

It appears that the U.S. does have a way out, by withdrawing any commitments to free trade in gambling. The U.S. Trade Representative is currently in the middle of negotiating this withdrawal. But this requires compensation too, for taking away market access from our trading partners. How much compensation? Not much at all, given that almost all Internet gambling is illegal. But if we make it legal, even if sports gambling is excluded, then there is a big legal market for which we will owe compensation.

As Ambassador Eizenstat says, "withdrawal negotiations should be brought to a conclusion before Congress passes any new gambling legislation." In the interest of protecting American athletics, I plan to take this advice to heart.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to enter Ambassador Eizenstat's letter into the record.

FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM AND
MODERNIZATION ACT (HR 3121)

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3121, the Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act. This reauthorization and update of the National Flood Insurance Program is needed to ensure all home and business owners in flood zones have the ability to plan for the worst and purchase an appropriate level of coverage.

In 2005, we witnessed the extreme case of storm damage. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita showed that insurance companies try to blame wind damage on water. Too many lawsuits have been filed to try to resolve the dispute. This bill creates an option: homeowners can purchase a multiperil policy that will pay them for hurricane damage, whether caused by the wind or storm surge.

H.R. 3121 also includes language to further encourage to my constituents on Long Island to purchase flood insurance. A recent study has shown the southern shore of Long Island would be flooded if a Category 1 storm were to strike the area. That flood zone pushes further north on with each intensifying category. The affected areas on Long Island are home to middle-class and businesses. Under H.R. 3121, the maximum coverage for a home increases from \$250,000 to \$335,000; for residential contents from \$100,000 to \$135,000; and for non-residential properties from \$500,000 to \$670,000. These provisions will ensure that flood insurance participants on Long Island will be able to pick up the pieces and start over following a hurricane.

The bill includes another little discussed provision that I strongly support. Most people don't realize that today their finished basement family or media room and its contents are not protected by flood insurance because that room is located below ground level. As more families add on to their homes rather than move to larger homes, basements are becoming another room, often more important than the traditional living room. H.R. 3121 allows optional coverage for improvements and personal property located in basements.

Too many people who should be purchasing flood insurance have no protection. Some people they live too far from the coast. Others don't realize that their homes are in a flood plain and learn this fact, to their dismay, only after a flash flood destroys their residences. I am pleased that H.R. 3121 funds a program to help communities reach out to residents and encourage them to purchase flood insurance. I commend the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI) who introduced this legislation in the 109th Congress.

It is only a matter of time before a severe hurricane like the Long Island Express of 1938 impacts Long Island. This bill improves current insurance and should encourage more home owners to purchase and retain flood insurance. I encourage the House to pass H.R. 3121 and hope that the Senate also will act quickly to send this important legislation to the President for his signature.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL OVARIAN
CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. This is a very important designation because it helps to raise awareness about ovarian cancer and its symptoms.

In the State of Connecticut alone, over 300 women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer each year. It is predicted that 190 women in Connecticut will die from ovarian cancer in 2007. Ovarian cancer is the eighth most common female cancer in Connecticut and the fourth most common cause of female cancer death in the State.

Although in the United States approximately 20,000 women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer each year and an estimated 15,000 women die of the disease, there is currently no screening test for ovarian cancer. Until there is a cure for this disease it is important to support and recognize the hard work that organizations are doing to raise awareness for this disease and its symptoms. I want to commend organizations like the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance, OCNA, for its commitment to ensuring that women are aware of the symptoms of ovarian cancer and for its advocacy on behalf of the women and families who have been touched by this devastating disease.

Early detection of ovarian cancer must be our focus and education and awareness are imperative. Studies have shown that if ovarian cancer is treated before it has spread outside the ovary, the 5-year survival rate is 93 percent. However, only 19 percent of ovarian cancers are found at such an early stage.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing September as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and to work to increase awareness about this deadly disease.

INTRODUCING THE IRAQI REFUGEE AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, RESETTLEMENT AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a vital piece of legislation to raise awareness of the impending humanitarian crisis and security breakdown as a result of the mass influx of Iraqi refugees into neighboring countries, and the growing internally displaced population in Iraq.

Our legislation addresses this issue by increasing directed accountable assistance to these populations and their host countries, increasing border security, facilitating the resettlement of Iraqis at risk and broadening domestic relocation assistance.

Madam Speaker, whether you agree or disagree with U.S. policy in Iraq, one thing is crystal clear, we have a humanitarian crisis manifesting in the region that cannot be ignored.

Let's examine the facts. Iraqis are now the third-largest displaced population in the world and the fastest-growing refugee population globally. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, estimates that there are some 2.2 million Iraqis displaced internally and at least another 2 million Iraqis have sought refuge in neighboring countries.

Many of these Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons lack adequate food, shelter and other basic services. Further, the massive flow of refugees into neighboring countries is straining the social, economic, and security fabric of the host nations and threatens to destabilize the entire Middle East region.

My own efforts to address this looming calamity began in August when I wrote to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice highlighting the need for the United States to address this devastating situation with strong financial support, either through bilateral assistance or funding for international organizations that are working directly with the refugee and internally displaced populations.

In response to my letter, on September 7, 2007, I, along with Helsinki Commission Co-chairman Senator BENJAMIN L. CARDIN (D-MD) and Helsinki Commission Congressman JOSEPH R. PITTS (R-PA), received a briefing by Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration, PRM, Ellen Sauerbrey, who had recently returned from the region.

It was clear from our discussion that while the United States has been working to address this grave situation, not nearly enough is being done. The United States has a moral obligation to make a serious commitment to help Iraqi refugees and internally displaced populations while meeting our commitment to resettle Iraqi refugees referred by the UNHCR.

