

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS,
Washington, DC, December 14, 2005.

Hon. TOM DAVIS,
Chairman, House Committee on Government Re-
form, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning the bill, H.R. 4436, to provide certain authorities for the Department of State. There are certain provisions in the bill which fall within the shared Rule X jurisdiction of your Committee. Specifically, I refer to the language in section 4 of the bill relating to increased limits applicable to post differentials; section 6 of the bill which extends the authorization of personal services contracting authority that waives civil service laws and danger pay allowances; and section 7 relating to official residence expenses. Based on discussions between the two committees, I will change the language in this bill as called up to include a modification in section 4 (e) relating to reporting requirements to include your Committee and to sunset the authorization in section 6. Section 7 will remain as in the introduced bill.

In the interest of permitting this Committee to proceed expeditiously to the floor consideration of this bill, I request your Committee to waive further consideration of this matter. I understand that such a waiver only applies to this language in this bill, and not to the underlying subject matter. I will urge the Speaker to name Members of your Committee to any conference committee which is named to consider this bill.

I appreciate your willingness to allow us to proceed. I will insert this exchange of letters into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

Sincerely,

HENRY J. HYDE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM,
Washington, DC, December 14, 2005.

Hon. HENRY J. HYDE,
Chairman, House Committee on International
Relations, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter concerning the bill H.R. 4436 to provide certain authorities for the Department of State. I concur in your judgment that certain provisions which you mentioned fall within the jurisdiction of your Committee.

Based on conversations between the two committees and your agreement to make certain changes in the language which will be considered under suspension of the rules, I am willing to waive this committee's right to consider the bill. In so doing, I do not waive its jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill. I appreciate your commitment to urge the Speaker to name Members of this Committee to any conference committee which is named to consider this bill and to insert this exchange of letters into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

TOM DAVIS,
Chairman.

HONORING MR. BILL PAULI ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIRE-
MENT FROM THE CALIFORNIA
FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Bill Pauli for his efforts and contribu-

tions to the agricultural industry for his years of service as President of the California Farm Bureau Federation.

Although Mr. Pauli is retiring, his dedication and commitment to enhancing the quality of agriculture in the State of California will always remain sincerely appreciated.

Mr. Pauli's passion for agriculture led him to pursue a Bachelor of Science Degree in agricultural economics and business from the University of Nevada, Reno. He emerged through the industry as a product of some of California's most celebrated wine grapes and Bartlett pears in his home town of Potter Valley. Mr. Pauli's endeavors also led to the establishment of the award-winning Braren-Pauli and Redwood Valley Cellars.

Colleagues, friends, and family alike hail Mr. Pauli as someone who has exemplified genuine concern and dedication to the progression of American farmers. Mr. Pauli's advocacy for agricultural issues dates back to the 1970s. He stood before the United States Congress to address farm concerns and served as a member of agricultural organizations such as the State Compensation Insurance Board, North Coast Grape Growers Association and Tri Valley Growers Cooperative.

Serving as the President of the state's most active and esteemed agricultural organization, Mr. Pauli established many enduring programs that have revamped the image of the Bureau. Among them are The Farm Bureau Leadership program which has brought vibrancy to the organization. In addition, Ag in the Classroom is highly esteemed as an educational tool, and The Plan to Protect California's Family Farms has added to the Bureau's dedication to preserve the efforts of California farmers to provide the highest quality products.

In addition to his extensive profile of agricultural issues, Mr. Pauli has been an outstanding member of his community. He donates much of his time to protecting and ensuring the welfare of the residents of Potter Valley and serves as a volunteer chief of the Potter Valley Fire Department.

When asked what he would miss the most upon leaving his post, Mr. Pauli answered, "The people, the opportunity to see the people, to see their farms and ranches." It is through the efforts of people like Bill Pauli that California is the breadbasket of the world. It is with a great pride and gratitude that I rise to thank and honor Mr. Pauli for his thirty-five years of commitment and loyalty to the citizens of California.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RE-
STORES SUPPORT FOR INTER-
COUNTRY ADOPTION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that yesterday our colleagues in the European Parliament voted unanimously in favor of an important measure urging the Romanian Government to settle the cases of applications for international adoption which have been in limbo since the Romanians imposed a moratorium in June 2001. The amendment was successfully offered to the European Parliament "Report on the Extent of Romania's

Readiness for Accession to the European Union." Final approval on the report was adopted by the Parliament on December 15.

