

I commend Chairman BAKER on his leadership on this bill, with foresight he recognized loopholes in mutual fund regulation and even before the current scandals surfaced worked hard to implement significant reforms to clarify and codify rules on disclosure, improve transparency, and increase oversight capabilities. In the Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance and Government Sponsored Enterprises, where I serve as Vice-Chairman, Chairman BAKER has held a number of hearings to examine this issue in a deliberate and methodical manner, and I thank him for his dedication to this issue.

I would also like to recognize the leadership Chairman OXLEY has demonstrated in bringing this bill to the floor today. His manager's amendment strengthen the existing bill and in the spirit of the H.R. 2420's original intent, ensure that mutual funds are contentious in their fiduciary duty to investors.

Mutual funds have become more accessible to increasing numbers of Americans over the years, and this has served the industry well. Today 95 million individuals, comprising nearly half of all U.S. households, own mutual funds. More Americans have a vested interest in the success of these funds for the health of their savings and pensions, and their increased involvement also is symbolic of the trust they have in the integrity of the system. It is imperative that we do not let the American mutual investors down by failing to resolve these issues.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is an important and necessary step in restoring American investor trust into the mutual fund industry. I applaud the leadership Chairman BAKER and Chairman OXLEY have shown on this bill, and thank them for their service on behalf of American investors. I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMMONS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2420, as amended.

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. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### TORTURE VICTIMS RELIEF REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1813) to amend the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations to provide assistance for domestic and foreign centers and programs for the treatment of victims of torture, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1813

*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 "Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2003".

#### SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR DOMESTIC TREATMENT CENTERS FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 5(b)(1) of the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2152 note) is amended to read as follows:

"(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Health and Human Services for fiscal years 2004 and 2005, there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (a) (relating to assistance for domestic centers and programs for the treatment of victims of torture) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2004 and \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2005."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect October 1, 2003.

#### SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR FOREIGN TREATMENT CENTERS FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 4(b)(1) of the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2152 note) is amended to read as follows:

"(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 pursuant to chapter 1 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, there are authorized to be appropriated to the President to carry out section 130 of such Act (relating to assistance for centers in foreign countries and programs for the treatment of victims of torture) \$11,000,000 for fiscal year 2004 and \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2005."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect October 1, 2003.

#### SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY FUND FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE.

Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 pursuant to chapter 3 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, there are authorized to be appropriated to the President for a voluntary contribution to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2004 and \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2005.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. 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 bill that is under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, torture remains a cruel weapon of choice for antidemocratic, dictatorial regimes around the globe. It is used to silence opposition leaders and to suffocate political dissent.

Today, torture is commonplace and, sadly, systematic. In many countries around the globe, including the People's Republic of China, Cuba, and many countries in Africa, the Middle East, it is used to extract confessions. It is used to humiliate, to punish. It is used to crush people's souls and hearts and their bodies and to break them while they are in captivity. Torturers themselves, it turns out and is no surprise to any of us, are sadistic and cruel beyond imagination.

Mr. Speaker, even torturing a single, carefully targeted individual can have a multiplier effect, sending a message of fear throughout the entire community and even across generations. For example, the paralyzing effect of torture is painfully clear in Turkmenistan where countless people have been tortured, killed and disappeared in the wake of last year's November 25 attack on President Niyazov's motorcade.

We see it throughout China, especially regarding people who are part of the Falun Gong. Hundreds of them have been tortured to death simply because of their expression of their conscience in that religious expression. We see it with the Buddhists and others. We see it with the Catholics in the underground church in China where, again, these individuals are routinely and through incredible harshness tortured.

I point out to my colleagues that even after a dictatorial regime has fallen, as it has in Iraq, the impact of torture can be felt for years. Leaders are broken and lost. There is a profound lack of trust in public institutions, in the police and in courts. Unless we find a way to understand and to heal the legacy of torture people will be unable to work with each other to rebuild their nation. Individuals who are tortured, who carry around both psychologically and in their person that legacy, very often suffer post-traumatic stress disorder, one of the worst expressions or manifestations or legacies of that torture. Unless we are able to heal or provide or facilitate that healing, these people are literally walking time bombs, and we will find it hard both in these countries and the emigre community to build institutions that will not fail.

