

other developed countries to provide assistance to sub-Saharan Africa and other developing countries, with respect to activities supported in connection with health programs, to control the HIV/AIDS pandemic through HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, monitoring and related activities, particularly focused on women and youth—including mother-to-child transmission prevention strategies.

I urge my colleagues to support this important and badly need bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2069, the Global Access to HIV/AIDS Prevention, Awareness, Education and Treatment Act of 2001. This bill authorizes assistance to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic in countries in sub-Saharan Africa and other developing countries. This pandemic is more than an international public health issue, but also a humanitarian, national security, and development crisis.

Sub-Saharan Africa has been the hardest hit region and has been disproportionately affected by the deadly disease. Only 10 percent of the world's population live south of the Sahara, but the region is home to two-thirds of the world's HIV-positive suffering people, accounting for more than 80 percent of all AIDS deaths. In fact, Botswana has an estimated infection rate of 36 percent the highest in the world. Zimbabwe's infection rate is 25 percent, and South Africa's infection rate is 20 percent.

Today, forty million people around the world live with and suffer from HIV/AIDS. Twenty-eight million of them live in the Sub-Saharan African region alone. On the continent of Africa, there are an estimated 11,000 new infections per day, and by the end of this year, approximately 2.3 million Africans will have died from HIV infection.

AIDS does not discriminate against color, and regrettably, it does not discriminate against age. In Africa, 3.8 million children under the age of 15 have died since the beginning of the epidemic 20 years ago. Throughout Africa, 6 out of 7 children who are HIV positive are little girls. Many children are also being orphaned by HIV; losing their mothers or both parents to AIDS. So far, the AIDS pandemic has left behind 13 million orphans, of whom 9 percent currently live in Africa. By 2010, if we do nothing, an estimated 40 million children will be orphaned by this tragic disease. These numbers will lead to the absolute decay of many African societies. As a consequence to losing their parents, children are drawn into prostitution, crime, substance abuse, and child soldiering, and to the kind of destitution unbelievable to most Americans.

Madam Speaker, I traveled to the South African region in 1999 and in July of this year, and what I witnessed was unbelievable! It was a life-altering event to see and meet with the people infected by this deadly virus. But what affected me the most was witnessing the thousands of orphaned children whose parents had died from AIDS.

On November 28, the Global Health Alliance released a report entitled "Pay Now or Pay More Later: An Independent Report on the Response to the Global HIV/AIDS Pandemic". The following day, the African Ambassadors Group and International AIDS Trust sponsored a briefing on Refocusing and Reaffirming our Commitment to AIDS". This is clearly a global issue and it is everyone's problem. The key to fighting this virus must involve a comprehen-

sive approach that includes prevention, education, and support of a health care infrastructure. H.R. 2069 prescribes such an approach. H.R. 2069 also authorizes funds to improve orphan care, encourage hospice and palliative care, strengthen existing health care systems, and to procure medicines and anti-viral therapies to treat the disease. HIV prevention efforts must take into account social and economic factors, such as poverty, underemployment, and poor access to health care, all of which disproportionately affects African societies.

As Members of Congress, we must continue to fight the struggle and persist in obtaining increased funding for the global AIDS response. This is one of the great challenges of our time and of this generation. H.R. 2069 gives us the tools to help overcome this challenge and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. HYDE. 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 Illinois (Mr. HYDE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2069, 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 was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Global AIDS and Tuberculosis Relief Act of 2000 to authorize assistance to prevent, treat, and monitor HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan African and other developing countries."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORT FOR TENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 58) expressing support for the tenth annual meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. CON. RES. 58

Whereas the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum was founded by former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone in 1993;

Whereas the Tokyo Declaration, signed by 59 parliamentarians from 15 countries, entered into force as the founding charter of the forum on January 14 and 15, 1993, establishing the basic structure of the forum as an interparliamentary organization;

Whereas the original 15 members, one of which was the United States, have increased to 27 member countries;

Whereas the forum serves to promote regional identification and cooperation through discussion of matters of common concern to all member states and serves, to a great extent, as the legislative arm of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation;

