

Reineer, brother and sister Steve and Jodi, her husband Paul, and two sons Nick and Hunter.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today to join the loved ones of Lori A. Nimmerfroth in the mourning of her loss. She positively contributed to the betterment of her community, state, and nation. I would like to express my deepest condolences to her friends and family, and offer the recognition of this Body of Congress to the many impacts, both small and large that Lori made. While we will all miss her tremendously, all who knew her will be incalculably better off because she played a role in their lives.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CAPTIVE WILDLIFE SAFETY ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that represents a firm commitment to protect the safety of the American public and to protect the welfare of wild animals that are increasingly being maintained as pets. This legislation identifies and provides a solution to a growing national problem that must be addressed.

The bill, the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, would amend the Lacey Act and bar the interstate and foreign commerce of dangerous exotics, including lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, cougars, and bears, for use as pets. The legislation would not ban all private ownership of these prohibited species; rather, it would outlaw the commerce of these animals for use as pets.

The legislation specifically exempts zoos, circuses, and others that are currently regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act. Instead, the bill is specifically aimed at the unregulated and untrained individuals who are maintaining these wild animals as exotic pets.

According to best estimates, there are more than 5,000 tigers in captivity in the United States. There are perhaps more tigers in captivity than there are tigers in their native habitats throughout the range in Asia. While some tigers are held in zoological institutions, most of the animals are pets, kept in cages behind someone's home in a state that does not restrict private ownership of dangerous animals. And it's not just tigers: there is widespread private ownership of other dangerous animals, including lions, cougars, and bears. At a time when almost anything can be bought on the Internet, it is unsurprising that the animals can all be purchased through the more than 1,000 web sites that promote private ownership of wild animals.

Problems arise because most owners are ignorant of a wild animal's needs, and local veterinarians, sanctuaries, animal shelters, and local governments are ill equipped to meet the challenge of providing proper care. Wild animals, especially such large and uniquely powerful animals as lions and tigers, should be kept in captivity by professional zoological facilities. Only curators of these facilities have the knowledge and know-how to

meet the animals behavioral, physical, and nutritional needs.

People living near these animals are also in real danger. There is a laundry list of incidents of dangerous exotics seriously injuring and killing people. In Loxahatchee, Florida, in February, a 58-year-old woman was bitten in the head by a 750-pound pet Siberian-Bengal tiger mix. In Lexington, Texas, in October last year, a three-year-old boy was killed by his stepfather's pet tiger. Earlier that year in August, a pet lion bit a woman trying to feed peaches to some captive bears.

The Captive Wildlife Safety Act represents an emerging consensus on the need for comprehensive federal legislation to regulate what animals can be kept as pets.

A wide range of groups and institutions, for example, oppose the private ownership of carnivores. The U.S. Department of Agriculture states, "Large wild and exotic cats such as lions, tigers, cougars and leopards are dangerous animals."*** Because of these animals' potential to kill or severely injure both people and other animals, an untrained person should not keep them as pets. Doing so poses serious risks to family, friends, neighbors, and the general public. Even an animal that can be friendly and love can be very dangerous."

The American Veterinary Medical Association also "strongly opposes the keeping of wild carnivore species of animals as pets and believes that all commercial traffic of these animals for such purpose should be prohibited."

This bill is just one part of the solution to help protect people and exotic animals. States will continue to play a major role. I hope to see the grassroots effort directed at the state and local government level, to increase the number of states and counties that ban private ownership of dangerous exotic animals. Already, 12 states ban private possession of large exotic animals, while 7 states have partial bans.

The Captive Wildlife Safety Act is supported by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, The Humane Society of the United States, The Fund for Animals, and the International Fund for Animal Welfare. I also want to thank the actress Tippi Hedron for raising awareness of this issue on Capitol Hill. Tippi operates an animal sanctuary, and often has the sad and expensive task of rescuing these animals after their owners realize the lion or tiger is a safety risk and cannot be properly cared for.

I ask my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation, and I hope that the Resources Committee, on which I serve, will take up the legislation in an expeditious manner.

ALIEN CHILD ORGAN TRANSPLANT ACT OF 2002

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the "Alien Child Organ Transplant Act of 2002", a bill that would provide coverage under the Medicaid program for organ transplant procedures. Under my bill, children under 18 years of age who are currently residing in this country and develop a medical condition that requires an organ transplant would be able to receive Medicaid coverage for the procedure.

Many of my colleagues may not be aware of this, but current law does not allow legal permanent residents to receive Medicare coverage for a life-saving measure such as an organ transplant. And I am referring to legal permanent residents, that is, immigrants who are here legally.

Melannie Veliz is such an immigrant. Melannie has cystic fibrosis and the disease has left her with only marginal lung function. She is very ill and her lung capacity is about one-third of what it should be. In her delicate state, she is susceptible to bronchitis and infections. This means she has trouble, sometimes, playing. Sometimes, she can't go to school or be with her friends. She can rarely do the things that every child deserves. No matter where he or she was born.

