

So why are we not taking the time to consider the impact the Peru FTA will have on our environment, our intellectual property or privatization of Social Security?

Even the labor leaders of major Peruvian labor organizations oppose this agreement. They urge Congress to vote "no," claiming that it will weaken labor standards, encourage illegal immigration to the United States, and increase the rates of drug trafficking and violence.

So who supports this agreement? Big Business. It's the large multinational companies who seek to profit off the backs of working men and women in our country.

Remember back on May 10 when we heard about the new trade model? Well, if it's so new and great, then why aren't we hearing from all sides on the trade debate asking us to support it? There is a reason: there is not much new about it. It's the same old model with a little fancy title.

I ask my colleagues to take a step back and consider this agreement carefully, demand the enforcement of the labor standards that conform with the ILO Conventions and environmental protection that might actually protect the environment.

I ask my colleagues to consider the impact of this agreement and to question why we are moving so quickly to box ourselves into a corner. And I'm asking Members to listen to their constituents.

All across this country, the American citizens are opposed to these bad, flawed trade deals. This is more of the same. We must have a new trade model. We have to start thinking globally of how we're going to deal with the globalization in this world today. So I encourage my colleagues to vote "no" on the Peru trade deal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HARE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HARE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KAGEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, we've been talking the last several weeks here in Congress about the SCHIP, the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

This is the SCHIP face I'd like to show America. Before I discuss with you in the next several minutes the SCHIP program, I'd like to show you the face of Kailee Meronek from Appleton. I represent her. She's not here to speak for herself, so I have the great honor and duty of speaking on her behalf. She has a younger sister who is 3 months of age, and a young mother who's earning \$2.33 an hour at a restaurant. She qualifies for SCHIP. She has benefited from SCHIP; and because she is covered by this state-run program, she sees her doctor in the doctor's office and not in the emergency room. Kailee needs our help and she needs our support. She will some day have to pay for a war that is costing the American taxpayers \$400 million a day. And yet we're not even paying for this war. The occupation of Iraq is being paid for by borrowed money from China that Kailee and her younger sister, Cassidy, will have to pay back some day.

The SCHIP program is a state-run program that's been very successful. We aim to reauthorize this program and expand its coverage to all children in America who are eligible. That's up to about 10.8 million to 11 million children who are the lowest income strata in the country.

The SCHIP program will focus on the working families who need the help the most. It will guarantee access to health care at the doctor's office, not at the expensive emergency room. If anyone listening thinks that SCHIP is not a good deal, you're going to spend much more money taking care of Kailee and her family at the emergency room than at the doctor.

SCHIP reduces your taxes. It cuts the cost of caring for families who are most in need.

How about the money? \$3.50 a day. Kailee is not asking for that money; she deserves it.

What kind of Nation are we? What kind of Nation would turn their back on Kailee and Cassidy and their mother, Wendy? Not this America.

I want my country back. I want a country that still cares about people more than corporations. I want a country that respects its laws and obeys all of its laws, including signing statements. We don't need signing statements. We need someone in our offices in the administration who cares about people.

Kailee and her sister, Cassidy, need our help. I'm asking all Republicans, all Democrats, forget your party leadership. Forget your association with your party. Think about the people you represent, like this young girl.

We aim to cover 57,778 people in Wisconsin on the SCHIP program, and hope to expand it another 37,000. We do it in a fair way, in a way that's called pay-as-you-go, not like our occupation of Iraq. We're going to pay as we go.

I ask America tonight to put a human face on the SCHIP program. Help Kailee. Support Kailee, her sister and her family and everyone in this country who needs our help.

What kind of Nation are we? We'll find out on Thursday. America is listening.

My colleagues, Mr. Speaker, I ask you to support the SCHIP bill and override the Presidential veto.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

□ 1945

HEALTH CARE FOR IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN WAR VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I think it's important for the President of the United States to pay attention to the over 100,000 Iraqi and Afghani veterans that are coming back to our country, U.S. citizens who have been wounded. 100,000.

This House passed a bill that increases spending in the Department of Veterans Affairs by 18 percent, the largest increase in American history, which is deserved because we have injured soldiers coming back to us who are not being treated. That bill is log jammed in the Senate. I invite the President of the United States to call over to the leadership in the Senate to say he's going to sign that bill and to move that bill this week.

Yesterday, I was out welcoming in an official ceremony the 983rd Combat Engineer Unit Heavy from the State of Ohio. It's a Reserve unit, over 1,000 soldiers who have been deployed to the theater in Iraq who came home, and this was the official welcome home ceremony to present them their warrior citizen flags and medals. It was a moving ceremony honoring their valor and their service to our country.

I had the opportunity at that ceremony to talk to Mrs. Tiffany Eckhart, the widow of Andy Eckhart, who lost his life in Iraq. And he was on his second deployment to Iraq.

She said several things to me. She said, Marcy, my husband never should have been deployed a second time because he had been injured in his first deployment. He had had a head injury, and she said, I want you to go back to Washington this week and tell the Congress and tell the Secretary of Defense and tell the President of the United States that every soldier who has been in combat in Iraq or in Afghanistan if they have had a head injury, before they are sent back again, they should be examined to make sure that there's nothing wrong, that there isn't a problem that affects their vision or in some way affects their functioning, which she claims is the reason for his death.

