

Whereas Special Olympics offers 30 Olympic-type summer and winter sports to both children and adults with intellectual disabilities;

Whereas Boise, Idaho won the International bid to host the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games to be held during February 6–13, 2009;

Whereas thousands of athletes are expected to compete in 7 winter sports in the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games; and

Whereas the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games will be the largest multi-sport event ever held in the State of Idaho: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) applauds the goals and principles of Special Olympics;

(2) salutes the athletes, coaches, family members, friends, and volunteers that make Special Olympics World Winter Games possible;

(3) congratulates the State of Idaho as the host for the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games; and

(4) supports the 2009 Special Olympic World Winter Games and the goals of the Special Olympics to enrich the lives of people with intellectual disabilities through sports.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

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

In 1968, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the world's great champion of people with intellectual disabilities, created the Special Olympics. For Mrs. Shriver, the founding of the Special Olympics was a capstone of her decades-long effort to improve the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. It is a testament to her dogged dedication that the Special Olympics thrives today.

Eunice's idea was simple: give people with intellectual disabilities the same opportunities other young people have to develop their physical fitness, to create friendships, and to enjoy the thrill of competition.

Today, the Special Olympics offers year-round training in 30 summer and winter sports for both children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The Special Olympics serves more than 2.25 million intellectually disabled people through 200 programs in 160 countries.

I want to salute my colleague Mr. SALI from Idaho for introducing this legislation. Mr. SALI rightfully takes pride that his State has landed the honor of hosting the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games. Being named host of the 2009 winter games is a tremendous achievement for the great State of Idaho. There could be no better backdrop than the stark beauty of the State of Idaho and the Sawtooth Mountains.

The Special Olympics has become an important global event. The 2009 games will include thousands of competitors from over 100 countries competing in

seven different winter sports. It will be the largest multisport event in the history of the State of Idaho. Idaho will be a terrific host for an event that empowers these brave young men and women and builds their self-esteem.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate Idaho on its successful bid, as well, to host the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games and express strong support for H. Res. 380.

The Special Olympics program has benefited countless people with disabilities nationwide and around the globe, raising awareness, fostering support for a great cause while enabling the participants to enhance their self-confidence and gain a sense of well-deserved personal accomplishment through sports and competition. It is, in every sense, a blessing to the participants.

The millions of volunteers, coaches and athletes involved with the Special Olympics do a great service for their community and their country and, of course, to those with intellectual disabilities. I would also say, though, having been involved and been in attendance at Special Olympics programs, I haven't met a volunteer yet, Mr. Speaker, who didn't think that they were richer as a result of their participation in this extraordinary program, to see the courage of those who compete and the extraordinary sacrifice of the parents of those who bring them to such a wonderful opportunity.

Through the dedication of these volunteers, the Special Olympics have continued to grow and impact the lives of more and more people around the world.

The 2009 Winter Games in Idaho promise to be a great showcase for Special Olympics participants from around the world to compete at a high level and demonstrate that disabilities are no match for individuals who are driven to succeed.

Again, I congratulate Idaho for being selected as the host of an event of such magnitude. I extend my best wishes to their new Governor and my friend, and I am fully confident that it will be a resounding success.

I urge my colleagues to render their full support for this resolution.

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

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I again express support for H. Res. 380 and congratulate the State of Idaho for winning the opportunity to host the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 380.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

#### EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING UNTOUCHABILITY IN INDIA

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 139) expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States should address the ongoing problem of untouchability in India, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

#### H. CON. RES. 139

Whereas the Human Rights Watch and the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at New York University School of Law released a report in February 2007 that describes caste discrimination against India's "Untouchables" based on in-depth investigations and the findings of Indian governmental and non-governmental organizations on caste-based abuses;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of India have entered into an unprecedented partnership;

Whereas the July 18, 2005, Joint Statement between President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh stated that, "[a]s leaders of nations committed to the values of human freedom, democracy, and rule of law, the new relationship between India and the United States will promote stability, democracy, prosperity, and peace throughout the world [ . . . and] it will enhance our ability to work together to provide global leadership in areas of mutual concern and interest";

Whereas caste is the socioeconomic stratification of people in South Asia based on a combination of work and heredity;