Melannie, is an 11-year old student at Smith School in Aurora, Illinois. She lives with her parents, Christian and Johanna, and her younger brother. Melannie, who was born in Chile, traveled here with her family on visas, as required by the law. Unlike most immigrants who come to America seeking a better life, the Veliz family came to America not simply seeking a better life—but life. Life for Melannie.

The Veliz family came here looking for life-saving procedures that were not available in Chile. Unfortunately, although their entry into this country was completely within the law—the laws of this nation have kept Melannie from becoming healthy. I am referring to the current punitive laws and harsh rules which prohibit people, including children, from accessing key public services, including Medicaid, due simply to their immigration status.

Melannie's health can be improved and her life could be saved through a double lung transplant. The procedure is risky but can be done. Her dream of a better life is not being blocked by medical technology. No. Melannie's immediate dream was denied because she is not able to participate in the Medicaid program.

However, thanks to the initial enterprising spirit of Melannie's teacher, Maria López, her supporters were able to obtain significant donations to secure the operation. The goal at the time was \$309,000. This was before the hospital decided that the original estimates were inaccurate and that at least \$450,000 would be needed to ensure that Melannie would receive the necessary aftercare. But the human spirit never gives up. And nobody gave up in the quest to secure the needed funds. Fundraising efforts were so successful, thanks in no small measure to the direct involvement of the Cacique Foundation, that Melannie and her supporters have now secured more than the \$450,000 needed for the operation.

As a Member of Congress, I pledge to continue my fight in defense of the rights of immigrants specially those who, like Melannie, are very young and most vulnerable. I will continue to compel my colleagues to recognize that the harsh penalties that they impose on people because of their immigrant status can—and must—be overturned.

Not simply for the health of those kids who are affected by these laws, but for the health of our nation, so that we can truly live up to the standard of decency that we so often attribute to America.

Melannie has been fortunate enough to benefit from generous donors, but she has been a victim of the not-so-generous laws. She has

lost precious months having to raise this money and her health has deteriorated. But even with all the uncertainties of the delicate transplant operation that awaits her, Melannie is one of the lucky ones. She can now pay for her operation. Other immigrant children are not this lucky. And those who are not fortunate enough to have a teacher like Ms. López, a community like our Latino community and the support of a nation-wide network, may never have a chance to live.

The goal of this bill is quite simple: to save children's lives.

My bill seeks to give all children a chance, regardless of their country of origin. A fighting chance to live. Please join me in support of the "Alien Child Organ Transplant Act of 2002."

SIKHS OBSERVE ANNIVERSARY OF GOLDEN TEMPLE ATTACK

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to note a historic occasion that is being observed this week. In addition to our observance of D-Day, the day that Allied troops landed in Europe to begin the attack on Nazi Germany, this week marks the anniversary of India's military attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar and the brutal massacre of 20,000 Sikhs in June 1984. Recently, Sikhs from the East Coast gathered to commemorate this event in front of the Indian Embassy here in Washington. Similar events have been held or will be held in New York, London, and many other cities.

The Golden Temple attack was an attack on the seat of the Sikh religion. It forever put the lie to India's claim that it is secular and democratic. How can a democratic state launch a military attack on religious pilgrims gathered at the most sacred site of their religion? The Indian troops shot bullet holes through the Sikh holy scriptures, the Guru Granth Sahib, and took boys as young as eight years old out in the courtyard and shot them in cold blood. This set off a wave of repression against Sikhs that continues to this day.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to put the flyer from that event into the RECORD now. It contains a lot of important information about the Golden Temple attack that shows the tyranny just under the facade of Indian democracy.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT GENOCIDE AGAINST THE SIKH NATION CONTINUES TO THIS DAY

From June 3 to 6, 1984 the Indian Government launched a military attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the holiest of Sikh shrines and seat of the Sikh religion. This is the equivalent of attacking the Vatican or Mecca. 38 other Gurdwaras throughout Punjab Khalistan were simultaneously attacked. More than 20,000 Sikhs were killed in these attacks.

Desecration of the temple included shooting bullets into the Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy scripture, and destroying original Hukam Namas written by hand by the ten Sikh Gurus. Young Sikh boys ages 8 to 12 were taken outside and asked if they supported Khalistan, the independent Sikh homeland. When they responded "Bole So Nihal," a religious statement, they were shot to death in cold blood by the brutal Indian troops.

The Golden Temple attack launched an on-going campaign of genocide against Sikhs by the Indian government that continues to this day. Punjab, Khalistan, the Sikh homeland, has been turned into a killing field.

The Golden Temple attack made it clear that there is no place for Sikhs in India.

