

supported by the American Conservative Union, the American Psychoanalytic Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Association of Practicing Psychiatrists and the Massachusetts Medical Society. While my amendment would have simply required patient notification if their information in these databases were lost, stolen or used for an unauthorized purpose, it was defeated.

Without such fundamental protections for patients, this bill is not worthy of support. This bill—which is opposed by a broad, bipartisan coalition—does not belong on the suspension calendar, where it is not subject to amendment.

I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 1132. Send it back to committee, where the needed privacy protections can be added. The important goals of this bill can be accomplished without sacrificing the privacy of law-abiding patients.

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

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this bill, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1132, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ENCOURAGING TRANSITIONAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF IRAQ TO ADOPT A CONSTITUTION GRANTING WOMEN EQUAL RIGHTS

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 383) encouraging the Transitional National Assembly of Iraq to adopt a constitution that grants women equal rights under the law and to work to protect such rights.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 383

Whereas the regime of Saddam Hussein in Iraq systematically violated the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Iraqi people;

Whereas on April 9, 2003, United States and coalition forces brought an end to the regime of Saddam Hussein;

Whereas on June 28, 2004, an Iraqi interim government was sworn in after sovereignty was restored;

Whereas in Iraq's January 2005 parliamentary elections, more than 2,000 women ran for office and currently 31 percent of the seats in Iraq's National Assembly are occupied by women;

Whereas women lead the Iraqi ministries of Displacement and Migration, Telecommunications, Municipalities and Public Works, Environment, Science and Technology, and Women's Affairs;

Whereas United States Government-sponsored programs are helping Iraqi women develop in multiple areas from literacy, computer and vocational training, to human rights education and election training;

Whereas through grants funded by the United States Government's Iraqi Women's

Democracy Initiative, nongovernmental organizations are providing training in political leadership, communications, coalition-building skills, voter education, constitution drafting, legal reform, and the legislative process;

Whereas a 275-member Transitional National Assembly, which is charged with the responsibility of drafting a new constitution, was elected to serve as Iraq's national legislature for a transition period.

Whereas Article 12 of Iraq's Transitional Administrative Law states that "[a]ll Iraqis [are] equal in their rights without regard to gender . . . and they are equal before the law";

Whereas Article 12 of the Transitional Administrative Law further states that "[d]iscrimination against an Iraqi citizen on the basis of his gender . . . is prohibited";

Whereas on May 10, 2005, Iraq's National Assembly appointed a 55-member committee, composed of Assembly members, to begin drafting a permanent constitution for Iraq;

Whereas in visits with legislators and officials of the Government of the United States, Iraqi women have raised perceived limitations on their rights in a current draft of the Iraqi constitution;

Whereas the central principles of a true democracy, "liberty and justice for all", "equal justice under law", and "government of the people, by the people and for the people" apply equally to women;

Whereas, in the words of Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor: "[s]ociety as a whole benefits immeasurably from a climate in which all persons, regardless of race or gender, may have the opportunity to earn respect, responsibility, advancement and remuneration based on ability";

Whereas the House of Representatives recognizes the commitment and dedication of the United States to ensure that the full rights of women are granted in the Iraqi constitution;

Whereas the House of Representatives recognizes the need to affirm the spirit and free the energies of women in Iraq who have spent countless hours, years, and lifetimes working for the basic human right of equal constitutional protection; and

Whereas the House of Representatives recognizes the risks Iraqi women have faced in working for the future of their country and admire their courageous commitment to democracy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends United States and coalition forces in liberating the Iraqi people from the repressive regime of Saddam Hussein and their ongoing efforts in support of the freedom and stability of Iraq;

(2) recognizes the progress achieved by the Iraqi people toward the establishment of a representative democratic government;

(3) recognizes the importance of ensuring women in Iraq have equal rights under the law and in society;

(4) recognizes the commitment and dedication of the Administration to ensuring the full rights of women are granted in the Iraqi constitution;

(5) strongly encourages Iraq's Transitional National Assembly to adopt a constitution that grants women equal rights under the law and to work to protect such rights; and

(6) pledges to support the efforts of Iraqi women to fully participate in a democratic Iraq.

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).

□ 1315

GENERAL LEAVE

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this important resolution. It supports the full participation of Iraqi women in the political, in the economic, and in the social life of a free Iraq on the path to democratic governance.

Today Iraq stands in stark contrast to Iraq under Saddam Hussein. While Saddam Hussein's brutal regime indiscriminately slaughtered Iraqis, the women were among the most vulnerable. The notorious Fedayeen beheaded women in public, dumping their severed heads at their families' footsteps. The regime used widespread rape to extract confessions from the detainees. Saddam Hussein's legacy of terror knew no boundaries.

