

regarding the difficult health care decisions that clients must make.

In fact, professional social workers provide more mental health care than psychologists, psychiatrists and psychiatric nurses combined, making them the largest provider of mental health services in this country.

These services are also extended to our Nation's veterans. Professional social workers provide counseling, substance abuse treatment, crisis intervention and other services to veterans and their families.

At a time when our Nation is involved in wars both in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is important that our returning soldiers have access to the compassionate care that social workers provide. The Department of Veterans Affairs employs over 4,400 social workers to assist American veterans, including those returning from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues for joining me in support of H. Res. 266 yesterday and for honoring and paying their respect to our country's professional social workers and the services they provide.

I want to take this opportunity also to indicate that as a former social worker, I had the opportunity not only to teach 11 years in the School of Social Work, but also serve as a caseworker for heroin addicts for about 3 years, where I had the opportunity to serve directly with individuals that also had substance abuse, including adolescent substance abuse. I also had the privilege of working in the community mental health area, where I had an enjoyable practice and enjoyed working with individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all the social workers throughout this country for the services they provide.

A STRANGE REWARD FOR HEROIC ACTION

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

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor as I have so many times in the past to address an issue dealing with our extradition policy.

Mr. Speaker, a gentleman by the name of Duane Chapman, a bounty hunter that goes by the name of "Dog," faces the strangest of rewards for heroic action.

In 2003, Mr. Chapman received a tip regarding the whereabouts of a millionaire by the name of Andrew Luster. Mr. Luster was a convicted felon who had fled as an escapee from the California Department of Corrections 6 months earlier by jumping \$1 million bail on charges that he drugged and raped three women. He was also on the FBI's Most Wanted List, convicted and sentenced to a term of 124 years of imprisonment in absentia for 86 counts of rape, drug and weapons offenses.

Mr. Chapman went to Mexico to act on this tip and was accompanied by a

local Mexican police officer. He was also in communications with U.S. officials, who were aware of his activities.

Much to his credit, Mr. Chapman successfully located Mr. Luster and apprehended him. However, on the way to the jail to book Mr. Luster, Chapman's police escort disappeared, strangely. As a result, Mr. Chapman was detained for several days on the relatively minor charge of deprivation of freedom and conspiracy. Mr. Chapman then returned to the U.S. after posting bail.

Thanks to Dog, a serial rapist is now rightly serving a 124-year sentence and the situation seemed to have worked out for the best. But now, years after the fact, it seems that the Mexican Government is intent on extraditing and prosecuting Mr. Chapman. Incredibly, our State Department seems to have no problem being complicit in these proceedings.

I have written the Department of Justice at least once and the Department of State several times just asking them to justify what they have done. I wanted to figure out exactly what their reasoning is for handling this specific case in this way.

There are a lot of legitimate questions. For instance, how is it possible that the Department of Justice would decide to use taxpayer resources to send U.S. Marshals to Hawaii to take Mr. Chapman into custody?

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This is an administration that routinely tells Congress that they cannot secure our borders and immigration system due to lack of resources. We are told that the U.S. Attorney's Office in the border States are simply overwhelmed with cases and cannot prosecute all of the violations, even very serious ones. We are told that ICE can't possibly tackle the task of deporting illegal aliens from the interior of our Nation. We are apparently supposed to accept the presence of roughly 100,000 criminal aliens inside our borders, a number that is growing every year, while the U.S. Marshals track down a successful bounty hunter instead.

After formally apprehending Mr. Chapman and putting him into a bevy of new legal proceedings, the question of extradition is raised. Though my observations of our extradition treaty with Mexico indicate that it is not absolutely binding, conventional wisdom has seemed to assume that the treaty between the U.S. and Mexico requires Chapman's extradition. But it is just this, conventional wisdom. It is not part of the treaty, apparently.

I am not the only one to question whether extradition ought to proceed. One recent news story reported that although the U.S. and Mexico informally agreed to recognize trans-border captures by bounty hunters as extraditable offenses, this provision was never fully incorporated into the extradition treaty. The report indicates that this "informal" addition to the treaty

came after bounty hunters captured a gentleman by the name of Humberto Alvarez-Machain, a Mexican physician implicated in the torture and execution of a U.S. Drug Enforcement Agent. Alvarez-Machain maintained that his capture violated the U.S.-Mexico extradition treaty.

The U.S. Supreme Court rejected Alvarez-Machain's claim in 1992. In the decision, Justice Rehnquist wrote that the treaty "says nothing" about the obligations of the United States and Mexico to refrain from forcible abductions of people from the territory of the other nation, or the consequences under the treaty if such an abduction occurs." That is his quote.

Mexico's Government was upset by the decision which gave rise to its "informal" addition to the treaty. Alan Kreczko, then deputy legal adviser to the Secretary of State, then James Baker, said in congressional testimony that the U.S. and Mexican governments had exchanged letters recognizing that trans-border abductions by so-called bounty hunters and other private individuals would be considered extraditable offenses by both nations.

This international dispute should have remained amicably resolved by virtue of the fact that justice has clearly been served in the case of "Dog" Chapman. But now that these events have been set in motion anew, the best resolution in which we can hope for would come from the Mexican government and judiciary when they dismiss the charges pending against the Chapmans and also to withdraw their request for extradition.

Let's just say that I am not over optimistic for this stand by Secretary Rice to refuse extradition to Mr. Chapman, and I hope this good deed does not go unpunished.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRALEY of Iowa). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH

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

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor America's social workers. This month provides us an opportunity to highlight the essential role that social workers play in alleviating some of America's most difficult problems.

