

their governments, to institute needed democratic reforms and basic structures of a civil society such as, respect for human rights, promoting religious freedom, freedom of the press, and freedom of association.

This legislation says that debt relief by the U.S. will be provided to countries that meet the following requirements, as determined by the President of the U.S.: freedom of the press, freedom of association, an independent and non-discriminatory judiciary, reduction or elimination of corruption relating to public officials, including the promulgation of laws prohibiting bribery of public officials and disclosure of assets by such officials; the establishment of an independent anti-corruption commission; the establishment of an independent agency to audit financial activities of public officials, free and fair elections, practice of internationally recognized human rights, opposition to international terrorism as determined by the Secretary of State.

The President may waive one or more of these requirements for emergency humanitarian relief purposes, if the President determines and certifies to Congress that it is in the national security interests of the U.S., or if the President determines that a recipient country is making demonstrable progress in the aforementioned areas.

The President is to notify Congress of the justification for the determination of the countries that will receive a cancellation or reduction of debt according to the conditions in this legislation.

Finally, this legislation conveys the sense of Congress that the President should instruct the U.S. director at each international financial institution to which the U.S. is a member to use the voice, vote, and influence of the U.S. to urge the cancellation or reduction of debt owed to the institution by a country only if the country meets the same requirements applicable in this legislation.

Debt relief to poor countries as described in this legislation is responsible debt relief. Passage of this legislation could help to foster the growth and development of democracy, respect for human rights, the promotion of religious freedom, the establishment of freedom of the press, and greater freedom of association in poor countries through helping these countries to have economic growth that will help their people.

We need to help poor people in these countries overcome their debt burdens but it must be done responsibly. Rather than just write off debt from poor countries, this legislation sets up a framework to help those nations in their struggle toward democracy. It says progress in democratic reforms, honoring human rights, and opposition to terrorism are important for developing or poor countries. It says that one of the ways to help the poor is to give them opportunities created by engendering democracy, transparency, and much needed relief from their country's overwhelming debt burden. Lastly it says that if those goals are met, the U.S. will help those countries struggling to help their citizens to a better, more prosperous life.

I introduce this legislation to begin the discussion of how the U.S. can help bring hope to the poorest people in the world through the promotion of debt relief and good government. While this legislation may not be the perfect answer, I am hopeful this legislation could provide the foundation for discussion on how to

help the poor and give them opportunities so that the next Congress and the next Administration can deal with this important issue.

H.R. —

*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 "Responsible Debt Relief and Democracy Reform Act".

#### SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CANCELLATION OR REDUCTION OF DEBT OWED TO THE UNITED STATES.

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### "PART VI—ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CANCELLATION OR REDUCTION OF DEBT OWED TO THE UNITED STATES

##### "SEC. 901. CANCELLATION OR REDUCTION OF DEBT.

"Beginning on and after the date of the enactment of this part, the President may cancel or reduce amounts owed to the United States (or any agency of the United States) by foreign countries as a result of concessional or nonconcessional loans made, guarantees issued, or credits extended under any other provision of law only if, in addition to the requirements contained under the applicable provisions of law providing authority for the debt cancellation or reduction, the requirements contained in section 902 are satisfied.

##### "SEC. 902. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—A foreign country shall be eligible for cancellation or reduction of debt under any other provision of law only if the government of the country—

- "(1) ensures freedom of the press;
- "(2) ensures freedom of association;
- "(3) has established an independent and nondiscriminatory judiciary;
- "(4) provides for the reduction or elimination of corruption relating to public officials, including—

"(A) the promulgation of laws to prohibit bribery of and by public officials, including disclosure of assets by such officials upon taking office, periodically while in office, and upon leaving office;

"(B) the establishment of an independent anti-corruption commission—

"(i) to receive and verify the disclosure of assets by public officials in accordance with subparagraph (A); and

"(ii) to investigate allegations or corruption or misconduct by public officials and to make all findings available to the appropriate administrative or judicial entities; and

"(C) the establishment of an independent agency—

"(i) to audit the financial activities of public officials and agencies; and

"(ii) to make all audits under clause (i) available to the appropriate administrative or judicial entities;

"(5) is elected through free and fair elections

"(6) does not engage in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights; and

"(7) does not repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism, as determined by the Secretary of State under section 6(j)(1) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2405(j)(1)) or section 620A(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371(a)).