In assessing the progress achieved and the U.S. contributions to the empowerment of Iraqi women, I look to leaders such as Dr. Khuzai, who served as a member of the Iraqi Governing Council and the National Council on Women. After being prisoners in their own country for 35 years, Dr. Khuzai said, "For the Iraqi women, the morale is so high that you can't even understand it unless you go and see. We will be grateful forever."

I was fortunate, Mr. Speaker, to have the opportunity to visit Iraq as part of an historic all-female congressional delegation. We met with women from all sectors and all educational backgrounds, and the message we heard from all of these women was very clear, that they want a say, they want a role, they want to participate, and they want us to help them get there.

To achieve this end, the U.S. is helping Iraqi women reintegrate themselves into Iraqi society and to the outside world. The administration embarked on the Iraqi Women's Democracy Initiative to train Iraqi women in the skills and practices of democratic public life. It also established the U.S. Iraqi Women's Network, helping to mobilize the private sector in the United States and to link important resources here to critical needs on the ground.

The administration continues to provide assistance and sponsors programs that help Iraqi women develop in multiple areas, from literacy programs and vocational training to human rights education and election training.

Recently we saw the fruits of our efforts as countless Iraqi women went to the polls to have their voices heard.

The resolution that we are considering here today, Mr. Speaker, highlights the many advances of the status of women in Iraq since Saddam's deposition, and particularly the fact that women today lead the Iraqi Ministries of Displacement and Migration, Telecommunications, Municipalities and Public Works, Environment, Science and Technology, and Women's Affairs.

However, as with every incipient democracy, particularly in a country that does not have a history of democratic governance to pull from or a regional basis of cooperation or comparison, much more needs to be done. It is, therefore, important for the United States Congress to express support for the Iraqi constitutional process and share the wisdom of our own experience by underscoring the importance of securing equal rights for women in Iraq, in their bill of rights, and the overall constitutional framework.

This resolution does just that, Mr. Speaker, and I thank my colleagues, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) for introducing this important measure, and all of our other colleagues who have worked on this, and I highlight the assistance of the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE), the gentleman from California (Ranking Member LANTOS), and the leadership in bringing it to the floor today.

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I first would like to congratulate and commend my good friend, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER), our distinguished colleague, for introducing this important resolution. I also want to commend the chairman of our Subcommittee on the Middle East, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), my good friend, for assisting in this very important debate on the Republican side.

Mr. Speaker, we have all read with dismay reports of Iraqi constitutional drafts that diminish and derogate women's rights to the dictates of clerics and religious law. Our country and the other democratic countries in the coalition that continue to have their men and women fighting for freedom in Iraq cannot now remain silent as some seek to oppose equal rights for women in Iraq.

While the Iraqi people must decide the proper role of religion in their society, we have been disturbed to hear reports that some are proposing that Iraqi law would be governed by the Islamic religious code. A country, Mr. Speaker, can be religious, yet reflect internationally accepted norms.

When the new Afghan Constitution was adopted, although it is far from perfect from a Western perspective, it does prohibit discrimination against

any citizen of Afghanistan, including, of course, women. The Afghan Constitution provides that women and men have equal rights before the law. The Afghan Constitution also endorses Afghanistan's international obligations, which protect women's rights under uniform international standards, all this, Mr. Speaker, in a country that is dramatically more conservative than Iraq.

Now, fortunately, drafts of constitutions are not final text, and I have every faith that the Iraqi people will allow good sense to prevail on this issue before the final text is submitted 2 weeks from now.

Similar issues arose about the role of religion during the drafting of the Transitional Administrative Law in Iraq last year. There was, for example, considerable concern about the prospect that Islamic law would be enshrined as the primary source of Iraqi legislation. Nevertheless, cooler heads prevailed, and the Transitional Administrative Law which emerged was balanced and liberal in its nature.

In fact, as the resolution offered by our colleague, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER), points out, the Transitional Administrative Law contains an article ensuring Iraqis' equal rights, prohibiting discrimination, without regard to gender. I have faith that Iraq's Founding Fathers and Founding Mothers next month will affirm that wisdom from the Transitional Administrative Law.

But I think it is important, Mr. Speaker, that our House of Representatives, speaking on behalf of the American people, affirm that wisdom as well. It is crucial that all Iraqis know that our commitment to their freedom and equality is unwavering and unqualified by religion, race, and gender.

That is why I support, Mr. Speaker, this resolution very strongly, and I urge all of my colleagues to do likewise.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 7 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER), the author of this resolution.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I have often had the opportunity to speak on this floor on important issues, but none more important than this, because today I am honored to sponsor this resolution in support of the rights of all Iraqis.

