

physicians in multiple locations and to expand the capacity for monitoring disease trends and other indicators, as well as to facilitate research.

The benefit of linking medical records nationwide is clear: even when you are out of town and unable to reach your doctor or hospital, the staff at any ER or medical facility will have your medical history available at their fingertips. That can save valuable—possibly life-saving time. It is the healthcare of the future, but it's already happening in Louisville at Jewish Hospital.

The electronic health records system in place at Jewish Hospital Medical Center East is now referred to as a "show-site" for medical technology. Accessing medical records, in the past, would take anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour. Now the process is instantaneous. And according to an HHS report, only 13 percent of hospitals and between 14 and 28 percent of physician practices have such computerized patient records. The Louisville facility is, indeed, ahead of the curve.

I applaud the efforts and advancements in medicine pursued by Louisville's Jewish Hospital and offer them up as a model of health care excellence for the nation.

NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS REDUCTION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2608. Title I of the bill is the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act and Title II is the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act. Both of these sections passed by the House separately earlier this year.

I want to acknowledge the leadership of Research Subcommittee Chairman SMITH and my colleague from Washington, Mr. BAIRD, in introducing and championing the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program.

The National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program—often called NEHRP—was established 25 years ago to address the serious seismic hazards in the United States. The program has the primary goal of determining how to lower the risk to people and to the built environment.

Most observers of NEHRP believe it has made many valuable contributions toward advancing understanding of earthquake processes and in developing detailed information about the geographic distribution of earthquake risk.

Equally important, the program has helped to improve engineering design and practice for structures and lifelines suitable for earthquake prone regions.

H.R. 2608 focuses on strengthening NEHRP by reinvigorating program leadership and by increasing program emphasis on transitioning the results of research to practice.

When I first introduced Title II of H.R. 2608 5 years ago, I modeled it after the NEHRP program because of its success over the past 30 plus years.

I would like to thank Chairman BOEHLERT for following through on his promise to mark up

legislation on wind storms in the 108th Congress. I would also like to thank Congressman NEUGEBAUER for working with me on this important legislation.

I would like to thank Representatives MARIO DIAZ-BALART, MELISSA HART, and WALTER JONES for working with me over the past three Congresses. I would like to thank Minority Counsel JIM TURNER of the House Science Committee and Brian Pallasch of the American Society of Civil Engineers for working on this issue tirelessly over the course of the past 5 years.

Almost 6 years ago, my hometown of Wichita, Kansas, was hit by a F4 tornado which plowed through the suburb of Haysville, killing 6, injuring 150, and causing over \$140 million in damage. The devastation of this attack motivated me to try to do something.

I put together a bill, my goal—to mitigate loss of life and property due to wind and related hazards.

I reviewed comments from the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Association of Home Builders, the insurance industry, meteorologists, emergency managers, academia, industry, and the manufactured housing associations to fine-tune the legislation.

On May 4, 2003, almost 4 years to the day after the deadly 1999 Kansas and Oklahoma tornadoes, tornadoes touched down in metro Kansas City and the surrounding suburbs, as well as in many of my congressional colleagues' districts, destroying property, killing and injuring our constituents.

These tornadoes did not check with Congress to see if they were hitting Republican or Democratic districts; they are truly an equal opportunity destroyer. This is not a Republican or a Democratic issue; it is a human issue, and it is a human tragedy. These windstorms destroy lives; I have seen it in my own district and know many of my colleagues have seen it in theirs.

9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to provide for reform of the intelligence community, terrorism prevention and prosecution, border security, and international cooperation and coordination, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to support this amendment that will help to facilitate emergency preparedness between the Federal Government and the States. This amendment instructs the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop emergency preparedness compacts for acts of terrorism, disasters, and emergencies throughout the Nation. Specifically, this will require the identification and cataloging of emergency response capabilities from Federal-State collaborations and from the Federal Government. It also shares examples of best practices between responders at the State, local, and Federal levels. No obligations

are imposed on the States as a result of this amendment.

In August and September we saw the benefit of State and local government collaboration in the wake of the devastation caused by the four hurricanes that caused so much devastation in Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and other southeastern states. This amendment will help to strengthen those collaborations and help to extend the benefit to all States.