I think many Members will be surprised to learn that in the United States there are an estimated 500,000 torture survivors, most of whom came to the United States as refugees. Worldwide, while it is impossible to count the actual number, Amnesty International has documented torture in 150 countries. So we know the number is in the millions.

The Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act before the body today provides \$20 million to the Department of Health and Human Services to assist

treatment programs in the United States for fiscal 2004 and \$25 million for fiscal year 2005.

Mr. Speaker, in spite of these numbers, and this is an increase over the previous year's, the number of survivors seeking treatment in U.S. centers funded through this legislation has steadily increased. The word is getting out that one can go to these centers and get treatment, and the process, very often a lifelong process of healing, can begin.

We found, or there has been a finding I should say, that when the centers first opened there were about 935 people who were helped in 1999 as a result of the legislation we passed then. That jumped to 1,550 clients served in 2000 to 2,579 in 2001. We now know that there are some 3,664 clients that have gotten services at a cost of about \$3,500 per client in fiscal year 2002. With the additional funding that we contemplate that this bill would authorize, it is estimated that U.S. centers would have the capacity and the ability to serve an additional 2,800 survivors per year.

Torture treatment centers provide a range of services, Mr. Speaker, including medical exams, lab tests, psychological and psychiatric screening evaluations, psychiatric medication, individual, group and family therapy, and crisis counseling.

In addition, the network of treatment centers already in the U.S., and we know this, needs to be expanded; and I would point out to my colleagues there are a number of large cities with large emigre communities with torture victims who are not being served in places like Miami, New Orleans, Houston, Dallas, Atlanta, Cleveland, St. Louis, Kansas City, Salt Lake City, and Seattle. Hopefully, as a result of this reauthorization and the subsequent appropriations, money will be made available to craft or to establish those centers that are so vitally needed in those cities.

The Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act also authorizes \$11 million in U.S. funds for the Agency for International Development to support foreign treatment centers in 2004 and \$12 million in fiscal year 2005. This is a modest increase from the \$10 million we first authorized in 1999; and, of course, the need is much more than that, but at least this is an attempt to try to meet some of that need.

USAID's Victims of Torture Fund, I would point out to my colleagues, administers treatment programs in 26 countries in Latin America, Africa, Asia, the Near East, and in Europe. Last year, the fund supported approximately 45 treatment programs. Non-governmental organizations that receive this funding provide a direct service to survivors, to their families and communities. They strengthen the capacity of country-based institutions to deliver services to survivors and increase the level of knowledge and understanding about the needs of torture victims. These treatment centers can

also gather forensic evidence that can be used to improve the capability of those documenting and seeking redress from the practice of torture.

To help meet the needs of victims around the globe, I would remind my colleagues that the U.N. established a fund back in 1981, and before we passed our first act, the United States' contribution to that fund was only in the hundreds of thousands. We have now pushed that number to \$5 million, and this legislation would increase it to \$7 million; and hopefully that, too, will be part of the fix to help mitigate the suffering endured by torture victims.

This is a good bill. I hope my colleagues will support it. I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), my good friend and colleague and the ranking member of the committee, who is the chief cosponsor and has worked with us hand in glove in crafting this legislation. I especially want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), our good friend and colleague, the chairman of our committee, for his leadership on this very unrecognized and very below-most-people's-radar-screens issue. They often say torture victims, what are we talking about, and yet they are in our midst. They are suffering. They need help. This legislation provides at least some help.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2003 ensures that our Nation continues to play a leadership role in combatting one of the most despicable of all human rights violations, the use of torture around the globe.

I was very pleased to join with the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), my good friend and distinguished colleague, in sponsoring this measure. I would like to commend the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for his long-standing leadership on this issue, and I want to congratulate him for all of his work to support the heroic endeavors of all clinics around the world in the treatment of victims of torture. He is in the forefront of every single issue relating to human rights, and he has carried the ball on this issue as well.

On June 26, 1945, Mr. Speaker, the United Nations charter was signed, inaugurating the global fight for human rights. On the same day, 42 years later, the United Nations convention against torture came into force, declaring the depravity of torture and affirming the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family. In 1998, the United Nations declared June 26 an international day in support of torture victims.

