

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Chairman, our nation is facing a protracted economic downturn, and manufacturers have been particularly hard hit. It is crucial that the federal government assists the smaller manufacturing businesses, which contribute significantly to the economy. This is why I support the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, MEP, program.

Many small businesses in my home state of Utah have benefited substantially from the MEP. I believe that if the federal government is content to merely study the problems of manufacturers, without providing a plan of action or tangible assistance, then our efforts to improve local economies will necessarily fall short.

While I am pleased to see that the House Appropriations Committee provided \$39.6 million for MEP, I hope that this worthy program will receive full funding during Senate consideration. Our government has devised and implemented an excellent resource for manufacturers and I believe that it deserves the continued support of Congress and the administration. Thank you for your consideration.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE) having assumed the chair, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2799) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 326, he reported the bill back to the House with sundry amendments adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

Under clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 400, nays 21, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 422]

YEAS—400

Abercrombie	Bartlett (MD)	Blumenauer
Ackerman	Barton (TX)	Blunt
Aderholt	Bass	Boehlert
Alexander	Beauprez	Boehner
Allen	Becerra	Bonilla
Andrews	Bell	Bonner
Baca	Bereuter	Bono
Bachus	Berman	Boozman
Baird	Berry	Boswell
Baker	Biggart	Boucher
Baldwin	Bilirakis	Boyd
Ballance	Bishop (GA)	Bradley (NH)
Ballenger	Bishop (NY)	Brady (PA)
Barrett (SC)	Blackburn	Brady (TX)

Brown (OH)	Granger	McHugh
Brown (SC)	Graves	McIntyre
Brown, Corrine	Green (TX)	McKeon
Brown-Waite,	Greenwood	McNulty
Ginny	Grijalva	Meahan
Burgess	Gutierrez	Meek (FL)
Burns	Hall	Meeks (NY)
Burr	Harman	Menendez
Burton (IN)	Harris	Mica
Buyer	Hart	Michaud
Calvert	Hastings (FL)	Millender-
Camp	Hastings (WA)	McDonald
Cannon	Hayes	Miller (FL)
Cantor	Hayworth	Miller (MI)
Capito	Herger	Miller (NC)
Capps	Hill	Miller, Gary
Capuano	Hinchev	Miller, George
Cardin	Hinojosa	Mollohan
Cardoza	Hobson	Moore
Carson (IN)	Hoeffel	Moran (KS)
Carson (OK)	Hoekstra	Moran (VA)
Carter	Holden	Murphy
Case	Holt	Murtha
Castle	Honda	Myrick
Chabot	Hooley (OR)	Nadler
Chocola	Hostettler	Napolitano
Clay	Houghton	Neal (MA)
Clyburn	Hoyer	Nethercutt
Coble	Hulshof	Neugebauer
Cole	Hunter	Ney
Collins	Hyde	Northup
Conyers	Inslee	Nunes
Cooper	Isakson	Nussle
Cox	Israel	Oberstar
Cramer	Issa	Obey
Crane	Istook	Olver
Crenshaw	Jackson (IL)	Ortiz
Crowley	Jackson-Lee	Osborne
Cubin	(TX)	Ose
Culberson	Janklow	Otter
Cummings	Jefferson	Owens
Cunningham	Jenkins	Pallone
Davis (AL)	John	Pascrell
Davis (CA)	Johnson (CT)	Pastor
Davis (FL)	Johnson (IL)	Payne
Davis (IL)	Johnson, E. B.	Pearce
Davis (TN)	Johnson, Sam	Pelosi
Davis, Jo Ann	Jones (OH)	Peterson (MN)
Davis, Tom	Kanjorski	Peterson (PA)
Deal (GA)	Kaptur	Petri
DeFazio	Keller	Pickering
DeGette	Kelly	Pitts
Delahunt	Kennedy (MN)	Platts
DeLauro	Kildee	Pombo
DeLay	Kilpatrick	Pomeroy
DeMint	Kind	Porter
Deutsch	King (IA)	Portman
Diaz-Balart, L.	King (NY)	Price (NC)
Diaz-Balart, M.	Kingston	Putnam
Dicks	Kirk	Quinn
Dingell	Kleczka	Radanovich
Doggett	Kline	Rahall
Dooley (CA)	Knollenberg	Ramstad
Doolittle	Kolbe	Rangel
Doyle	Kucinich	Regula
Dreier	LaHood	Rehberg
Dunn	Lampson	Renzi
Edwards	Langevin	Reyes
Ehlers	Lantos	Reynolds
Emanuel	Larsen (WA)	Rodriguez
Engel	Larsen (CT)	Rogers (AL)
English	Latham	Rogers (KY)
Eshoo	LaTourrette	Rogers (MI)
Etheridge	Leach	Rohrabacher
Evans	Lee	Ros-Lehtinen
Everett	Levin	Ross
Farr	Lewis (CA)	Rothman
Fattah	Lewis (KY)	Roybal-Allard
Feeney	Linder	Ruppersberger
Filner	Lipinski	Rush
Fletcher	LoBiondo	Ryan (OH)
Foley	Lofgren	Ryan (WI)
Forbes	Lowey	Ryun (KS)
Fossella	Lucas (KY)	Sabo
Frank (MA)	Lucas (OK)	Sanchez, Linda
Frelinghuysen	Lynch	T.
Frost	Majette	Sanchez, Loretta
Gallely	Maloney	Sanders
Garrett (NJ)	Manzullo	Sandlin
Gerlach	Markey	Saxton
Gibbons	Marshall	Schakowsky
Gilchrest	Matheson	Schiff
Gillmor	Matsui	Schrock
Gingrey	McCarthy (MO)	Scott (GA)
Gonzalez	McCollum	Scott (VA)
Goode	McCotter	Sensenbrenner
Goodlatte	McCrary	Serrano
Gordon	McDermott	Sessions
Goss	McGovern	Shadegg

