from drug problems, is now working against us as we fight this drug. But we are fighting it. In South Dakota, zero tolerance means zero tolerance.

Just yesterday, drug agents in Lincoln County, South Dakota brought drug dogs in to do an unannounced search of cars parked outside a high school. The drug dogs inspected 21 cars. Officers searched 7. Marijuana or drug paraphernalia were found in 5. All five students are charged in either adult or juvenile court. Now, school administrators said they were not notified in advance about the search, and they say if they had been notified, they would have invited the officers inside to search not just cars but lockers, too.

Law enforcement officials in South Dakota tell me that school officials do not just give lip service to the phrase ''zero tolerance.'' They back it by cooperating with and inviting law officers in for random unannounced searches. As a result, school searches have increased from 43 in 1995 to 103 in 1997.

And school officials are not the only ones who support it. Law enforcement officers tell me that students support it as well. The vast majority of kids in America do not want to be offered drugs in the hallways of their schools. The vast majority of kids want to feel safe, secure, and free from peer pressure when they go to their lockers to get their books. Most kids know it is easier to say no if there are no drugs in school to start with, in the first place, to say no to. And most kids are fully behind the zero tolerance policy.

And so are their parents. When South Dakota law enforcement officers bring those dogs into the school, they know they are doing so with the full support of parents, teachers, and students. That allows them to bring meaning back into the phrase ''zero tolerance.''

We will not achieve zero tolerance unless we have everyone's cooperation and support. Parents say they want drug free schools, but are they prepared to face up to the fact that their child may be the one who is dealing drugs in school? Are they prepared to look for the signs of drug use and take action when they see them? Are they prepared to lead by example?

Less than a week ago a 24-year-old woman, with four children under the age of 7, was arrested for selling methamphetamine to two 17-year-olds, a 16-year-old and a 15-year-old. She was indicted on eight felony drug charges, including distributing methamphetamine to children while raising four children of her own.

Another law enforcement officer said he recently arrested a 15-year-old girl on drug charges. She was buying the drugs from her boyfriend. She was buying them for her mother. These parents are not sending the right message to the children of America. The message of zero tolerance is the message we ought to be sending.

There is a serious cultural breakdown in America today in the message that we are sending to our young people. Now, students can say they want drug free schools, but are they prepared to stand up to the peer pressure and say no when push comes to shove? Are they prepared to take a stand personally, irrespective and regardless of the consequences?

We are all responsible for ridding our schools and communities of drugs. Parents have to teach kids how to say no. Kids have to put the training to work. And teachers and law enforcement officers have to do everything in their power to keep those drugs from entering our schools in the first place. We need to stop this problem. It is one we have to work together on.

REVISING THE BANKRUPTCY CODE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to turn our attention to an issue that probably has not caught the momentum of the national media or the attention of our constituents back home.

When we first begin to hear about any discussions on revising the bankruptcy code, long yawns begin to come out of those who might want to understand what we are engaged in. Certainly I think when we talk about credit card debt and credit cards and 19 percent, 21 percent, and 30 percent interest rates, most consumers would understand, Mr. Speaker, what we are talking about.

The bankruptcy code and the bankruptcy procedures were used to allow both businesses and consumers to, with dignity, remain in their communities and restructure their debts; in many instances help to keep employees employed, and help to keep people with a roof over their head.

In 1978, the last time we reformed or reviewed or revised the bankruptcy code, we took, Mr. Speaker, some 5 deliberative years. We studied, we assessed, we questioned. Now, unfortunately, as H.R. 3150 moves toward markup in the Committee on the Judiciary, I venture to say that we have looked and given this bill as much attention as we would give a quick hot dog while we are eating it at a baseball game. What I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is that this massive overhaul of the bankruptcy code is too fast, too far, and too soon.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I am prepared today to ask the President of the United States to veto this bankruptcy bill, which we expect, as I said, to be before the Committee on the Judiciary next week and, yes, to be before the House in the coming weeks and for the President to sign.

Let me share with my colleagues my concerns. First of all, I think it is important that we in America take credit lightly and sometimes frivolously. Maybe it is because we are bombarded with letters from credit card companies time after time after time, from the minute we graduate from high school, the time we are in college, to take this card, take that card, use this credit, use that credit. And, of course, if someone says use it, we will. So I do support educating the public about the responsible use of credit.

