

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from California follow me. She has a very lengthy statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may take 5 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CAPITOL HILL POLICE FACE A FORCE REDUCTION

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, the Hill just came out today, and the headline is "Capitol Police face loss of 400 in 2001 budget cut."

The U.S. Capitol Police force would be reduced by more than 400 officers under a bill approved Tuesday by the House Appropriations Committee.

And then later on there is a quote from John Lucas, chairman of the U.S. Capitol Police Labor Committee. He says:

This budget cut comes on the heels of promises to improve Capitol security for members, staff, visitors and the officers who protect this wonderful institution.

"Where is the passion of yesterday's promises? What happened to the commitments to the officers who protect you and to their survivors?" he continued, in an attempt to invoke the concern expressed by Congress shortly after the 1998 shootings.

That was, of course, Officer Chestnut and Agent Gibson. Today, at 3:30, there will be an appointment of a new police chief. What a way for the new police chief to be sworn in.

I spoke to our Sergeant at Arms, Mr. Ziglar, about this. Senator BENNETT, Senator FEINSTEIN, with key positions, care deeply about this issue. I find this to be, in the years I have been in the Senate, one of the most unconscionable decisions that has ever been made.

I just for the life of me don't get it, albeit I have my own emotion on this question, and I have spoken on the floor many times.

In July, almost 2 years ago, we lost two police officers. We said we were going to do everything we could to make sure it would never happen again, albeit it could never be 100-percent certain. One of the things we certainly were going to make sure of was that there were two officers at every one of these posts, because if one deranged person shows up—especially if 20 or 30 people are coming through the door. Senator GRASSLEY is my neighbor over at the Hart Building. This happens at the Hart Building sometimes in the middle of the day. This is just simply unacceptable.

I am telling you that there is an unbelievable amount of bitterness right now in the police force over what is happening with this vote. They have been making the requests. They have been begging. They have been pleading.

I think very soon we will start to at least get to the point where we have two police officers at these posts because people are coming in and then one deranged person might show up sometime. That is all you need. Then, God knows what will happen.

In order to get there, there are one or two things that have to happen: More money has to go into overtime; the slack could be taken up that way; or more officers have to be hired.

Now we have a headline that they are going to cut 400.

This could be one of these sorts of inside games where the House says to the Senate: Look, we need to do this to show—whatever. I don't know what they are trying to show, frankly. Then you will put it back in. You save us on the Senate side.

I will tell you something. Maybe it is my background in community organizing, but my hope is that they get to decide for themselves. This is a union. My hope is that the Capitol Hill Police Union will hold a press conference. I hope they are there in numbers. I hope they make it crystal clear to people who voted for these cuts that they are not going to let you play around with their lives: We are not going to let you profess such concern for us and our families and then put us in a position where we not only cannot protect the public but we cannot really protect ourselves, which is absolutely outrageous.

I do no damage to the truth when I say this on the floor of the Senate. As a matter of fact, I initially made the mistake, I say to the Senator from California, of listing some of the door posts. I was then told by the police to not do that because they worry that you then create a security risk. So I don't do that anymore. But I can tell you that I observe it all the time. This House vote is just so damaging to people's morale. It is not right. It is going to create a dangerous situation. It is already not a good situation. But we are going to see a lot of people leave this police force. We are. They are going to join D.C. police, or go wherever; they are going to leave.

Hopefully, in the Senate we can be there and inject some sanity into this appropriations process.

But I will tell you one thing. I think this union and these police officers should take on this vote. They have been patient. They have been patient.

I think this is just absolutely unconscionable.

Two years ago, we went through hell. There was such emotion. We made this commitment. What a short memory. What a short memory.

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2000—CONFERENCE REPORT—Resumed

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I now turn my attention to this bill. I thank both the Senator from Iowa and the Senator from New York, two exceptional Senators.

I am going to divide my remarks into two parts. We have some other Senators, Senators FEINGOLD and FEINSTEIN, who are going to talk at great length about what happened in the conference committee. I am going to speak to that briefly. I shall not take a lot of time. But I say to both Senators that I will be pleased to come back later on this afternoon, if you need me, because I think we need to put a focus on what happened.

