

euthanized against their choice. What is in the testimony is the fact that they are incapable in Holland of knowing how many people were euthanized against their will.

I would ask the Members of this body to throw off the false argument that we are having the DEA look over the shoulder of doctors. In fact, the opposite is true. We have created a safe harbor for doctors that says if their intent is to eliminate pain, then they are held without liability. We also had charts presented and facts presented that showed that in every State that had put in a common-sense approach like this, the use of pain controlled medicines, morphine, has dramatically risen in helping those who are in the pains of dying with manageable pain. And, in fact, we are now moving as a Nation to manage that pain.

I reject this motion to recommit, and I ask the House to support that position.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOBSON). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit. The motion to recommit was rejected.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 271, noes 156, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 544]

AYES—271

Aderholt	Calvert	Emerson
Andrews	Camp	English
Archer	Canady	Etheridge
Armey	Cannon	Everett
Bachus	Chabot	Ewing
Baker	Chambliss	Fletcher
Baldacci	Chenoweth-Hage	Foley
Ballenger	Clement	Forbes
Barcia	Coble	Fossella
Barr	Coburn	Fowler
Barrett (NE)	Collins	Franks (NJ)
Bartlett	Combest	Frelinghuysen
Barton	Cook	Gallely
Bateman	Costello	Ganske
Bereuter	Cox	Gekas
Berry	Cramer	Gibbons
Billray	Crane	Gillmor
Billirakis	Crowley	Gillman
Bishop	Cubin	Goode
Bliley	Cunningham	Goodlatte
Blunt	Danner	Goodling
Boehlert	Davis (FL)	Gordon
Boehner	Davis (VA)	Goss
Bonilla	Deal	Graham
Bono	DeLay	Granger
Borski	DeMint	Green (TX)
Boswell	Diaz-Balart	Green (WI)
Brady (PA)	Dickey	Greenwood
Brady (TX)	Doolittle	Gutknecht
Bryant	Doyle	Hall (OH)
Burr	Dreier	Hall (TX)
Burton	Duncan	Hansen
Buyer	Dunn	Hastings (WA)
Callahan	Ehlers	Hayes

Hayworth	McInnis	Sensenbrenner
Hefley	McIntosh	Sessions
Herger	McIntyre	Shadegg
Hill (IN)	McKeon	Shaw
Hill (MT)	McNulty	Sherwood
Hilleary	Mica	Shimkus
Hobson	Miller (FL)	Shows
Hoeffel	Miller, Gary	Simpson
Hoekstra	Moakley	Sisisky
Holden	Mollohan	Skeen
Hostettler	Moore	Skelton
Houghton	Moran (KS)	Smith (MI)
Hoyer	Murtha	Smith (NJ)
Hulshof	Myrick	Smith (TX)
Hunter	Neal	Souder
Hutchinson	Nethercutt	Spence
Hyde	Ney	Spratt
Isakson	Northup	Stearns
Istook	Norwood	Stenholm
Jefferson	Nussle	Strickland
Jenkins	Oberstar	Stupak
John	Ortiz	Sununu
Johnson, Sam	Ose	Sweeney
Jones (NC)	Oxley	Talent
Kanjorski	Packard	Tancredo
Kasich	Pascrell	Tauzin
Kelly	Pease	Taylor (MS)
Kildee	Peterson (MN)	Taylor (NC)
King (NY)	Peterson (PA)	Terry
Kingston	Petri	Thomas
Klecza	Phelps	Thornberry
Klink	Pickering	Thune
Knollenberg	Pitts	Tiahrt
Kucinich	Pombo	Toomey
Kuykendall	Pomeroy	Trafficant
LaFalce	Portman	Turner
LaHood	Pryce (OH)	Upton
Lampson	Quinn	Visclosky
Largent	Radanovich	Vitter
Latham	Rahall	Walsh
LaTourette	Ramstad	Wamp
Lazio	Regula	Watkins
Leach	Reyes	Watts (OK)
Lewis (CA)	Reynolds	Weldon (FL)
Lewis (KY)	Riley	Weldon (PA)
Linder	Roemer	Weller
Lipinski	Rogan	Weygand
LoBiondo	Rogers	Whitfield
Lucas (KY)	Ros-Lehtinen	Wicker
Lucas (OK)	Roukema	Wilson
Maloney (CT)	Royce	Wise
Manzullo	Ryan (WI)	Wolf
Martinez	Ryun (KS)	Wynn
McCarthy (NY)	Salmon	Young (AK)
McCollum	Saxton	Young (FL)
McCrery	Schaffer	
McHugh	Schakowsky	