But there are certain gaping holes in this credit review or the review of the bankruptcy code: one, less than 10 hearings, less than 20 hours of testimony. And, in fact, let me say to those who have been pushing elevating credit card debt over their mortgages, over providing food for the family, over taking care of their children, the problem is, when we had hearings, only 4 percent of all credit card debt is actually defaulted on.

How many of us have had the frequent ''hellos'' from the harassing calls from credit card companies. I can venture to say these folk get their money. Only 4 percent default. But yet this bill elevates credit card debt above mortgages, above serious responsibilities, like child support.

In an amendment that I offered in committee last week, which was turned back, I offered to protect, in protected income, child support for our children; those bankrupt petitioners who had to pay child support and those bankrupt petitioners who receive child support. Protected income so that the credit card companies would not take the money that they had for their children.

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Was it accepted? No, it was not. And as well, I cannot imagine why tithing and charitable deductions should not be protected income. In the spirit of volunteerism, in the freedom of religion, in protection of religion, why would we not want to protect the bankrupt petitioners from those who believe in tithing and donating, as we would those who want to pay credit card debt?

I simply say that this meager utilization of the process of review gives me shudders as to what kind of bill will come to the floor of the House. Voluminous pages, but with little knowledge; only five hearings, a markup coming up before we had any serious markup in subcommittee. This legislation is moving too quickly.

My objections have been echoed by the National Bankruptcy Conference, the American Conference on Bankruptcy, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees; and 57 of the Nation's leading professors of bankruptcy law, with over 500 years of experience collectively, have said this is moving too fast. If they revise this bankruptcy code, what they could have rather than having the scales of justice, they will have the unequal weights, the debtors down here and the creditors up here.

Mr. Speaker, that is not a fair way to address the working men and women.

This is a drive-by approach to revising the bankruptcy code.

Our Constitution tells us that there is a fair balance between the responsibilities of those in this country with the rights that they have. Mr. Speaker, I would simply say that it is crucial that, one, we protect our children; two, we respect the freedom of religion by tithing; we respect our children by supporting protected income for support contributions.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, let me simply say this bill is moving too fast. Let us support the 24 percent of American women and men who are supported and their children supported by child support. This bill should go back to committee; and, if not, it should be vetoed by the President of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment this evening to discuss the many troubling issues that are currently swirling around the world of consumer and commercial bankruptcy. And in particular, H.R. 3150, the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1998, scheduled for full committee mark-up in the Judiciary Committee next week. In general, I must say that I am particularly concerned about the financial impact that on-going abuses of our present bankruptcy system could have on the American taxpayer, and how we, in the Congress, can take action to minimize them. However, I seriously question whether H.R. 3150, as it now stands, is the best means to accomplish this goal. Frankly, in its philosophical approach and legislative function, it appears to unnecessarily burdening the rights of the bankrupt debtor. I believe unequivocally that our reforms must be balanced in their treatment of both debtor and creditor. Sure, some debtors probably do abuse the current bankruptcy system, but let us not pretend that creditors do not do so also.

Many financial institutions just seem to be too loose in their extension of credit to consumers, and it would seem that they continue the practice because it is profitable for them. As Mr. Lloyd Cutler of Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering, shared with us in one of our hearings, only 4 percent of all credit card debt is actually defaulted upon, and therefore, that is not the source of the problem. If this is the case, why are we being urged by the credit industry to change the current bankruptcy laws? Either way you look at this issue, it is definitely a questionable move for Congress to seek to insulate the credit industry from their own questionable lending policies, and H.R. 3150 seems to do this.

But, friends and colleagues, this is not the only problem with this bill. I must openly question Subcommittee Chairman GEKAS' schedule of a total five hearings on this subject over the three weeks before the April recess, and then, a rush to mark-up this bill immediately after. But as if that was not bad enough, the Chairman actually offered two substantial revisions of this bill by way of substitute, within 48 hours of the Subcommittee mark-up of the bill. This process has been more than merely a ''rush to judgment'', actually, it has been a travesty.

My objections about the swift consideration of this legislation, as I am sure that I can speaking for the rest of my colleagues on the side of the aisle, are not well-crafted partisan tactics to delay Chairman GEKAS' legislation, but instead, legitimate and heart-felt concerns about the rapidity of this process. Furthermore, these objections have been echoed by the National Bankruptcy Conference, the American College of Bankruptcy, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, the National Association of Chapter 13 trustees, and 57 of the nation's leading professors of bankruptcy law, amongst others. But despite it all, the spending train called H.R. 3150, continues to rush along. For decades now, bankruptcy legislation in the Congress has been a bi-partisan effort. Our bankruptcy laws traditionally have been carefully shaped by the contrasting views of the two parties; but not now.