Amid credible allegations of corruption in the adoption system in Romania, the European Union had put intense pressure on Romania four years ago to impose a moratorium on international adoptions. In June 2004, Romanian Law 273/2004 enacted a permanent ban on international adoptions and, in practice, the law was being applied retroactively to cases that were registered before the ban came into effect on January first of this year. There were approximately 1,500 cases pending in which the children had been matched with parents in Western Europe, and 211 cases had been matched with adoptive parents in the United States.

As a party to the Hague convention on Intercountry Adoption, Romania has agreed to certain international standards and Principles. In fact, intercountry adoption is a recognized as a legitimate option for children who have not found permanent placement in their country of origin. The amendment adopted by the European Parliament is consistent with this principle and urges settlement of the pending cases "with the goal of allowing inter-country adoptions to take place, where justified and appropriate, in those special cases." I applaud the European Parliament in offering this assurance that they will not stand in the way of these adoptions.

I am hopeful, Mr. Speaker, that this action by the European Parliament will embolden authorities in Romania to look again at the cases which have been pending. Given this reassurance that resolving the pipeline cases will not jeopardize their efforts toward accession, I would hope that the authorities would consider the cases only with the best interests of the children in mind. They have heard the European Parliament speak with one voice in favor of adoptions for these pipeline cases.

Mr. Speaker, for these children who had already had a loving adoptive family identified, I encourage the Romanians to examine these cases with alacrity and transparency. Such a priority could mean this Christmas would be filled with renewed hope for hundreds of children and the prospects of a permanent home in the New Year.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF BRIGHT TEMPLE
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Spaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th year of existence of the Bright Temple Church of God in Christ in Shelbyville, Tennessee. This fine church in Bedford County has experienced many changes since it first opened its doors in 1930, but the congregation's spirit of compassion and fellowship remains the same.

In the midst of the Great Depression, Clarence Garfield Bright founded The Church of God in Christ. Eventually, the name was changed in his honor to Bright Temple Church of God in Christ. In the 1950s, the church became home to revivals that attracted evangelists from across the nation. And in 1964, the

church began to hold a prayer service at noon Monday through Friday, a tradition that continues today.

The church has grown as Bedford County has grown in recent years. Under the leadership of the church's current pastor, Larry James Crismon, Sr., Bright Temple has expanded its facilities and opened a community social service facility.

Shelbyville is a better place because of the work of the Bright Temple Church of God in Christ and its congregation. I congratulate Pastor Crismon and the congregation for all the good work they have done, and I wish them all the best in the next 75 years.

**FREEDOM FOR RICARDO
GONZALEZ ALFONSO**

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, once again I rise today to speak about Ricardo Gonzalez Alfonso, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Gonzalez is the president of the Manuel Marquez Sterling Journalists Society and an independent reporter in totalitarian Cuba. Mr. Gonzalez works and writes to inform the world about the gross human rights abuses that occur every day under the repressive regime of the Cuban dictator.

Unfortunately, writing and reporting the truth is not allowed under Castro's tyrannical dictatorship. All attempts to portray the absolute lack of freedom in totalitarian Cuba are viciously condemned and their authors are imprisoned or exiled. Mr. Gonzalez has been harassed by Castro's thugs since 1997, and on March 18, 2003, he was arrested for his insistence on publishing the truth about Castro's totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Gonzalez was 53 years old when he was condemned to 20 years in Castro's gulag. The conditions in the Cuban totalitarian gulag are so atrocious as to almost guarantee that Mr. Gonzalez will not walk out if he were to have to serve the entirety of his sham sentence. Let me be very clear, Mr. Gonzalez has been sentenced to die in the gulag by the Cuban tyrant for writing the truth about Castro's brutal, repressive and disgusting regime.

Mr. Gonzalez's wife is calling for the governments of free nations, NGOs, and all those that cherish human rights to demand the release of her husband. I applaud her bravery and patriotism and join her cause. It is categorically unacceptable that men and women who demand freedom from tyranny are locked in the dungeons of monsters. The willful ignorance of Cuba's suffering under the Castro regime by much of the world's press, and most of the international community, amounts to aiding and abetting the Cuban dictatorship. Let us never forget and always support, those who are struggling to liberate their people from the grip of tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, we must cry out for the release of all those who languish in dungeons because they believe in human rights and freedom. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Ricardo Gonzalez Alfonso and every prisoner of

conscience locked in Castro's totalitarian gulag.

