EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO LAURA KILLINGSWORTH—GIFTED PERFORMER AND CIVIC LEADER

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the leading citizens of Long Beach who is celebrating her 75th Birthday on January 24, 1999. A gifted performer and civic leader, Laura Killingsworth has achieved a remarkable record of performance in scores of leading roles and making a significant contribution to the growth and administration of many cultural arts organizations in Long Beach and Southern California.

Laura Killingsworth has delighted Southland audiences as guest soloist with the Long Beach Symphony and as leading lady in most of the great musicals of our time. She has been a favorite because of her stunning voice, presence, and ability to move audiences whether in comedy or pathos. Laura has starred in the following: Auntie Mame; Applause; Bittersweet; Camelot; Company; Guys & Dolls; Hello Dolly; I Do, I Do; The King and I; Kismet; Kiss Me Kate; A Little Night Music; The Mikado, Naughty Marietta; Rose Marie; Side By Side By Sondheim; 42nd Street; and the Song of Norway. Her most recent role was as Sara Roosevelt in the musical ''Eleanor, a Love Story'', where she appeared to critical acclaim.

Laura's list of civic involvement leadership is as long as her performance repertoire. There is hardly an arts organization in Long Beach which has not benefitted from her leadership ability, sound ideas, and diplomatic skills. Laura has served as President of the Long Beach Symphony Association, the Long Beach Symphony Guild, the Long Beach Civic Light Opera Association and its Board of Trustees, the Long Beach Public Corporation for the Arts, and the Symphony Juniors of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. She was a Founding Member of the Mayor's Community Arts Committee, the Long Beach Arts Committee, the Long Beach Regional Arts Council, Board Member of the Long Beach Community Players and California State University, Long Beach's Fine Arts Affiliates, and the Opera Ring of the Long Beach Opera. In addition to cultural arts organizations, Laura has contributed to the community at large as a Charter Member of the Long Beach Cancer League, Member of the Junior League of Long Beach, and Member of the Mayor's Task Force for the Arts.

Her outstanding record of accomplishment has been recognized by the Assistance League's Rick Racker ''Woman of the Year'' award. She was the first recipient of the ''Distinguished Arts Award'' from the Public Corporation for the Arts.

Laura Killingsworth is the mother of two sons, Greg and Kim, and the wife of Edward Killingsworth, internationally acclaimed architect. Long Beach enjoys a more vital cultural climate because of her significant talents and efforts, and it is because of her lifetime of achievement that we honor her today.

PROTECT OUR FLAG

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a constitutional amendment for the protection of our nation's flag. The flag is a revered symbol of America's great tradition of liberty and democratic government, and it ought to be protected from acts of desecration that diminish us all.

As you know, there have been several attempts to outlaw by statute the desecration of the flag. Both Congress and state legislatures have passed such measures in recent years, only to be overruled later by decisions of the Supreme Court. It is clear that nothing short of an amendment to the Constitution will ensure that Old Glory has the complete and unqualified protection of the law.

The most common objection to this kind of amendment is that it unduly infringes on the freedom of speech. However, this objection disregards the fact that our freedoms are not practiced beyond the bounds of common sense and reason. As is often the case, there are reasonable exceptions to the freedom of speech, such as libel, obscenity, trademarks, and the like. Desecration of the flag is this kind of act, something that goes well beyond the legitimate exercising of a right. It is a wholly disgraceful and unacceptable form of behavior, an affront to the proud heritage and tradition of America.

Make no mistake, this constitutional amendment should be at the very top of the agenda of this Congress. We owe it to every citizen of this country, and particularly to those brave men and women who have stood in harm's way so that the flag and what it stands for might endure. I urge this body to take a strong stand for what is right and ensure the protection of our flag.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ALIEN SMUGGLER PUNISHMENT ACT

HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, on the streets, they are known as ''Coyotes.'' To law enforcement officials they are known simply as smugglers. Every night along our 1000-mile borders with Mexico, hundreds of undocumented aliens are loaded into vans, trucks, car trunks, and other concealed hiding spots. They all hope that the few hundred dollars they paid will get them across the border. Often, it is not. For many, the story ends in robbery, violence, rape or worse.