"(b) EXCEPTIONS.—The President may waive the application of 1 or more of the requirements of subsection (a) with respect to the cancellation or reduction of debt owed to the United States by a foreign country—

"(1) for emergency humanitarian relief purposes;

"(2) if the President determines that it is in the national security interests of the United States to do so; or

"(3) if the President determines that the foreign country is making demonstrable progress in meeting the requirements of paragraphs (1) through (7) of subsection (a) by adopting appropriate legal and other related reforms.

"(c) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 7 days prior to the cancellation or reduction of debt in accordance with section 901, the President shall transmit to the Congress a report that contains a justification for the determination by the President that—

"(1) the requirements contained in each of paragraphs (1) through (7) of subsection (a) have been satisfied with respect to the foreign country involved; or

"(2) the requirement of paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (b) has been satisfied with respect to the foreign country involved."

#### SEC. 3. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS RELATING TO CANCELLATION OR REDUCTION OF MULTILATERAL DEBT.

It is the sense of the Congress that the President should instruct the United States Executive Director at each international financial institution to which the United States is a member to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to urge that the cancellation or reduction of debt owed to the institution by a country may be provided only if the country meets the same requirements applicable to the cancellation or reduction of amounts owed to the United States under paragraphs (1) through (7) of section 902(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as added by section 2).

#### A TRIBUTE TO BOB GREGORY

#### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a man who has given his considerable talent and energy for the betterment of his community, Mr. Bob Gregory of Colonia, New Jersey.

As Chairman of the Merck Volunteer Focus Group, Mr. Gregory personally coordinated more than fifty community service initiatives last year which raised about \$128,000 while providing hundreds of hours of in-kind and volunteer services. He also chaired the Rahway Downtown Revitalization team as part of the Neighbor of Choice initiative and was instrumental in effectively aligning the efforts of the Volunteer Focus Group with Rahway's revitalization goals. He remains very active in local community organizations, including Merrill Park Youth, Rahway P.A.L., Rahway Aesthetic Committee, Union County Board of Agriculture, Rahway Lions, Rahway Honorary P.B.A., Rahway Excellence in Education, John Shippen Minority Youth Association, and as an advisor to Union County VoTech Schools.

Mr. Gregory has been a positive influence in the lives of children in his community. Last year, he worked on the Environmental Champions project which involved the completion of horticulture projects with children at all of the Rahway Schools, the Library, City Parks, City Hall, JFK Youth Center and the Capo Bianco Housing Project. He also helped spearhead

the renovation of the Rahway Elks banquet hall, with all profits earned from rentals going to support handicapped children. He coordinated the Linden Interfaith Council Food Drive to feed 100 needy families in Linden and the Cancer Care Golf Outing to raise funds for Cancer Research and Home Care. His good works have extended to an international level, as he traveled to the Dominican Republic with the Volunteer Medical Team sponsored by Healing the Children.

Mr. Speaker, we owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Gregory for all that he has done to improve the lives of so many people. Please join me in commending him for his outstanding work and in wishing him continued success.

IN MEMORY OF MR. PRENTISS  
WALKER

**HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2000*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, whereas Mr. Prentiss Walker, a former citizen of Mize, Mississippi, dedicated many years of his life in working for the conservative Christian principles on which this nation was built; and

Whereas, Mr. Walker sacrificed in working to build the Republican party in the South and especially Mississippi; and

Whereas Mr. Walker believed so strongly in conservative Christian principles that he offered himself as a candidate for Congress of the United States and was elected in 1964 as the first Republican Congressman from Mississippi in over 100 years.

Whereas Mr. Walker served his state and his nation in this office demonstrating his strong convictions by every vote he made and by leading others to join in his patriotic stand; and

Whereas Mr. Walker was a true political pioneer in the state of Mississippi, making the way for many others to follow in his path of service in our nation's capitol; and

Whereas Mr. Walker continued to lead in the development of the Mississippi Republican Party and leading the citizens of Mississippi to dedication to conservative Christian principles long after he left the Congress, be it therefore resolved:

We express our deep appreciation to his wife Dimple and to his memory for his tireless service to the cause of returning our nation to the greatness it achieved by following the foundational beliefs on which our forefathers founded these United States of America.