Shaw	Stupak	Walden (OR)
Shays	Sweeney	Wamp
Sherman	Tanner	Waters
Sherwood	Tauscher	Watson
Shimkus	Taylor (NC)	Watt
Shuster	Terry	Waxman
Simmons	Thomas	Weiner
Simpson	Thompson (CA)	Weldon (FL)
Skelton	Thompson (MS)	Weldon (PA)
Slaughter	Thornberry	Weller
Smith (MI)	Tiahrt	Wexler
Smith (NJ)	Tiberi	Whitfield
Smith (TX)	Tierney	Wicker
Smith (WA)	Toomey	Wilson (NM)
Snyder	Towns	Wilson (SC)
Solis	Turner (OH)	Wolf
Souder	Turner (TX)	Woolsey
Spratt	Udall (NM)	Wu
Stark	Upton	Wynn
Stearns	Velazquez	Young (AK)
Stenholm	Visclosky	Young (FL)
Strickland	Vitter	

NAYS—21

Akin	Hensarling	Pence
Costello	Jones (NC)	Royce
Duncan	McCarthy (NY)	Tancredo
Flake	McInnis	Tauzin
Franks (AZ)	Musgrave	Taylor (MS)
Green (WI)	Oxley	Udall (CO)
Hefley	Paul	Van Hollen

NOT VOTING—13

Berkley	Gephardt	Pryce (OH)
Bishop (UT)	Gutknecht	Sullivan
Emerson	Kennedy (RI)	Walsh
Ferguson	Lewis (GA)	
Ford	Norwood	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE) (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1523

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 422, I mistakenly thought I had already voted. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2800, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 327 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2800.

□ 1525

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole

House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2800) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, with Mr. THORNBERRY in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE).

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present, at long last I should say, present H.R. 2800, the Foreign Operations appropriations bill for fiscal year 2004. In almost all the instances that we will see here today, this is a joint recommendation, which means that there are compromises that are made on both sides; and it is one of which I am very proud.

I am very proud to have worked with the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), my colleague, the ranking member from the minority side. Working with her has been absolutely a joy. She has been wonderful in her spirit of trying to find a bipartisan approach to foreign policy. It is in that spirit, I believe, that this bill is presented today; and I want to thank her and her staff for the tireless work that they have done on this bill.

I might add, I want to thank the staff that surrounds me here, led by the able Clerk of our subcommittee, Charlie Flickner, and my personal staff for the extraordinary work that they have done to get us to where we are today.

Mr. Chairman, the subcommittee's recommendation for fiscal year 2004 foreign assistance and export financing funding is \$17.1 billion. That is \$1.7 billion below the administration's request. We worked to accommodate as many of the Members' interests as possible, while keeping in mind the broader national and international situation.

In the papers, on TV, in the streets, we are faced daily with the ramifications of the issues that are covered by this bill. This bill provides vital funding to fight wars against disease and drugs, for building peace and democracy, and for building economic prosperity around the world.

The President's trip to Africa a few weeks ago highlighted the opportunity we have this year to embark on a bold new direction in international assistance. During his trip, the President championed initiatives to address two of the greatest problems facing our world today, persistent poverty and HIV/AIDS. The Millennium Challenge Account and the emergency plans for AIDS relief are the most innovative programs that we have seen in decades that reshape foreign assistance.

The Millennium Challenge Account will provide an incentive for countries to build a political and economic infrastructure which leads to long-term development, which leads to sustainable development, which leads to the improvement in the lives of the citizens of the countries involved.

The AIDS initiative will bring medicine and care and hope to millions of people. The very promise of care and treatment has already brought hope to millions.

These initiatives may be innovative new approaches, but the work of our subcommittee has not changed. We must distribute the resources that are allotted to us, resources that are never quite enough, across a wide range of competing priorities. We have to make difficult choices among deserving programs, and we are charged with ensuring that taxpayer money is spent wisely and efficiently. We all must remember that effective programs require a firm foundation and good management.

This year we have once again provided more funds than the President requests for HIV/AIDS, for its prevention, treatment, care and support. Our bill recommends \$1.43 billion for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Add to that the \$645 million that was recommended by the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies and that the House approved last week, this body now proposes to spend nearly \$2.1 billion for these three diseases, an amount that more than meets the President's request of \$2.04 billion.

This \$2 billion represents the first installment of \$15 billion to be spent against these three diseases over the next 5 years. Let me make that crystal clear. This administration and this subcommittee and, I believe, this Congress are fully committed to spending \$15 billion on prevention and life-saving treatments for those afflicted with AIDS around the world. This \$2 billion that is in these two bills, last week and here today on the floor, is only our first installment in that program.

