

S. Con. Res. 153. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the parliamentary elections held in Belarus on October 15, 2000, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 2440) "An Act to amend title 49, United States Code, to improve airport security."

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106-173, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the following appointments to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission:

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING); and

Dr. Gabor S. Boritt, of Pennsylvania.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). The Chair will entertain 15 one-minutes on each side.

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#### LET OUR SCHOOLS DECIDE, NOT WASHINGTON

(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, this week we will be considering the Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill, and inevitably the debate will arise on funding for education.

Yet, this Republican Congress has made the real commitment to educating the children of America. We have increased America's investment in education by 50 percent since taking control of Congress.

This year alone education funding has increased by \$2 billion. That is 10 percent more than last year. But the dollar figures do not tell the whole story. Our commitment to education lies in the fact that we are committed to supporting our parents, teachers, and local school officials, the people who know our children and what they need.

Mr. Speaker, Federal dollars should go straight to the classroom where they can be used for teachers, books, pencils, or computers, whatever needs are best for the education of our students.

I urge all of my colleagues to support our efforts, and I yield back the "Washington knows best" policy promoted by the Clinton-Gore administration.

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#### WE MUST ACT TO BRING OUR CHILDREN HOME

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, Nadia Dabbagh was kidnapped in 1993 by her Syrian national father. She was 2 years old. Her mother has not seen her since. A Federal warrant was issued for the arrest of her abductor. Syria even issued a warrant for his arrest.

Her mother, Maureen, went to the Islamic court in Syria in an effort to have her custody rights recognized in Syria. Amazingly, this American Christian woman also won, almost unheard of in Syria.

In the last Congress, Senator CHARLES ROBB sponsored a Senate resolution calling for the return of Nadia. It passed the Senate and has been ignored.

With all of this effort, Nadia is still not home. Maureen has had no contact with her, no photos, nothing. She knows that Nadia is in Saudi Arabia. Even though she is not a Saudi, nor is her father, and even though her mother has custody orders and warrants from both the United States and Syria, she is no closer to bringing her daughter home.

Nadia is now 10 years old. Her father has arranged a marriage to her cousin living in Syria. So even in adulthood she will not have the ability to come home if she so chooses. Nadia must be returned in order to protect her welfare and guarantee her American freedoms throughout her life. It is time now for us to act to bring our children home.

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□ 1030

#### RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF ORGAN PROCUREMENT

(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, it has often been said that life is short, and the nearly 60,000 patients who are currently on a waiting list to get organs know just how precious time is. Sadly enough, only 20,000 people this year will receive an organ transplant, and just today, nine people will lose their lives because a match was not found.

Today, I congratulate constituents who recognize the importance of organ procurement: folks like Donnie Coker, president of the Transplant Foundation of Miami; Elleay Compton, executive director; Jeffrey Barash, Miami-Dade County president; and transplant surgeons at the University of Miami, such as Joshua Miller, Andreas Sazis, Si Fan, and Patricia Carroll.

On November 4, this committee will host Miami's fifth annual "That's Life Gala" where funds will be raised for services, for research, and for education on the need for organ procurement. There is no greater gift than the gift of life.

Like my noble constituents, we must encourage this giving and leave a lasting legacy by working to increase donors across our district and throughout our land. I thank the University of Miami for their great gift of life.

#### CALLING ON MEMBERS TO IN- CLUDE PROVISIONS OF IMMI- GRATION FAIRNESS ACT IN FINAL COMMERCE-JUSTICE BILL

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am here this morning to call on my colleagues to include the provisions of the Immigration Fairness Act in the final Commerce-Justice bill. In my district as in all of yours, we have families that have been awaiting reconciliation with their loved ones for years. Families need to be together.

It is also unreasonable for someone to be made to leave the country to apply for a change of status here. It creates undue hardship, and it just makes no sense. We witness even in our small community the different ways that immigrants in the Caribbean are treated by Federal agencies. Illegal entries from the other side of the globe get preferential treatment compared to, for example, Haitian immigrants from our own region.

Lastly, we have asked for years for a shopping visa so our Caribbean neighbors could visit the U.S. Virgin Islands for short periods. The visa waiver program has been made permanent, and the Caribbean is still waiting.

The provisions of the bill would finally bring fairness to the process, support families and finally see our neighbors from the Caribbean, Liberia and Central America treated fairly. It must be a part of the conference report.

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#### BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today not as the chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence but as a representative of thousands of men and women concerned about the tragedy of breast cancer. I also rise as someone who has seen family members and friends deal with this terrible disease. Congress passed a good bill a few weeks ago, one that will ensure that the poorest Americans will receive needed help in the prevention and treatment of breast cancer. Next stop, the Rose Garden to commend everyone who worked to make this a reality, Republican and Democrat alike. But now we learn there will be no Rose Garden signing ceremony, and the advocates and volunteers who fought for this bill will not get their deserved celebration and recognition in the sun.

Why? Because the President has decided that it would be "awkward" to host and recognize at the White House the bill's sponsor, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO), who happens to be running against his wife for the Senate seat in New York.

I took the President at his word in February when he said that breast cancer is an issue that, quote, "transcends

political boundaries." It does. Like so many times before with the Clinton-Gore administration, I believed them. That was a mistake.

