

from California (Mr. LANTOS), for bringing this matter to the floor. I am deeply honored to join my colleagues in support of this bipartisan legislation.

Madam Speaker, the World Health Organization is the preeminent international health organization in the world. In its charter, the World Health Organization sets forth the crucial objectives of attaining the highest possible level of health care for all people. Yet today the 23 million citizens of the Republic of China on Taiwan are still denied appropriate and meaningful participation in the international health forums and programs conducted by the World Health Organization. This is simply wrong and inexcusable and must be corrected.

Access to the World Health Organization ensures that the highest standards of health, information and services are provided, facilitating the eradication of disease and improvement of public health worldwide. The work of the World Health Organization is particularly crucial today given the tremendous volume of international travel which has heightened the transmission of communicable diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, between borders.

With over some 190 countries participating in the World Health Organization, it is a travesty that Taiwan is not permitted to receive World Health Organization benefits, especially when you consider Taiwan's 23 million citizens outnumber the population of three-fourths of WHO's member states. This lack of access to WHO protections has caused the good people of Taiwan to suffer needlessly, such as in 1998 when a deadly, yet preventable, virus killed 70 Taiwanese children and infected more than 1,100 others.

Madam Speaker, there is no good nor valid reason why Taiwan should be denied at least observer status with the World Health Organization. As a strong democracy and one of the world's most robust economies, Taiwan rightfully should participate in the health services and medical protections offered by the WHO. Conversely, the World Health Organization stands to benefit significantly from the financial and technological contributions that Taiwan has offered many times in the past. This is particularly relevant at a time when the WHO's resources shall be severely stretched to address the health crisis in a rebuilding Afghanistan.

Madam Speaker, Congress has spoken out forcefully on this issue before and we should stop the foot dragging. This legislation before us mandates that the administration should develop and submit a detailed plan of action to achieve this goal, observer status for Taiwan at the May 2002 World Health Organization summit. I urge my colleagues to adopt this worthy legislation.

Madam Speaker, Taiwan a couple of weeks ago was just admitted as a member of the World Trade Organization and rightly so given the fact that Taiwan is one of the leading economic

powers in the Asia-Pacific region and certainly with our own country. I am certain Taiwan will also contribute substantially in terms of funding projects and supporting scientific and health-related programs that are sponsored by the World Health Organization.

Just last week we were privileged to visit with the Secretary General of the Democratic Party of Taiwan as well as the chairperson of the Taiwan Mainland Council. Both leaders demonstrated a keen understanding of the issues affecting the Asia-Pacific region and more importantly a demonstration of how democracy has advanced in the course of the past 10 years in this country.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker. I rise to voice my strong support for H.R. 2793, amending Public Law 107-10 to require a United States plan to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual summit of the World Health Assembly in May 2002. WHO has previously allowed observers to participate in its past activities, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Order of Malta, and the Holy See.

As a founding member of the WHO, the Republic of China (Taiwan) had participated for 24 years as a full member in WHO's programs and activities, and made great contributions to the fulfillment of the organization's objectives. Upon the admission of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to the UN, Taiwan was forced to depart from the WHO in 1972. Taiwan, with a population of more than 23 million and more people than 75 percent of the member states in the WHO, has been denied access to the WHO.

Over the years, Taiwan has offered its resources, scientists, and health practitioners to people in need around the world. Taiwan's absence from the WHO system has become a missing link in the global framework of health and medical care. It is long overdue that the world unties Taiwan's hands so that the world may benefit by its Resources and Special talents.

Accordingly, I strongly urge support for H.R. 2739, providing observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization.

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2739, which would require the United States to take positive steps to ensure that Taiwan is afforded an opportunity to participate in the World Health Assembly in May 2002.

Taiwan, with its population of 23.5 million people, is a leader in its region in public health, surpassing its Asian neighbors in life expectancy and maintaining maternal and infant mortality rates comparable to those in western countries. They have participated in medical and humanitarian ventures, helping the people of El Salvador when they were devastated by an earthquake in January. Furthermore, the Taiwanese public health agency has demonstrated an interest in collaborating with its counterparts in other nations, including the United States' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, on a wide range of public health issues. Taiwan has much to contribute to the global community and it should not be arbitrarily precluded from participating in the annual health assembly.

Earlier this year, the Congress passed legislation calling on the United States Government to take affirmative action to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual World Health Organization summit in Geneva, Switzerland. Taiwan is already a member of international bodies, such as the Asian Development Bank and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). Observer status at the World Health Organization is a logical next step. And, such observer status is not unusual, having been granted for the PLO, the Order of Malta and the Holy See in the past.

I am pleased that the President and Administration officials have voiced their support for Taiwan's participation in the activities of the World Health Organization. I encourage my colleagues to again show their strong support for this proposal and to support this legislation today.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2739, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend Public Law 107-10 to authorize a United States plan to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual summit of the World Health Assembly in May 2002 in Geneva, Switzerland, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MAKING PERMANENT THE AUTHORITY TO REDACT FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS OF JUDICIAL EMPLOYEES AND JUDICIAL OFFICERS

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 2336) to make permanent the authority to redact financial disclosure statements of judicial employees and judicial officers.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF SUNSET PROVISION.