It has been said that a nation reveals its character by the values it upholds. In planting the seed of democracy in the deserts of the Middle East, the United States and our allies hope for a rich harvest of freedom for the people of Iraq. Having removed the dictator, the allies have moved to put Iraqis in control of Iraq. Now, as they draft and ratify their Constitution, we will indeed see the character of a new Iraqi nation revealed through the principles it chooses to uphold.

That is why I urge the Iraqi Transitional National Assembly to create a

government worthy of its people, a government that represents every Iraqi from every corner of Iraq, be they Sunni or Shia, rich or poor, male or female.

Human rights are not a privilege granted by the few, they are a liberty entitled to all, and human rights, by definition, include the rights of all humans, those in the dawn of life, the dusk of life, or the shadows of life.

Mr. Speaker, the women of Iraq have waited long enough. Having lived in the shadows of Saddam's Iraq, they are eager for the sunlight of a new nation and a new way of life. I have met these women, and I have felt their courage. I have spoken to them, and, more important, I have listened to them. I have heard more than their words, I have heard their dreams; dreams of a peaceful nation where they can raise their children and make decisions on their own and take part in society.

Mr. Speaker, a free nation must be based on human rights. Just as our Founding Fathers built a new Republic based on life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, so, too, the Iraqi nation must choose to uphold the values of human rights for all. Indeed, most Iraqis seem to want this.

In the run-up to the historic January 30 election, Iraqis insisted that every third name on the ballot had to be that of a woman. The result? Upon election, 31 percent of the Transitional National Assembly's membership was female, nearly double the membership of the U.S. Congress.

By any definition, this would be quite an achievement. But to understand where Iraq's women are, consider where they have been. To know the horrors of Saddam, look at how Saddam treated the most vulnerable. In Saddam's Iraq, women were abused and assaulted, beaten and battered, raped and relegated to second-class citizens. In Saddam's Iraq, women could not own property; they were property.

Truly, Saddam Hussein was a criminal crying out for international intervention. And these are people, the Iraqi women, crying out for freedom.

History will record that Saddam got what he deserved. The question is, will Iraqi women get what they deserve, what they have earned, what they demand?

When I met with 20 of these women just weeks before the January election, they explained that because they were women, they were virtual targets of the people trying to stop the elections, because they were running for office. More than half had had members of their families kidnapped or assassinated. Almost all had to have bodyguards. Many had been in exile for years because of their beliefs, their education, and their choice to have a career. Yet they persevered.

They persevered because they knew their election was proof that freedom works, and they persevered because they knew that the more women elected, the less the chance of a Saddam-

style policy toward women would ever again come to Iraq.

□ 1330

Proudly, defiantly, and amazingly, these women had the courage of their convictions and changed history. Some of the very women we met with before the election who were so fearful of the outcome and proposed violence led their village walking miles to cast their votes.

Then weeks after that vote, I led another delegation to join 150 Iraqi women who were leaders in their communities and their sects who came to a conference to hear us talk about the principles and practices of democracy.

Women all over Iraq were given the opportunity to apply to be a part of that conference. Do the women of Iraq want democracy? Well, 1,200 of them signed applications hoping to be chosen for this conference. That is right: 1,200 Iraqi women put their names in a document stating who they were and where they lived, that they wanted to learn about democracy from the United States of America.

But while the election of so many Iraqi women last January gives us great hope, recent reports about the drafting of the constitution give us great concerns. With so many reports and rumors, perhaps it is best to take inventory of what we know, as well as what we fear.

We know that Islam allows for rights for women, but we fear the interpretation of religious law might unfairly discriminate against women. We know that a policy of equal rights for women in the constitution would safeguard Iraqi women today and for generations to come, but we fear that extremist elements might prevent the passage of such a constitutional protection.

And we note that the surest way to limit the future and the progress of Iraq is to limit the rights and protections of women. But we fear that women may not be allowed even basic rights on matters of marriage, divorce, economic opportunity, or political involvement.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Iraq deserve better and the women of Iraq demand more. Let me be blunt. American troops have come so far, sacrificed so much, persevered so long to see the tyranny of an unlawful dictator replaced by the tyranny of legal oppression for women. A free Iraq must be free for all Iraqis.

A democracy in the Middle East must be more than a democracy in name only; it must live out its principles. Freedom is not something that can be limited or divided or restricted. It applies to anyone and everyone anywhere and everywhere.

So I put forward this resolution and urge my colleagues not to just stand with me but to stand with the women of Iraq, stand with women everywhere who desire the freedom that we fought for and continue to fight for in Iraq.

Those brave women are writing bold new chapters in the story of freedom.

In doing so, they are part of an ever-growing, ever-evolving story.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER), my good friend and distinguished colleague, coauthor of this resolution.

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my deep concern over the rights of women in Iraq and urge adoption of this resolution. I am very pleased to join my colleagues, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) who are my cochairs in the Iraqi Women's Caucus.