□ 1530

Now, the Millennium Challenge Account is a new component of our bill this year. I fully support the MCA. I am excited about it. I believe it can make our investments in developing assistance more effective and more sustainable. Our bill recommends \$800 billion for the MCA, or Millennium Challenge Account, and we believe that is the amount that can be effectively spent in fiscal year 2004.

Of course, in future years more resources are going to be needed to fight HIV/AIDS and to support the initiatives of the MCA. I have confidence that the Congress will meet the 5-year pledge for AIDS and that additional funds will be forthcoming to support the creative delivery of foreign assistance through the MCA in years ahead. But it is the very size of the task facing us over the coming years that

counsels patience today. Our recommendations for the HIV/AIDS initiative and for the MCA are the first steps in two very ambitious, very innovative, and very new programs. With this \$2 billion the House provides for AIDS this coming year, agencies can build a solid framework to support the \$13 billion that will follow. With our \$800 million for the Millennium Challenge Account, we will have a structure that can effectively and wisely use the added \$5 billion in development assistance that the President has pledged to put on top of existing development assistance. But our recommendation is not so extravagant, Mr. Chairman, that money will lay waiting to be spent, gathering pressure that might lead to waste and to unwise expenditures, eroding public confidence in these two initiatives.

Some of our colleagues are pressing to take even more, to move money into AIDS from the MCA for other programs. Such an approach, Mr. Chairman, would, in my opinion, be an unwise one. What we have provided for the President's new HIV/AIDS initiative is prudent, when we consider that the coordinator, who has been named for these programs in the State Department, has not yet been confirmed by the Senate. Taking more money from the MCA would signal a lack of confidence in the approach of the MCA. We should instead be recognizing the President for his vision, and \$800 million to launch this program is an appropriate level.

The final priority I want to mention in this bill is funding for Israel, Egypt, and Jordan. This funding accounts for nearly \$5 billion of the total. Let me add that the major refugee account and the key military assistance accounts, so vital in our war against terrorism and to protect our national security, are all fully funded.

Of course, the funding priorities I have laid out for my colleagues add up to more than the increase in our budget allocation. So the subcommittee has gone to great lengths to avoid reducing appropriations in order to make room for the AIDS emergency plan and the Millennium Challenge Account, and for the admirable commitment of the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) to improving basic education globally. Within Child Survival and Health, we have succeeded in holding the levels for Child Survival and Maternal Health, for Vulnerable Children, for Family Planning and Reproductive Health, and our unrestricted grant to UNICEF at last year's level.

Our funding for international funding institutions, the Economic Support Fund, which is used by the State Department and the President to support economic development assistance around the world, and two of the President's lesser initiatives, has been reduced or eliminated to accommodate the initiatives within the allocation that was given to us.

Separately, I would note that there is no money in this bill for the reconstruction in Iraq. None has been requested by the administration. Although many of us expect and many of us heard yesterday from Ambassador Bremer that more money may well be required shortly, we will await a Presidential decision on this matter.

In closing, let me say, and I say this with some confidence, that this is a good bill, one which I believe that all Members can be proud of and which I hope will have the support of all the Members of this body. It is fiscally responsible. It is within the subcommittee's budget allocation. It is a bill that helps to lay the groundwork for the important work that is ahead of us as we launch these major initiatives in development assistance and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. It is a bill that meets our challenges overseas and impacts the national security of this Nation. I urge the Members to support this legislation.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I want to begin by thanking our distinguished chairman, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE), a good friend, who has worked very closely with me, and I appreciate our extremely cooperative relationship. I also want to thank the chairman of our full committee, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG). I appreciate the leadership he provides to this committee.

And I want to say at the outset that while Chairman KOLBE and I may differ fundamentally on the adequacy of our allocation he certainly accommodated most of my priorities, and I believe we have a bill that indeed is worthy of Members' support, despite the fact that we had to cut \$1.7 billion from the President's request, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

The bill contains \$17.1 billion, which is an increase of \$900 million over last year, and I generally agree with my chairman on the spending levels recommended for specific accounts within the reduced allocation. We did work together closely to ensure that in the face of devastating cuts we at least level funded Child Survival and Health accounts and increased education as a priority area. We provided funding for reconstruction in Afghanistan, an issue on which the chairman and I have collaborated often in the last year. The bill also funds fully our commitments in the Middle East, a powerful statement at such a critical time in the peace process. And there are many more very positive aspects I will discuss further in a moment.

I do have some concerns as well. At the \$17 billion spending level, we as a country will devote less than 1 percent of our GDP to foreign assistance. Actual spending in 2003 for foreign aid will total over \$23 billion, including \$7.5 billion in emergency supplemental

funding for war-related needs in Iraq and Afghanistan. That additional spending sped through Congress without a hint of controversy because it was judged vital to our national security. As the conflict and reconstruction continue in Iraq on parallel tracks, there is a good chance we will need more, and Members should know that there are no funds in this bill to address Iraq reconstruction needs. This means that those additional needs will be addressed in a supplemental, which will undoubtedly also contain billions to fund the defense-related costs of the war and which will again be requested by the President as emergency spending.

I do believe that our response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic is underfunded and should be dealt with as the emergency it is now. In response to the President's extraordinary initiative on HIV/AIDS, Congress overwhelmingly passed and the President signed a bill authorizing \$3 billion for fiscal year 2004. While in Africa 2 weeks ago, the President repeatedly touted this \$15 billion 5-year plan, and he and his advisers called on Congress to fund it. This created the impression that we the Congress were the obstacle to providing \$3 billion, despite the fact that the President himself only requested \$2 billion in appropriations.