Today, I am introducing the Alien Smuggler Punishment Act, which increases the minimum penalties for criminals convicted of smuggling aliens into the United States. This legislation is designed to send the message that preying on innocent victims and then escaping across the border will no longer be tolerated.

Under current law, an alien smuggler can be sentenced to as little as 18 months in prison, even if the criminal was armed. Under this bill, a judge will have stricter guidelines when sentencing armed smugglers. This legislation will ensure that convicted alien smugglers, particularly those who carry guns, face penalties as stiff as those of convicted drug dealers and other violent criminals.

Mr. Speaker, efforts to stop the damage to this nation caused by illegal immigration are routinely thwarted by alien smugglers. These criminals ignore our nation's laws and take advantage of those incapable of protecting themselves. It is my hope that the Alien Smuggler Punishment Act will dramatically reduce the practice of alien smuggling.

THE QUALITY CHILD CARE FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ACT, H.R. 28

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Quality Child Care for Federal Employees Act, H.R. 28, which will improve the quality of federal child care facilities throughout our nation.

I was first introduced to the horrors of inadequate day care by former constituents, Mark and Julie Fiedelholtz of Pembroke Pines, Florida. Mr. Fiedelholtz asked for my help after the tragic death of his 3 month old son, Jeremy. Left at a day care center for merely two hours, little Jeremy died as a result of deplorable conditions, unqualified personnel and the blatant lack of respect for the laws intended to protect our children. Although this horrifying situation did not take place in a federal center, clean, safe and quality conditions for our children need to be ensured in every child care center throughout our nation.

Because many of these child care facilities are housed in federal buildings, state and local authorities have little or no jurisdiction regarding health, fire and safety codes. This Act would require all federal centers responsible for maintaining these basic regulations. With over one thousand federally owned or operated child care centers in the United States capable of accommodating 200,000 children, this legislation is essential.

After conferring with representatives from various federal agencies, I learned that many federal centers, such as the facilities operated by GSA, follow their own standards which in

most instances are higher than most states. I want to stress that it is not the intention of this bill to lower federal agency standards, should they be greater than the state or local regulations. Instead, we are looking to raise the standards of those federal centers across the country whose standards fall below state and local codes and hold them accountable for failure to do so. This bill does not allow state or local law enforcement officials to enter federal facilities to perform checks of any kind unless GSA agrees to it. This option is left up to the discretion of GSA and is not mandated by this bill.

This legislation includes language which will help GSA in its quest to provide a more comprehensive day care plan, by allowing GSA to expand its child care services to more children and let its centers join into a consortium of private businesses and health care providers. This provision will enable agencies to partner with external organizations, conduct pilot programs and search for new methods of providing child care assistance to federal employees.

Our children are so important and the care they receive during their first 5 years of development are essential to raising intelligent and productive members of society. This legislation is a great first step in ensuring the positive development and growth of our children and I look forward to working with my colleagues in the months ahead on additional child care measures.

H.R. 28

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 ''Quality Child Care for Federal Employees Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ACCREDITED CHILD CARE FACILITY.—The term ''accredited child care facility'' means—

(A) a facility that is accredited, by a child care accreditation entity, as defined in paragraph (2);

(B) a facility that is used as a Head Start center under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.) and is in compliance with any applicable performance standards established by regulation under such Act for Head Start programs; or

(C) an armed forces child development facility that is in compliance with any applicable performance standards established by regulation, rule, or military order.

(2) CHILD CARE ACCREDITATION ENTITY.—The term ''child care accreditation entity'' means a non-profit private organization or public agency that—

(A) is recognized by a State agency or by a national organization which serves as a peer review panel for the standards and procedures of public and private childcare or school accrediting bodies; and

(B) accredits a facility to provide child care on the basis of—

(i) an accreditation or credentialing instrument based on peer-validated research;

(ii) compliance with applicable State or local licensing requirements, as appropriate, for the facility;

(iii) outside monitoring of the facility; and

(iv) criteria that provide assurances of—

(I) developmentally appropriate health and safety standards at the facility;

(II) use of developmentally appropriate educational activities, as an integral part of the child care program carried out at the facility; and

(III) use of ongoing staff development or training activities for the staff of the facility, including related skills-based testing.

