

FREEDOM FOR JULIO CÉSAR
GÁLVEZ RODRIGUEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Julio César Gálvez Rodríguez, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Gálvez Rodríguez is an independent journalist in a country oppressed by a regime that mandates official propaganda. According to Reporters Without Borders, Mr. Gálvez Rodríguez was fired from his job in the "official media" because of his ties with the United Cuba Workers Council, an organization that advocates for workers rights in totalitarian Cuba. Because of his first hand experience with the tyrant's propaganda, he has worked to reveal the truth about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. Mr. Gálvez Rodríguez has contributed to numerous publications including, *El Nuevo Herald*, *Carta de Cuba* and *Cuba Nuestra*.

Unfortunately, being an independent journalist in a totalitarian society is a hazardous profession. Because the stark, poverty stricken, reality of Cuba does not agree with the dictator's propaganda, independent journalists are regularly harassed, threatened, and imprisoned. On March 19, 2003, as part of the tyrant's condemnable crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Gálvez Rodríguez was arrested by the dictator's thugs.

In a sham trial, Mr. Gálvez Rodríguez was accused of "subversive" articles intended to "undermine and internally destroy the Revolution." He was subsequently "sentenced" to 15 years in the inhuman gulag for his "crime" of truth. It is repugnant to the values of the civilized world that truth tellers are locked in heinous gulags on the whim of totalitarian tyrants.

Amnesty International reports that Mr. Gálvez Rodríguez is suffering from high blood pressure, renal and intestinal colic and cervical arthritis. Let us be very clear, he is deteriorating under abhorrent conditions because he believes in freedom for the Cuban people.

Mr. Speaker, it is repulsive to the ideal of freedom that independent journalists are locked in totalitarian gulags 90 miles from our shore. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional freedom of Julio César Gálvez Rodríguez and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

PROJECT BIOSHIELD ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the House-Senate negotiated substitute amendment and final passage of the Project BioShield Act of 2004. This legislation will greatly strengthen our nation's capabilities to protect our military, first responders and U.S. citizens from the threat of biological, chemical, radiological and nuclear weapons of mass destruction.

I am extremely pleased that the final language that recently passed the Senate incor-

porates the expanded definition of eligible countermeasures for which BioShield funds can be designated. This expanded definition would permit BioShield funding and procurement for certain FDA-licensed vaccines and other medical countermeasures in addition to experimental products for inclusion in the Strategic National Stockpile.

It is important to note that while BioShield was intended to stimulate and accelerate the development of new countermeasures, existing safe and effective FDA-licensed vaccines and medicines may have new unlicensed applications that may also contribute to our nation's preparedness. These new product applications must be tested and licensed by the FDA and made available for the stockpile. For example, the only FDA-licensed anthrax vaccine is manufactured in my home state by BioPort Corporation. BioThrax™ vaccine is licensed for pre-exposure vaccination of the military and other civilians at risk of exposure to anthrax. Though it is recommended by the CDC for post-exposure use in conjunction with antibiotics for protecting those who may have been exposed to this deadly biological agent, it is not yet licensed for this use.

These existing products, like BioThrax™ vaccine, will provide our nation with an insurance policy to strengthen its immediate bioterrorism preparedness capability, while supplementing other experimental vaccines and medicines currently in development, though many years away from FDA-approval.

I am especially pleased that during the Senate debate, the Senate managers of the BioShield legislation also clarified their understanding of discussions with the Administration regarding the use of BioShield funds under new section 319F-2(c)(9) of the Public Health Service Act. The bill's managers agreed that BioShield allows for the future procurement of vaccines already being purchased under government contract at the time of enactment of BioShield. Further, clarification in the Senate allows for their procurement under new or existing contracts. Under this interpretation, the President and BioShield procuring agencies will have the flexibility to use BioShield funds for the purchase of additional doses of FDA-licensed anthrax vaccine for inclusion in the stockpile for post-exposure use with antibiotics. This would be in addition to those previously contracted doses currently funded from discretionary appropriations and available to the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security and Health and Human Services.

The consensus panel published in the Journal of the American Medical Association and the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices have already recommended the FDA-licensed anthrax vaccine for post-exposure use in combination with antibiotics. The Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences agreed with the FDA that the FDA-licensed anthrax vaccine is safe and effective for the prevention of anthrax in those at-risk of exposure to anthrax, including against inhalation anthrax. Since 1998, more than 1.1 million military and civilian personnel have been safely vaccinated with more than 4 million doses of the vaccine. Indeed, these statistics also include both the pre- and post-exposure vaccinations of many of our own Congressional colleagues, staff members and decontamination workers before and following the October 2001 anthrax attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human

Services to consider the immediate procurement of millions of additional doses of the FDA-licensed anthrax vaccine, as well as additional doses of antibiotics for the Strategic National Stockpile. These doses are essential to improving our capability to respond to another potential anthrax attack. This is the same method used by these agencies for the stockpiling of both licensed and experimental smallpox vaccines.

Mr. Speaker, I also urge my colleagues to follow the lead of the Senate by unanimously clearing this legislation for signature by the President. This will send a strong message to the world that our nation is serious about protecting our citizens and first responders from deadly terrorist threats with tested and proven medical countermeasures.

HONORING MARTHA PHILLIPS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
GEORGIA DENTAL ASSOCIATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, Martha Phillips is well respected in Georgia and throughout the country as an unflagging supporter of organized dentistry. Her constant goal during her distinguished career as executive director of the Georgia Dental Association is ensuring dentistry receives all the respect and consideration it is due.

Ms. Phillips received the 1996 Award of Merit by fellows of the American College of Dentistry because of her commitment to the profession, her invaluable contribution to the growth and activity of the GDA, her esteem and reputation as a state association executive, her influence and success as dentistry's lobbyist and representative in state legislative activities and the admiration and respect she has enjoyed in her work in the American Dental Association. In 1999 the International College of Dentists made Martha Honorary Fellow of the ICD.

As an advocate of dentistry, Martha is active 365 days a year. She became part of the Georgia Dental Association in 1977 as administrative assistant to the Executive Director. She was appointed as executive director of the 137-year-old association in 1986. Apart from the duties listed above, and the management of an eleven person executive office, Ms. Phillips has also utilized her skills as a licensed insurance agent to bolster the growing subsidiary, Georgia Dental Insurance Services, Inc. At the national level, Martha is past president of the Association of Constituent Dental Society Executives.

Ms. Phillips received her bachelor of arts degree in business from Georgia State University. She worked in the real estate, insurance and administrative fields before coming to the GDA. Ms. Phillips and husband Al reside in Marietta, Georgia, and have a son and daughter in law, Mark and Cindy Phillips, and a grandson, Tyler.