Now, while I am pleased that this bill provides \$1.43 billion for HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, we supported the \$3 billion authorization on this floor in this Congress, and now the bill has come due. I believe it is disingenuous for us to make promises we have no intention of keeping, and so I offered an amendment at full committee to provide an additional \$1 billion for HIV/AIDS as emergency spending. I asked that this amendment be made in order under the rule so every Member of Congress would have the opportunity to fulfill our pledge, but it was not. It is truly a disgrace, in my judgment, that we will not have the opportunity to take this vote today.

Additional resources for Africa are also vitally needed. Everyone is aware of the long history of devastating and destabilizing humanitarian and political crises on that continent. And although this bill will slightly increase resources for Africa above last year, it merely begins to address the ongoing tragedies there. Unfortunately, the amendment of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) to add emergency resources for Africa was also not made in order.

The sad fact is that we as a Nation have neglected the problems of Africa for decades; chronic poverty, the spread of infectious disease, and lack of good governance remain. And despite all the efforts we have undertaken so far across many Congresses and administrations, we must no longer shy away from addressing these problems with sufficient resources and political will.

It serves no one when the current presidential initiatives are touted as

ultimate answers for these tragedies. Both the Millennium Challenge Account, MCA, and the HIV initiative hold the promise of getting increased resources to Africa, but the actual effects they will have remain unclear.

I support the conceptual approach embodied in the proposal to establish a Millennium Challenge Account, however, budget realities we face this year, and will likely face next year, make it highly unlikely that the promise made by the President that the \$10 billion intended for the MCA will be additive to current levels of foreign assistance will be kept. Much of the bipartisan support in Congress for the MCA is based on the fact that it is supposed to help the poorest countries of the world and that MCA resources will add to amounts currently spent on foreign assistance. Cuts to discretionary spending in this year's budget resolution, combined with unrealistically low budget requests for many domestic programs, have translated into cuts in this bill of \$1.7 billion. This situation is likely to worsen in fiscal year 2005. The President cannot expect Congress to support full funding of the MCA initiative if other vital programs in the foreign operations bill have to be cut.

The bill contains \$800 million for the MCA, largely at the insistence of the White House; the Senate bill contains \$1 billion for MCA; and the White House is still pushing for the full \$1.3 billion requested. It is highly likely that the final allocation for the foreign operations bill will be \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion below the President's request. Now, in plain English, this means that other accounts in the bill will be cut severely if MCA is fully funded.

Members should also know that only 3 of 11 potentially qualifying countries for MCA resources in 2004 are in Africa. In 2005, of the 12 countries most likely to qualify, again, only 3 are in Africa. In all, after \$2 billion over 3 years is provided to the MCA, only a small number are African countries are likely to have benefitted.

I have taken the time in my opening remarks to address this situation because this initiative marks the beginning of a shift in how we in Congress effect foreign aid programming. As we provide more resources for MCA, our ability to direct funds to specific purposes, such as health and education, will diminish significantly. My support for this initiative going forward will thus depend on whether resources going to it are truly additive and whether Congress maintains some measure of control and oversight over country eligibility and program planning.

□ 1545

I am especially proud, and I want to personally thank the gentleman from Arizona for the \$350 million in the bill for basic education, which is \$100 million above last year's level. In addition, we require a detailed report on how the administration will organize and implement our expanded efforts in basic

education. Virtually everyone I speak to agrees that providing more and more focused resources for basic education throughout the world is one of the best possible ways we can combat the extremism and hopelessness that breed terrorism. I again want to thank the gentleman from Arizona for working with me on what I think is a very critical issue.

The bill also provides an increase in resources for Treasury technical assistance which will help countries that are major source and transit points for terrorist financing close the gaping holes in their financial systems that let this funding slip through.

However, the fact that we took care of administration priorities such as the Millennium Challenge Account and AIDS required that we make some hard choices. As a result, some programs will suffer. There is no funding recommended for debt relief for the Democratic Republic of Congo. Cuts in economic support funds, Eastern Europe, the New Independent States, and development assistance translate into probable cuts to many countries and a limited capacity to restore misguided cuts proposed by the administration to others, including Cyprus, East Timor, Armenia, Ukraine, and Russia.

Mr. Chairman, as a final note, I want to make a few comments about the importance of this bill we consider on the floor today. I have always viewed foreign assistance as one of the three pillars of national security, along with defense and diplomacy. I believe the value of foreign assistance in spreading the ideals of democracy and freedom around the world and in eliminating the poverty that causes widespread instability in developing regions cannot be underestimated. However, except for a handful of notable instances directly linked to front-page current events, it has been difficult to ensure adequate funding for foreign aid priorities. Despite the new Presidential initiatives in this bill, and again I want to congratulate the President on these initiatives, this year, unfortunately, is no different. We still require far more resources than have been made available. I look forward to working with my colleagues in future years to ensure our priorities are adequately funded.

In closing, I once again want to emphasize that I appreciate the close working relationship I have enjoyed with the gentleman from Arizona. He is a distinguished chairman, he is committed to this bill, and it truly has been a pleasure for me to work with our chairman. Considering the obstacles we faced, the product we present today is very good. I look forward to working with him as we move the process forward. I would also like to thank our able staff, Mark Murray, Charlie Flickner, Alice Grant, Scott Gudes, Rob Blair, Lori Maes, Sean Mulvaney, Beth Titter, and Joe Weinstein, for their hard work.