I am in some disagreement with both my colleagues for, I hope, substantive reasons, which I will go into in a moment on the overall bill. It is not because of either one of the Senators on the floor managing this bill. But we had an amendment—Feinstein-Feingold, Feingold-Feinstein; I don't know the order. It doesn't matter; they are together—regarding the HIV/AIDS drugs in Africa. We will go into the specifics of the purpose of this amendment in a moment. But the purpose was to figure out a way that these countries could afford the combination of drugs that could help treat this illness so people wouldn't die.

I strongly support the amendment my colleagues introduced. The amendment was accepted by the bill's managers, Senators ROTH and MOYNIHAN. It was simple. It basically prohibited the U.S. Government—history is not very inspiring, frankly—or any agent of the U.S. Government from pressuring African countries to revoke or change laws aimed at increasing access to HIV/AIDS drugs so long as the laws in question passed by these countries adhered to existing international law and international standards.

In other words, this amendment said to the executive branch—colleagues, I am being bipartisan in my condemnation, if you will—stop twisting arms, White House and others, of African countries that are basically using legal means to improve access of their citizens to HIV/AIDS pharmaceuticals. I thank Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator FEINGOLD for this amendment.

One would think this effort to make anti-AIDS drugs more cheaply available to citizens in African countries—so long as these countries didn't violate any WTO rules—would be acceptable to every Senator and every Representative and every human being.

I think for a while the administration and others leaned on some of these governments to not use "parallel" importing in addition to local manufacturers, which is sort of interesting because some have legislation dealing with this subject. In other words, they would basically go to other countries and try to import FDA-approved drugs back from other countries at much less cost.

The "why" of this is because 13 million African lives have been lost since the onset of this crisis. Today, there are some 23 million African people infected with the AIDS virus—men, women, and children.

This was a modest amendment. This was the right thing to do. I don't blame

my colleagues. It is their institutional position.

The Senator from Iowa and the Senator from New York speak with pride about this legislation. I am going to dissent from some of the legislation dealing with some other issues. But I don't think there is much to be proud of in terms of what happened in this conference. They fought. But let's look at the result after this amendment is taken out. Honest to goodness, I say to Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator FEINGOLD, I have absolutely no idea—well, I do actually have some ideas as to why there is opposition. But I want to speak for the people of Minnesota.

I guarantee both Senators FEINGOLD and FEINSTEIN that 99.99 percent of the people in my State of Minnesota are behind their amendment. I guarantee them that if anybody attempts to do this in the light of day, 99.99 percent of the people in this country support this amendment. It is the right thing to do. Our values tell us we should do this. If these governments aren't violating any trade policy and they can make these drugs more available to their populace—the people there don't have a lot of money; they can't afford this cocktail of drugs—then people can have some accessibility and we can save lives given the magnitude of this crisis. What is happening is devastating. People in Minnesota say: God bless you for doing this.

How do these conferees—whoever they are—justify pressuring these countries with, in some cases, a life expectancy that has dropped by 15 years? What arrogance to tell these governments they cannot use all the legal means at their disposal to make sure the people in their countries, men and women and children, have access to these drugs. Otherwise, more people suffer and more people die. This is another example of why people in this country become so furious about some of what happens here.

I love being a Senator. I love public service. But sometimes it is just too much. It really is. This amendment was accepted. If we had a vote on this amendment, I think it would be 100 to 0. However, it is taken out in conference. I guarantee people in the country are for this.

Why don't we turn our attention to the pharmaceutical industry, the pharmaceutical companies? I can guarantee they were not worried about losing customers in Africa because the people cannot afford their prices. They were worried about any kind of effort—regarding these drugs that could save people's lives—at making them more affordable might cut into their profits. That is what they are worried about.

This is a Fortune 500 report, of April 17, 2000. The annual Fortune 500 report on American business is out. Guess what. The pharmaceutical industry ranks first in profits. In the words of Fortune magazine—and I absolutely love this quote; I wish I made it up myself, but I can't plagiarize:

Whether you gauge profitability by median return or revenues, assets or equity, pharmaceuticals had a Viagra kind of year.