Mr. Speaker, despite the work that has been done on the international front to prevent torture, it is a grim

truth that governments worldwide continue to torture their citizens with impunity. Exact figures are difficult to come by, but Amnesty International estimates that some 117 countries, more than half of the countries on the face of this planet, still practice torture on their own citizens.

Pakistan, Guatemala, Zimbabwe, and China consistently rank high on this grim and despicable list. In some nations, the governments themselves carry out the torture. In some, they condone its use by the nation's political machinery.

The ramifications of torture practices are beyond the realm of the comprehension of normal human beings. Torture leaves no victim unscarred. It effectively shapes the remainder of his or her life. Torture survivors need psychological and physical therapy to cope with the post-traumatic stress that afflicts them every single day.

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Recovering from torture, Mr. Speaker, is a long-term process. It can take years before torture survivors can once again feel emotionally stable and comfortable in their own society.

Mr. Speaker, it sometimes just takes one individual to stand strong against the darkness of human rights violations. The torture victims treatment center community is fortunate to have such a person in my wife's and my good friend, Dr. Inge Genefke, of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Dr. Genefke started her work for torture victims as cofounder of the Danish Medical Group of Amnesty International 30 years ago. She observed during the treatment of torture victims that the physical wounds of those lucky enough to survive torture heal with time, but the trauma of her clients lingered on much longer.

In 1982, Dr. Genefke started a multidisciplinary treatment approach integrating physical and psychological treatment. Her work has been utilized by torture victim treatment centers across the globe, dramatically improving the treatment of torture victims in scores of countries.

An estimated half a million foreign torture survivors reside in the United States, and we estimate that about 100 million live worldwide. There are now 250 treatment centers for torture victims internationally, with the sole purpose of providing crucial services to survivors of torture. In our own country, the Center for Victims of Torture in Minnesota was the first of its kind in the United States and the third torture victims center in the world, and I want to pay tribute to my friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), for her leadership role in connection with this important center.

These centers are among those funded through the Torture Victims Relief Act, and their work is the only hope for people who have endured torture. I urge all of my colleagues to support our legislation, H.R. 1813.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), my good friend and distinguished colleague, who has been a leader on all human rights issues, including the plight of torture victims.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the valuable work that is being done to aid victims of torture and in strong support of the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2003. I commend my colleagues, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) for this important piece of legislation, and I commend the leadership of the House for bringing this bill to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, Minnesota is the home for the Center for the Victims of Torture, a world renowned treatment center for the healing of torture victims. When the center opened in 1985, it became the first of its kind in the United States and the third treatment center in the entire world. And right now the center is putting the final touches on a second clinic in St. Paul, Minnesota. In fact, this new clinic is only a few blocks from my home, and my neighbors and I welcome the center and their tireless commitment to serve torture victims.

Mr. Speaker, the use of torture is a tool of intimidation, and the oppression continues to take place in more than 120 countries worldwide. It is estimated that one-third of the world's 12 million refugees are victims of torture. Many victims of torture are community leaders, those individuals who stand up and speak out for social change, political and religious change. The victims are often teachers, students, journalists, trade union organizers, human rights activists, or elected leaders, and they represent people of all ages, social classes, and religious beliefs.

Groups that sanction and sponsor and commit torture focus on these leaders because they want to inflict terror, intimidation and fear on entire communities because torture is about control. Frequently, the aim of this brutality is not to kill the victim, but to break their will. In many instances, doctors and medical personnel participate during the torture sessions to ensure that the victim will not die. The victims are humiliated, crippled, traumatized and then returned to their communities as a brutal message of intimidation to others.

Once a person has been tortured, their life has been fundamentally changed. But there is hope. Through this bill, thousands of torture victims living in the United States will receive the care that they need to heal and re-

enter society and lead positive, productive lives. The U.S. can be proud of the leadership we have shown in working to heal the victims of torture. Our country is a leader in the rehabilitation programs and continues to work to prevent torture around the globe.

The world community should continue to look to the United States for leadership because in the struggle of torture, the American people have answered the call. Torture relief is providing hope and opportunity for victims and families. The treatment is working, but there is more that can be done. This legislation will double the current support for our Nation's treatment centers, ensuring hope and opportunity for victims to receive the care that they need.

