

I want to stand for the reopener, I want to stand for the more robust investment we passed in the House, and I want to see this 30-day extension, this record-breaking extension passed.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I was listening to the gentleman speak on the issue about the needs for a user fee, and he is absolutely right. Again, I hope the American public will speak out, because every day that it goes up higher, I believe last year it was \$2.55 for the premium gas, it is now \$2.25 for regular, none of that goes into the highway construction. It goes overseas. Unless people like supporting those countries who are not friendly to us, those countries that take our dollars and use them for terrorism purposes, maybe unknowingly, I hope the American public will wake up and say enough is enough. If we have to spend this on fuel, then let us spend it in America.

So I compliment the gentleman for his comments and the concept that we will continue to talk about, which are the needs. Again, I want to stress, not the "wants," contrary to what you may read, but the "needs." So I do compliment the gentleman.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Surface Transportation Extension Act before us today. I realize another extension is needed to keep the process moving forward. But I think we need to stop voting on extensions and solve the greater issue of passing a 6-year transportation reauthorization bill with enough funding behind it to put people back to work all across America.

The transportation infrastructure is critical to America for several reasons. First, our entire interstate highway system was created by President Eisenhower as a national security safety measure and that remains a priority today. Second, Americans rely on roads, bridges and tunnels to live their lives each and every day. We use them to get to and from work, to travel on vacation, and to visit friends and family. Third, and most important today, building and maintaining our transportation infrastructure means creating jobs all across America—over 2 million jobs that cannot be outsourced. Jobs to the cities, counties, towns and states throughout this nation that are vitally needed.

The construction industry is a key pillar to any economic recovery providing the much needed stimulus for thousands of related industry jobs. Unlike other important issues, transportation requires long-term planning and investments to keep the nation moving efficiently and safely. Short term extensions interrupt that planning. Two-year funding commitments threaten to destroy plans. This nation needs Congress to act now, to pass the bipartisan compromise of a \$318 billion funding level for a six-year bill. Anything less will only short change the nation and keep Americans out of work.

Pushing for a conference report that provides the bill America needs should not be about partisan politics. As a former county executive, I understand what transportation fund-

ing means to people outside of the beltway. A six year \$318 billion transportation reauthorization bill is supported by local leaders nationwide. It has been endorsed by the National Association of Counties, National League of Cities, United Conference of Mayors, American Public Works Association, Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, National Association of County Engineers, National Association of Development Organizations, and the National Association of Regional Councils.

Finally, it is important to remember that a large price tag on transportation reauthorization does not mean adding to the deficit. This bill is funded through the Highway Trust Fund and any measures not fully offset in the Senate version can be addressed in conference. If Members—both Democrat and Republican, both House and Senate—are serious about jump starting the economy for working Americans and putting Americans back to work we must enact the six year \$318 billion reauthorization now.

I urge leadership on both sides of the aisle in both chambers to set the politics aside and do what is right for America. Let's bring this conference report to the floor immediately. Let's pass it and send it to the President.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMMONS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4635.

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. OBERSTAR. 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.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4635, the bill just considered.

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

There was no objection.

#### UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP ACT OF 2004

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4053) to improve the workings of international organizations and multilateral institutions, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4053

*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 "United States International Leadership Act of 2004".

#### TITLE I—UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP

##### SEC. 101. FINDINGS.

The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Decisions at many international organizations and other multilateral institutions, including membership and key positions, remain subject to determinations made by regional groups where democratic states are often in the minority and where there is intensive cooperation among repressive regimes. As a result, the United States has often been blocked in its attempts to take action in these institutions to advance its goals and objectives, including at the United Nations Human Rights Commission (where a representative of Libya was elected as chairman and the United States temporarily lost a seat).

(2) In order to address these shortcomings, the United States must actively work to improve the workings of international organizations and multilateral institutions, particularly by creating a caucus of democratic countries that will advance United States interests. In the second Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies in Seoul, Korea, on November 10-20, 2002, numerous countries recommended working together as a democracy caucus in international organizations such as the United Nations and ensuring that international and regional institutions develop and apply democratic standards for member states.