Section 105(b)(3)(E) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by striking "2001" each place it appears and inserting "2005".

Amend the title so as to read: "An Act to extend for 4 years, through December 31, 2005, the authority to redact financial disclosure statements of judicial employees and judicial officers."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2336, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I have a lengthier statement which I will put in the RECORD, but in the interest of time let me explain the bill and the Senate amendment. Section 7 of the Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act of 1998 allows the Judicial Conference to redact portions of financial disclosure statements for judges and other judicial officers and employees where the Judicial Conference makes a determination that public disclosure will jeopardize the safety of the judge, the judge's family, or the judicial officer or the judicial officer's family. This provision sunsets on December 31, 2001, in the absence of further legislative action. The House passed this legislation with a permanent extension of the redaction authority. The other body amended the House bill for a 4-year sunset. So with the 4-year sunset, the redaction authority would once again expire on December 31, 2005. I believe that it is a legitimate compromise. It allows the Congress in 4 years to review whether these redactions have been done in a manner that preserves the thrust of public disclosure without jeopardizing the lives and safety of judges and their families; and thus I would urge concurrence in the Senate amendment.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1730

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise to join the distinguished chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary in supporting House passage of H.R. 2336, as amended by the Senate. This bill allows a Federal judge to request redaction of her financial disclosure forms, but only if redaction is necessary to protect the judge against an identified security threat. Such authority exists under current law, but sunsets on December 31.

The September 11 tragedy and events thereafter heighten the security concerns that make this legislation necessary. On October 16, the House passed a slightly different version of H.R. 2336 under suspension of the rules. The House-passed version permanently extended the ability of judges to request redaction of their financial disclosure reports. The Senate version on which we vote today extends the redaction

authority for only 4 years. While I continue to believe permanent extension would be preferable, the looming December 31 sunset of the redaction authority makes it imperative that we move quickly to enact the Senate amendment.

This redaction authority is appropriately limited, and, thus, does not raise concerns about undo restrictions on public access to financial disclosure reports. A judge's report may only be redacted if the Judicial Conference and the U.S. Marshals Service find that revealing personal and sensitive information could endanger that judge. Furthermore, the report can only be redacted to the extent necessary to protect a judge and only for as long as a danger exists.

It does not appear that the redaction authority has been abused to date. Of 2,350 judges filing reports in calendar year 2000, only 6 percent had their reports redacted, wholly or partially. Typically the information redacted is limited to such things as a spouse's place of work, the location of a judge's second home, or the school at which a judge teaches law. It is obvious how a person with ill will could misuse this information to harm a judge or her family.

The law requires that the Judicial Conference, in concert with the Department of Justice, file an annual report detailing the number and circumstances of redactions. This statutory reporting requirement enables Congress to monitor for any abuse of the redaction authority.

I think enactment of H.R. 2336 is necessary to protect the security of our Nation's judges, and I urge my colleagues to vote for it.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 2336.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

ENHANCED BORDER SECURITY AND VISA ENTRY REFORM ACT OF 2001

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules

and pass the bill (H.R. 3525) to enhance the border security of the United States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3525

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2001".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—FUNDING

Sec. 101. Authorization of appropriations for hiring and training Government personnel.

Sec. 102. Authorization of appropriations for improvements in technology and infrastructure.

Sec. 103. Machine-readable visa fees.

TITLE II—INTERAGENCY INFORMATION SHARING

Sec. 201. Interim measures for access to and coordination of law enforcement and other information.

Sec. 202. Interoperable law enforcement and intelligence data system with name-matching capacity and training.

Sec. 203. Commission on interoperable data sharing.

TITLE III—VISA ISSUANCE

Sec. 301. Electronic provision of visa files.

Sec. 302. Implementation of an integrated entry and exit data system.

Sec. 303. Machine-readable, tamper-resistant entry and exit documents.

Sec. 304. Terrorist lookout committees.

Sec. 305. Improved training for consular officers.

Sec. 306. Restriction on issuance of visas to nonimmigrants who are from countries that are state sponsors of international terrorism.

Sec. 307. Designation of program countries under the Visa Waiver Program.

Sec. 308. Tracking system for stolen passports.

Sec. 309. Identification documents for certain newly admitted aliens.

TITLE IV—ADMISSION AND INSPECTION OF ALIENS

Sec. 401. Study of the feasibility of a North American National Security Program.

Sec. 402. Passenger manifests.

Sec. 405. Time period for inspections.

TITLE V—FOREIGN STUDENTS AND EXCHANGE VISITORS

Sec. 501. Foreign student monitoring program.

Sec. 502. Review of institutions and other entities authorized to enroll or sponsor certain nonimmigrants.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
Sec. 601. Extension of deadline for improvement in border crossing identification cards.

Sec. 602. General Accounting Office study.

Sec. 603. International cooperation.

Sec. 604. Statutory construction.

Sec. 605. Report on aliens who fail to appear after release on own recognition.

Sec. 606. Retention of nonimmigrant visa applications by the Department of State.