When the average Fortune 500 industry in the United States returned 5-percent profits as a percentage of revenue, the pharmaceutical industry returned 18.6 percent—the automobile industry, a pretty big industry, 3.5 percent; chemicals, 5.1 percent; airlines, 5.7 percent; telecommunications, 11.7 percent; pharmaceuticals, 18.6-percent profits.

I can anticipate the reaction of some: There goes that Senator from Minnesota, out there railing about profits.

The idea that this industry can make such excessive profit off the sickness, misery, illness, and, in the case of Africa with this amendment, death of people, is obscene. I say to this industry: You may have had Viagra profits, but you are making your profits off the sickness, misery, illness, and death of people. And it is obscene. You got your greedy paws into this conference committee. You were able to use all of the money you contribute to the Congress and all of the political power you have and you were able to get this amendment out, take it out. The result of that is many people—millions of people—will die.

For a while, the administration was involved in this. I am not proud of that. They were pushing hard, putting pressure on these governments. This amendment says you can't use any government money for any of this kind of lobbying, to try to prevent a government, which legally is trying to do what it can do to make sure these drugs are more affordable.

That is what this amendment said. It got taken out of conference committee. Can anyone imagine that happening? The Fortune 500 report stated: "Viagra kind of year."

I am honored to support my two colleagues. Statistics show 23 million people in Africa are infected with the AIDS virus. By the way, I do not believe that it is pandering or appealing to some special interest for me to be speaking about a disease that infects more than 15,000 young people every day. I am not appealing to any special interest. I am representing values of Minnesotans. I am representing the values of the American people—which, obviously, were not the values of some people in this conference committee which took this amendment out.

I oppose this bill for that reason alone. I have some other reasons for speaking in opposition to this bill. I think what has happened is absolutely egregious. I would like to say to the pharmaceutical companies: Your days of being able to do this are over. I am not sure that is the case, but people in the country are getting sick of you. They are really getting tired of these companies. They are similar to a cartel. They charge excessive prices, they gouge Americans, they do everything they can to make sure other countries with large numbers of poor people, that the governments cannot do what they

are legally entitled to do to get the drugs to people and to make them affordable. It is absolutely unbelievable.

The economic question and the political question is, Does this Congress belong to people in the country or does it belong to people in the pharmaceutical industry? The answer on the basis of what happened to this amendment is it belongs to the pharmaceutical industry. In other words, the pharmaceutical industry has great representation here in Washington. It is the rest of the people who do not. This is a real reform issue. This is about people who are dying in Africa. It is also, when we get into this debate about pharmaceutical coverage for people in our country, people who all too often in our country can die—not anywhere near the same magnitude. I think of senior citizens in my State who spend \$300, \$400, \$500, \$600 a month for drugs they cannot afford. And this industry makes not a profit—great, make profits, but do not make obscene profits off of the sickness, misery, and death of people.

We are going to be out here today speaking about this over and over and over again. I do not think the pharmaceutical companies will like it. I would not. I doubt whether any Senator is going to come out here to defend them. I do not even know whether anybody in the conference committee would speak out. Let's have dueling press conferences today. Let's have different press conferences. The people who took out this amendment ought to speak publicly about why they did it.

Part B: This legislation, I know, is called the African Growth and Opportunity Act—I heard both my colleagues speak—and enhanced Caribbean Basin Initiative. But I will say this one more time. Every attempt that we made with this legislation to make sure these benefits would trickle down to the people was defeated. I think the message of this trade bill to African and Caribbean countries is a double message. Here is what it boils down to. For people in the United States, this is the message: If you should dare to try to organize, join a union, and bargain collectively to get a better wage, to get more civilized working conditions, to try to get health care coverage for your children, we are gone. We are on our way to these other countries because we can pay, as Wal-Mart is paying, 14 cents an hour in China. We can pay 14 cents an hour; we are gone.