This legislation also creates a partnership by increasing funding for foreign treatment centers and strengthening our commitment to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. This bill sends a strong message to the international community that treating victims of torture is a priority and that we welcome the support of our like-minded friends around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to say that torture is a crime against humanity, unacceptable at any time by any nation, and any nation that tortures or tolerates torture is not truly free. Any government that silently witnesses the horrors of torture or hears the screams of the victims but does not act contributes to this oppressive, inhumane crime that extinguishes the essence of our human dignity.

Today, this Congress has an opportunity to speak with one voice for those who have suffered the unimaginable and continue to suffer. The message is clear and simple: Support this bill. And I encourage my colleagues to not only support the legislation, but to help fund this legislation.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to thank my friend from Minnesota for her eloquent and powerful statement.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), a fighter for human rights and the distinguished ranking member of the Helsinki Commission, the most successful international entity working for human rights.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and just associate myself with the comments that he has made, that the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) has made and those that the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) has made. I think we are all in agreement that the United States must continue its leadership role in the international community to condemn in the strongest possible way the use of torture and to be a leader in rehabilitating those victims of torture.

We are talking about the physical and mental rehabilitation of people

who have suffered from torture. These are people who need help, and this legislation will provide that additional assistance. It is the right thing to do.

I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), who has been a leader in this Congress on so many human rights issues in so many different ways. He has really, I think, provided the moral compass for this Congress to take up many of these very important issues. So I applaud all of his efforts in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the gentleman from California on his assessment of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), who is the chairman of our Helsinki Commission. I have had the honor of being the ranking Democrat, and our commission has put a very high focus on the issues of torture. And, quite frankly, we do not care whether the country has good relationships with us or not. If they use torture, it is wrong, and we are going to bring it to the international community's attention, and we are going to do everything we can in order to make sure it does not occur.

I have a list here of all the different hearings and briefings we have had on our commission, and you will see the country list, unfortunately, is very long. It includes many countries. We have put a spotlight and I think we have done a lot of good in slowing down the use of torture and making it clear that there will be a price to pay if you use torture in your country.

This legislation basically extends our role, to make it clear that the United States will continue to be a leader on this issue internationally by doing what we can here domestically, as well as internationally, to aid the victims of torture. I am pleased that it significantly increases the dollars that will be made available for our treatment programs here in the United States, as well as our participation internationally.

The gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) mentioned the first center in the United States in Minnesota, and she is very proud of the role that was played by her State and herself, through her leadership, on this issue. I am pleased there is an organization in my district, the Advocates for Survivors of Torture and Trauma that aids victims of torture. Since 2000, the number of people that have sought assistance in this center has tripled. That is an indication of the problem that we are confronting in being a country that is willing to take people who have to flee other countries because of persecution, and now we have a responsibility to bring them back fully within our society. The funding of these centers will help to do that. It is the right thing to do. Without these additional funds in my community, it would take over a month to get an appointment. We hope this money will speed up the opportunity to seek and be able to receive the appropriate type of assistance.

The bottom line is this is an important bill. It is going to help people and will continue our commitment to fight torture and to be a player in rehabilitating the lives of those who have suffered from the use of torture. I encourage all of colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to thank my friend for his powerful and significant statement.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute to thank my friends and colleagues for their very strong statements and their passion on this issue.

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), who is the ranking Democrat on the Helsinki Commission, we work together. There is no division. There is no air between our shoulders as we promote human rights in general and the elimination, or a zero tolerance policy towards torture within the OSCE.

There are 55 countries that make up the OSCE. At the parliamentary assemblies and with bilateral meetings and with country visits, we bring this issue up. We bring it up with the heads of state, we go to gulags, like the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), who is also a member of our commission, and we do all that we can to stop torture in the first place.

But as this bill seeks to do, there are victims, they number in the millions, and their needs are not being cared for in many instances, especially overseas. The lucky ones make it here as emigres and as asylum seekers, and we have to make sure that both domestically and internationally, we try to mitigate that enormous pain and the nightmares they carry with them. As we know from our hearings and from our site visits from talking to these victims, maybe they cannot be cured fully and completely, but the pain can be eliminated to a great extent, and they can develop coping mechanisms and the like in order to deal with it and live a more normal life despite the fact that they have suffered so horrifically.