##### SEC. 102. ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEMOCRACY CAUCUS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President of the United States, acting through the Secretary of State and the relevant United States chiefs of mission, shall seek to establish a democracy caucus at the United Nations, the United Nations Human Rights Commission, the United Nations Conference on Disarmament, and at other broad-based international organizations.

(b) PURPOSES OF THE CAUCUS.—A democracy caucus at an international organization should—

(1) forge common positions, including, as appropriate, at the ministerial level, on matters of concern before the organization and work within and across regional lines to promote agreed positions;

(2) work to revise an increasingly outmoded system of regional voting and decision making; and

(3) set up a rotational leadership scheme to provide member states an opportunity, for a set period of time, to serve as the designated president of the caucus, responsible for serving as its voice in each organization.

##### SEC. 103. ANNUAL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES.

The Secretary of State, acting through the principal officers responsible for advising the Secretary on international organizations, shall ensure that a high-level delegation from the United States Government, on an annual basis, is sent to consult with key foreign governments in every region in order to promote the United States agenda at key international fora, such as the United Nations General Assembly, United Nations Human Rights Commission, the United Nations Education, Science, and Cultural Organization, and the International Whaling Commission.

##### SEC. 104. LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) UNITED STATES POLICY.—The President, acting through the Secretary of State and the relevant United States chiefs of mission, shall use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to—

(1) where appropriate, reform the criteria for leadership and, in appropriate cases for membership, at all United Nations bodies

and at other international organizations and multilateral institutions to which the United States is a member so as to exclude nations that violate the principles of the specific organization;

(2) make it a policy of the United Nations and other international organizations and multilateral institutions, of which the United States is a member, that a member state may not stand in nomination or be in rotation for a leadership position in such bodies if the member state is subject to sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council; and

(3) work to ensure that no member state stand in nomination or be in rotation for a leadership position in such organizations, or for membership of the United Nations Security Council, if the member state is subject to a determination under section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act, or section 6(j) of the Export Administration Act.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 15 days after a country subject to a determination under section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act, or section 6(j) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 is selected for a leadership post in an international organization of which the United States is a member or a membership of the United Nations Security Council, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on any steps taken pursuant to subsection (a)(3).

#### SEC. 105. INCREASED TRAINING IN MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY.

(a) TRAINING PROGRAMS.—Section 708 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4028) is amended by adding after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

“(c) TRAINING IN MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a series of training courses for officers of the Service, including appropriate chiefs of mission, on the conduct of diplomacy at international organizations and other multilateral institutions and at broad-based multilateral negotiations of international instruments.

“(2) PARTICULAR PROGRAMS.—The Secretary shall ensure that the training described in paragraph (1) is provided at various stages of the career of members of the service, in particular, the Secretary shall ensure that after January 1, 2006—

“(A) officers of the Service receive training on the conduct of diplomacy at international organizations and other multilateral institutions and at broad-based multilateral negotiations of international instruments as part of their training upon entry of the Service; and

“(B) officers of the Service, including chiefs of mission, who are assigned to United States missions representing the United States to international organizations and other multilateral institutions or who are assigned in Washington, D.C., to positions that have as their primary responsibility formulation of policy towards such organizations and institutions or towards participation in broad-based multilateral negotiations of international instruments receive specialized training in the areas described in paragraph (1) prior to beginning of service for such assignment or, if receiving such training at that time is not practical, within the first year of beginning such assignment.”.

(b) TRAINING FOR CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES.—The Secretary shall ensure that employees of the Department of State that are members of the civil service and that are assigned to positions described in section 708(c) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (as amend-

ed by this subtitle) have training described in such section.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 708 of such Act is further amended—

(1) In subsection (a) by striking “(a) The” and inserting “(a) TRAINING ON HUMAN RIGHTS.—The”; and

(2) In subsection (b) by striking “(b) The” and inserting “(b) TRAINING ON REFUGEE LAW AND RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION.—The”.

