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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

O gracious God, from whom all blessings flow, we are grateful for all the gifts of life that You have so freely given. For all the days past, in good times and bad, Your spirit has been with us to strengthen and to heal. In all the days ahead we look with anticipation to the new opportunities of service and with the hope that the waters of justice will flow over us and all people. And for this day we ask a full measure of Your grace that we will be the people You would have us be and do those good deeds that honor You and serve people everywhere.

In Your name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. CLEMENT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CLEMENT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will recognize 15 1-minutes on each side.

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled last week that taxpayer-financed vouchers payable to parochial schools are constitutional, and today we will pass legislation that will allow parents to set up tax-free education savings accounts that they can use to send their children to the school of their choice.

The top priority of parents has always been to get the best education for their children. Now our Nation is moving in the right direction when it gives parents more choices and when it makes the schools more accountable, and many of our public schools are the best in the world but others need to be improved so that our children can get the kind of education that will help them realize the American dream.

As the debate progresses, let us remember that the reason we have schools is to educate our children. It is not to support labor unions or to give bureaucrats more money. So let us support education savings accounts so parents can help their children get the best education possible.

CLOSING THE GENDER GAP?

(Mr. ROGAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, the Washington Post reports that test scores in core subjects for young women like math and science have risen. Despite this reassuring news on the academic front, there is also evidence causing great alarm. Today young women are now turning to drugs, tobacco and alcohol at a much earlier age.

Citing the national "Girls Report," the article said the number of young women who smoke has nearly doubled in the last 5 years alone. This rate far exceeds that of their male peers. The number of girls who use marijuana has more than tripled in the same period.

The number of young women arrested has steadily increased over the last 10 years. In an interesting correlation, the number of girls who participate in after school athletics has declined, while the number of girls who report depression has increased.

Recently I joined Majority Leader DICK ARMEY in my district to recognize the work of several facilities that are working to ensure a healthy environment for our children. As Congress now considers education reform, I hope we will heed the warning signs ahead and empower successful local programs. Our children and our country deserve no less.

SUPPORT GUTIERREZ BILL TO PREVENT DEPORTATION OF THE SEVERELY ILL

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, our legislation often affects millions of people. Today I ask you to consider just one person, a young girl named Keysi Castillo. Keysi is your typical, happy 10-year-old except for one thing. She has a severe medical problem, a congenital heart condition requiring surgery, supervision and long-term care.

But her troubles do not stop there. She and her mother face possible deportation. For anyone, that is serious. For Keysi it is a matter of survival. Her doctor has declared that being sent back to her native Honduras would be tantamount to a death sentence.

Honduras lacks the health care that she requires and its climate and high altitude pose a considerable risk to her health. Keysi is too young to know about politics or immigration policy, but she knows that she is sick and you and I know we can help her.

Today I will introduce a bill to do that, to enable Keysi to remain in the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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United States to receive the care she needs to prevent what her doctors call a death sentence.

My colleagues, please help. Help change one life for the better. Help me pass the legislation for Keysi.

A SELECT COMMITTEE ON U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY SHOULD EXAMINE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS TO COMMUNIST CHINA

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the first responsibility of Congress and this government is to protect the citizens of the United States from an outside attack and to be prepared to defend this great Nation. It appears that the Clinton administration, however, has woefully failed in this responsibility. If true, then they have failed this Congress, and regrettably they have failed America.

I strongly support House Resolution 463 to establish a Select Committee on U.S. National Security to examine the illegal transfer of classified U.S. technology to Communist China. Mr. Speaker, this is not a partisan issue, this is not politics as usual. This is a national security issue that cuts to the very core of what we stand for and what we believe.

We have equipped our military with the finest technology in the world. To deliberately allow that technology to fall into the hands of enemies places each and every soldier, sailor, airmen and marine at risk. Ultimately it needlessly places the Nation at risk.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. It is the right thing to do, our national security demands it, our military deserves it, our Nation expects it.

