise very severe pain. Given the sacrifice public safety officers willingly make in the devotion to their communities, we can do nothing less.

I wanted to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Crime, and the other original cosponsors of this bill for their support. This bill was approved unanimously by both the Subcommittee on Crime and the full Committee on the Judiciary.

It is my hope and expectation that the House will approve this bill today and that the other body will work quickly so that the President can put a signature on it in time for National Police Week and the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service. This would be a small but meaningful demonstration of this Congress' support for our Nation's public safety officers and their family.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the work of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. McCOLLUM) on this legislation, along with the gentleman from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the ranking member.

So many of us are familiar with the line, "a thin blue line" and the words "an officer down," striking words that we have heard either by way of fiction or fact, tragic words when we hear that someone who has put their life on the line for so many of us has been injured or killed.

I believe H.R. 3565, the Care for Police Survivors Act, is the right way to go. I hope not only do we move this legislation expeditiously but we are able to stand along with those officers as we commemorate this time in May when we commemorate and acknowledge those officers who have given their lives, that we, too, in the Federal Government care about police officers.

I rise, therefore, in strong support of H.R. 3565. This bill would amend a very important and valuable program that pays benefits to the families of public safety officers who are killed or totally disabled in the line of duty.

Mr. Speaker, when I go home to the district, many times I meet with friends of mine who are police officers, many of whom I work with as a member of the City Council of the City of Houston and also as a municipal court judge.

Many times, some of them would say, we have not seen you in some of the tragedies where we would come together and worship, commemorating the loss of life. Certainly that is not a time when I would like to see my friends. But I also have shared with them the agony of funeralizing those men and women who have lost their lives in the line of duty or tragically been injured.