TRIBUTE TO MR. VEE-JAY BRANN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Vee-Jay Brann of Hanford, California, on the occasion of his retirement as the Kings County Director of Finance.

With over 30 years of dedicated service to Kings County, Mr. Brann has demonstrated quality leadership alongside committed service to the residents of his community and the people of California.

Named after the day on which he was born, VJ Day, Vee-Jay grew up in the small Wisconsin town of Algoma. Upon graduation from Wisconsin State University Oshkosh with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 1968, Mr. Brann entered the United States Air Force.

The great lure of the San Joaquin Valley drew Mr. Brann and he settled in Hanford. Mr. Brann continued his career as a Job Training Specialist until he became the Assistant Treasurer/Tax Collector for Kings County. Working diligently to create a welcoming atmosphere for his superior, he as appointed to fill the post of Treasurer/Tax Collector upon her retirement in 1985. That same year, Mr. Brann was pleasantly surprised with the birth of his son David. In May 2004, Mr. Brann resigned his position as Treasurer/Tax Collector to become Kings County's first Director of Finance.

Mr. Brann has served on many professional and social committees and boards. However he is most proud of serving as president of the California Association of Treasurer/Tax Collectors and being the president of the Hanford Rotary Club.

With all of his accomplishments, Mr. Brann's greatest pride continues to be his loving wife and son, his loyal and dedicated staff and his many friends and acquaintances.

While Mr. Brann looks forward to traveling, reading or trying his hand at gourmet cooking, the residents of Hanford will always remember the charismatic Vee-Jay Brann who served the community to the best of his ability.

**HONORING DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL,
WASHINGTON, DC, AND THE DUNBAR
HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1955**

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask the House to honor Dunbar High School, a legendary high school whose importance in American history is well known. I had the good fortune to graduate from Dunbar High School 50 years ago and my class has asked that I bring Dunbar's proud history to the attention of the House on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Class of 1955.

Dunbar High School was America's first public high school for African Americans and

rose to prominence in the era of segregation and remained segregated until 1954, when the District of Columbia was one of the six Brown v. Board of Education jurisdictions that successfully challenged segregated schools in the United States. Dunbar's excellence was so recognized and well known nationally that the best colleges and universities annually visited Dunbar to recruit students. An unusually large number of this country's most distinguished African Americans graduated from Dunbar. Among them are Edward Brooke, the first black Senator, Robert C. Weaver, the first black Cabinet member, Benjamin O. Davis, the first black general, Wesley Brown, the first black graduate of the Naval Academy, Charles R. Drew, the discoverer of blood plasma and Mary Jane Patterson, the first African American to achieve a college degree.

The 50th anniversary of the class of 1955 is another occasion for pride in our class and in our alma mater. Pride and gratitude as graduates of Dunbar High School, which prepared us so well for life and career. Pride in graduating from the first public high school in the United States for African Americans. Pride in Dunbar's storied history of educating so many African Americans who have made notable contributions to society. Pride that our alma mater encourages today's students to strive for the same excellence Dunbar encouraged in our class. And pride that we can celebrate magnificent, irreplaceable, and lasting memories of the fun and fellowship we shared together.

For all these reasons and more, I take special pleasure in congratulating our class, Dunbar High School Class of 1955, on our 50th anniversary. I ask the House to join me in congratulating the Class of 1955 and in recognizing the historic achievements on Dunbar High School itself.

**ON RECENT COMMENTS OF THE
IRANIAN PRESIDENT, MAHMOUD
AHMADINEJAD**

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, every society has a historian who suggests that failure to study history is an invitation to repeat its mistakes. With his recent utterances, the newly elected president of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, may be presenting the world with a more dangerous conundrum. He has apparently looked at history and denied it, which requires each of us to come to grips with preposterousness as an international reality. To refuse to study history may invite repetition; but to deny it, particularly when it involves the greatest crime in human history, is an assault on civilized values and portends an attack on civilization itself.

Last week, President Ahmadinejad suggested that the murder of six million European Jews by the Nazis did not occur and called for Israel to be "wiped off the map." This week, after time to reconsider, he made it perfectly clear that he did not flippantly, accidentally or remorsefully express a misunderstanding. He again publicly denied the Holocaust, calling it a "myth" designed to be "above God, religion and the prophets."