9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to provide for reform of the intelligence community, terrorism prevention and prosecution, border security, and international cooperation and coordination, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, after the horrific attacks of September 11, Americans understand the significance and seriousness of the 9/11 Commission's recommendations. Developed in a bipartisan manner after long study and debate, the recommendations (if implemented) would radically reorganize the intelligence community and unify government efforts to prevent future terrorist attacks. Of course, once the depth of the failure of our intelligence agencies became clear after 9-11, many of us recognized the need for such reform. The question Congress asked the 9-11 Commission to answer was—how?

We got an answer in the form of the 9-11 Commission report. The Commission put forth forty-one in depth recommendations to serve as a proposed blueprint for intelligence reform. While I believe Congress should not necessarily rubber-stamp the Commission's work, I also believe that we should honor the bipartisan spirit of the Commission by working in a similarly bipartisan way to reach agreement on the best way to implement the recommendations.

That is what has been so deeply disappointing about the process in the House. While the Senate—through an open and deliberative process—reached agreement on a substantive bill that reflects the views of both parties, the Commission, and the families of 9-11 victims, the House has played shameful politics with intelligence reform.

The Republican bill (H.R. 10) only fully implements eleven of the 41 recommendations of the 9-11 Commission, while it ignores some of the most important Commission recommendations. For instance, it fails to give the National Intelligence Director sufficient authority over the budgets and personnel of intelligence agencies. It fails to include a strong National Counterterrorism Center. It fails to strengthen the Nunn-Lugar programs and other nonproliferation programs to secure nuclear materials around the world. It fails to create an integrated border screening system to improve security at our borders. It fails to improve communications for first responders. It fails to create a government-wide Civil Liberties Oversight Board to review the use of intelligence powers and address civil liberties concerns. The list goes on.

Meanwhile, the bill includes dozens of extraneous provisions that the Commission did not recommend and that are opposed by the Commission, families of 9–11 victims, human rights and civil liberties groups, and some by the White House itself. The provisions include new authority allowing the President to completely undo the intelligence reforms passed by Congress, expedited removal of undocumented immigrants without judicial review, revocation of visas, exceptions to the UN Convention Against Torture, and allowing the U.S. government to spy on individuals without proving they are connected to a foreign government or terrorist group, among others.

These extraneous provisions aren't just objectionable because of their content—they are objectionable because at a time when we most need to think of country before politics, to find ways to come together to make our country safer, not ways to further divide us, the Republican leadership is more interested in scoring political points than in passing responsible legislation.

Even so, I am voting for H.R. 10 today because I believe that we need intelligence reform. This bill does not go far enough to protect the American people, but it is better than no reform at all. The good news is that the Senate—by a 96–2 vote—produced a bipartisan bill that should help strengthen the Senate's hand (and the voice of reason) in the conference committee. With the President supporting the Senate bill and every Republican in the Senate voting for it, it seems to me that House Republicans' misguided criticisms of the bill in conference won't carry much weight.

I am optimistic that the conference report will more closely reflect the Senate bill. As 9/11 Commissioners Thomas Kean and Lee Hamilton wrote in the Washington Post last month, "We should not wait until another [intelligence] failure takes place, until another commission has a task as somber as ours. We welcome refinements to our recommendations through the legislative process. But the time has come to act."

H.R. 10 is not the legislative refinement Commissioners Kean and Hamilton had in mind, nor is it mine. But it is a start. As the legislative process continues, I will do all I can to help move the bill in the right direction. I hope my colleagues across the aisle will do the same. At a time when our security is at risk, Congress must set politics aside and pass intelligence reform legislation that will truly make America safer.

9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to provide for reform of the intelligence community, terrorism prevention and prosecution, border security, and international cooperation and coordination, and for other purposes:

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this measure which would

reform and improve our security and intelligence structure.

The Houston area, of which I represent part of, meets every single criteria for critical infrastructure terrorist targets—14 of 14—we are a perfect storm of terrorist targets. Texas shares about half of its borders with International interests—Mexico and The Gulf of Mexico—leaving us even more vulnerable and facing some unique security needs.