I know they share my unwavering commitment to ensuring the success of our efforts to stabilize Iraq. As we speak, the Iraqi Constitution is being drafted, and preliminary drafts are being circulated around Baghdad and in the United States.

This is the real test of our efforts to bring democracy and stability to Iraq. My colleagues and I have spent countless hours in Iraq, in Jordan prior to the January 30 election, meeting with women candidates, and here in Washington meeting with some of the winners of Iraqi women whose rights are now apparently under attack from extremists in their own country.

The attempts by fundamentalists to insert Sharia, a restrictive form of Islamic law, into the constitution, represents an aggressive and intolerable assault on women's rights. The current transitional administrative law states that Islam is to be considered a source of legislation, but not the only source, and that discrimination against an Iraqi citizen of gender is prohibited.

But current drafts of the new constitution provide legal rights for women as long as they do not violate Islamic law. Many Iraqi women fear, as we do, that enshrining Sharia would sharply curb women's rights in matters such as divorce, family inheritance, travel, professional opportunities, and other areas.

One draft of the constitution also lifted the requirement that at least 25 percent of the Iraqi parliament be women. We cannot allow these drafts to be the final word on August 15. We cannot bring liberty and freedom to only half of Iraq's population, the men.

We owe to it the American men and women in uniform who have lost their lives and to the people of Iraq that we do all we can to protect women's rights in that country.

Today we have an opportunity to demonstrate that Americans will stand strong in support of Iraqi women and their efforts to fully participate in their new democracy. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she might consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time and for his extraordinary leadership on human rights for people around the world.

And I know that he joins his voice, his strength, his wisdom in working with the Iraqi Women's Caucus to do absolutely everything to protect the women in Iraq.

Today's USA news report has an article that states that the government may designate Islam Sharia as a main source of legislation in the country according to a draft. This is incredibly troubling that the rights of women may be turned back. It would be a terrible step for the women if their rights are actually restricted under this new constitution.

This resolution which we are sending to the government is tremendously important, and I would like to be associated with the comments on both sides of the aisle.

Just last week, we met with women leaders from Iraq. Two of them were official members of the government, and they were major leaders in their communities. They expressed their tremendous concern, and they appealed to us to keep their names confidential, showing the fear that they feel for retaliation.

I have corresponded with several Iraqi women. One was murdered, another one had a tremendous threat on her life, and they are working with incredible strength for their country and for the rights of their families.

I would say that any country that protects their women is a stronger country, and Iraq will be a stronger country if women are able to preserve their position. One of the women we met with was a professional, and she had been denied her job.

Under Sharia, women will lose many of the rights that they already have. As one of them said to me, and I quote: "It is horrible. We are concerned. You must do something. The time is now."

August 15 they will be coming forward with the final draft. They will be voting in October, and we must move forward. Just yesterday, along with 40 of my colleagues, I sent a letter to President Bush urging him and the State Department to do everything they possibly can to encourage the drafters of the constitution to include specific rights for women, thereby ensuring their equality and their full participation in the new Iraq country.

Under the former regime, they were educated, participated in the workforce, and played a role in the government. And since the end of the Saddam Hussein dictatorship, women have served and are serving in the national assembly as cabinet members and in local governments across their country.

I have had the opportunity twice to visit Iraq, to visit our soldiers, to meet with officials, and always to meet with women leaders. They are concerned. They are working hard, and with like-minded men are trying to preserve their role.

If they lose their position in the constitution, it will be incredibly difficult to reverse that. So it is critically important, and it would be a tragic irony

if women now began to lose ground. There might be full participation and equal treatment under the law for women in Iraq, and I know that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I hope they will join the Women's Iraqi Caucus in expressing our strong support and solidarity with the women of Iraq as they fight for the rights to which they are entitled.

I would just like to close that it would be really a tragedy beyond words if women lose their standing in the constitution and lose the firm grounded protection of a constitution. This is critically important. I urge all of my colleagues to join us in supporting this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following for the RECORD:

[From USA Today staff and wire reports.]
ONE DRAFT OF IRAQ'S CONSTITUTION MAKES ISLAM MAIN SOURCE

BAGHDAD.—Framers of Iraq's new constitution are considering designating Islam as the main source of legislation in the country, according to a draft published Tuesday in the government newspaper.

The draft, which appeared in the Baghdad newspaper Al-Sabah, further states that no law shall be approved that contradicts "the rules of Islam," raising worries that the new government will restrict the role of women in society.

The constitution could change significantly, however, before the parliament votes on it by Aug. 15.

"There are several drafts of the constitution out there," U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad said in a statement Tuesday.