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

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), the distinguished chairman of the full committee, who, I must say, along with his staff, has been so supportive of our efforts in getting us to the floor at this stage. I am very grateful for his confidence and his support.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's comments, and I want to compliment him for having done a tremendous job. This is not the easiest bill to pass because a lot of folks just do not like foreign aid. Period. The chairman has developed a very responsible response to the issues that are facing us around the world. He has done a really good job. I would say that the gentlewoman from New York, as a working partner, has been very much a contributor to the success of this bill.

I hope that we can conclude this bill today. We will see how long it takes. But it would be nice if we could. Although the committee got off to a late start this year, we passed the ninth appropriations bill just about an hour ago, the Commerce-Justice-State Department appropriations bill. This will be the 10th bill that we have passed on the floor despite a late start. As of tomorrow morning, we will have marked up all 13 appropriations bills in the full committee and we completed 11 of last year's bills early this year, and we marked up two supplementals. So the committee has been very effective and very busy this year. This bill is the culmination of a strong effort by the gentleman from Arizona and the gentlewoman from New York to meet the responsibilities that we have in the world. I compliment them. They have done a really good job. I think that they join me in hoping that we can conclude the tenth appropriations bill before it gets too late tonight.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 6½ minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON), a distinguished member of our committee who has made sure that we focus on our priorities every day he is there.

(Mr. JACKSON of Illinois asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, first I want to thank the chairman and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs and the subcommittee staff for their hard work. I think they did a reasonable job, considering the amount of money they had allocated to them.

Mr. Chairman, the President requested \$18.8 billion for the accounts that make up the foreign operations bill. Unfortunately, the leadership of the House only gave the bill \$17.1 billion. That is where our problems began. From the outset, we were forced into a position of robbing Peter to pay Paul.

The President's top priorities are to fund the Millennium Challenge Ac-

count, MCA, and his bilateral HIV/AIDS initiative. To fully fund the MCA and the HIV/AIDS initiative would take up almost 25 percent of this bill's allocation. Leadership and legislating require making tough choices, but that is not the whole story here. We have the ability and the resources to adequately fund these accounts. We have chosen not to. Over the last 3 years, Congress has chosen to provide tax cuts decreasing revenue by \$310 billion for the 2004 fiscal year. We have chosen to provide \$8.9 billion for a ballistic missile defense system that will not work. We have chosen to ignore the type of rampant poverty, illness and hopelessness in sub-Saharan Africa that create a breeding ground for terrorism.

Africa today, Mr. Chairman, is in a state of emergency. This bill makes a valiant attempt but falls short of addressing this emergency in sub-Saharan Africa. The Congress' approach has been disjointed. In 1999, this Congress said "trade, not aid" in the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, that trade was Africa's future. Today Congress says aid, yes, but aid for AIDS. Africa deserves more than a hedge-podge, disjointed approach to its development. An emergency exists on the continent. Africa is the poorest region of the world, containing a majority of the world's poorest countries. Only one in three people in sub-Saharan Africa get enough to eat every day, and one out of two do not have access to clean drinking water. An emergency.

Only one in three children completes elementary school. An emergency.

Average life expectancy in Africa is just 49 years of age and in countries hardest hit by AIDS, just 30. An emergency.

While poverty has fallen in much of the rest of the world, 20 African countries are poorer today than they were 20 years ago. An emergency.

Overwhelming debt burdens, falling international development assistance levels, the onslaught of AIDS, and a combination of falling prices for Africa's exports and unfair international trade policies are pushing Africa backwards, stealing the gains of a generation of hardworking African people. An emergency.

Africa is now at the epicenter of the greatest catastrophe in recorded human history, the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) will offer an amendment which I hope all Members of this Congress will support to fully fund the President's AIDS initiative. Since its first discovery 2 decades ago, more than 18 million Africans have died of AIDS out of 25 million AIDS deaths worldwide.

All day, Mr. Chairman, we are going to hear Members of the Congress come to the floor and say, We are doing something for AIDS. We are helping the Africans. We are doing something. We are showing something for Africa. But what about this bill addresses the

more than 300 million people in sub-Saharan Africa who survive on under \$1 per day? AIDS has nothing to do with that massive economic inequality. Infant and child mortality rates remain high, AIDS notwithstanding; and access to health care and education is shrinking in many countries. Food insecurity is growing, most seriously in southern Africa and in the horn of Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa's massive external debt is the single largest obstacle to the continent's economic development, not the criteria established by the Millennium Challenge Corporation or the Millennium Challenge Account. We will hear other Members of Congress come to the floor and say, The Millennium Challenge Account, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, we are doing something through the MCA. Out of 48 sub-Saharan African countries, only three qualify for the benefits offered by the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

I have laid out many of the statistics about the crisis on the continent, an emergency in Africa. But my colleagues would come and say, We are doing something because we are talking about AIDS. We are not discussing development and growth; we are not talking about a Marshall Plan for Africa. And this bill woefully undermines the amount of resources that this Congress could provide.