Houston and surrounding areas are ripe for trade, are magnets for the petrochemical industry, have been thriving agriculture regions and remain the center of activities for the energy, banking and many other industries. We have ports and airports large and small, NASA, many tourist attractions, and an environment that invites businesses large and small. All these things make our area wonderful to live in but at the same time make it a higher potential target for terrorism and disasters. Greater risk area because of our size, population, not only in urban core but also in outlying areas geographically and population density.

H.R. 10 is about protecting our interests at home and abroad and protecting our way of life. It would be irresponsible to not act. I'd like to take a few minutes to talk about a few provisions in this bill which I think are particularly important:

Taking serious action to strengthen our borders—doubling border patrol agents—tripling immigration agents.

To seriously restructure our intelligence community and truly making the way we do business more intelligent.

Sending more targeted First Responder grants to where the real threats are and supporting the folks on the ground who are our own front line. Our colleges and community colleges and first responders throughout the state and their ability to quickly respond to local needs make our area an excellent model for delivery of training.

Treating terrorists like terrorists and not giving them free U.S. vacation visas and asylum.

Cracking down on terrorists—whether acting alone or state sponsored or some guerrilla regime—knocking the wind from their sails and taking our country—our way of life—back.

We stand for freedom and democracy and terrorism targets these values—the things this nation hold most dearly. We need to act now to protect our families and our way of life.

SUPPORT OF WORLD FOOD DAY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and Mr. PAYNE to recognize World Food Day on October 16.

It is imperative to reflect on one of the greatest problems facing humanity today, hunger. Statistics show that close to a billion people around the globe suffer from the effects of hunger and malnutrition. Sixteen thousand children die daily of hunger-related illnesses.

The United Nations Hunger Task Force estimates that, globally, 50 percent of hungry people are in farm households; 22 percent are the rural landless; 20 percent are urban; and 8 percent are directly dependent on natural re-

sources. The fight against hunger must target rural populations in developing countries.

The World Food Summit and the first Millennium Development Goal, MDG, aim to reduce the number of hungry by 2015.

Increasing a population's productivity lends itself to community development and access to resources. These resources can be used to facilitate agricultural and educational programs, which from people can learn and teach themselves to grow. As a result, healthy women are more likely to pass on these positive aspects to their children.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt took the initiative to address concerns about world hunger. He assembled 44 governments in Hot Springs, VA, to establish a permanent organization for food and agriculture. Two years later that assembly became the FAO—the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Since its establishment in 1945, FAO has committed itself to raising levels of nutrition, improving agricultural productivity, for the betterment of people residing in rural areas. Each year on October 16, FAO's commemorates its founding with World Food Day (WFD). The theme for 2004, "Biodiversity for Food Security," addresses biodiversity's role in ensuring that people have sustainable access to enough high-quality food to lead active and healthy lives, www.fao.org/wfd.

More than 150 countries observe World Food Day. Numerous activities take place on this day to promote awareness within the United States. Examples of these are the World Prize Award Ceremony and Symposium in Des Moines; hundreds of WFD teleconference sites at colleges across America and at U.S. Embassies around the world; "Restaurants against Hunger" in New York, Washington, DC, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago and Boston; 2204 CROP walks sponsored by Church World Service in some 2,000 communities. Jacques Diouf, Director General of FAO will keynote observances at the United Nations in New York on October 18 and at Howard University's Law School on Tuesday, October 19.

While conflict and harsh climate—the more publicized conditions—often create hunger emergencies; chronic malnutrition claims the majority of the lives lost in the battle against hunger. The world possesses the capabilities to alleviate hunger. Lacking are stabilized governments in developing areas and proper distribution of desperately needed materials, where it be food, medication, or equipment.

The U.S. Alliance Against Hunger is working on the following: making hunger an election issue, helping develop the International Alliance Against Hunger and encouraging business, religious and nongovernmental organizations to build the public will to overcome hunger.

The International Alliance Against Hunger, IAAH, assists in building national alliances around the globe. These alliances composed of governments, international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector work to raise public awareness about the 2015 hunger goal. Eighty-four countries have expressed interest in being part of this global effort.

Individual governments must do more to indicate change of these staggering numbers. Bread for the World estimates, that Congress' bipartisan agreement increased poverty-focused development assistance by nearly 30