THE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE INABILITY TO GET CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM AND THE KILLING OF TOBACCO LEGISLATION IN THE SENATE

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the rule for campaign finance reform was pulled off the floor. It is now June 18, and we still have not had an up or down vote on the bipartisan Shays-Meehan campaign finance reform bill.

On the same day they pulled the bill and the rule over in the United States Senate; they killed the tobacco legislation designed to protect America's children from tobacco.

It is interesting. Six million dollars from the tobacco companies to the Republican National Committee, \$100 million in a campaign to try to get the Congress to do nothing on tobacco.

The American people get the correlation between the amount of money that

tobacco companies have invested and the inability to get campaign finance reform. There is a connect, and people get it. We have a bipartisan campaign finance reform in the House that we need to vote on; that is, Shays-Meehan. And we have a bipartisan tobacco bill in the House; that is, Hansen-Meehan-Waxman.

Let us move on this legislation and protect America's children.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). Members are reminded under the rules not to refer to actions of the Senate.

SCHOOL CHOICE DENIED FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S CHILDREN

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, our President said to D.C. schoolchildren, "Tough luck." We do not get to hear a liberal say that very often, but the President's veto of D.C.'s scholarship bill last month is an in-your-face slap at D.C. parents and D.C. children. "Too bad for you" is the message. Too bad for you, that is, if you happen to be poor.

Just look at the pattern. Failed, dangerous schools, and the liberals ask for more money. Congress votes for more money, and in return we get failed dangerous schools where almost no learning takes place. And so the liberals come back the following year and say, "Look, the problem is the schools need more money." And so Congress spends more money, more money for everyone knows that the problem is not enough money. More failure, more school violence follows, and so the pattern is repeated year after year after year.

The same people who would never one second accept dangerous, dysfunctional schools for their own kids are as determined as ever to deny school choice to those who do not have a choice. As a former teacher it makes me sad.

WE NEED MANAGED CARE AND TOBACCO REFORM

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

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, when are we going to get serious about real reform?

Republicans in the Senate have killed tobacco legislation which would have helped to reduce teen smoking, and House Republicans are refusing to allow real managed care reform to come to the floor. The majority is allowing the quality of medical care for our citizens to decline considerably

while allowing the tobacco industry to jeopardize our children's health.

It is estimated that 3,000 young people start smoking every day. One-third of these children will eventually die from tobacco-related diseases. We need to stop the next generation from becoming addicted to tobacco. We need to establish guidelines and protections for patients to give them access to quality health care.

The American people have asked us to protect their children from smoking and are demanding top quality medical care. We need tobacco reform, we need managed care reform. Eighty percent of Americans want a patients' bill of rights and tobacco reform. The Republican majority in Congress is denying Americans these important rights.

SUPPORT THE CHILD CUSTODY PROTECTION ACT

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, can my colleagues picture Joyce Farley's shock when she discovered that her 13 year-old daughter had an abortion after being transported by a stranger across State lines without Miss Farley's knowledge? The truth is simple and tragic.

Crystal was date raped and impregnated. The man's mother arranged for Crystal's abortion, transported her to New York in order to circumvent Pennsylvania's parental consent laws, paid for the abortion and then casually dropped her off 30 miles from home so that this minor girl could fend for herself.

Crystal had to undergo a second abortion because the first one was botched, and she faced a prospect of serious psychological and physical and post-abortion complications.

This scenario could be a real life experience for any parent in America.

There is legislation to keep this from being repeated, however. H.R. 3682 is not about outlawing abortion. It is about the right of every parent, including Joyce Farley, to counsel, comfort and help their child. It protects the most vulnerable, inherent and sacred right that exists, that between a parent and a child.

HELP REBUILD CRUMBLING SCHOOLS

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

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to support the motion that will be offered later today by the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) to provide federal assistance for school construction instead of providing taxpayer subsidized education benefits for private schools.

Last spring in Maine a commission of school facilities completed a comprehensive examination of the physical