Whereas the "Untouchables", now known as the Dalits, and the people of the forest tribes of India, called Tribals, who together number approximately 200,000,000 people, are the primary victims of caste discrimination in India;

Whereas discrimination against the Dalits and Tribals has existed for more than 2,000 years and has included educational discrimination, economic disenfranchisement, physical abuse, discrimination in medical care, religious discrimination, and violence targeting Dalit and Tribal women;

Whereas Article 17 of the Constitution of India outlaws untouchability;

Whereas despite numerous laws enacted for the protection and betterment of the Dalits and Tribals, they are still considered outcasts in Indian society and are treated as such; moreover, in practice, Dalits and Tribals are frequently denied equal treatment under the law;

Whereas Dalit women suffer both caste and gender discrimination as a result of the deficient administration of justice and are often raped and attacked with impunity;

Whereas the National Commission on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has

declared that many of the reported cases of atrocities against Dalits and Tribals end in acquittals;

Whereas, despite the fact that many Dalits do not report crimes for fear of reprisals by the dominant castes, national police statistics averaged over the past five years by the National Commission on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes show that 13 Dalits are murdered every week, five Dalits' homes or possessions are burnt every week, six Dalits are kidnapped or abducted every week, three Dalit women are raped every day, 11 Dalits are beaten every day and a crime is committed against a Dalit every 18 minutes;

Whereas many Dalit girls are forced to become temple prostitutes who are then unable to marry and may be auctioned to urban brothels, and many women trafficked in India are Dalit women;

Whereas low-caste unborn females are targeted for abortions;

Whereas according to Human Rights Watch and India's official National Family Health Survey, most Dalits and Tribals are among those poorest of the poor living on less than \$1 per day; most of India's bonded laborers are Dalits; and half of India's Dalit children are undernourished, 21 percent are "severely underweight", and 12 percent die before their 5th birthday;

Whereas Dalits and other low-caste individuals often suffer from discrimination and segregation in government primary schools leading to low enrollment, high drop-out, and low literacy rates, perhaps linked to a perception that Dalits are not meant to be educated, are incapable of being educated, or if educated, would pose a threat to village hierarchies and power relations;

Whereas the Dalits and Tribals maintain higher illiteracy rates than non-Dalit populations; and

Whereas the HIV/AIDS epidemic in India is massive and Dalits and Tribals are significantly affected by HIV/AIDS: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),* That it is the sense of Congress that, as the leaders of the United States and the Republic of India have expressed commitment to the values of human freedom, democracy, and the rule of law, it is in the interests of the United States to address the problem of the treatment of the Dalits and Tribals in India in order to better meet mutual social development and human rights goals by—

(1) raising the issues of caste discrimination, violence against women, and untouchability through diplomatic channels both directly with the Government of India and within the context of international bodies;

(2) encouraging the United States Agency for International Development to ensure that the needs of Dalit organizations are incorporated in the planning and implementation of development projects;

(3) ensuring that projects that positively impact Dalit and Tribal communities, especially Dalit women, are developed and implemented;

(4) ensuring that cooperative research programs targeting rural health care, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and rural technology contain proper focus on the Dalits and Tribals;

(5) ensuring that anyone receiving funding in India from the United States Government—

(A) is aware that it is United States Government policy that caste discrimination is unacceptable, and that the United States is committed to eliminating it; and

(B) treat all people equally without engaging in caste discrimination;

(6) ensuring that—

(A) qualified Dalits are in no way discouraged from working with organizations re-

ceiving funding in India from the United States Government, and that transparent and fair recruitment, selection, and career development processes are implemented, with clear objective criteria; and

(B) procedures exist to detect and remedy any caste discrimination in employment conditions, wages, benefits or job security for anyone working with organizations receiving funding in India from the United States Government;

(7) encouraging United States citizens working in India to avoid discrimination toward the Dalits in all business interactions; and

(8) discussing the issue of caste during bilateral and multilateral meetings, including congressional delegations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

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

I would like to commend our distinguished colleague Mr. TRENT FRANKS of Arizona for introducing this resolution. Roughly 20 million people in India are subject to discrimination, and sometimes worse, simply because of their caste. Discrimination inflicted against people known as Dalits and Tribals in India is solely based on being born into a certain family. This is an unethical practice and is outlawed under the Indian Constitution. The whole concept of untouchability itself is banned by the Indian Constitution. However, enforcement of this law ought to be strengthened, and crimes against Dalits ought to be prevented, more vigorously investigated and prosecuted.