"I have seen one draft of the constitution in one of the newspapers today. There are other drafts, as well. Now is the time to produce a single draft by the commission," he said.

The draft published Tuesday seems to reflect the views of conservative members of the constitution committee.

"Islam is the official religion of the state and is the main source of legislation," the draft reads. "No law that contradicts with its rules can be promulgated."

The document also grants the Shiite Arab religious leadership in the holy city of Najaf "independence for its guiding role" in recognition of its "high national and religious symbolism."

In Washington, 41 members of the House of Representatives wrote a letter to President Bush urging him to support provisions in the constitution that would protect women's rights. "It would be a terrible step backward for the women of Iraq if their rights are actually restricted under the new constitution," said Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., in a press release.

The letter points out that the constitution would replace the transitional administrative law, which provides for equal treatment under the law and set a requirement that 25% of the seats in the National Assembly go to women.

During the U.S.-run occupation, which ended June 28, 2004, key Shiite and some Sunni politicians sought to have Islam designated as the main source of legislation in the interim constitution, which went into effect in March 2004.

However, U.S. Administrator Paul Bremer blocked the move. He said that Islam would be considered "a source"—but not the only one. At the time, prominent Shiite politicians agreed to forgo a public battle with Bremer and raise the issue again during the drafting of the permanent constitution.

The drafting committee met Tuesday to discuss federalism, another contentious issue, according to Sunni Arab member Mohammed Abed-Rabbou.

He described the discussion as "heated" and said no agreement was reached.

Parliament speaker Hajim al-Hassani urged Iraqi media to refrain from publishing supposed texts unless they were released by the constitutional committee.

The Sunnis on the committee agreed only Monday to resume work on the committee after they walked out to protest the assassination of two of their colleagues this month.

—
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, July 25, 2005.

HON. GEORGE W. BUSH,

President,

Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are writing to express our concerns with the Iraqi constitution currently being drafted by members of a constitutional drafting committee, and our support for provisions that we hope will be included to guarantee the rights of Iraqi women.

As you know, the National Assembly is scheduled to approve a draft constitution by August 15, 2005, with a national vote by October 15, 2005. This constitution will replace the Transitional Administrative Law (TAL) which provides for equality of all Iraqis regardless of gender and sets the goal of providing Iraqi women with 25% of the seats in the transitional assembly. We strongly believe that Iraqi women must have every opportunity to participate in all levels of government so that they can ensure that any laws passed by the Iraqi government will not take away their rights or relegate them to second-class status.

It is our understanding that the current draft of the constitution contains provisions, such as equal rights for women unless those rights contradict Shari'a law, that would weaken language contained in the TAL. Additionally, we understand that the draft would phase out the 25% requirement of parliamentary seats that must be held by women. Iraqi women are playing a critical role in the future of Iraq after the end of Saddam Hussein's tyranny. They should not be denied their rightful place in society by those who would seek to have the rights of women stripped away.

Therefore, we respectfully request that you do all that you can to demonstrate the United States' support for equality for all Iraqis regardless of gender, and help the Iraqi people as they continue to establish a new society and government that recognizes the rights of all Iraqi citizens. Iraqi women admirably have served in all levels of government including in the National Assembly and as Cabinet Ministers as well as the private sector. We must continue to show our strong support for Iraqi women as they fight for equality.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Carolyn B. Maloney, Darlene Hooley,
Lynn C. Woolsey, José E. Serrano,
Rosa L. DeLauro, Bernard Sanders,
Tammy Baldwin, Betty McCollum, Jim
McDermott, Raúl M. Grijalva, Eddie
Bernice Johnson, Lois Capps, Frank
Pallone, Jr., Shelley Berkley, Jerrold
Nadler, Nita Lowey, Nydia M.
Velázquez, Janice Schakowsky, Ellen
O. Tauscher, Thomas H. Allen, Sam
Farr, Mike Honda, Barbara Lee, Jim
McGovern, Cynthia McKinney, Anna G.
Eshoo, Zoe Lofgren, Julia Carson,
Carolyn McCarthy, Nancy L. Johnson,
Corrine Brown, Sheila Jackson Lee,

Maxine Waters, Debbie Wasserman
Schultz, Diane E. Watson, Susan A.
Davis, Steve Rothman, Jane Harman,
Earl Blumenauer, Anthony D. Weiner.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), who has been a true leader on Iraq issues, on democratic governance, on women's issues in Iraq.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 383 encourages the transitional assembly of Iraq to adopt a constitution that grants women equal rights. It was authored by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) and also the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER) and myself, who are co-chairs of the Iraqi Women's Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say just a word about the Iraqi Women's Caucus. This was formed a couple of years ago by former Representative Jennifer Dunn and myself, with the belief that Iraqi women are critical to holding the social fabric of Iraq together and bringing Sunnis and Kurds and Shias together.