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#### MORE BORDER PROTECTION NEEDED

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the news says that Mexican narcoterrorists have put contracts on American agents and border patrol. Unbelievable. The news says the Fuentes Gang will pay millions of dollars to kill our agents. Why not? Think about the billions of dollars they are making in heroin and cocaine sales in America.

And what are we doing about it? The drug czar wants more halfway houses, more counselors, more cops. Beam me up. We got more narcotics in America, and it is coming in faster than Viagra into Niagara. It is time to use the military wisely at our border.

I yield back the bull's-eyes on the backs of American drug agents.

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#### RUSSIAN ARMS SALES TO IRAN

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, there is no greater sponsor of terrorism in the world than the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iran has taken Americans for hostages, given weapons to suicide bombers, and taken the lead in the movement to wipe Israel off the face of the earth. There is no government more radical, more extremist, or more dangerous to our national interests.

So why did Vice President AL GORE cut a deal with the Russians to allow weapons sales to Iran? AL GORE himself when he was Senator introduced the Iran-Iraq Arms Nonproliferation Act in 1992. And now he winks and nods to Viktor Chernomyrdin, letting him know it is okay to violate American national interests.

Mr. Speaker, the recent bombing of the U.S.S. *Cole* demonstrated again how serious a threat terrorism is to America and her allies. It is a violation of law to tell Russians it is okay to sell arms to Iran. Worse, it places American lives at risk. And now they are trying to hide it from Congress. We expect better judgment from a man who wants to be our President.

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#### REPUBLICAN MEDICARE CORRECTIONS BILL IS WRONG APPROACH

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, at midnight last night the House leader-

ship came up with a Medicare corrections bill that reminds me of someone who can mess up a one-car funeral. At the end of September, the Committee on Commerce considered and passed a bipartisan bill that would restore funds for both Medicare and Medicaid programs. The bipartisan Committee on Commerce bill froze DSH payments so our hospitals could benefit. It established a minimum payment floor for community health centers. It delayed across-the-board cuts for home health care reimbursements and allowed States to provide CHIP coverage for legal immigrant children and pregnant women. It would have provided some more funding for HMOs.

Our bill was a balanced bill. But what do we have now with this midnight concoction? We have a bill that is skewed to the HMOs. To give 47 percent of the money in this bill to HMOs that only serve 15 percent of our seniors does not help another senior, and it does not help them get any more HMO coverage either. It is frustrating.

I have a county that the HMOs have bailed out except one. You know what we want? If they are going to get more money, they need to agree to cover seniors more than for one year and leave them stranded like they have in Harris County and Houston, Texas. We do not need to give a penny to them until they will agree to cover our seniors.

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#### TRIBUTE TO HONORABLE CHARLES CANADY

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, as the 106th Congress draws to an end, this body will be saying good-bye to several outstanding public servants. Among these distinguished legislators is Congressman CHARLES CANADY.

Since 1993, CHARLES has represented the 12th Congressional District, which neighbors my district to the south. This has provided me the opportunity to work with him on issues that are vital to central Florida as well as to the Nation.

As Members know, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CANADY) pledged to his constituents that, if elected, he would step down after four terms. During this 8-year tenure, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CANADY) has accumulated an impressive record of accomplishments. This is not just my opinion. The National Journal states, "In a short time, CANADY has become one of the most productive and effective Members of the House."

That is how he will be remembered. He will be missed by the Florida delegation and others throughout this Chamber. We wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

#### CONGRESSMAN VENTO'S OUT- STANDING ENVIRONMENTAL LEGACY

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives, and particularly the Nation's environmental community, joined the family and constituents of Bruce Vento in mourning the loss of this dedicated and talented legislator earlier this month.

In his 24 years in Congress, Bruce served with great distinction and achievement on the House Committee on Resources. No other Member of this House could match his achievement on behalf of our parks and public lands and no one spoke with greater eloquence or worked with greater accomplishment to preserve these resources for future generations of Americans.

Because of his great contributions and the painfulness of his untimely death, it is especially discouraging to me to read the scorecard of the League of Conservation Voters for the 106th Congress. Although numerous Members have joined me in complaining about the League of Conservation Voters' practice of counting legitimately missed votes as "no" votes, LCV continues this unfair method of scoring. As a result, LCV rated Bruce Vento at just 53 percent for this Congress and just 7 percent for this year. Although LCV notes Bruce's death, they failed to note that his absences were due to his terminal illness and treatments.

LCV's obstinate refusal to modify its rating system is very disappointing to friends in the environmental community. The ratings system is absurdly rigid and self-centered when dedicated environmentalists are marked down for illnesses or personal tragedies. LCV says it is looking for another way for the scoring system, but it will come too late to honor the memory and the achievements of Bruce Vento.

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#### COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, Republicans have made a solid commitment to education. But the Clinton-Gore administration and the Democrats in Congress want the Federal Government to decide what local schools can and cannot do. This is really what separates the two parties on education policy. The focus of education should not be about quantity and process. It should focus on quality and results. This is what will help our children and grandchildren secure America's future.

Our children and grandchildren will benefit greatly from the work we have done and the decisions we have made. Paying off the debt means \$1,348 in savings for every man, woman and child.