In this trade bill to African and Caribbean countries, the message is, if you should dare to have even child labor standards, much less basic human rights standards, much less the right of people to organize and join a union to fight for themselves, then you do not get our investment. That is what this trade bill says.

So this is not a question of the first trade bill since NAFTA or are we internationalists or are we not? We had a bill—Congressman JESSE JACKSON, JR. on the House side, Senator FEINGOLD

on the Senate side—that expanded Africa's access to U.S. markets, but it also included labor rights and genuine debt relief. That is really important. We had jubilee. We had people here in Washington. When you look at sub-Saharan Africa, about a quarter of its export earnings are lost to its never-ending foreign debt service. If you really want to talk about what we need to help these countries, there you have it.

We had an alternative bill. I do not think it was ever voted on in the House.

This is not about whether or not you are an internationalist or isolationist. My father was born in Ukraine. He lived in Russia. He fled persecution in 1914. He never was able to see his family again. His family was, in all likelihood, murdered by Stalin. I grew up as an internationalist. I have said on the floor of the Senate—I get to say it once; I will not go on and on about this—it is a story that means something to me. He was almost 50 when I was born, and he was old country and he was an embarrassment because he did not fit in with my friends' parents. He just wasn't cool. But when I got to be high school age, I realized what a treasure he was. He spoke ten languages fluently and I miss him dearly. He was a very wise person—profound.

So Sunday through Thursday night at 10 o'clock, we would meet in the kitchen and we would have hot tea and sponge cake and he would talk about the world. I am "not an internationalist." I am not going to let anybody put that label on me.

The question is what kind of trade, under what kind of terms? Who decides who benefits and who is asked to sacrifice? Those are the questions that are before us.

Every time I go to some of these trade meetings and I hear the ministers from some of the developing countries say: Those of you, Senator WELLSTONE, who are opposed to these trade bills, you are in opposition to the poor—I always look for the poor there. I never see the poor there. I see trade ministers; I see the elites; but I don't see the poor.

But then, luckily, since I get a chance to work with the human rights community, I get to either meet with or hear about the poor and the citizens in these countries, ordinary people who are trying to get better wages, who are trying not to work with chemicals that are going to kill them, who are trying to do something about child labor conditions, who are trying to do something about the poisoning of their environment, who want to have jobs with dignity and who get thrown in jail for trying to change their lives for the better. They tell me that all this discussion about the poor and how great this is for the poor in these countries is a bit disingenuous, as they see it.

My colleagues can have a different point of view, and do—many, most, the vast majority.

My last point is this: I don't think I am going to do justice to this. But I

saw an interesting piece in American Prospect that Bob Reich wrote, our former Secretary of Labor, that many of us might actually consider as a middle ground. Basically his argument went as such.

He said, assume for a moment, PAUL, even if you don't want to—he didn't use my name, but I felt like he was speaking to me—even if you don't want to agree, just assume for the moment the position of those who make the argument, "Like it or not, this really will lead to economic growth for these countries, and this is a better chance for people than they have right now." Then consider your own position, which I have tried to lay out today.

He was saying, why not have some kind of framework that says when you have such bills, they pass, and the proponents say they will lead to economic growth and more opportunities, then what you would do would be to have a commitment, a priori, beforehand, commensurate with that growth and more opportunities and the country is doing better, minimum wage is going up and labor standards then put into effect.

I think it is an interesting idea. Maybe that will be a middle ground eventually where some of us can come together. But right now there is no middle ground to this. I will say it one more time. I know this bill is called an opportunity act and all the rest, but I think that is the message to this legislation—not the bill that Representative JACKSON and Senator FEINGOLD introduced—to people in this country. You can't blame ordinary citizens. The polls show pretty conclusively that people with incomes under \$60,000 or thereabouts are more than a little bit suspicious of these agreements. They do not think they are going to be in their best interests. They think they are going to be great for the big multinational companies but not them. You cannot lay blame on them for thinking that way because the message of this bill is, again, if you try to organize, try to join a union, try to fight for higher wages, these countries will go to Africa, Mexico, wherever, where they do not have to go by any of this. Goodbye.