Whereas the focus of the forum lies in resolving political, economic, environmental, security, law and order, human rights, education, and cultural issues;

Whereas the forum will hold its tenth annual meeting on January 6 through 9, 2002, which will be the first meeting of the forum hosted by the United States;

Whereas approximately 270 parliamentarians from 27 countries in the Asia Pacific region will attend this meeting;

Whereas the Secretariat of the meeting will be the Center for Cultural and Technical Exchange Between East and West in Honolulu, Hawaii;

Whereas the East-West Center is an internationally recognized education and research organization established by the United States Congress in 1960 largely through the efforts of the Eisenhower administration and the Congress;

Whereas it is the mission of the East-West Center to strengthen understanding and relations between the United States and the countries of the Asia Pacific region and to help promote the establishment of a stable, peaceful and prosperous Asia Pacific community in which the United States is a natural, valued, and leading partner; and

Whereas it is the agenda of this meeting to advance democracy, peace, and prosperity in the Asia Pacific region: Now, therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress—

(1) expresses support for the tenth annual meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum and for the ideals and concerns of this body;

(2) commends the East-West Center for hosting the meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum and the representatives of the 27 member countries; and

(3) calls upon all parties to support the endeavors of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum and to work toward achieving the goals of the meeting.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. 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 the Senate concurrent resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON), who is the sponsor of this legislation; and he has been the leading force in the House participation in the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Madam Speaker, I would like to talk very briefly on Senate Concurrent Resolution 58, which really supports the tenth annual meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum.

Madam Speaker, this is a forum, I think it is important to know, that was organized by parliamentarians in the Pacific Rim, including about 27 different nations. The reason we are part of it is because of California, Oregon,

Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii. It was started by former Prime Minister Nakasone of Japan, and also Senator William Roth, who worked very, very closely together; and it is loosely modeled on the APEC forum.

The forum is hosted in a different country every year, and we have been to Australia and Chile and Japan and Canada and many other nations. This is the first year that this forum will be held in the United States, and we are hoping that this resolution will pass in order to authenticate that.

It starts on January 6 and it goes through January 9. We will meet in Honolulu. Senator AKAKA, who is the Senate co-chair, had introduced this resolution in the Senate earlier.

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It is really going to be hosted by the East-West Center which is headed by a group out in Honolulu. Dr. Charles Morrison has a great program, and he has worked very hard, and we are going to be discussing issues, I think, that are important for all of us: terrorism, the economy, the environmental issues, defense cooperation, cultural ties and things like that.

Also, we are delighted that the Speaker, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), will speak at the forum's opening ceremony. We have had participation from many distinguished people, including the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), and we hope to have others out there.

Essentially this bill, Madam Speaker, expresses support for this meeting, our hosting of the meeting and commends the East-West Center for their hosting and also hopes that other people will join us in the process.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

I rise in strong support of S. Con. Res. 58. I want to thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) for bringing this legislation to the floor, but I particularly want to express my appreciation to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON), my dear friend, our distinguished colleague, for having provided extraordinary leadership on this and on so many other issues that our Committee on International Relations deals with.

I also want to recognize the contribution of my good friend, Senator AKAKA of Hawaii, for his co-chairmanship of this important conference. The resolution before us today expresses the support of our Members for the 10th annual meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum to be held next January in Honolulu. It also commends the East-West Center, an outstanding academic institution, for hosting the meeting and for supporting the endeavors of the forum.

Madam Speaker, we are fortunate as a Nation to have our bright and talented foreign service personnel working overtime to promote our interests

throughout the Asia Pacific region. Our diplomats have many opportunities to meet with their colleagues and to develop positive solutions to the challenges we face in the Pacific area.

Until the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum was founded a decade ago, there were few opportunities for the region's parliamentarians to meet as a group to discuss key foreign policy and economic matters. The forum has tackled such critical issues as terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, cross boundary environmental pollution, human rights and the need to combat corruption in the region.

The upcoming meeting will tackle these important issues, and hopefully, they will contribute to a partial resolution of many of these matters. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. Con. Res. 58.

The distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) has explained the purpose of this legislation, and I want to commend him not only for the legislation but, as I mentioned earlier, for his leadership for the U.S. House of Representatives in our participation in the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum. He, along with the former distinguished senior Senator from Delaware, William Roth, provided that initial leadership and continue today through the work of the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON). And, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) has also been a very important participant, as have Senator AKAKA and others. It was my pleasure to participate in the meeting in Seoul.

This forum, which is really the creation in some ways of the former Prime Minister Nakasone of Japan, has provided an important opportunity for the parliamentarians of the Asia Pacific region to address a whole range of important National mutual interests and concerns. To some extent it also has served as a legislative arm for APEC, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation organization, since the forum's inception almost a decade ago.

The fact is that its 10th annual meeting will take place at the East-West Center, as the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) mentioned. The East-West Center is a distinguished research and academic institution that is our creation here in the Congress. A meeting of the forum on U.S. soil for its first time is an honor not only for the State of Hawaii, but for the United States.

The parliamentary cooperation and consultation with key Pacific and

Asian countries, has become more critical today as a result of the tragic events of September 11th. I urge Madam Speaker, all Members to express their unqualified support for this resolution, and I encourage interested Members to participate in the upcoming meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary tours at upcoming meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Tours at the East-West Center.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield as much time as he might consume to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA), my dear friend and distinguished colleague, the ranking Democratic member of the Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 58, a measure which expresses Congress' support for the 10th annual meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentarian Forum which shall be hosted by the East-West Center in Hawaii next month.

Madam Speaker, I deeply commend the distinguished Senator from Hawaii, Senator DANIEL AKAKA, for introducing and moving this important legislation. I also wish to recognize the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON), our distinguished colleague, who for the past 10 years, has provided leadership for the U.S. delegations participating in the meetings of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum.

As a member of the past U.S. delegation to the APPF, I can attest that it has been a distinct pleasure for me in working closely with the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) to represent U.S. interests. I further commend the House Committee on International Relations chairman, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), our ranking Democratic member, for their assistance and support in bringing this legislation in a timely fashion.

I also want to especially commend the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), not only as the manager of this legislation, my good friend, Mr. Bereuter, former chairman of the Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific, a subcommittee of the Committee on International Relations, who I believe, and my personal opinion, has been one of the primary moving forces for the past 10 years in his capacity as chairman of the Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific, and I certainly want to commend him for his outstanding leadership and service. In fact, he has been one of the primary forces in seeing that our country hosts the APPF conference now will be hosted next month in Hawaii.

I sincerely hope that our colleagues will not be intimidated by the press

which always seems to be the case whenever there are conferences and meetings to be held in Hawaii. The press always takes a negative way of thinking that all we are doing is getting suntan and enjoying the beach there in a warm climate. I would like to invite all of the members of press to see how much of an opportunity we get to enjoy the sun and warm weather in Hawaii besides having these important meetings with some 270 parliamentarians from some 27 Asia-Pacific countries.

Madam Speaker, since the founding of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum in 1993, its membership from the original 15 countries has now increased to some 27 members countries which includes the United States. This is a strong testament to the relevance and growing importance of the APPF as an institution where this January, over some 270 national parliamentarians from these Asia-Pacific governments shall meet to review and discuss pressing issues affecting the Asia-Pacific region as well as our own national interests.

In its deliberations, the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum has traditionally focussed in several areas, such as the promotion of peace, stability and security of the region through multilateral dialogue as embodied in the ASEAN Regional Forum; liberalizing trade and investment to spur increased growth and development in the Asia-Pacific economies; protecting the regions environment and resources of clean water and air and land against degradation; and fostering respect for human rights, enforcement for the rule of law, and the expansion of universal education throughout all Asia-Pacific nations.

Madam Speaker, as noted in the legislation, this year will mark the first time that the United States shall host the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum. On this auspicious occasion, I find it particularly appropriate and fitting that the internationally respected East-West Center shall be the Secretariat and the host for the APPF meeting.

As many of our colleagues know, the East-West Center was established by the Congress in 1960 to further the foreign policy interests of the United States and by promoting constructive relations and deeper understanding between the peoples and the leaders of the United States and our Asia-Pacific neighbors.