(3) STATE.—The term ''State'' has the meaning given the term in section 658P of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9858n).

SEC. 3. PROVIDING QUALITY CHILD CARE IN FEDERAL FACILITIES.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) ENTITY SPONSORING A CHILD CARE FACILITY.—The term ''entity sponsoring a child care facility'' means a Federal agency that operates, or an entity that enters into a contract or licensing agreement with a Federal agency to operate, a child care center primarily for the use of Federal employees.

(3) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term ''Executive agency'' has the meaning given the term in section 105 of title 5, United States Code, except that the term—

(A) does not include the Department of Defense and the Coast Guard; and

(B) includes the General Services Administration, with respect to the administration of a facility described in paragraph (4)(B).

(4) EXECUTIVE FACILITY.—The term ''executive facility''—

(A) means a facility that is owned or leased by an Executive agency; and

(B) includes a facility that is owned or leased by the General Services Administration on behalf of a judicial office.

(5) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term ''Federal agency'' means an Executive agency or a judicial office.

(6) JUDICIAL FACILITY.—The term ''judicial facility'' means a facility that is owned or leased by a judicial office (other than a facility that is also a facility described in paragraph (4)(B)).

(7) JUDICIAL OFFICE.—The term ''judicial office'' means an entity of the judicial branch of the Federal Government.

(b) EXECUTIVE BRANCH STANDARDS AND COMPLIANCE.—

(1) STATE AND LOCAL LICENSING REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any entity sponsoring a child care facility in an executive facility shall—

(i) comply with childcare standards that minimally encompass State or local licensing requirements related to the provision of child care in that geographic area; or

(ii) obtain the appropriate State or local licenses for the facility.

(B) COMPLIANCE.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act—

(i) the entity shall comply, or make substantial progress (as determined by the Administrator) toward complying with subparagraph (A); and

(ii) any contract or licensing agreement used by an Executive agency for the operation of such a child care center shall include a condition that the child care be provided by an entity that complies with the appropriate State or local licensing requirements related to the provision of child care.

(2) HEALTH, SAFETY, AND FACILITY STANDARDS.—The Administrator shall by regulation establish standards relating to health, safety, facilities, facility design, and other aspects of child care that the Administrator determines to be appropriate for child care in executive facilities, and require child care facilities, and entities sponsoring child care facilities, in executive facilities to comply with the standards. Such standards shall include requirements that child care facilities be inspected for, and be free of, lead hazards.

(3) ACCREDITATION STANDARDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall issue regulations requiring, to the maximum extent possible, any entity sponsoring an eligible child care center (as defined by the Administrator) in an executive facility to comply with child care accreditation standards as identified in section 2(2)(A).

(B) COMPLIANCE.—The regulations shall require that, not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act—

(i) the entity shall comply, or make substantial progress (as determined by the Administrator) toward complying, with the standards; and

(ii) any contract or licensing agreement used by an Executive agency for the provision of child care services shall include a condition that the child care be provided by an entity that complies with the standards.

(A) EVALUATION AND COMPLIANCE.—

(4) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall evaluate the compliance, with the requirements of paragraph (1) and the regulations issued pursuant to paragraph (2) and (3), of child care facilities, and entities sponsoring child care services, in executive facilities. The Administrator may conduct the evaluation of such a child care center or entity directly, or through an agreement with another Federal agency or private entity, other than the Federal agency for which the child care facility is providing services. If the Administrator determines, on the basis of such an evaluation, that the child care facility or entity is not in compliance with the requirements, the Administrator shall notify the Executive agency.