And as we have talked to them, we found that this is the case, that this is true. Because many of them are married. Sunnis are married to Shias and they have other sects within their families. And they consistently tell us that the divisions are not what people think in the United States.

But we think that women are the key and probably as important as guns and bullets and tanks and helicopters to achieving a peaceful resolution in Iraq. Some of us visited Jordan in March. And we met with 150 Iraqi women near the Dead Sea. These women drove from many points within Iraq. Two groups were shot at on the way, which shows you the resolution that they had, because they continued on their journey.

We visited with many women's groups from Iraq, in the United States and Iraq, as we have traveled. I visited with prime minister al-Jaafari in Iraq in March. And I asked him this question: I said, will you give Iraqi women a prominent role in the government? And the answer that he gave me was, yes, that he would do that, that he would ensure that.

So as many people are aware, one-third of the 275 seats in the transitional national assembly have been given to women, which is a very good thing. But on May 10 of this year, 55 members of the national assembly were chosen to draft a permanent constitution for Iraq by August 15.

Of that 55, approximately 10 or 11 were women, which again does not sound too bad. But as we met with Iraqi women last week, they said the women that were chosen were among the most conservative, among the most fundamentalist group within the national assembly, and therefore they were really concerned about what was happening in regard to Sharia.

And so as everyone knows, Sharia is Islamic law, and this was what was written in a draft of the constitution

that was given to us by these women. And in the eighth article this is what it says: "The government vouches for women's duties toward family and their work in the society, equalizing her to men in all political, educational, social and economic fields." So far so good.

All sounds good. But then there is this last phrase, without infracting Islam, which means that whatever rights a women has cannot be in contradiction to Islamic law. This was the thing that concerned these women so much.

As was mentioned earlier, one of those women who came here was a judge, who had been installed on the court, but was removed from her judgeship because of Sharia.

□ 1345

There is great concern at this point. So this resolution urges Iraqi leaders to accord Iraqi women equal rights under the Constitution.

Let me just close, Mr. Speaker, by saying this: Iraqi women as we meet with them are really concerned about security. We do not want to minimize that. We do not want to pretend that Iraq is a real safe place. They are really concerned about the infrastructure, and there are some problems in the infrastructure. But when asked if they would prefer life under Saddam or if they would prefer that the United States pull out, they will almost unanimously say things like this: Things are better now. We see help for the future. We have a hope. We see a brighter future. Please do not leave now. Thank you for removing Saddam.

So even though things are difficult, there is hope. And as long as you have hope, we think that there is a brighter future. And I think that women are truly a major part of whatever resolution we may receive in Iraq that would be of an optimistic nature.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, may I just say the enormous sacrifices paid by the American people to liberate Iraq both in blood and in treasure were not made to create a society that discriminates against women. Our voice is clear and united. We want the women of Iraq to have equal rights with the men of Iraq in that new unfolding and developing society. I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to my good friend, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time. I congratulate the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) for their focus on this legislation.

This is a very exciting time. I know it is a contentious time. I just returned from my ninth visit to Iraq yesterday morning. My purpose in going was to meet with the drafters of the new Constitution, to express our gratitude for their work and appreciation for their bravery, but also to make sure they realize that they have an awesome opportunity to create a successful country if they recognize that when they move toward democracy, it has to include certain vital components.

Democracy obviously involves majority rule. That comes easy to folks. They get majority rule but they also need to recognize the importance of minority rights. And right along with that is the fact that democratic countries that succeed are those democracies that recognize women are an equal part.

When you look at the gross domestic product of the Arab nations, it is astounding to recognize when you take in aggregate their total GNP and in spite of controlling nearly two-thirds of the world's oil, they still have a collective gross domestic product only equal to Spains'.

The message is clear, when you cut out half of your populace, you are not going to prosper and grow. So it is in the self-interest of every man and woman in Iraq to make sure women have an equal role in the activities of their country.

When I met this past weekend with Iraqi women in Amman and in Baghdad, and met with men and women who were participating in their constitutional convention, it was clear they feel like they are the Jeffersons and the Madisons and the Adamses and the Franklins and the Shermans. They know they have this unbelievable opportunity to shape a great nation.

It is right for our country to encourage them to do the right thing, to tell them we know what has helped us succeed. But in the end, it is their country and they will decide what is in their best interest.

They are going to decide, but if they want to succeed, and Lord knows we want them to, they need to make sure that along with guaranteeing majority rule and minority rights, right along with that there is the very real need to guarantee women are not only protected as equal but have an active role in their government.

Last June when the President demanded we transfer power to the Iraqis, there were many who did not agree with him. We took this American face and transferred it to Iraqis, and Iraqis began to be in charge of their own country. They had their election this January. More Iraqis participated in their election on a percentage basis than Americans participate in their own elections.