Over the past 2 decades, African governments have paid out more in debt service than they have received in development assistance or new loans. My colleagues are going to come to the floor and say, We are doing something for Africa in terms of development assistance and loans. Here is the problem. Too few African countries will be benefiting from U.S. development assistance in the midst of a severe emergency on the continent. The MCA is the equivalent of saying, Africa, do what we want you to do and we will relate to you. But if you do not do what we want you to do, we will have no relationship to you at all in the midst of a profound emergency. Debt repayments divert money directly from spending on basic social needs, including the response to the HIV/AIDS crisis, trapping countries in a cycle of underdevelopment and dependency. From 1990 to 2000, sub-Saharan Africa experienced more than twice the number of casualties from conflict than any other region in the world.

Mr. Chairman, I close on this note. In Sudan, Africa's largest country, civil war has raged for 36 of the last 46 years. It has cost more than 2 million lives and has displaced more than 4 million people. What about this bill does anything to address that problem? Since 1998, the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has cost an estimated 2 million lives, a holocaust of sorts, most the victim of hunger and disease; and at least another 2 million have been displaced. What about this bill does anything to address that problem?

Mr. Chairman, these are serious problems that require real resources to address them, not just lip service. After general debate, I will offer an amendment that offers a comprehensive approach to addressing this emergency in sub-Saharan Africa.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), an absolutely invaluable member of our subcommittee, extraordinarily knowledgeable and has really contributed to the work of this subcommittee.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I want to thank the gentleman from Arizona and the gentlewoman from New York for one thing in particular. They have created a work atmosphere between the two parties on this bill that is the envy of the Committee on Ways and Means. I really take my hat off to both of them. I also wanted to take one moment to talk about the bill we just passed, the Commerce-State-Justice bill, which every Member of this Congress has helped fund the rewards program.

The State Department rewards program is the key program that led to the incident with Uday and Qusay Hussein and their untimely demise. It is this program which sometimes gets down to one basic fact: Who helping the United States wants to be a millionaire? We will pay this \$15 million set of rewards, and it is this program that I think gives us the best chance to capture Saddam Hussein.

But turning now to the foreign operations bill, this bill represents a bipartisan decision by the American people since World War II that foreign policy matters, a subcommittee created by the Marshall Plan that is designed to reduce or prevent war and to lower the number of casualties or deployments by the U.S. military around the world. This bill visibly helps us respond to new challenges, Iraq and North Korea, Iran and Liberia, by substantially reducing the chance that the U.S. military will be deployed in other places in support of our allies. And look particularly at the Middle East where the little democracy of Israel has not faced a direct threat to her existence in the 1980s or 1990s, largely because of support from this legislation.

One of the big questions that we face today is funding to support our war against HIV/AIDS. As a staffer in this Congress, I helped start this program in 1987 with a small earmark of \$30 million. Since that time, our commitment has grown substantially. If we look in this bill and years prior, what has our commitment to AIDS funding been? In fiscal year 1999, \$139 million; in fiscal year 2000, \$200 million; in 2001, \$415 million; in 2002, \$485 million; in 2003, \$893 million; and in this bill, \$1.27 billion, just in the foreign operations bill, just to fight AIDS, a substantial commitment, one that I am proud having seen in 1987, the start of this program that we have funded.

□ 1600

And it underscores one key point when we take on the commitment to treat someone with HIV, we need to fund a program that can sustain that commitment. If we provide money in ways that are not politically sustainable, we could have some sort of scandal in a provider that would undermine political support for this. That would lead to the international community withdrawing support for an HIV patient. By having a responsible uptick in our support for the fight against AIDS, we are understanding a key point. When we make a commitment to a patient with HIV, we are going to do so in a way that sustains that commitment because success right now in this battle is that this patient will survive, and therefore we need to continue funding our battle. If we do it in an unsustainable way or in an irresponsible way that undermines political support, bad GAO investigations, exposes on the fleecing of America, we will undermine political support. People's lives are at stake here, and that is why doing it in a responsible way, when we make a commitment to a patient we can keep that commitment.

And to the chairman, I really thank him for his personal commitment on the HIV issue because he has really sustained one of the highest ideals.

So when we look at the United States, we have to see what have we done as compared to other countries. The nearest commitment of any other country to the 1.27 billion commitment in this bill is the government of the United Kingdom, which provided \$313 million in the fight against AIDS. In fact, the United States gives more money to fight AIDS than all of the European Union and Japan combined. That is a monument to the idealism and foreign policy foresight of the United States. It is underscored in this bill.

And to the chairman and to our ranking minority member I really want to take my hats off to them for sustaining this commitment. Hundreds of thousands of people's lives will be sustained by this, and this ramp-up in just several years from under \$139 million to now \$1.27 billion is a real testament to our idealism.

I also want to thank the chairman for his commitment to cross-border programs in Tibet. We understand that there are 140,000 Tibetans outside China, 6 million inside China, and this bill sustains a political effort to enhance the authority and role of the Dalai Lama in Tibet, and I really want to thank them because there is no voice for the Tibetans inside China, and this bill underscores that voice and gives them a real role in their own country where an overwhelming number of Tibetans live, and I want to thank the chairman for that.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK), distinguished member of the committee.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Chairman KOLBE) for his leadership in steering another bill to committee under difficult times. To the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), our ranking member, who is committed to the international community and has shown that in the leadership, I thank her for yielding me this time and for crafting a bill that I will support in the end as we go through this debate.