(B) EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—On receipt of the notification of noncompliance issued by the Administrator, the head of the Executive agency shall—

(i) if the entity operating the child care center is the agency—

(I) no later than 2 business days after the date of receipt of the notification correct any deficiencies that are determined by the Administrator to be life threatening or to present a risk of serious bodily harm;

(II) develop and provide to the Administrator a plan to correct any other deficiencies in the operation of the center and bring the center and entity into compliance with the requirements not later than 4 months after the date of receipt of the notification;

(III) provide the parents of the children receiving child care services at the center and employees of the center with a notification detailing the deficiencies described in subclauses (I) and (II) and actions that will be taken to correct the deficiencies and post a copy of the notification in a conspicuous place in the facility for a period of 5 working days or until the deficiencies are corrected, whichever is later;

(IV) bring the facility and entity into compliance with the requirements and certify to the Administrator that the facility and entity are in compliance, based on an on-site evaluation of the facility conducted by an independent entity with expertise in child care health and safety; and

(V) in the event that deficiencies determined by the Administrator to be life threatening or to present a risk of serious bodily harm cannot be corrected within 2 business days after the date of receipt of the notification, close the facility or the affected portion of the facility, until such deficiencies are corrected and notify the Administrator of such closure; and

(ii) if the entity operating the child care facility is a contractor or licensee of the Executive Agency—

(I) require the contractor or licensee no later than 2 business days after the date of receipt of the notification, to correct any deficiencies that are determined by the Administrator to be life threatening or to present a risk of serious bodily harm;

(II) require the contractor or licensee to develop and provide to the head of the agency a plan to correct any other deficiencies in the operation of the center and bring the center and entity into compliance with the requirements not later than 4 months after the date of receipt of the notification;

(III) require the contractor or licensee to provide the parents of the children receiving child care services at the facility and employees of the facility with a notification detailing the deficiencies described in subclauses (I) and (II) and actions that will be taken to correct the deficiencies, and to post a copy of the notification in a conspicuous place in the facility for 5 working days or until the deficiency is corrected, whichever is later;

(IV) require the contractor or licensee to bring the facility and entity into compliance with the requirements and certify to the head of the agency that the facility and entity are in compliance, based on an on-site evaluation of the facility conducted by an independent entity with expertise in child care health and safety; and

(V) in the event that deficiencies determined by the Administrator to be life threatening or to present a risk of serious bodily harm cannot be corrected within 2 business days after the date of receipt of the notification, close the facility or the affected portion of the facility until such deficiencies are corrected and notify the Administrator of such closure, which closure may be grounds for the immediate termination or suspension of the contract or license of the contractor or licensee.

(C) COST REIMBURSEMENT.—The Executive agency shall reimburse the Administrator for the costs of carrying out subparagraph (A) for child care facilities located in an executive facility other than an executive facility of the General Services Administration. If an entity is sponsoring a child care facility for 2 or more Executive agencies, the Administrator shall allocate the costs of providing such reimbursement with respect to the entity among the agencies in a fair and equitable manner, based on the extent to which each agency is eligible to place children in the facility.

(5) DISCLOSURE OF PRIOR VIOLATIONS TO PARENTS AND FACILITY EMPLOYEES.—The Administrator shall issue regulations that require that each Executive agency that operates a child care facility, and each entity that enters into a contract or licensing agreement with an Executive agency to operate a child care facility, upon receipt by the facility or the agency or entity (as applicable) of a request by any individual who is a parent of any child enrolled at the facility, a parent of a child for whom there has been submitted an application to enroll at the facility, or an employee of the facility, shall provide to the individual—

(A) copies of all notifications of deficiencies that have been provided in the past with respect to the facility under paragraph (4)(B)(i)(III) or (ii)(III), as applicable; and

(B) a description of the actions that were taken to correct the deficiencies.

(c) APPLICATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if 8 or more child care facilities are sponsored in facilities owned or leased by an Executive agency, the Administrator shall delegate to the head of the agency the evaluation and compliance responsibilities assigned to the Administrator under subsection (b)(4)(A).

(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, STUDIES, AND REVIEWS.—The Administrator may provide technical assistance, and conduct and provide the results of studies and reviews, for Executive agencies, and entities sponsoring child care centers in executive facilities, on a reimbursable basis, in order to assist the entities in complying with this section.