Now, if we are rotating people through so quickly and we aren't paying attention to the soldiers who are in

theatre, particularly the Guard and Reserve, which never get the attention that they should, shame on us. Shame on us.

The impact of these head injuries on our soldiers is serious, and with the explosions that are occurring, we are losing 80 percent of those who have lost their lives, 80 percent of our soldiers have died from IEDs, which are explosive devices, or from sniper shots to the back of the head, 80 percent. So the individual soldier is receiving these wounds largely in the head area, or if they have heard the explosive devices going off, they have had damage sometimes inside the head that you can't see. You can't see. So the Department of Defense should have a policy not to redeploy unless that soldier is reexamined.

It's almost like having shaking baby syndrome is what Mrs. Eckhart said to me, where after a baby has been damaged, unless they are really examined, sometimes you can't tell that there has been brain damage. It's no different for our soldiers. She begged me to change the policy of the Department of Defense in this regard.

In addition to that, I met so many soldiers who had come home because the unit returned in 2005, who had other symptoms that are not being treated. There is PTSD inside this particular battalion, but are doctors easily available to them? No. And are they available locally? No. If they are forced to travel somewhere because they are Reserve members, they have got to take off work. Guess what. They have to lose their pay because they have to go to get taken care of at a hospital 2, 3, 4 hours away from them. That's wrong. Those services should be provided to our soldiers when they are ill, particularly if they have something like PTSD, which demands such careful attention from a neuropsychiatrist and the distribution of medicines and the kind of therapeutic care that is important for them.

Another soldier came up to me. He had ripped cartilage and tendons in his knee. He has been home for over 1½ years. He said, Congresswoman, why didn't the DOD operate on me while I was in theater? He said, When I came home, they discharged me. He said, You know what? I came home. I am now in the Reserve. For me to get this taken care of, I will be off work for week. He said, I can't afford to do that. He said, Why didn't they tell me? Why didn't they tell me to take care of it while I was under the umbrella of the Department of Defense?

The PTSD and neurological disorders just in that unit, now that people have been home, while we were at the ceremony, several F-16 jets which are based near a school overhead, you could just see the reaction of the soldiers.

I would invite the President of the United States to urge the Senate of the United States to move that legislation so that we can move the resources we need into the Department of Veterans

Affairs and take care of the veterans of this country, over 100,000 of whom have come home now who are injured.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 734, EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING WITHHOLDING OF INFORMATION RELATING TO CORRUPTION IN IRAQ

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-382) on the resolution (H. Res. 741) providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 734) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the withholding of information relating to corruption in Iraq, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2102, FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION ACT OF 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-383) on the resolution (H. Res. 742) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2102) to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, let me seek unanimous consent that my colleagues will have 5 days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject matter of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MITCHELL). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

THE PRESIDENT'S VETO OF BIPARTISAN CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased once again to host the Congressional Black Caucus message hour on Monday, the first hour of the week.

In the past weeks we have talked about all kinds of issues affecting the American people and have focused on issues particularly affecting African American families. Once again, however, we are compelled to this week focus in on the State Children's Health Insurance Program, which the President chose to veto a couple weeks ago.

This week on the floor of the House we will again be debating SCHIP and the President and our effort to override that veto. I am confident that my colleagues will join me in overriding that veto because they understand the importance of children in the United States having health care.

I am joined this evening by several of my colleagues who will be speaking on this very issue. And I also want to say on behalf of the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK, who appointed me to lead this message hour. I want to thank the American public for listening in to our messages.

I am pleased at this time to yield to my colleague, my good friend, and my sister from Oakland, California, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first let me thank the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK, for her leadership and for her vision in making sure that really the conscience of America is heard on these Monday nights. And also let me thank Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES for her leadership and for her vigilance and also, as a member of the Ways and Means Committee, for her strong voice on behalf of our country's children.

I rise tonight in strong support for overriding the President's misguided veto on the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

Does the President want to relegate parents of sick children to frantic calls to 911, late night visits to emergency rooms, and tragic and preventable deaths due to undiagnosed illnesses? The Congress must say no and override his veto Thursday so that our children have access to regular checkups, preventative care, and a primary physician.

We must stand with the American people who overwhelmingly support increasing access to children's health care. We must stand with nearly every single health organization, every single children's organization in America, like the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Children's Defense Fund, Easter Seals, the March of Dimes, and countless others who support their bill because they all understand the devastating impact of being uninsured.

We must stand with the largest health insurance trade association in the country, America's Health Insurance Plans, who praised expanding the State Children's Health Insurance Program as a vital step in ensuring the health security of millions of America's children.

Sadly, I believe, like many of us believe, that the President is totally disconnected from the reality of our children's lives. He has asked Congress for another \$190 billion, \$190 billion, to fund his occupation of Iraq, while he has vetoed a fraction of that amount for our children. This is a shortsighted assault on our Nation's children, and we cannot stand for it.