As most Members of Congress know and very few members of the country know, the foreign assistance bill is only 1 percent of the total budget of the United States of America. Our budget is \$2.2 trillion, and as the leading power in the world, this foreign assistance bill is not quite 1 percent of that. A good sum and we should be there for the other countries of the world. This budget funds many countries of the world, as was mentioned by our chairperson. Israel, Jordan, and Egypt are fully funded, and I think they should be. Other countries of the world are not so taken care of, and I think we can do better.

At a time when we find the budget shrinking, deficits soaring, and this year we expect a \$455 billion deficit at least, we do have to make certain decisions in how we fund our Government, how we fund our domestic programs, how we fund education, health care, housing, and those things that Americans need. So I understand it when some Americans do not understand that we have a responsibility as a superpower in the world to help other countries less fortunate and who are strategic allies to this country of the United States of America. So the budget before us today crafted by both the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) is a good budget. It does have shortcomings, as was mentioned, and I would like to go over a few of those.

The Child Survival and Health account needs to be more fully funded to take care of the problems of the world. We have heard much discussion and we will hear more today about the pandemic of HIV and AIDS. India with over 1 billion people, China with nearly the same or more people, the Caribbean, Russia, and other countries are now finding epidemic proportions of HIV and AIDS. We have servicemen and women in those countries who may be afflicted if we do not act now.

The President was recently in Africa, and I commend him for going. I also commend him for beginning in setting up the Millennium Challenge Account. Any additional foreign assistance that we can give, and the President has shown that he understands this, as the superpower in the world, I believe we must do and I commend him for that.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is at pandemic proportions. All over this world where our servicemen and women now represent our Nation and in some in-

stances fight to secure the world, we must as the superpower in the world fund this pandemic appropriately and we have not done that. Malaria, tuberculosis, maternal health, family planning we have to step up as the superpower in the world and help those countries as partners in this humane society that we live in. Postnatal care, those kinds of things that help various countries who are less fortunate and who are not able to help themselves, we should be there for them, and many times in this budget we are unable to do that.

Agriculture, in many of those same countries, agriculture is how they not only feed themselves but are able to export their agriculture products, thereby making it a revenue base for their countries. It is our responsibility to join with them in partnership to help them with that. In some instances we do, but I believe that we can do better. The ESF account, the Economic Support Fund, that we also use to help other countries is also underfunded. It could be better and it is less than what the President recommended and less coming out of our budget. Those are just a few areas.

We are the superpower of the world. It is up to us as leaders of the free world to maintain stability around the world where we can, and we must not forget the men and women who risk their lives every day for us, freedom in this country and around the world, to make sure that they have the best health care that they need to sustain themselves and their families.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), my good friend.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this bill. This bill appropriates \$17.1 billion for foreign aid and export assistance, \$1.8 billion less than the President requested and \$6.5 billion less than what we provided last year. And while I am disappointed that we fall short of the \$3 billion that the President promised for combating global AIDS and HIV, I commend the committee for taking the first steps by appropriating \$2 billion in fiscal year 2004.

Last year 2.4 million Africans died of AIDS-related illnesses while nearly 30 million continue to live with the disease, irrevocably changing the lives of millions of women and children. I have spent a lot of time in South Africa. I have seen how this devastated this land, and we cannot only take the opportunity to go on trips and take photographs and believe that we are addressing the problems of Africa. Just as we have an opportunity with this bill to make a difference in those lives, to change those lives for the better and to offer some small measure of hope, we have an opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of millions of women and children in this country by extending the child tax credit to them. Six and one half million families, 12

million children were left out of the child tax credit expansion, almost 4 million single mothers, 56 percent of all single parents. Women are experiencing the very worst of the economic slowdown. Average annual earnings of low-income single mothers in decline for 3 years running, the unemployment rate of low-income single mothers rising twice as fast as the overall rate. Single and married women both are less likely than men to receive unemployment benefits to help them through their period of joblessness, and we are nearing a crisis level for these women and their families.

Tax relief is supposed to be about lifting these families up and out of such circumstances. If we extend the child tax credit to these families, they will on average receive \$276 in this year alone. To some it might not seem like a lot of money, but \$276 can mean all the difference. Health insurance for the 9 million children in this country without health care, clothes on their backs, school supplies. Two hundred thousand military families, 900,000 Head Start families, 42,000 families of those teaching in Head Start were left out. Just as playing a role in the battle against global HIV/AIDS, it is a matter of values, morals, something that we ought to be committed to doing. So is assisting women and the 12 million children in this country who need our help the most.

So we want to call on the President to use his moral leadership to urge this House to accept the other body's bill and bring justice to these families. They deserve it. Let us give them that.

Mr. Chairman, as my colleagues know, we went to conference on the child tax legislation on June 12. It is now July 23. The conference committee has never met.

In light of the fact that 6.5 million American families, including our military families fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, will not receive their child tax credits when they are mailed out on Friday, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The CHAIRMAN. Does the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) yield to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) for the purposes of offering a motion?

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentlewoman from Connecticut for the purposes of offering a motion.

PREFERENTIAL MOTION OFFERED BY MS.