#### SEC. 106. PROMOTING ASSIGNMENTS TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) PROMOTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 603(b) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4003) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting: “, and shall consider whether the member of the Service has served in a position whose primary responsibility is to formulate policy towards or represent the United States at an international organization, a multilateral institution, or a broad-based multilateral negotiation of an international instrument.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect January 1, 2011.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF A MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY CONE IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(A) The Department of State maintains a number of United States missions both within the United States and abroad that are dedicated to representing the United States to international organizations and multilateral institutions, including missions in New York, Brussels, Geneva, Rome, Montreal, Nairobi, Vienna, and Paris, and which are responsible for United States representation to the United Nations Economic, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Organization on Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

(B) In offices at the Harry S. Truman Building, the Department maintains a significant number of positions in bureaus that are either dedicated, or whose primary responsibility is, to represent the United States to such organizations and institutions or at multilateral negotiations.

(C) Given the large number of positions in the United States and abroad that are dedicated to multilateral diplomacy, the Department of State may be well served in developing persons with specialized skills necessary to become experts in this unique form of diplomacy.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report—

(A) evaluating whether a new cone should be established for the Foreign Service that concentrates on members of the Service that serve at international organizations and multilateral institutions or are primarily responsible for participation in broad-based multilateral negotiations of international instruments; and

(B) provides alternative mechanisms for achieving the objective of developing a core group of United States diplomats and other government employees who have expertise and broad experience in conducting multilateral diplomacy.

#### SEC. 107. IMPLEMENTATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE ON MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.—The Secretary of State is authorized to establish, within the Bureau of International Organizational Affairs, an Office on Multilateral Negotiations to be headed by a Special Representative for Multilateral Negotiations (in this section referred to as the “special representative”).

(b) APPOINTMENT.—The special representative shall be appointed by the President with

the advice and consent of the Senate and shall have the rank of Ambassador-at-Large. At the discretion of the President another official at the Department may serve as the special representative. The President may direct that the special representative report to the Assistant Secretary for International Organizations.

(c) STAFFING.—The special representative shall have a staff of foreign service and civil service officers skilled in multilateral diplomacy.

(d) DUTIES.—The special representative shall have the following responsibilities:

(1) IN GENERAL.—The primary responsibility of the special representative shall be to assist in the organization of, and preparation for, United States participation in multilateral negotiations, including the advocacy efforts undertaken by the Department of State and other United States agencies.

(2) ADVISORY ROLE.—The special representative shall advise the President and the Secretary of State, as appropriate, regarding advocacy at international organizations and multilateral institutions and negotiations and, in coordination with the assistant Secretary of State for international organizational affairs, shall make recommendations regarding—

(A) effective strategies (and tactics) to achieve United States policy objectives at multilateral negotiations;

(B) the need for and timing of high level intervention by the President, the Secretary of State, the Deputy Secretary of State, and other United States officials to secure support from key foreign government officials for the United States position at such organizations, institutions, and negotiations;

(C) the composition of United States delegations to multilateral negotiations; and

(D) liaison with Congress, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector on matters affecting multilateral negotiations.

(3) DEMOCRACY CAUCUS.—The special representative, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary for International Organizational Affairs, shall ensure the establishment of a democracy caucus.

(4) ANNUAL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS OF MULTILATERAL ISSUES.—The special representative, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary for International Organizational Affairs, shall organize annual diplomatic missions to appropriate foreign countries to conduct consultations between principal officers responsible for advising the Secretary of State on international organizations and high-level representatives of the governments of such foreign countries to promote the United States agenda at the United Nations General Assembly and other key international fora (such as the United Nations Human Rights Commission).

(5) LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The special representative, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary of International Organizational Affairs, shall direct the efforts of the United States Government to reform the criteria for leadership and membership of international organizations as described in section 104.

(6) PARTICIPATION IN MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS.—The special representative, or members of the special representative's staff, may, as required by the President or the Secretary of State, serve on a United States delegation to any multilateral negotiation.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a plan to establish a democracy caucus to the appropriate congressional committees. The report

required by section 106(b)(2) may be submitted together with the report under this subsection.