And now they will meet this August 15 deadline. They have assured me they are going to have their constitutional draft done, they are going to have their referendum on the 15th of October, and

elect their new government in December. They will succeed.

What is astounding is in spite of the bombings, in spite of the chaos, it has not deterred the Iraqis from moving their country forward.

I am going to conclude my remarks by again thanking the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for their work, and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER), and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) for his work.

I believe Iraqis know the importance of what they are doing, and that this little nudge from us is important, but ultimately they get it. They recognize women have a huge role to play in this potentially powerful country, with 10 percent of the world's oil, with all the water that a Middle East country could want. God bless our country, and God bless our new fledgling democracy in Iraq.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 383, to encourage the Transnational Assembly of Iraq to adopt a constitution that grants women equal rights under the law and works to protect such rights.

Frankly, it's no secret that the women of Iraq faced horrific times under the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein. Women confronted terror on a daily basis and far too often lost their loved ones to the brutality of the regime.

Since the fall of Saddam's regime and the emergence of a new democratic government, the women of Iraq have made tremendous progress in reclaiming their rightful place in society. These women have overcome unimaginable obstacles and deserve our ongoing support as they work to build a new democracy.

I have been fortunate enough to have met with many Iraqi women during two visits to Jordan and Iraq this year. Despite finding themselves in a dangerous environment, their dedication to achieving a democracy is inspirational.

The elections that were held in Iraq were only the first step towards democracy and equality. Thankfully, the transitional government was committed to including women in the election process and ultimately decided that every third name on each list would be a woman's name. As a result, 31 percent of those elected to the Transnational Assembly of Iraq are women. These elected women are participating in the writing of the constitution which has a deadline of completion of August 15th.

But the women of Iraq continue to face obstacles. A current hurdle is whether or not equal rights for women are included in the Iraqi Constitution. Their inclusion or omission will determine the future of Iraqi women's rights under the law, status in society, and role in the government. Iraqi women understand this and want their rights clearly defined in the constitution. They realize that unless their rights are firmly established, their future is not ensured and it will be far too easy to strip away these rights. Women constitute 60 percent of the Iraqi population. Leaving the majority of Iraqis out of the Constitution will not only prove detrimental to Iraqi women, but to the future health and prosperity of Iraqi society.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I strongly encourage the Transnational Assembly of Iraq to grant women equal rights under the law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 383.

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.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

Mr. BARTON of Texas (during consideration of H.R. 383) submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 6), an act to ensure jobs for our future with secure, affordable, and reliable energy.

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 109-190)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 6), to ensure jobs for our future with secure, affordable, and reliable energy, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the “Energy Policy Act of 2005”.

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

TITLE I—ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Subtitle A—Federal Programs

- Sec. 101. Energy and water saving measures in congressional buildings.
- Sec. 102. Energy management requirements.
- Sec. 103. Energy use measurement and accountability.
- Sec. 104. Procurement of energy efficient products.
- Sec. 105. Energy savings performance contracts.
- Sec. 106. Voluntary commitments to reduce industrial energy intensity.
- Sec. 107. Advanced Building Efficiency Testbed.
- Sec. 108. Increased use of recovered mineral component in federally funded projects involving procurement of cement or concrete.
- Sec. 109. Federal building performance standards.
- Sec. 110. Daylight savings.
- Sec. 111. Enhancing energy efficiency in management of Federal lands.

Subtitle B—Energy Assistance and State Programs

- Sec. 121. Low income home energy assistance program.
- Sec. 122. Weatherization assistance.

Sec. 123. State energy programs.

Sec. 124. Energy efficient appliance rebate programs.

Sec. 125. Energy efficient public buildings.

Sec. 126. Low income community energy efficiency pilot program.

Sec. 127. State Technologies Advancement Collaborative.

Sec. 128. State building energy efficiency codes incentives.

Subtitle C—Energy Efficient Products

Sec. 131. Energy Star program.

Sec. 132. HVAC maintenance consumer education program.

Sec. 133. Public energy education program.

Sec. 134. Energy efficiency public information initiative.

Sec. 135. Energy conservation standards for additional products.

Sec. 136. Energy conservation standards for commercial equipment.

Sec. 137. Energy labeling.

Sec. 138. Intermittent escalator study.

Sec. 139. Energy efficient electric and natural gas utilities study.

Sec. 140. Energy efficiency pilot program.

Sec. 141. Report on failure to comply with deadlines for new or revised energy conservation standards.

Subtitle D—Public Housing

Sec. 151. Public housing capital fund.

Sec. 152. Energy-efficient appliances.

Sec. 153. Energy efficiency standards.

Sec. 154. Energy strategy for HUD.