DELAURO

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 84, noes 318, not voting 33, as follows:

[Roll No. 423]

AYES—84

Ackerman
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Ballance
Bell
Berry
Bishop (NY)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Capps
Capuano
Carson (IN)
Clay
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Crowley
Davis (AL)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeLauro
Doggett
Doyle
Eshoo
Evans

Filner
Frank (MA)
Grijalva
Hastings (FL)
Hill
Hinchey
Honda
Hoyer
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jones (OH)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Carson (IN)
Kind
Kleczka
Kucinich
Lantos
Lewis (GA)
McCollum
McDermott
McIntyre
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Napolitano

Pallone
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Rangel
Reyes
Rodriguez
Ross
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Linda T.
Sandlin
Schakowsky
Slaughter
Snyder
Solis
Stark
Stupak
Tanner
Thompson (MS)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Woolsey

NOES—318

Abercrombie
Aderholt
Akin
Bachus
Baker
Ballenger
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Beauprez
Becerra
Bereuter
Berman
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boswell
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burns
Burr
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Cardin
Cardoza
Carson (OK)
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Coble
Cole
Collins
Costello
Cox
Cramer
Crane
Crenshaw
Cubin
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann

Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeGette
DeLay
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Doolittle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
Etheridge
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Flake
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Fossella
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Goss
Granger
Graves
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastert
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Hergert
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hoolley (OR)
Hostettler

Houghton
Hunter
Inlee
Isakson
Issa
Istook
Janklow
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Klone
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Latham
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowe
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Lynch
Majette
Maloney
Manzullo
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCotter
McCreary
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McKeon
McNulty
Meeks (NY)
Mica
Millender-Donald

Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Neal (MA)
Nethercutt
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Slaughter
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Owens
Owens
Serrano
Sessions
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman

Price (NC)
Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Sabo
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Saxton
Schiff
Schrock
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)

Smith (TX)
Souder
Spratt
Stearns
Stenholm
Strickland
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Toomey
Towns
Turner (OH)
Turner (TX)
Udall (CO)
Upton
Velazquez
Visclosky
Vitter
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Wu
Wynn
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—33

Berkley
Bishop (UT)
Boozman
Boucher
Case
Culberson
Delahunt
Dingell
Dooley (CA)
Edwards
English

Ferguson
Ford
Frost
Gephardt
Gerlach
Gonzalez
Hulshof
Hyde
Jefferson
Kennedy (RI)
LaTourette

Menendez
Platts
Pryce (OH)
Rothman
Ryun (KS)
Smith (WA)
Sullivan
Tauzin
Thomas
Wamp
Young (AK)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN (during the vote). Members are advised that 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1703

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Messrs. BACHUS, INSLIEE and COX changed their vote from "aye" to "no."

So the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE) has 12½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) has 4 minutes remaining.

The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE) is recognized.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Much time has passed since the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) spoke; but I did want to make one comment about her remarks, and I appreciate her support for the bill. She made a comment about how the level of funding in this bill is significantly less than last year. We need to remember that this is just about \$1 billion more than the previous year's regular appropriation bill for foreign assistance. If we are going to consider apples to apples, that is what we need to consider.

We have no idea what level of a supplemental appropriation request we might receive from the President that might be transmitted during the coming year for foreign assistance; but if we are going to consider the regularly funded, basic programs, apples to apples, we need to remind ourselves that we are \$1 billion above where we were last year. This is the second largest increase of any subcommittee's allocation. Only the Subcommittee on Homeland Security has a bigger increase than this subcommittee received for its allocation.

So we have been, I think, generously treated; and I think our programs are well funded.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I want to commend my colleagues, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE), the chairman, and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the ranking minority member and my good friend, for their work to craft a fair and balanced bill. Representing the most diverse congressional district in the country, I know how important U.S. foreign assistance is to nations around the globe, and I have seen the success of our foreign assistance firsthand.

This is a fair and balanced bill. I thank the chairman and ranking member for supporting priorities of mine, including the Middle East Children's Association and increased money for the International Fund for Ireland, in this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, this is a good bill, but it could be a great bill. The President recently hopped around Africa talking about his global HIV/AIDS initiative, which this Congress passed. What he did not talk about, though, was that his request for funding for HIV/AIDS was \$1 billion less than the authorizing legislation provided. Think about the lives \$1 billion could save.

This bill includes \$25 million for the U.N. Population Fund, but we all know that the money has about as much of a chance of being released by this administration as the New York Mets do to win a World Series this year; and this bill continues to mandate the onerous global gag rule which keeps funding away from groups such as Bangladeshi Rural Advancement Committee, or BRAC, and their work to improve child and maternal health. Mr. Chairman, while the administration should fulfill its commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS, support UNFPA and remove the onerous global gag rule.

There is much work in this bill, particularly to be done when we look at the Middle East. The selection of a new prime minister for the Palestinian Authority, along with the concerted effort

of the European Union and Russia, along with Israel, shows that progress can be made in the Middle East.

The support in this bill for Israel, as well as Jordan, a steadfast ally and proponent of stability, is worthwhile. I am encouraged by movements from countries such as UAE, Oman and Qatar to reestablish contact with the

Israeli government, and I urge the government of Egypt to make the moves to take what is a cold peace with the Jewish state and turn it into a warmer and deeper relationship.

I also want to take this opportunity on behalf of my colleague, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY), who is unable to be here because of the

death of her mother, to express the support she has in this legislation for the State of Israel.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished minority whip of the House.

NOTICE

Incomplete record of House proceedings.

Today's House proceedings will be continued in the next issue of the Record.