#### SEC. 108. DEFINITION.

In this title, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

### TITLE II—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

#### SEC. 201. REPORTS RELATING TO MAGEN DAVID ADOM SOCIETY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Section 690(a) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-228) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(5) Since the founding of the Magen David Adom in 1930, the American Red Cross has regarded it as a sister national society forging close working ties between the two societies and has consistently advocated recognition and membership of the Magen David Adom in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

"(6) The American Red Cross and Magen David Adom signed an important memorandum of understanding in November 2002, outlining areas for strategic collaboration, and the American Red Cross will encourage other societies to establish similar agreements with Magen David Adom."

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Section 690(b) of such Act is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3) after the semicolon by striking "and";

(2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

"(4) The High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, should adopt the October 12, 2000, draft additional protocol which would accord international recognition to an additional distinctive emblem; and"

(c) REPORT.—Section 690 of such Act is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(c) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of the United States International Leadership Act of 2004, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit a report, on a classified basis if necessary, to the appropriate congressional committees describing—

"(1) efforts by the United States to obtain full membership for the Magen David Adom in the International Red Cross Movement;

"(2) efforts by the International Committee of the Red Cross to obtain full membership for the Magen David Adom in the International Red Cross Movement;

"(3) efforts of the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Convention of 1949 to adopt the October 12, 2000, draft additional protocol; and

"(4) the extent to which the Magen David Adom of Israel is participating in the activities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement."

#### SEC. 202. VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION TO ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES.

There are authorized to be appropriated \$2,000,000 for a United States voluntary contribution to the Organization of American States for the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE) to identify and develop a port in the Latin American and Caribbean region into a model of best security practices and appropriate technologies for improving port security in the Western Hemisphere. Amounts authorized to be appropriated under this section are authorized to remain available until expended and are in addition to amounts otherwise available to carry out section 301 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2221).

#### SEC. 203. COMBATING THE PIRACY OF UNITED STATES COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to such amounts as may otherwise be authorized to be appropriated for such purpose, there are authorized to be appropriated for the Department of State, \$10,000,000 to carry out the following activities in countries that are not members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD):

(1) Provision of equipment and training for foreign law enforcement, including in the interpretation of intellectual property laws.

(2) Training for judges and prosecutors, including in the interpretation of intellectual property laws.

(3) Assistance in complying with obligations under appropriate international copyright and intellectual property treaties and agreements.

(b) CONSULTATION WITH WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Department of State should make every effort to consult with, and provide appropriate assistance to, the World Intellectual Property Organization to promote the integration of non-OECD countries into the global intellectual property system.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN)

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4053, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all my colleagues support H.R. 4053, the United States International Leadership Act of 2004. This bill was introduced by my distinguished colleague and ranking Democratic member of the House Committee on International Relations, and a dear friend of mine, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), who was joined by the chairman of the Committee on Rules, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), in advancing this idea of boosting U.S. diplomatic leadership within multilateral organizations.

On a daily basis, the U.S. is participating in a wide range of multilateral organizations, and this requires a strong, well-trained diplomatic corps. There are also times when high profile issues are being debated within the U.N. Security Council, and those demand astute and skillful negotiators. This bill strengthens the U.S. diplomatic representatives in multilateral situations, it encourages participation of foreign service officers in such positions, and it authorizes the establish-

ment of an Office on Multilateral Negotiations, which will facilitate U.S. participation in these negotiations.

This bill also encourages the Secretary of State to establish a Democracy Caucus at the United Nations to forge common positions and work to update regional voting schemes.

Mr. Speaker, as a former chair of the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, I witnessed firsthand the negative dynamics developing in international fora and the need for freedom-loving Democratic nations to join together to offset these negative destructive patterns. Some of the steps outlined in this Act could go a long way to better represent the interests and the concerns of these Democratic countries.

This measure moved smoothly through the Committee on International Relations, and I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes" on the passage.

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me first pay tribute to my dear friend, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), for her effective leadership on this issue, as well as to the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Rules, my fellow Californian (Mr. DREIER), and the chairman of our committee, the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE).