The Movement Against State Repression issued a report showing that India is holding at least 52,268 Sikh political prisoners, by their own admission, in illegal detention without charge or trial. Some of them have been held since 1984. Many prisoners continue to be held under the repressive, so-called "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act (TADA)," even though it expired in 1995. According to the report, in many cases, the police would file TADA cases against the same individual in different states "to make it impossible for them to muster evidence in their favor." It was also common practice for police to re-arrest TADA prisoners who had been released, often without filing new charges.

"In November 1994," the report states, "42 employees of the Pilibhit district jail and PAC were found guilty of clubbing to death 6 Sikh prisoners and seriously wounding 22 others. They were TADA prisoners. Uttar Pradesh later admitted the presence of around 5000 Sikh TADA prisoners." Over 50,000 Sikhs have been made to disappear since 1984.

Sikhs in Punjab, Khalistan formally declared independence on October 7, 1987, to be achieved through the Sikh tradition of Shantmai Morcha, or peaceful resistance. Sikhs ruled Punjab from 1765 to 1849 and were to receive sovereignty at the time that the British quit India.

While India seeks hegemony in South Asia, the atrocities continue.

India has openly tested nuclear weapons and deployed them in Punjab, weapons that can be used in case of nuclear war with Pakistan. These warheads put the lives of Sikhs at risk for Hindu Nationalist hegemony over South Asia. The Indian government is run by the BJP, the militant Hindu nationalist party in India, and is unfriendly to the United States. In May 1999, the Indian Express reported that Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes led a meeting with representatives from Cuba, Russia, China, Libya, Iraq, and other countries to build a security alliance "to stop the U.S."

In March 42 Members of the U.S. Congress from both parties wrote to President Bush asking him to help free tens of thousands of political prisoners.

India voted with Cuba, China, and other repressive states to kill a U.S. resolution against human-rights violations in China.

India is a terrorist state. According to published reports in India, the government planned the massacre in Gujarat (which killed over 5,000 people) in advance and they ordered the police to stand by and not to interfere to stop the massacre. Last year, a group of Indian soldiers was caught red-handed trying to set fire to a Gurdwara and some Sikh homes in a village in Kashmir.

According to the Hitavada newspaper, India paid the late Governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, \$1.5 billion to organize and support covert state terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir.

CONTINUING REPRESSION AGAINST SIKHS

Since 1984, India has engaged in a campaign of ethnic cleansing and murdered tens of thousands of Sikhs and secretly cremated them. The Indian Supreme Court described this campaign as "worse than a genocide."

The book Soft Target, written by two Canadian journalists, proves that India blew up its own airliner in 1985 to blame the Sikhs and justify more genocide. The Indian gov-

ernment paid over 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs, according to the U.S. State Department.

Indian police tortured and murdered the religious leader of the Sikhs, Gurdev Singh Kaunke, Jathedar of the Akal Takht. No one has been punished for this atrocity and the Punjab government refused to release its own commission's report on the Kaunke murder.

Human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khaira was kidnapped by the police on September 6, 1995, and murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. Rajiv Singh Randhawa, the only eyewitness to the police kidnapping of Jaswant Singh Khaira, was arrested in front of the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Sikhism's holiest shrine, while delivering a petition to the British Home Minister asking Britain to intervene for human rights in Punjab.

In March 2000, 35 Sikhs were massacred in Chithisinghpura in Kashmir by the Indian government.

Since Christmas 1998, India has carried out a campaign of repression against Christians in which churches have been burned, priests have been murdered, nuns have been raped, and schools and prayer halls have been attacked. On January 17, 2001, Christian leaders in India thanked Sikhs for saving them from Indian government persecution. Members of the Bajrang Dal, part of the pro-Fascist Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), the parent organization of the ruling BJP, burned missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons, ages 8 and 10, to death while they slept in their jeep. The RSS published a booklet last year on how to implicate Christians and other minorities in false criminal cases.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PAULINE GARCIA

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today with both sorrow and pride in the recognition of the extraordinary contributions of a compassionate woman. Pauline C. Garcia was a hard working woman who contributed selflessly to the moral and ethical improvement of Pueblo, Colorado. She was a beacon of inspiration for many in her workplace and spiritual community. In recognition of Pauline Garcia's efforts, it gives me great pleasure to honor the life and memory of one of the six recipients of the 2002 YWCA Anna Taussig Tribute To Women Award, rewarded to professional women who show outstanding levels of accomplishment and service to the community.

Pauline Garcia was a dedicated mother of eight, all of whom she inspired to recognize their goals and strive to achieve their dreams. After her children were grown, she received a degree in Early Childhood Education and worked for countless day care centers like Pueblo Head Start and The East Side ChildCare Center. She spent much of her free time volunteering for El Mesias Methodist Church as well as Bethel Methodist Church. Her work at El Mesias was so impressive that she was asked to come on board as Office Manager and helped coordinate daily operations for the Church.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to highlight the honesty, integrity, and valor of