(e) COUNCIL.—The Administrator shall establish an interagency council, comprised of all Executive agencies described in subsection (d), to facilitate cooperation and sharing of best practices, and to develop and coordinate policy, regarding the provision of child care, including areas for nursing mothers and other lactation support facilities and services, in the Federal Government.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $900,000 for fiscal year 2000 and such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year.

SEC. 4. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS RELATING TO CHILD CARE PROVIDED BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF FEDERAL CHILD CARE CENTERS FOR ON-SITE CONTRACTORS; PERCENTAGE GOAL.—Section 616(a) of the Act of December 22, 1987 (40 U.S.C. 490b), is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and inserting the following:

''(2) such officer or agency determines that such space will be used to provide child care and related services to children of Federal employees or on-site Federal contractors, or dependent children who live with Federal employees or on-site Federal contractors; and

''(3) such officer or agency determines that such individual or entity will give priority for available child care and related services in such space to Federal employees and on-site Federal contractors.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(e)(1) The Administrator of General Services must confirm that at least 50 percent of aggregate enrollment in Federal child care centers governmentwide are children of Federal employees or on-site Federal contractors, or dependent children who live with Federal employees or on-site Federal contractors. Each provider of child care services at an individual Federal child care center shall maintain this percentage as a goal for enrollment at the center. If enrollment at a center drops below the goal, the provider shall develop and implement a business plan with the sponsoring Federal agency to achieve the goal within a reasonable timeframe. This plan must be approved by the Administrator of General Services based on its compliance with standards established by the Administrator, and its effect on achieving the aggregate Federal enrollment percentage goal.

''(2) The Administrator of General Services Administration may enter into public-private partnerships or contracts with nongovernmental entities to increase the capacity, quality, affordability, or range of child care and related services and may, on a demonstration basis, waive subsection (a)(3) and paragraph (1) of this subsection.''.

(b) PAYMENT OF COSTS OF TRAINING PROGRAMS.—Section 616(b)(3) of such Act (40 U.S.C. 490(b)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

''(3) If an agency has a child care facility in its space, or is a sponsoring agency for a child care facility in other Federal or leased space, the agency or the General Services Administration may pay accreditation fees, including renewal fees, for that center to be accredited. Any agency, department, or instrumentality of the United States that provides or proposes to provide child care services for children referred to in subsection (a)(2), may reimburse any Federal employee or any person employed to provide such services for the costs of training programs, conferences, and meetings and related travel, transportation, and subsistence expenses incurred in connection with those activities. Any per diem allowance made pursuant to this section shall not exceed the rate specified in regulations prescribed pursuant to section 5707 of title 5, United States Code.''.

(c) PROVISION OF CHILD CARE BY PRIVATE ENTITIES.—Section 616(d) of such Act (40 U.S.C. 490b(d)) is amended to read as follows:

''(d)(1) If a Federal agency has a child care facility in its space, or is a sponsoring agency for a child care facility in other Federal or leased space, the agency, the child care center board of directors, or the General Services Administration may enter into an agreement with one or more private entities under which such private entities would assist in defraying the general operating expenses of the child care provider including, but not limited to, salaries and tuition assistance programs at the facility.

''(2)(A) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a Federal agency does not have a child care program, or if the Administrator of General Services has identified a need for child care for Federal employees at an agency providing child care services that do not meet the criteria of subsection (a), the agency or the Administrator may enter into an agreement with an existing non-Federal, licensed, and accredited child care facility, or a planned child care facility that will become licensed and accredited, for the provision of child care services for children of Federal employees.

''(B) Prior to entering into an agreement, the head of the Federal agency must determine that child care services to be provided through the agreement are more cost effectively provided through this arrangement than through establishment of an Executive child care facility.

''(C) The agency may provide any of the services described in subsection (b)(3) if, in exchange for such services, the facility reserves child care spaces for children referred to in subsection (a)(2), as agreed to by the parties. The cost of any such services provided by an agency to a child care facility on behalf of another agency shall be reimbursed by the receiving agency.