So I want to thank my friends and colleagues. And again, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), who knows this personally, who is a Holocaust survivor and is always out front on human rights. It is always great to work as a teammate with him. And, again, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for his kinds words, as well as my friend and colleague from Minnesota. I want to thank her as well.

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the important work that is being done to aid victims of torture, and to reemphasize my support for the reauthorization of the Torture Victims Relief Act, TVRA.

Minneapolis, Minnesota, is home to the United States first comprehensive torture treatment center, the Center for Victims of Torture, CVT. When CVT opened in 1985 they were

the first center in the United States and only the third in the entire world.

Freedom from torture is a universal and fundamental human right. Yet torture continues to take place in more than 120 countries worldwide. It is estimated that one-third of the world's 12 million refugees are victims of torture. Politicians, journalists, teachers, students, religious leaders, trade union and human rights activists are all targets. The aim of torture is not to kill the victim, but to break down the victim's personality. Crippled, traumatized, and humiliated, the victims are returned to their communities as a warning to others.

Torture is fundamentally a political weapon, employed by repressive regimes to shape cultures through fear. For over a decade, what the clients in Minnesota have taught us, as well as victims from over 70 other nations of the world, is that torture:

Targets leadership of the opposition, to snuff out creativity and emerging movements, which may threaten the regimes corrupt hold on society;

Sends a message of fear throughout the network of that leader's family and community of followers and admirers. As a bishop from Africa once said about the meaning of torture, the message is clear: "If they'll do this to me, what will they do to my flock?"

In Minnesota we have also learned how traumas of this severity and scale have a trans-generational effect, shaping the health, the hopes and the aspirations of future generations.

Because of these significant and predictable effects, torture is the most effective weapon against democracy. Even after a dictatorial regime has fallen, as it has in Iraq, we can expect that the impact of torture will be felt for generations: leadership broken and lost; their families and communities still frightened and disengaged from public life; a profound lack of trust in public institutions, police, and courts; a lesson in forced political apathy learned and lived out every day.

There are more than 500,000 torture survivors in the United States alone—refugees and asylum seekers who have fled repressive regimes. In recent years, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of victims of torture seeking help at U.S. rehabilitation centers. In the U.S. there are 34 rehabilitation centers and programs joined together under the National Consortium of Torture Treatment Programs, which was first started by the Center for Victims of Torture in Minnesota.

I have seen leadership restored and people made whole after they have received care at CVT. Restoring a torture survivor to full health has a lasting benefit for the entire community. Former clients of CVT are now public school teachers, small business owners, nurses, doctors and more. I would like to commend CVT for their tireless work on behalf of torture victims in the U.S. and worldwide, and encourage my colleagues to support the reauthorization of the Torture Victims Relief Act.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in strong support of H.R. 1813, the Torture Victims Relief Authorization Act.

I am especially proud that the first Center for Victims of Torture in the United States is located in Minnesota. Minnesota's Center for Victims of Torture is certainly one of the premier centers for torture survivors in the entire world.

Minnesota is home to about 14,000 victims of torture, and there are some 400,000 victims of torture in our country. Even though people are becoming increasingly aware of the issue of torture, support and treatment for the victims have often been lacking.

That's where the center, with its excellent leadership, comes in. We in Minnesota have learned much, and now we want to bring that leadership, and the path-breaking work of the center, to the rest of the country.

Mr. Speaker, this important legislation provides support for Minnesota's Center for Victims of Torture and will enable our world-renowned Center to continue providing rehabilitation and other critical services to victims of torture.

All Minnesotans can be proud of our Center for Victims of Torture, which helps victims of torture recover from their horrific pain, suffering and scars.

Mr. Speaker, the issues of torture and human rights have finally penetrated the global consciousness, and I urge my colleagues to support passage of this important legislation.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1813, 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.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules, and on the motion to instruct conferees postponed yesterday. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 1006, by the yeas and nays;

House Concurrent Resolution 320, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 3491, by the yeas and nays;

And the motion to instruct on H.R. 1, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

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#### CAPTIVE WILDFIRE SAFETY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The unfinished business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 1006, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCREST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1006, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.