NOES—156

Abercrombie	Dixon	Lewis (GA)
Ackerman	Doggett	Lofgren
Allen	Dooley	Lowey
Baird	Edwards	Luther
Baldwin	Ehrlich	Maloney (NY)
Barrett (WI)	Engel	Markey
Bass	Eshoo	Matsui
Becerra	Evans	McCarthy (MO)
Bentsen	Farr	McDermott
Berkley	Fattah	McGovern
Berman	Filner	McKinney
Biggert	Ford	Meehan
Blagojevich	Frank (MA)	Meek (FL)
Blumenauer	Frost	Meeks (NY)
Bonior	Gejdenson	Menendez
Boucher	Gephardt	Metcalf
Boyd	Gilchrest	Millender-
Brown (FL)	Gonzalez	McDonald
Brown (OH)	Gutierrez	Miller, George
Campbell	Hastings (FL)	Minge
Capps	Hilliard	Mink
Capuano	Hinchey	Moran (VA)
Cardin	Holt	Morella
Carson	Hooley	Nadler
Castle	Horn	Napolitano
Clay	Inslee	Obey
Clayton	Jackson (IL)	Olver
Clyburn	Jackson-Lee	Owens
Condit	(TX)	Pallone
Conyers	Johnson (CT)	Pastor
Cooksey	Johnson, E. B.	Paul
Coyne	Jones (OH)	Payne
Cummings	Kaptur	Pelosi
Davis (IL)	Kilpatrick	Pickett
DeFazio	Kind (WI)	Porter
DeGette	Kolbe	Price (NC)
DeLauro	Lantos	Rangel
Deutsch	Larson	Rivers
Dicks	Lee	Rodriguez
Dingell	Levin	Rohrabacher

Rothman	Slaughter	Udall (CO)
Roybal-Allard	Smith (WA)	Udall (NM)
Sabo	Snyder	Velazquez
Sanchez	Stabenow	Vento
Sanders	Stark	Walden
Sandlin	Stump	Waters
Sanford	Tanner	Watt (NC)
Sawyer	Tauscher	Waxman
Scott	Thompson (CA)	Weiner
Serrano	Thompson (MS)	Wexler
Shays	Thurman	Woolsey
Sherman	Tierney	Wu
Shuster	Towns	

NOT VOTING—6

Delahunt	Kennedy	Rush
Hinojosa	Mascara	Scarborough

□ 1519

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

OFFERING CONDOLENCES TO FAMILIES OF VICTIMS AND PEOPLE OF ARMENIA

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, we were appalled to learn earlier today of the assassination of Armenia's Prime Minister Sarkisian and several other high officials in the Armenian Government. It is tragic that this form of political violence has intruded upon the democratic path to which the Armenian people have committed themselves.

It is our hope and prayer that the people of Armenia not allow this kind of despicable terrorism to deter them from pursuing their democratic ideals and the institutions that provide for a free society.

Armenia has been a good friend of our Nation, and America stands ready to continue to provide the assistance needed to our friends to help them overcome this tragedy. It is our profoundest hope that Armenia will speedily recover from this violence and resume the practices that have provided its people the full measure of political freedom and opportunity.

I want to offer our condolences on behalf of the Congress to the families of the victims and to the people of Armenia.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

TRAGIC EVENTS IN ARMENIA

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to indicate to my colleagues and the American people the tragic events that

have taken place in the Republic of Armenia.

News reports indicate that Prime Minister Vazgen Sarkisian has been assassinated in an attack by four gunmen who stormed into Parliament during a session earlier today. Other lawmakers and government officials were killed in the attack in the Parliament chamber, including the Speaker of Parliament Karen Demirchian, according to news reports. The death of the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the Parliament have now been confirmed by the office of Armenia's president.

The gunmen are currently holding some 100 hostages, including members of Parliament. However, the government is in full control of the situation outside Parliament in the Armenian capital of Yerevan and throughout the country. There is no state of emergency. There are no indications that this was part of any organized coup, but merely the action of a few gunmen whose motives are not yet clear.

The Prime Minister and members of the government were gathered in Parliament for a presentation of the budget. So, clearly, the gunmen chose an occasion when they could attack many of the top leaders at one time. The gunmen have reportedly released the women hostages.

Armenia's President Robert Kocharian was not at the Parliament complex at the time of the shooting. He is there now personally directing the security forces and trying to negotiate for the release of the remaining hostages.

I want to stress, Mr. Speaker, that democracy in Armenia is strong. The commitment on the part of Armenia's elected leaders and the vast majority of Armenia people to democracy, to the orderly transfer of power, to peace and stability in Armenia and within the region, all remain as strong as ever.