Professional social workers are found in every facet of community life, including our schools, our hospitals, mental health clinics, senior citizen facilities, elected office, private practices, prisons, among our military personnel, and the list goes on and on.

I have had the opportunity to work with some outstanding social workers or to be involved professionally with them. I have been involved with Dr. Roger Witherspoon, who is a great social worker, Mr. Levander Lilly, Ruby Bullock, Betty Williams, Mark Handelman, Ed Pitt, Dr. Joe Jackson, Sam Hodes, and I can go on and on because of my many years of being involved in the field of social work.

This year's theme for National Professional Social Workers Month is "Hope and Health; Help Starts Here." This theme reflects the important work being done by social workers in the health care field.

Social workers involved in health care often work within a multidisciplinary team which includes doctors, nurses and other medical professionals. This is an approach to ensure quality care for patients and their families.

I am grateful for the leadership and expertise that the members of the National Association of Social Workers provide to the people of America and, of course, around the world. Social workers in all disciplines use their collective power every day to strengthen our Nation's families and communities, help individuals overcome adversity, and advance sound social policies. The commitment and dedication of social workers to create a more positive environment for all of our people is to be commended.

Last year, the National Association of Social Workers released the results of a national study which warns of an impending shortage of social workers that threatens future services for all Americans, especially the most vulnerable among us, our children and our senior citizens.

Throughout history, social workers have addressed the needs of society and brought our Nation's social problems to the public's attention. As one of the 10 proud social workers of the House of Representatives, today I know firsthand how social workers across this country advocate for the humane, fair and beneficial policies for all of our citizens.

So I salute all social workers during this National Professional Social Work Month; and I say to my colleagues around the board, social workers make a great contribution to the improvement of the quality of life for so many people in this country.

DENOUNCING THE GOVERNMENT OF BELARUS

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, March 25, approximately 7,000 citizens of Belarus gathered together in commemoration of the 89th anniversary of the short-lived Belarusian National Republic, which was formed on March 25, 1918, when Belarusians proclaimed their independence from the

Russian empire. Unfortunately, only 10 months later, the Red Army entered Minsk, quashed this democracy and set up the Belarusian Soviet Socialist Republic.

On Sunday, the brave men and women of Belarus gathered together to commemorate their ancestors' drive for democracy and independence almost 90 years ago and express their own desire to live in free and democratic Belarus. This group had planned to assemble in October Square in central Minsk to start their peaceful march towards the National Academy of Sciences. However, participants arrived at this public square to find it blocked by riot police, and trucks and busses were forced to split into several groups.

One group decided to march to the Sport Palace and reassemble there. When they got to that destination, they were met by a large number of policemen warning that if they did not leave within the next 5 minutes, special measures would be taken against them. Several minutes later, the first clash between the police and protesters took place, with several people beaten and arrested. Former presidential candidate Aleksander Milinkevich and his wife were among those hit and knocked to the ground.

Finally, the group managed to break through and march to the National Academy of Sciences, where they were able to meet up with the rest of the group; and a rally was held. Participants included young people and families with children. They shouted slogans, sang songs and waived red and white Belarusian flags and banners which read "Freedom to Kozulin and freedom to political prisoners."

While speaking to the crowd, former presidential candidate Aleksander Milinkevich declared that "Democratic Belarus will prevail, as truth and God are on its side. Under the weight of its lies, this regime will fall, but we should give it a push with our strength, our loyalty and our love for the homeland. We should do this in a peaceful manner, as Belarusians don't like violence. We are peaceful people and have not shed anyone's blood. It is our blood that has been shed and our people are in prison."

Yet in spite of the peaceful nature of a crowd and Mr. Milinkevich's public assurances that the pro-democratic forces carried a message of peace, the police continued to try to break up the rally. Police set up loudspeakers which continually interrupted the rally speakers, warning the group that their actions were illegal, that they had not received permission to hold a rally at the National Academy of Sciences, and if they refused to leave, physical force would be used against them. Forty people were arrested on March 25th alone. Many people were also beaten with police batons.

Leaders of the pro-democratic forces in Belarus, Anatoly Lebedko, Alexander Milinkevich, Victor Karnyenko

and Valentina Polevikova, were among those hit by security forces' batons, with Ms. Polevikova suffering a head injury.

What is additionally disconcerting is that 60 additional activists were arrested on March 23rd and 24th in the lead-up to the rally in a shocking incident. Prominent pro-democratic activist and mother of two, Krystsina Shatsikava, was abducted by unknown men and forced into a car at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 23rd. She was later brought to a mental hospital in Mogilov, where she said that she had been tied to a bed and given an unknown injection at the hospital. She was finally released today. The young woman was a prominent activist following the fraudulent presidential elections in March, 2006, and had repeatedly declared her intention to participate in the March 25th rally.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I find it appalling that 7,000 peaceful protestors gathered together to commemorate an anniversary of national independence and freedom, only to have their voices crushed once again by the current regime of Aleksander Lukashenko.

I denounce the government of Belarus for its actions against these peaceful protestors and demand that they release all the activists who were jailed for their participation during the leading up to the March 25th rally.

I also, along with our European colleagues, once again urge the government of Belarus to allow its citizens to exercise their right to assemble peacefully and express their views freely.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. SHEA-PORTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

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

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland 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 North Carolina (Mr. McHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. McHENRY 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 Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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