This resolution seeks to state clearly the sense of the United States Congress in this regard. We must continue to raise this issue in our bilateral meetings with our good friends in the Government of India, especially at a time when the United States-Indian relationship has entered into an unprecedented and unparalleled partnership.

Furthermore, we must ensure the antipoverty programs and other programs we support in India incorporate the needs of the Dalit community. Our government and our companies that do business in India ought to make a special effort to help these people, because right now they may often have little help in their own communities, although there are programs of the Indian Government also focused on meeting these needs.

It is our moral obligation to speak out against abuses of human rights, wherever we see them, even in countries that are our allies and excellent partners. That is why Congress must address the problem of the treatment of Dalits and Tribals in India.

We need to be consistent. It is easy to criticize our adversaries, but we have even more impact when we point out the failings, both past and present, and the need for improvement of our friends and allies.

The world's oldest democracy, the United States, and the world's largest democracy, India, should work together to end legacies of ethnic discrimination in both of our countries.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, at the outset, I would like to commend both Chairman LANTOS and the author of this resolution, the distinguished gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS), as well as Mr. SMITH for their leadership on working to bring this and so many other human rights issues to the attention of this body.

As we all know, India is not only the world's largest English-speaking democracy, but it's one of the world's richest and most diverse civilizations.

India is also emerging as one of the world's most dynamic economies, with the results of that growth uplifting the lives of millions of citizens. Yet despite this impressive record of reform and growth, India, like all countries, including our own, also faces a number of compelling domestic challenges.

As was recently reported in a front-page story in the Washington Post, one of these social traumas relates to the problem of inequality and deep-seated caste prejudice. More than 200 million people in India are considered untouchable, people tainted by their birth into a caste system that deems them impure and almost less than human.

Despite constitutional protections and other legal and regulatory efforts by the Government of India to improve the lives of the Dalits and other Tribal peoples, all too many continue to suffer from human rights abuses, as well as discrimination.

In this regard, the State Department reports that while rare in urban settings, examples of intolerance occur regularly in rural areas. Many Dalits are malnourished, lack access to health care, work in poor conditions and continue to face serious social discrimination.

In addition, Dalit women are all too often the victims of rape and exploitation at the hands of cruel human traffickers. Tragically, they also suffer disproportionately from the ravages of HIV/AIDS.

This Congress and the American people are enormously respectful of Indian sovereignty, its impressive democratic heritage and its respect for the rule of law. As awkward as circumstances may be, for this body not to acknowledge these extraordinary issues would be an error.

In a respectful and well-balanced way, this resolution appropriately shines a light on the plight of India's untouchables, and I believe it deserves our support.

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

Mr. SHERMAN. I thank the gentleman from Indiana, particularly for noting the ongoing efforts of the Indian Government to deal with this issue. I believe that this resolution should be regarded as one where we will work with the Government of India to deal with what both countries acknowledge to be an ongoing problem.

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this resolution and would reiterate the spirit with which this resolution is brought cannot be more eloquently stated than the gentleman from California just did. This is brought in a spirit of cooperation with a friend to assist them in confronting a domestic challenge, but it is among friends that we speak and will support this legislation today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 139, "Expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States should address the ongoing problem of untouchability in India." I believe that this is a very important issue that demands immediate attention, and I am very pleased to see it come before the House today.

I would first like to commend our distinguished colleague, Mr. TRENT FRANKS of Arizona, for introducing this important resolution.

Many Americans would be shocked to learn that the caste system continues to have a substantial hold on Indian society. The caste system is the traditional system of social stratification on the Indian Subcontinent, in which social classes are defined by a number of endogamous, hereditary groups often termed as castes. Within a caste there exist exogamous groups known as gotras, the lineage or clan of a person. Roughly 20 million people in India are subject to cruel and inhuman treatment simply due to their caste. The terrible discrimination inflicted against the people known as Dalits and Tribals in India occurs solely because a person was born into a certain family. 13 Dalits are murdered every week; 3 Dalit women are raped every day, often with impunity; and a crime is committed against a Dalit every 18 minutes.