Clearly, Armenia must be in a state of shock right now. The same is true for me, Mr. Speaker, and for all the friends of Armenia in this Congress on both sides of the aisle and for all the American friends of Armenia, including more than one million Americans of Armenian descent. But Armenia will continue to move forward with the political and economical reforms it began when it won its independence more than 8 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, there is a special poignancy for me and many of my colleagues in learning of the death of Prime Minister Sarkisian. The Prime Minister was our guest in this very Capitol building just a few weeks ago, 4 weeks ago to be exact. More than 30 Members of Congress and many of our staff had the opportunity to hear the Prime Minister give a very strong speech in which he stressed his commitment to continuing with economic reforms while working for a settlement of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict and greater integration between Armenia and her neighbors.

Vazgen Sarkisian had only been Prime Minister since May of this year

following nationwide elections for the National Assembly, the Parliament. His party was the Unity Federation. Prior to becoming Prime Minister, he served as Defense Minister from 1995 to 1999. And like many political figures in Armenia, his real involvement in politics began in 1988, as the Soviet Union was collapsing. That year he joined the National Liberation Movement for Independence of Armenia and Constitutional Self-Determination of Nagorno Karabagh.

Also, like many of the political leaders of today's Armenia, Prime Minister Sarkisian was quite young. He was only 40 years old and had an extremely bright future ahead of him as leader of his country.

Mr. Sarkisian was committed to the goal of reform, rebuilding the nation after decades of Soviet domination. He supported integration of Armenia's economy with the region and the world. He sought to promote a society that protects private property with a stable currency and a balanced budget, while providing social protections to its citizens.

During his visit to Washington, the Prime Minister met with Vice President GORE, attended World Bank and IMF meetings, and met with officials of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, as well as other Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, Speaker Demirchian had been the leader of Armenia during Soviet times. In the post-Soviet Armenia, he has emerged as a champion of reform. I have had the opportunity to meet Mr. Demirchian during a congressional delegation to Armenia that I participated in this summer with four of my colleagues. We were all struck by the fact that the new leadership, with President Kocharian, Prime Minister Sarkisian, and Speaker Demirchian represented an extremely strong leadership team poised to lead Armenia into a new millennium and into an economic area of prosperity and peace.

While I am sure President Kocharian will continue at that legacy, he has lost two valuable partners. Armenia and the world have lost two fine leaders. But even on this saddest of days, and it really is a very sad day, I am confident that Armenia will continue its progress in establishing a strong, prosperous, and free society.

SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I come to the well of the House today with what I consider good news but also maybe some bad news, a little bit sweet and a little bit sour.

The good news is that there is a great deal more attention to the serious problem of saving Social Security. The bad news is that we are not doing too much about it.

I was disappointed when the President sent over his proposed legislation that in effect says, let us add another IOU promissory note to the Social Security Trust Fund. An IOU is, of course, a promise to pay in the future. And that is what this would do is say, somehow, some way, raising revenues from some source down in future years, Congress will come up with the money to keep Social Security going for a little while longer.

Let me, Mr. Speaker, just give a little background on Social Security. It was started in 1935. It was a program then and always has been a pay-as-you-go program. In other words, existing current workers were asked to pay a Social Security tax. That tax came in and was immediately sent out to senior citizens, retirees, beneficiaries.

So today the money comes in one day and by the end of the week it is sent out in benefit payments. Right now we are bringing a little more in because we have substantially increased the FICA tax, the Social Security tax; we are bringing a little bit more money in than is needed to pay benefits. That is what is called the Social Security Trust Fund. And that is what Republicans, the Democrats and the President have been arguing about, should we continue spending that Social Security Trust Fund money for other government programs.

I think now most of us agree, no, that we should not. And the challenge is how do we calm the desire of the President and some of the spenders in this body that would like to spend more money and yet not spend the Social Security Trust Fund reserve.

□ 1530

That, however, not spending that Social Security trust fund, does not solve Social Security. The trust fund, the IOUs in the trust fund, the money the government has borrowed in the past, now accounts for approximately \$800 billion. But when we consider that benefit payments are \$400 billion a year, that trust fund reserve would not even hardly last the full of 2 years. The actuaries at Social Security and the CBO, the Congressional Budget Office, estimate that the unfunded liability, I will go into detail on those words, but the unfunded liability of Social Security is \$9 trillion. In other words, if we were to hire a private firm and say we want you to continue paying Social Security benefits indefinitely, they would say, okay, you have got to give us the right to tax all workers 12.4 percent of their taxable payroll, plus you have got to give us \$9 trillion today to put in an interest-bearing account so that that will be the only way that we will take on as a private sector industry the responsibility of paying Social Security benefits in the future. \$9 trillion. Compare that with our annual budget in this country of \$1.7 trillion. It means that we have got a long ways to go. It means that Social Security is not solvent and cannot continue the way it is currently structured.