It is precisely for these reasons that I decided to take swift action and address this worsening crisis with comprehensive legislation.

Among the legislation's highlights are an authorization of \$700 million for each fiscal year

beginning in 2008 through 2010 for the relief of Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons, an increase of direct accountable bilateral assistance and/or funding for international aid organizations and nongovernmental organizations working in the host countries and an authorization of \$500 million to increase border security in Jordan.

Additionally, this legislation facilitates the resettlement of Iraqis employed by our government, American companies, and nongovernmental organizations into the United States, broadens domestic relocation assistance to include housing credits, cultural counseling, meetings with social workers, advice on how to work with the schools and employment systems, and requires the Department of State to create a program in the U.S. for English as a second language, vocational, computer training, employment services and some counseling for all Iraqi nationals immigrating to the United States under a Special Immigrant Visa.

Finally this legislation urges increased cooperation between the United States Government and the international community to address this crisis.

In passing this legislation, Congress can reaffirm its commitment to Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons. Our attention to this crisis could not be more important at this time for the sake of the new Iraq and Middle East regional stability. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and ask for its expeditious consideration.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TASK FORCE ON MENTORING OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 16TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and express my gratitude to the Task Force on Mentoring of Montgomery County, MD.

The Task Force on Mentoring is a community-based, nonprofit organization whose mission is to expand access to mentoring programs to youth and to enhance the community's understanding of mentoring as a valuable tool to ensure that our students can achieve their full potential. Among its many important efforts, the TFM provides training to mentors; sponsors seminars, conferences and workshops; assists parents seeking mentors; works to expand the pool of volunteer mentors; and establishes school-based mentoring programs.

The Task Force on Mentoring has supported at-risk youth for over 16 years. Its upcoming Annual Breakfast Conference focuses on "Making the Right Life Choices—How Mentoring Empowers Our Youth." The conference will take place at the Rockville campus of John Hopkins University on October 4, 2007.

Thanks to the dedication and effective efforts of the Task Force on Mentoring, many of Montgomery County's adolescents have been given the opportunity to become active and productive citizens.

Madam Speaker, on the occasion of its 16th annual conference, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Task Force on Mentoring of Montgomery County.

GLOBAL POVERTY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague and good friend from Washington, Congressman ADAM SMITH, for this legislation and his commitment to ending poverty worldwide.

The statistics are hard to believe: More than one billion people worldwide still struggle to survive on less than \$1 per day, and another 1.6 billion eke out a living on less than \$2 per day.

So, close to three billion men, women, and children—or a population 11 times the size of our own nation—awake each morning to little or no food, dirty water, inadequate shelter, and a lack of rudimentary health care. The entire international community should be ashamed at this massive failure.

Alleviating crushing poverty around the globe is our most profound moral imperative. Our unending compassion as an American people and our position as the world's sole remaining superpower demand it.

But more than just an appeal to our generosity should move us to pass this bill through the House of Representatives today: Reducing poverty around the world is in our national interest.

Persistent poverty gnaws at the bodies of men and women, making them vulnerable to global infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, that demand our resources and threaten health around the globe.

And the despair that inevitably accompanies stifling poverty also chews at the souls of the afflicted, making them vulnerable to ideologies of hate that foment violence around the world.

For all these reasons, we must support this bill. This legislation makes it a central U.S. foreign policy goal to eliminate extreme poverty and to achieve the U.N. Millennium Development Goals, which this Administration has committed to time and again.

Many observers have noted that the Millennium goals are ambitious. But the only way to even come close to achieving them is to remain committed—as a Congress and as a nation—to addressing poverty head-on.

This legislation requires the Administration to develop a comprehensive strategy to eliminate extreme global poverty. And it calls on the Administration—and future Administrations—to present to Congress the specific steps it has taken to develop and implement its strategy.

The bill enumerates several methods that serve as a blueprint for the overall strategy: development policies, continued investment in key programs, debt relief, and coordination with international organizations.

We could all glance at the statistics I mentioned earlier, shrug our shoulders, and shake

our heads. But this Congress will not settle for apathy and indifference. We will use our generosity and our foreign policy to lift up the people in extreme poverty who deserve our immediate attention.

I strongly urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my strong support for H. Res. 590, a resolution supporting the goal and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness month.

Within the United States, we know that one out of every four American women will experience violence by an intimate partner sometime during her lifetime.

Great strides have been made in breaking the vicious cycle of domestic violence in this country. With the impact of legislation such as the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, the rate of domestic violence against females over the age of 12 in the U.S. declined between 1993 and 2001.

Despite this progress, however, we must continue to raise awareness and actively work to combat this epidemic. We must speak out on behalf of victims who, for too long, were forced to suffer in silence.

Domestic violence can, and often does, turn deadly. A study released by the U.S. Department of Justice in 2005 reported that roughly 22 percent of murders were committed against family members. This study also shows that women are much more likely than men to be victims of domestic violence. In fact, over three-quarters of domestic violence victims are female, while over three-quarters of domestic violence perpetrators are male. It was also found that family members were responsible for an astounding 43 percent of murders of females.

According to a survey conducted in 2007 by the Family Violence Prevention Fund, 56 percent of men have had reason to believe that a member of their immediate or extended family, a close friend, or an acquaintance has been in a domestic violence or sexual assault situation. However, this survey also shows that 57 percent of men believe that they personally can make at least some difference in preventing domestic violence and sexual assault.

I believe that we can all make a difference in the battle against domestic violence. I do not only believe that we can make a difference, but that we must make a difference. I would like to thank my colleague, fellow Texas Congressman TED POE for introducing this important resolution.

I would also like to recognize the numerous organizations and individuals who work tirelessly to eradicate domestic violence and its devastating impact on individuals, families, and our communities.