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation. Just a few short weeks ago, the members of a key United Nations committee gathered in New York to make a critically important decision related to internationally-recognized human rights. They met to determine next year's membership in the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

Shockingly, when Africa's turn came to nominate its candidate, they unveiled their choice: Sudan, a country which is currently engaged in a brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing in the Darfur region, where thousands and thousands of innocent men, women, and children have lost their lives in an orgy of assassinations.

Mr. Speaker, it is outrageous that the government of a totalitarian regime, currently engaged in the mass slaughter of its own citizens, would be entrusted with protecting human rights elsewhere across the globe. Properly, the United States delegation simply walked out of the meeting in disgust.

While I am a supporter of the United Nations, Mr. Chairman, for too many years we have allowed the deliberations of the U.N. General Assembly, the Human Rights Commission in Geneva, and many other critical multilateral bodies to be polluted by the machinations of rogue regimes. Despite the fact that the Cold War ended over 10 years ago, spurring a new wave of democratization across much of the

globe, authoritarian regimes still maintain a chokehold on key decisions at the United Nations. Working through the so-called Non-aligned Movement, authoritarian and dictatorial regimes control the regional group caucuses in Africa, Asia, and some other parts of the world that form common positions on United Nations issues and nominate candidate countries for leadership positions.

Sudan's accession to the Human Rights Commission was only the latest example of a broken system which favors rotten regimes. Three years ago, the world's leading human rights abusers came together to unceremoniously vote the United States off the Human Rights Commission in Geneva. As a result, one of the world's greatest human rights violators, the government of the People's Republic of China, got a free pass that year. Also, in 2001, Mr. Speaker, the United Nations convened the World Conference on Racism in Durban, South Africa, which I attended. The conference itself went down in flames after it was hijacked and turned into a forum for nondemocratic regimes to launch vicious hateful attacks on the Democratic State of Israel.

Mr. Speaker, I, for one, am sick and tired of the world's dictatorships making key decisions at the United Nations, shouting out the voices of the democratic governments of the world. For that reason, I am pleased to join with my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), in introducing this legislation before the House today.

The United States International Leadership Act of 2004 will require our Department of State to take effective measures to end this nonsense and to give our diplomats the tools they need to ensure that America once again punches at its weight class in New York.

The legislation accomplishes this important task by creating a Democracy Caucus to support democratic forces at the United Nations by directing the President to use our influence to reform United Nations rules so that rogue regimes cannot gain leadership positions, and by providing appropriate training to make our diplomats more effective in multilateral diplomacy.

□ 1215

Mr. Speaker, largely in response to this legislative initiative, the administration this year launched a democracy caucus in New York and in Geneva. Our leadership act will lend important new impetus for this effort, and it will help to ensure that it is broadened across the United Nations system.

But the recent failure to keep Sudan off the Human Rights Commission shows that much work needs to be done. Our diplomats should have known in advance that Sudan was soon to be nominated for the commission, and the world's democratic nations should have been ready to block this mind-numbing decision.

Our leadership act will force the Department of State to practice effective U.N. diplomacy. In coordination with our democratic partners, it will make it a much higher priority.

Mr. Speaker, there is no reason why new democracies in Latin America and Asia and Africa should continue to vote with the likes of Cuba and the Sudan. An effective democracy caucus will help states like Chile and Botswana and Thailand to have a positive alternative to mindless solidarity with authoritarian regimes.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 4053.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), our distinguished chairman of the Committee on Rules.

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for yielding me this time, and I appreciate the time and effort she has put into this very important effort here.

Mr. Speaker, having listened to the remarks of the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), I have to say that this legislation is clearly bipartisan at its best. We all know of the very famous line of Senator Vandenburg's that partisanship ends at the water's edge.

While in trying to deal with the challenge of the United Nations, it is absolutely essential that we pursue bipartisanship as well as we can, and we know within this structure, encouraging democracy is a very important basis of that; and that is why I would like to not only compliment the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and the others who have been involved in putting this legislation together but to compliment another very strong bipartisan effort, which actually was the brainchild for this important piece of legislation.