''(3) This subsection does not apply to residential child care programs.''.

(d) PILOT PROJECTS.—Section 616 of such Act (40 U.S.C. 490b) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f)(1) Upon approval of the agency head, an agency may conduct a pilot project not otherwise authorized by law for up to 2 years to test innovative approaches to providing alternative forms of quality child care assistance for Federal employees. An agency head may extend a pilot project for an additional 2-year period. Before any pilot project may be implemented, a determination must be made by the agency head that initiating the pilot project would be more cost effective than establishing a new child care facility. Costs of any pilot project shall be borne solely by the agency conducting the pilot project.

''(2) The Administrator of General Services shall serve as an information clearinghouse for pilot projects initiated by other agencies to disseminate information concerning the pilot projects to the other agencies.

''(3) Within 6 months after completion of the initial 2-year pilot project period, an agency conducting a pilot project under this subsection shall provide for an evaluation of the impact of the project on the delivery of child care services to Federal employees, and shall submit the results of the evaluation to the Administrator of General Services. The Administrator shall share the results with other Federal agencies.''.

(e) BACKGROUND CHECK.—Section 616 of such Act (40 U.S.C. 490b) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) All existing and newly hired workers in any child care center located in federally owned or leased facilities shall undergo a

criminal history background check as defined in 42 U.S.C. 13401.''.

SEC. 5. REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE LACTATION SUPPORT IN NEW EXECUTIVE CHILD CARE FACILITIES.

The head of each Federal agency shall require that each child care facility first operated after the one-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act by the Federal agency, or under a contract or licensing agreement with the Federal agency, shall provide reasonable accommodations for the needs of breast fed infants and their mothers, including by providing a lactation area or a room for nursing mothers as part of the operating plan for the center.

RESOLUTION ON THE INDEPENDENCE OF KOSOVA

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a House Concurrent Resolution urging the Clinton Administration to publicly declare that the Albanians of Kosova have a legal right to self-determination and independence from Serbia. It is identical to the resolution I introduced in the last Congress. I urge all Members to support this important resolution.

The Clinton Administration has failed to deal forthrightly with the serious situation in Kosova. It is clear that diplomacy has failed in stopping Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's dirty campaign of repression against the Kosovar Albanians. The time has come for the United States to support, in no uncertain terms, independence for Kosova.

The resolution expresses the sense of the Congress that: 1) the U.S. should publicly declare that the Albanians of Kosova have a legal right to self-determination and that independence is the only political solution acceptable to the Kosovars; 2) the U.S. should, in conformity with its principles and beliefs, support and sponsor the right of self-determination for the Kosovar Albanians and this should be a high priority for restoring peace and security to the region; 3) the U.S. should provide its share of any financial or other resources necessary to facilitate the independence of Kosova; 4) the U.S. in conjunction with members of the United Nations and other multilateral organizations, should convene a working group that deals with the specifics of secession in order to prevent future civil conflict from rising to the level of a breach of international peace and security and the facilitates constructive dialogue in order to prevent violence; and 5) the U.S. and others should use any and all means necessary to remove impediments to the Kosovar Albanian's right to self-determination.

The resolution asserts that the Kosovar Albanians satisfy the objective requirements for self determination according to well-established tenets of international law. The Kosovar Albanians comprise more than 90 percent of Kosova's population; share the common language of Albanian; are descendants of the Illyrian—the first group to occupy the Balkans well before the Common Era; share a common ethnicity; share a common history in the Kosova region; and share a common cultural identity as ethnic Albanians with an unbroken historic bond to the region. The resolution also notes that the Kosovar Albanians seek independence from Serbia in order to establish a democratic form of government.