Ultimately, I think that the Chairman's brisk ''drive-by'' approach to the complexities presented to us by bankruptcy reform, will have drastic consequence for our constituencies. Consumer bankruptcy reform, must not be taken lightly. Simply stated, the Congress should not attempt to pass untested legislative policy without first reviewing every reasonable option, possibility, and alternative to radical structural reform. If not, let me say it again, the American people are the ones that will have to deal with the consequences of our hasty choices.

I need not remind anyone that we have not been elected to act as social scientists empowered by the Constitution of this great country to test our ideological theories on this nation's millions of unexpected human subjects. Rather, we are the chosen Representatives of the People of the United States charged to protect and serve their interests to the fullest extent of our powers. But how can we fulfill this sacred responsibility to our constituents if we do not take the necessary time to contemplate serious matters?

I know that there are legitimate merits to this legislative initiative (like its debtor education provisions), but I also know that there are still both detected and undetected deficiencies in it as well. We must take the time to analyze, criticize, contest, debate, consider and then review these measures before taking decisive action. This is why the Congress took five(5) years to pass reforms after the last report by the National Bankruptcy Review Commission; because these weighty matters truly deserve our lasting and full attention. As distinguished as our witnesses were in the hearings on this matter, hearings do not make up the totality of the process of legislative review; in the end, every member must have the necessary time to make up their own mind. Now, all we can do is wonder what could have and what should have been, if this process had worked right.

Another primary issue of concern for me with H.R. 3150, has been its utter disregard for the care and safety of our children. In subcommittee, I offered an amendment to this bill that was ''turned back'' by the Chair, which would have protected the right of bankrupt parents to continue to make or receive adequate child support payments for their children, even though, they were participating in a Chapter 13 repayment plan. More importantly, however, my amendment allows a parent to pay or receive an amount that exceeds their court-mandated child support contribution. We need parents to give as much as they can to the support of their children.

Listen to the staggering statistics, only 24% of families headed by a woman never married to the father receive regular child support payments, and in addition to the fact that only 54% of the families headed by a woman divorced from the father receive regular and full child support payments. So what is the result on our children? 50% of White children in single parent households, who do not receive regular and full child support, live at or below the poverty line. While 60% of Hispanic children and 70% of Black children in single parent households live at or below the poverty line. And frighteningly, Chairman GEKAS has offered a bill that would seek to widen this poverty gap. Under current law, child support payments are considered a non-dischargeable, priority debt in a bankruptcy proceeding, but under the Gekas bill, our children will be battling with Visa, Mastercard and your local department store, Macy's, Foley's, Hecht's, Hudson's or Neiman-Marcus, to receive their sorely-needed monthly payments.

The answer is as simple as this. I believe that our laws should seek to protect those who can protect themselves, most notably, our children. My amendment to H.R. 3150 would not encourage debtors to evade their financial responsibilities, it merely allows bankrupts to continue to care for their children. Just because an individual files for bankruptcy, that does not mean that they should be forced to abdicate their most essential duties. Often bankrupt debtors are parents, too, and they deserve the same opportunity to care for their children. If not, these funds will be left as prey for the many creditors seeking to take a significant portion of a debtor's available income. If it is a choice between enriching a powerful multi-national conglomerate and the welfare of a child, every day of the week and twice on Sunday, I would choose the child. Thus, I urge you friends, colleagues and those within the sound of my voice, to work diligently with me to care for the truly innocent members of our society, our children. Thank you.

REGARDING RELEASE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION PROVIDED BY MR. AND MRS. HUBBELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, it would be useful for us to reflect on some of the matters that have transpired over the last several days in this political thunderstorm that is the continuing efforts by independent counsel Kenneth Starr to get the President.

I find most troublesome the recent conduct of the distinguished chairman of the committee I once chaired, the old Government Operations Committee. I refer to none other than the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) and his actions on the day the grand jury returned the indictments against Mr. and Mrs. Webster Hubbell.

Chairman BURTON released private and confidential conversations of Mr. and Mrs. Hubbell, and Mr. Hubbell's attorney, carefully selecting those portions that he believed would be most damaging to the First Lady. This release was designed and calculated to embarrass the Hubbells and, in the bargain, to conceal those portions of the conversation that contradicted the