A couple of years ago as we looked at the great challenge of trying to deal with the United States' role in the United Nations, we put together a task force that was done by Freedom House and the Council on Foreign Relations; and I was very pleased to cochair that effort, along with our former colleague Lee Hamilton. And, again, it was bipartisanship at its best, in that we had a wide range of people from varied backgrounds who had been involved in the diplomatic realm, in private sector organizations, nongovernment organizations involved with dealing with challenges that exist in the United Nations.

We came up with some recommendations as to how we could enhance the leadership role of the United States of America in the United Nations, and I would commend to my colleagues this report. Actually, the report itself is only about 25 pages long, and it is a

very good read. There are additional views. It goes through some other items in here; but basically the report itself, along with the conclusions, are about 25 pages.

And, again, it includes in it items that the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) has just discussed. This concept of pursuing a democracy caucus, something that is very important for us to ensure that it is nations that are committed to self-determination, political pluralism, the rule of law, those things that we have a tendency to take for granted here in the United States that should be the true leaders within that very basic concept of the United Nations, and that is why this restructuring, the role that the Department of State will be able to play in having a structure that can help us, enhance our leadership and deal with the challenges that exist in nations, such as the Sudan, which was just referred to by my good friend.

I do believe that this legislation, Mr. Speaker, is going to be a great help to us as a Nation and to the world as we pursue those goals, and so I simply want to express my appreciation to the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), to the others, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), those who have focused on this, and also to express my appreciation to all of the organizations that worked with us with the task force that we put together, as well as individuals within the Department of State who have helped fashion this effort.

So this is a very important measure. I believe it will go a long way towards addressing the shared goals that we have, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my strong support for this legislation's important language on the creation of a "Democracy Caucus" at the United Nations.

Mr. Speaker, there is a growing crisis at the UN. This crisis is the decline in the UN's focus on building democracies and spreading freedom throughout the world. Increasingly, the UN is becoming dominated by non- and, in far too many cases, anti-democratic governments. For example, the 191 members of the United Nations, 102 do not have completely free and democratic governments. 47 members are notorious dictatorships. 6 are even known terrorist states.

As the UN has lost its focus on promoting democracy, scandal has plagued the organization. Take the Oil-for-Food program. The world, particularly the Iraqi people, is waiting to learn the magnitude of corruption involved in the Oil for Food scandal. Credible reports allege the UN paid itself at least \$1.4 billion in commissions for its work on a program that stole as much as \$10 billion in food and humanitarian relief from the Iraqi people it was designed to help. This is only the latest examples of a crisis of confidence at the UN.

Nearly half of the 53 countries sitting on the UN Human Rights Commission are known violators of the human rights of their own citizens. For example, take the Sudan, which

was just reelected to the Human Rights Commission. This is the same country that UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has cited for its ongoing acts of ethnic cleansing against its people, which may result in the deaths of more than 320,000 people this year alone.

Mr. Speaker, the United Nations was created by the United States and the other victors of World War II to be an instrument for world peace and democracy. Instead, since its founding, there have been 291 wars which have resulted in over 22 million deaths. The UN needs a Democracy Caucus, and it needs one now.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my friend's legislation, because I share his belief that the UN system is broken. Democracies and dictatorships are not the same, yet within the UN system they have the same vote. It is time for the democracies of the world to come together to provide the leadership that has been lacking for too long in the UN.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMMONS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4053.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. 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.

#### REGARDING THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL AND THE PRINCIPLES OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 460) regarding the security of Israel and the principles of peace in the Middle East.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 460

Whereas the United States is hopeful that a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can be achieved;

Whereas the United States is strongly committed to the security of Israel and its well-being as a Jewish state;

Whereas Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has proposed an initiative intended to enhance the security of Israel and further the cause of peace in the Middle East;

Whereas President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Sharon have subsequently engaged in a dialogue with respect to this initiative;

Whereas President Bush, as part of that dialogue, expressed the support of the United States for Prime Minister Sharon's initiative in a letter dated April 14, 2004;