Madam Speaker, the East-West Center has done an outstanding job in this mission and today, over 47,000 government officials, scholars, businessmen, journalists and other professionals from throughout the Asia-Pacific and the United States are alumni of the East-West Centers programs of collaborative study and research. In fact, a number of the Center's graduates are now national leaders and parliamentarians, many of whom shall participate in the Asia-Pacific parliamentary forum.

I submit it is in our vital national interest that the United States continue to play a leading role in the fastest growing sector of the world, the Asia-Pacific region, where the U.S. conducts nearly \$500 billion in two-way trade and ensures regional peace and stability with over 100,000 deployed military personnel.

We can further that goal, Madam Speaker, by strong and active participation of the United States Congress in the upcoming meetings or conferences of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum.

Madam Speaker, in that regard, I urge the adoption of our colleagues of this important legislation before us.

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and 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 Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 58.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RUSSIAN DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2121) to make available funds under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to expand democracy, good governance, and anti-corruption programs in the Russian Federation in order to promote and strengthen democratic government and civil society in that country and to support independent media, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2121

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 "Russian Democracy Act of 2001".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the leadership of the Russian Federation has publicly committed itself to building—

(A) a society with democratic political institutions and practices, the observance of universally recognized standards of human rights, and religious and press freedom; and

(B) a market economy based on internationally accepted principles of transparency, accountability, and the rule of law.

(2) In order to facilitate this transition, the international community has provided multilateral and bilateral technical assistance, and the United States' contribution to these efforts has played an important role in developing new institutions built on demo-

cratic and liberal economic foundations and the rule of law.

(3)(A) Since 1992, United States Government democratic reform programs and public diplomacy programs, including training, small grants, and technical assistance to independent television, radio, and print media across the Russian Federation, have strengthened nongovernment-owned media, provided access to and training in the use of the Internet, brought nearly 40,000 Russian citizens to the United States, and have led to the establishment of over 65,000 nongovernmental organizations, thousands of vibrant independent media outlets, and numerous political parties.

(B) These efforts contributed to the substantially free and fair Russian parliamentary elections in 1995 and 1999 and Presidential elections in 1996 and 2000.

(4) The United States has assisted Russian efforts to replace its centrally planned, state-controlled economy with a market economy and helped create institutions and infrastructure for a market economy by encouraging the transparent privatization of state-owned enterprises. Approximately two-thirds of the Russian Federation's gross domestic product is now generated by the private sector.

(5)(A) The United States fostered grassroots entrepreneurship in the Russian Federation by focusing United States economic assistance on small- and medium-sized businesses and by providing training, consulting services, and small loans to more than 250,000 Russian entrepreneurs.

(B) There are now more than 900,000 small businesses in the Russian Federation, producing 12 to 15 percent of the gross domestic product of the Russian Federation.

(C) United States-funded programs help to fight corruption and financial crime, such as money laundering, by helping to—

(i) establish a commercial legal infrastructure;

(ii) develop an independent judiciary;

(iii) support the drafting of a new criminal code, civil code, and bankruptcy law;

(iv) develop a legal and regulatory framework for the Russian Federation's equivalent of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission;

(v) support Russian law schools;

(vi) create legal aid clinics; and

(vii) bolster law-related activities of non-governmental organizations.

(6) Because the capability of Russian democratic forces and the civil society to organize and defend democratic gains without international support is uncertain, and because the gradual integration of the Russian Federation into the global order of free-market, democratic nations will further enhance Russian cooperation with the United States on a wide-range of political, economic, and security issues, the success of democracy in Russia is in the national security interest of the United States, and the United States Government should develop a far-reaching and flexible strategy aimed at strengthening Russian society's support for democracy and a market economy, particularly by enhancing Russian democratic institutions and education, promoting the rule of law, and supporting Russia's independent media.

(7) Since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, the Russian Federation has stood with the United States and the civilized world in the struggle against terrorism and has cooperated in the war in Afghanistan by sharing intelligence and through other means.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to strengthen and advance institutions of democratic government and of a free and independent media and to sustain the development of an independent civil society in the