The Indian Constitution has formally outlawed caste-based discrimination, but the caste system still plays a major role in Indian society and politics. The leaders of independent India decided that India will be a democratic, socialist and secular country. According to this policy there is a separation between religion and state. Enforcement of the law must be strengthened, and this resolution seeks to state clearly the sense of the United States Congress in this regard. I look forward to working with the vibrant Indian-American community on this continued concern.

We must continue to raise this issue during our bilateral meetings with our good friends in the Government of India, especially during a time in which the United States-India relationship has entered into an unprecedented partnership.

It is our moral obligation to speak out about abuses of human rights wherever they take place. That is why this Congress must address the problem of the treatment of Dalits and Tribals in India.

I strongly support this resolution and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 139, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1932 WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES IN LAKE PLACID, NEW YORK

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 521) celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the 1932 Winter Olympic Games in Lake Placid, New York.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 521

Whereas Lake Placid, New York, was the site of the 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympic Games;

Whereas Lake Placid is the only site in North America to have hosted the Winter Olympic Games more than once;

Whereas the 1980 Winter Olympic Games featured one of the greatest triumphs in sports history with the men's United States hockey team victory over the Soviet team in the "Miracle on Ice";

Whereas Lake Placid, New York, has a population of under 2,700 residents, yet welcomes over 2.2 million visitors each year;

Whereas the residents of Lake Placid were wonderful ambassadors of the United States for the 1,324 Olympic athletes that participated in the 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympic Games;

Whereas the residents of Lake Placid take great pride in their place in Olympic history;

Whereas Lake Placid and the towns of North Elba and Wilmington have world class sports facilities that serve as an excellent training location for athletes and sports enthusiasts;

Whereas Lake Placid is the home of one of the three U.S. Olympic Committee's national training centers;

Whereas Lake Placid continues to successfully host international sports competitions on a regular basis; and

Whereas 2007 marks the 75th anniversary of the 1932 Winter Olympic Games: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the Village of Lake Placid, New York, as it celebrates its 75th anniversary of hosting the 1932 Winter Olympic Games;

(2) encourages all Americans to visit the state-of-the-art Olympic facilities in Lake Placid;

(3) recognizes Lake Placid's important place in Olympic history; and

(4) encourages the United States Olympic Committee to select Lake Placid to represent the United States in a future bid for the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

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

Let me first express my appreciation to our colleague from the great State of New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) for introducing this important and timely resolution. I know the gentlelady from New York would like to be here, and if I speak very slowly may yet get here before we conclude, but whether she is here in person, she is certainly here in spirit.

The little village of Lake Placid lived up to its name on two spectacular occasions in the last century. The 1932 Winter Olympics and the 1980 Winter Olympics were two of the most exciting events of our time, featuring the most beautiful backdrops in the history of the games.

The organizing committee of the 1932 Olympics faced an uphill battle, raising money for the games in the middle of the Great Depression. But symbolizing the American spirit of generosity, Dr. Godfrey Dewey donated land owned by his family to be used for the all-important bobsleigh run. In fact, the Winter Olympics that year became a real distraction from the Great Depression for all the residents of the State of New York, and, in fact, the entire world.

In those 1932 Games, Eddie Eagan became the only Olympic athlete ever to win a gold medal in both the Summer and Winter Games. A great, versatile athlete, Eagan had already earned gold as a lightweight boxer in the 1920 Summer Games. At Lake Placid in 1932, he was part of the four-man bobsleigh team that triumphed in first place.

This resolution takes the opportunity to congratulate and celebrate Lake Placid upon the 75th anniversary of the games it hosted in 1932. This town deserves full congressional credit for the efficiency and grace with which it represented the United States during the Games of 1932 and, again, in 1980.

But Lake Placid outdid itself in 1980, when it had new facilities and a renewed spirit to host thousands of people for those Winter Games. Those Games became famous for the unbelievable Miracle-on-Ice conquest, when the United States hockey team, a group of amateurs and college kids, captured the hearts of the Nation by upending the Soviet Union's intimidating hockey machine in a dramatic 4-3 semifinal victory. They went on to win the gold.

Lake Placid's involvement with the Olympics has grown larger than just those two games. Lake Placid maintains world-class Olympic facilities and