Whereas in the April 14, 2004, letter the President stated that in light of new realities on the ground in Israel, including already existing major Israeli population centers, it is unrealistic to expect that the outcome of final status negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians will be a full and complete return to the armistice lines of 1949, but realistic to expect that any final status agreement will only be achieved on the basis of mutually agreed changes that reflect these realities;

Whereas the President acknowledged that any agreed, just, fair, and realistic framework for a solution to the Palestinian refugee issue as part of any final status agreement will need to be found through the establishment of a permanent alternative and the settling of Palestinian refugees there rather than in Israel;

Whereas the principles expressed in President Bush's letter will enhance the security of Israel and advance the cause of peace in the Middle East;

Whereas there will be no security for Israelis or Palestinians until Israel and the Palestinians, and all countries in the region and throughout the world, join together to fight terrorism and dismantle terrorist organizations;

Whereas the United States remains committed to the security of Israel, including secure, recognized, and defensible borders, and to preserving and strengthening the capability of Israel to deter enemies and defend itself against any threat;

Whereas Israel has the right to defend itself against terrorism, including the right to take actions against terrorist organizations that threaten the citizens of Israel;

Whereas the President stated on June 24, 2002, his vision of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side-by-side in peace and security and that vision can only be fully realized when terrorism is defeated, so that a new state may be created based on rule of law and respect for human rights; and

Whereas President Bush announced on March 14, 2003, that in order to promote a lasting peace, all Arab states must oppose terrorism, support the emergence of a peaceful and democratic Palestine, and state clearly that they will live in peace with Israel: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—*

(1) strongly endorses the principles articulated by President Bush in his letter dated April 14, 2004, to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon which will strengthen the security and well-being of the State of Israel; and

(2) supports continuing efforts with others in the international community to build the capacity and will of Palestinian institutions to fight terrorism, dismantle terrorist organizations, and prevent the areas from which Israel has withdrawn from posing a threat to the security of Israel.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the concurrent resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 460, regarding the security of Israel and the principles of Middle East peace.

I want to thank the gentleman from Texas, our majority leader, for his unwavering commitment to the State of Israel and stability in the region, and commend him, as well as the gentleman from Maryland, the Democratic whip, for their efforts in drafting this measure. It is a resolution that supports the principles outlined in the President's April 14 letter, and in doing so it articulates our own vision of the path toward a lasting peace. It has long been our enduring hope that Israel's neighbors would see the wisdom of laying down their arms and negotiating in earnest, instead of killing. Egypt and Jordan arrived at this point and have found peace with Israel. There are others, however, who murder and employ terror against innocent civilians to achieve their political ends.

The people of Israel have done their part toward peace and have made terrible sacrifices in human and material terms for this effort, yet they continue in their search for closure to this long battle. Yasser Arafat, on the other hand, lacks the will to fulfill the commitments required of Palestinian officials. Arafat seems more intent on enriching himself and his cronies and in accommodating Hamas than he is in achieving peace with Israel so that his own people can reap the political and economic benefits that would come from that peace.

As the President noted in his recent letter, the United States stands ready to lead efforts to help achieve the goal of peace between Israel and the Palestinians, working with Egypt and Jordan to build the capacity and the will of Palestinian institutions to fight terrorism and bring a permanent end to such violence.

However, we have been down this road before. Arafat promises, but Arafat never delivers. The suicide bombings continue, and the death toll rises without so much as a modicum of effort from Arafat-controlled security forces to prevent it. He promises to disarm the radicals, to arrest them; but he does neither. Instead, he has acted as a revolving door for the terrorists that he pretends to arrest. He swore to end terrorism only to carry out a massive campaign of murder against innocent Israelis riding on school buses, shopping in open-air malls, and simply going about their daily lives. He has failed completely in his commitments, and he has brought only misery to a people seeking a peaceful existence.

As underscored in this resolution and articulated by the President, Israel has a sovereign and undeniable right to protect herself and her people, including taking actions against terrorist organizations. In the same vein, we remain strongly committed to Israel's security and well-being as a Jewish state.