Then the message to the people in these countries in this legislation is: Governments, people in these countries, don't you dare join a union. Don't you dare fight for your family. Don't you dare try to get better wages. Don't you dare try to abolish these abominable, exploitative child-labor conditions. Don't you do any of that because if you do, you will not get our investment. That is the message of this legislation.

I have spoken about the amendment that was deleted. I believe what happened in the conference committee is atrocious, and I have laid out the basis of my opposition to this legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURNS). Under the previous order, the Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Minnesota for his spirited comments and also for his support of having two Capitol Police officers at each entry. I want him to know, as the ranking member on the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee, I am fully supportive of that request. I believe the chairman, Senator BENNETT, is as well.

Because he approached me with a big smile and I very much like it when the Senator from Texas smiles rather than frowns, I ask unanimous consent to amend my unanimous consent agreement to permit him to speak for 4 minutes and that I retain my right to the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, first, I thank our wonderful colleague from California for doing such a sweet thing. She is going to speak for some time. I know it would help educate me to stay and hear it, but like so many other people, I am too busy and I want to say a few things.

First of all, I congratulate the President for proposing the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act. The President recognized wisely that even if we took all the aid provided by every country in the world and gave it to sub-Saharan Africa, obviously we could have a short-term impact on them, but the long-term impact would be small when compared to the impact we can have through trade.

This bill is an opportunity for us to open up our markets for goods from some of the poorest countries in the world. I know there are some who say that even though this will mean clothing will be cheaper for American consumers, for working and low-income Americans, somehow there is a sacrifice involved. I fail to see it. I see everybody benefiting from trade. Desperately poor people in Africa will have an opportunity to produce products that can be sold in America, and we can raise their living standards and our own through the miracle of world trade.

This is not a perfect bill. I wish it were less protectionist. One provision in the bill requires that in order for textiles from sub-Saharan Africa to come into the country, they have to be made out of American yarn and American thread. That provision is going to reduce their competitiveness, but I appreciate the fact that the conference put in an exception for the 41 countries that have per capita incomes of below \$1,500 a year.

So the bill is not perfect, but it is a movement in the right direction, and I strongly support it.

It is important for us to promote world trade. I know our colleague who spoke before me believes that trade only helps rich people and big companies, but I believe trade helps working people. It creates jobs. It creates opportunity. It expands freedom. That is

why I am so strongly in support of this bill.

I thank the Finance Committee for working out a compromise that will mean more trade, that will mean more products. I have to say I do not understand how, with a straight face, the textile industry was so adamantly opposed to this bill. If we unleashed all of the energies of sub-Saharan Africa and all of their productive capacity and had them produce textiles to sell in America, they would still have no substantial impact on our market.

I do not understand why we continue to let special interests in America direct our Government to limit our ability to buy goods that would raise the living standards of working Americans. It is outrageous and unfair, and it is important that we stand up against these protectionist forces. Who gives the American textile industry the right to say that, as a free person, I cannot buy a better shirt or a cheaper shirt produced somewhere else in the world? How is America diminished by it? I say it is not. My freedom is diminished by such forces.

We have a mixture of protectionism and trade in this bill. But, overall, it is a movement in the right direction, and I am in favor of it. When the Multifiber Agreement is implemented, we will open up trade in textiles. As late as 5 years ago, the average American family paid \$700 more a year for clothing because of textile protection in America than they would with free trade. This is a small step in the right direction. I rejoice in it, and I support it.

I thank the Senator from California for yielding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I notice that the distinguished Senator from Alabama is on the floor. So I ask unanimous consent to yield to him, and then to have the floor returned to me when he concludes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VISIT TO THE SENATE BY A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF MEXICO

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to present to the Senate today Alfredo Phillips, who is a member of the Congress of the Nation of Mexico. I have gotten to know him in 3 years now at the interparliamentary conference between the United States and Mexico. We have had 39 years of interparliamentary conferences between our two nations. He has an extraordinary history in banking.