Mr. Speaker, prior to the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia, Kosova was a separate political and legal entity with separate and distinct political, economic, social, judicial, legal, medical and educational institutions. Before it was forcibly absorbed into Serbia in the late 1980s, Kosova enjoyed the same legal and political status as the other six republics of the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Since Serbian President Milosevic came to power in 1987 Kosova has been brutally stripped of all vestiges of self-rule. We are now at a critical juncture in Kosova's history. Failure on the part of the U.S. and the world community to take decisive action could lead to further repression, genocide and regional instability. Diplomacy has failed. Fighting continues to rage. Innocent civilians are being slaughtered. Independence may be the only viable option the Kosovar Albanians have to realize self-determination. It's time for the Clinton Administration to stop coddling Milosevic and take a stand for freedom and self-determination.

CENSURE THE PRESIDENT AND GET BACK TO BUSINESS

SPEECH OF

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 19, 1998

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, from the day in early September that the Starr referral was delivered to the House, I have said that the decision to impeach the President called upon me to consider the Constitution, my constituents and my conscience. I have read and reread the Constitution and Federalist papers. I have heard from over 10,000 of my consistent by phone, mail and E–mail. I have searched my conscience. That is why I rise to urge my colleagues to strongly oppose the impeachment of the President.

Let me reiterate that the President's behavior has been reckless, wrong and harmful to his family, friends and the American people. His efforts to misled the American people were inappropriate for the leader of our great Nation. But, my review of the Constitution leads me to believe that while what the President did may be indictable, it is not impeachable.

The President did not undermine our constitutional form of government, nor did he commit treason or bribery. These are fundamental issues that must be considered when the Congress considers articles of impeachment. Also, I'm very troubled by the tampering with the separation of powers proposed by the House's action against the President. Those who support impeachment speak of the rule of law, but they fail to talk about the framers' clear and explicit delineation of the powers of each branch of our Government. It is the Judicial branch of government that enforces the rule of law and punishes those who violate it. If the President committed perjury, the grand jury can indict him when his is out of office.

My constituents and I are searching for a way to strongly but appropriately register our disgust with the President actions. Censure the President and move on, they say, by a 2-to 1 margin. I agree. But, we have been denied a vote on censure in spite of the fact that this is what an overwhelming number of Americans have told us that they want.

When I came to Congress 2 years ago I said that while I couldn't agree with anyone 100 percent of the time, it was my responsibility as a Representative of the people to LISTEN 100 percent of the time. My colleagues, we were sent here to be our constituents eyes and ears.

Americans want people in their elected Government who know more, not people who think they know better. Colleagues, please stop and listen. The American people say we must strongly censure the President and get back to their business. I urge you to vote no on impeaching the President.

CONGRATULATING COACH PHILLIP FULMER AND THE TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS ON WINNING THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Phillip Fulmer, the head football coach of the undefeated, unified national champion University of Tennessee Volunteers. Coach Fulmer is a native of Winchester, Tennessee, which I am honored to represent in the United States Congress.

In just his first seven years as a head coach, Phillip Fulmer has made his mark as one of the best coaches in the nation. He has won a national championship faster than many of the game's most legendary coaches. His 67–11 career record gives him the best winning percentage (.859) in Division I–A college football among active coaches. He has led the Volunteers to back-to-back Southeastern Conference Championships over the past two seasons, and on January 4 led the Vols to the national championship for the first time since 1951.

Coach Fulmer's success has not gone unnoticed by the media or his peers. Earlier this month, Fulmer was awarded the Eddie Robinson National Coach of the Year Award, and he was also named the national Coach of the Year by the Maxwell Football Club. He was also recently named the Southeastern Conference (SEC) Coach of the Year by the Associated Press and by his fellow SEC coaches.

However, Phillip Fulmer is more than a coach to the young men who play on his team. He genuinely cares about his players, and he leads them on and off the field by setting a good example for how they should live their lives. He personally embodies the values his players should incorporate into their lives long after their football days are over.

Mr. Speaker, as a University of Tennessee graduate (Class of 1981) and a dedicated Big Orange fan who proudly displays a real piece of the old artificial turf where so many great Vols played, I feel qualified to convey to you the immeasurable joy which Coach Fulmer, his staff and his players have brought to Tennesseans and Tennessee football fans around the world. Coach Phillip Fulmer has shown a