TITLE II—RENEWABLE ENERGY

Subtitle A—General Provisions

Sec. 201. Assessment of renewable energy resources.

Sec. 202. Renewable energy production incentive.

Sec. 203. Federal purchase requirement.

Sec. 204. Use of photovoltaic energy in public buildings.

Sec. 205. Biobased products.

Sec. 206. Renewable energy security.

Sec. 207. Installation of photovoltaic system.

Sec. 208. Sugar cane ethanol program.

Sec. 209. Rural and remote community electrification grants.

Sec. 210. Grants to improve the commercial value of forest biomass for electric energy, useful heat, transportation fuels, and other commercial purposes.

Sec. 211. Sense of Congress regarding generation capacity of electricity from renewable energy resources on public lands.

Subtitle B—Geothermal Energy

Sec. 221. Short title.

Sec. 222. Competitive lease sale requirements.

Sec. 223. Direct use.

Sec. 224. Royalties and near-term production incentives.

Sec. 225. Coordination of geothermal leasing and permitting on Federal lands.

Sec. 226. Assessment of geothermal energy potential.

Sec. 227. Cooperative or unit plans.

Sec. 228. Royalty on byproducts.

Sec. 229. Authorities of Secretary to readjust terms, conditions, rentals, and royalties.

Sec. 230. Crediting of rental toward royalty.

Sec. 231. Lease duration and work commitment requirements.

Sec. 232. Advanced royalties required for cessation of production.

Sec. 233. Annual rental.

Sec. 234. Deposit and use of geothermal lease revenues for 5 fiscal years.

Sec. 235. Acreage limitations.

Sec. 236. Technical amendments.

Sec. 237. Intermountain West Geothermal Consortium.

Subtitle C—Hydroelectric

Sec. 241. Alternative conditions and fishways.

Sec. 242. Hydroelectric production incentives.

Sec. 243. Hydroelectric efficiency improvement.

Sec. 244. Alaska State jurisdiction over small hydroelectric projects.

Sec. 245. Flint Creek hydroelectric project.

Sec. 246. Small hydroelectric power projects.

Subtitle D—Insular Energy

Sec. 251. Insular areas energy security.

Sec. 252. Projects enhancing insular energy independence.

TITLE III—OIL AND GAS

Subtitle A—Petroleum Reserve and Home Heating Oil

Sec. 301. Permanent authority to operate the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and other energy programs.

Sec. 302. National Oilheat Research Alliance.

Sec. 303. Site selection.

Subtitle B—Natural Gas

Sec. 311. Exportation or importation of natural gas.

Sec. 312. New natural gas storage facilities.

Sec. 313. Process coordination; hearings; rules of procedure.

Sec. 314. Penalties.

Sec. 315. Market manipulation.

Sec. 316. Natural gas market transparency rules.

Sec. 317. Federal-State liquefied natural gas forums.

Sec. 318. Prohibition of trading and serving by certain individuals.

Subtitle C—Production

Sec. 321. Outer Continental Shelf provisions.

Sec. 322. Hydraulic fracturing.

Sec. 323. Oil and gas exploration and production defined.

Subtitle D—Naval Petroleum Reserve

Sec. 331. Transfer of administrative jurisdiction and environmental remediation, Naval Petroleum Reserve Numbered 2, Kern County, California.

Sec. 332. Naval Petroleum Reserve Numbered 2 Lease Revenue Account.

Sec. 333. Land conveyance, portion of Naval Petroleum Reserve Numbered 2, to City of Taft, California.

Sec. 334. Revocation of land withdrawal.

Subtitle E—Production Incentives

Sec. 341. Definition of Secretary.

Sec. 342. Program on oil and gas royalties in-kind.

Sec. 343. Marginal property production incentives.

Sec. 344. Incentives for natural gas production from deep wells in the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

Sec. 345. Royalty relief for deep water production.

Sec. 346. Alaska offshore royalty suspension.

Sec. 347. Oil and gas leasing in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska.

Sec. 348. North Slope Science Initiative.

Sec. 349. Orphaned, abandoned, or idled wells on Federal land.

Sec. 350. Combined hydrocarbon leasing.

Sec. 351. Preservation of geological and geophysical data.

Sec. 352. Oil and gas lease acreage limitations.

Sec. 353. Gas hydrate production incentive.

Sec. 354. Enhanced oil and natural gas production through carbon dioxide injection.

Sec. 355. Assessment of dependence of State of Hawaii on oil.

Sec. 356. Denali Commission.

Sec. 357. Comprehensive inventory of OCS oil and natural gas resources.

Subtitle F—Access to Federal Lands

Sec. 361. Federal onshore oil and gas leasing and permitting practices.

Sec. 362. Management of Federal oil and gas leasing programs.