He was Director of the North American Development Bank, which is part of the NAFTA agreement. He has been Executive Director of the International Money Fund for 4 years. He is General Coordinator of International Affairs of the PRI. That is his title now. He was Mexico's Ambassador to Canada, Am-

bassador to Japan, and chairs the Foreign Relations Commission for the Congress of Mexico.

He got his degree in humanities from the University of Mexico and his degree in economics from the University of London. He studied at George Washington University. His wife Maureen is a wonderful lady who my wife Mary and I have had the pleasure to meet. His son Alfredo is in an economics section of the Mexican Embassy here in the United States.

Mr. President, it is my pleasure to introduce Mr. Alfredo Phillips to this body. He is known to many of our Senators and Congressmen.

RECESS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess for 3 minutes, before Senator FEINSTEIN takes the floor again, in order for the Senate to greet our guest.

There being no objection, at 11:57 a.m., the Senate recessed until 12:03 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BURNS).

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2000—CONFERENCE REPORT—Continued

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when Senator FEINSTEIN has finished speaking, Senator FEINGOLD be able to consume his time for debate on this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to address the conference report on the African Growth and Opportunity Act and to express my deep disappointment that the conference decided to strip out of the report the amendment which has been spoken about on this floor which addresses HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. This is an amendment I offered with the Senator from Wisconsin, Mr. FEINGOLD.

This amendment was accepted by the Senate, and it was intended to provide African countries experiencing an HIV/AIDS crisis with the ability to institute measures consistent with the World Trade Organization intellectual property rules that are designed to ensure the distribution of pharmaceuticals and medical technology to afflicted populations.

We offered this amendment because we believed the act inadvertently threatened to undermine the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa. Our amendment was a simple, common-sense approach consistent with international law to fix this oversight. I believe the action of the conference in stripping this amendment was unconscionable. I found it especially disappointing because my office and staff had been working with the chairman of

the Finance Committee, Mr. ROTH, to develop compromise language that met our concerns and would be acceptable to the conference.

Chairman ROTH negotiated in good faith, and he and the other Senate conferees—Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. BAUCUS—wanted to do the right thing. Unfortunately, as I understand it, because of the way in which the House and Senate Republican leadership dealt with this conference, the majority leader and the Speaker, as I have been told, decided my amendment was to be eliminated and presented a take-it-or-leave-it offer to the conferees. The conference was never really even given a chance to address this issue.

Perhaps they did not understand the full impact of what is happening in Africa, and in these remarks I hope to make both the extent and the nature of the AIDS crisis better known. I say this as someone who supports the legislation. I voted in favor of it. I believe the underlying principles of this legislation—opening up new possibilities for economic engagement and trade between the United States and the countries of sub-Saharan Africa—are good ones. I know the countries of this region want to receive the benefits of the bill which will assist their economic development and promote democracy in the region.

I said in earlier remarks the problem is that the way things are going, there will not be an Africa left for this bill to help. I think people underestimate the impact of that statement. What I hope to do in these remarks is talk about the scope of the problem, give specific country reports, talk about the economic, social, and political impact of HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, the need for affordable access to pharmaceuticals, what compulsory licensing and parallel importing is, and why the Feinstein-Feingold amendment is necessary.

I want to talk about drug companies' revenues from these drugs and what else is to be done.

But before I do so, I acknowledge the fact that this morning the White House has signed an Executive order to carry out the provisions of the Feinstein-Feingold amendment.

At this point, I will read into the RECORD the following letter, dated May 10:

I am pleased to inform you that today I will sign an Executive Order that is intended to help make HIV/AIDS-related drugs and medical technologies more accessible and affordable in beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries. The Executive Order, which is based in large part on your work in connection with the proposed Trade and Development Act of 2000, formalizes U.S. government policy in this area. It also directs other steps to be taken to address the spread of HIV and AIDS in Africa, one of the worse health crises the world faces.

As you know, the worldwide HIV/AIDS epidemic has taken a terrible toll in terms of human suffering. Nowhere has the suffering been as great as in Africa, where over 5,500