

clear, in both word and deed, that the spread of religious freedom and human rights worldwide is not merely an ideal, but an imperative.

I thank my distinguished colleague and friend from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) for introducing this resolution.

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

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), who is the author of this resolution. He is also a member of the powerful Appropriations Committee.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I co-authored this resolution with ROB ANDREWS as a call to action for the safety of the Baha'i faithful.

Never have followers of a more peaceful or gentle creed faced a more cruel and unjust tormenter. Founded in the mid-19th century in Persia, the Baha'i faith now extends to every country, including our own, but its faithful are most numerous in the place of its origin, now the modern day Iran.

The European Parliament has spoken out on this issue, and so we now add our voice as supporters of international human rights and the home of many Baha'i faithful here in America.

We have looked at a terrible situation unfolding in Iran. While Iranian Baha'is have suffered for many decades, their repression has grown significantly in the past few years. In 2006, Iran's Armed Forces Command headquarters ordered their Ministry of Information and the Revolutionary Guard and the police to identify all members of the Baha'i faith in Iran and to begin to monitor their activities.

In that same year, we saw the largest round-up of Baha'is. The Iranian Interior Ministry ordered provincial officials to cautiously and carefully monitor and then begin to manage all Baha'i activities. The Central Security Office of Iran's Ministry of Science, Research and Technology ordered 81 Iranian universities to expel any student discovered of being a Baha'i.

In 2007, the situation worsened. More than two-thirds of Baha'is enrolled in universities were expelled once they were identified. Police entered Baha'i homes and businesses to collect details on family members. Twenty-five industries were ordered to deny licenses to Baha'is, employers were pressured to fire Baha'i employees, and banks were told to refuse loans to Baha'i-owned businesses. As we heard before, Baha'i cemeteries were also destroyed.

In November of 2007, three Baha'i youths, Ms. Raha Sabet, Mr. Sasan Taqva and Ms. Haleh Roohi, were all detained for educating underprivileged children. They were later sentenced to 4 years in prison for this offense. The following month, the Iranian Parliament published a draft Islamic penal code requiring the death penalty for all apostates, a term that strictly applies

to Baha'is and anyone who converts away from rigid Islam.

On May 14, 2008, seven members of the National Baha'i Coordinating Group were arrested. This is reminiscent of a mass disappearance and assumed murder of all members of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is in Iran back in August of 1980. The seven arrested in May are still being held without any charge or access to attorneys. And in just the last 2 weeks, a number of Baha'i families were targeted with acts of arson.

This is government-sponsored persecution. And we in the Congress should not be silent as Iran sets up the mechanism to ethnically cleanse its Baha'i minority, totaling over 250,000 human beings.

This bipartisan resolution, which I introduced with Congressman ANDREWS, condemns the Government of Iran for its persistent repression of Baha'is and lack of due process afforded to this minority. Our resolution calls upon Iran to immediately release three Baha'i youths and to reject the draft Islamic penal code requiring the death penalty for all apostates.

Mr. Speaker, my district is also home to the headquarters of the North American Assembly of Baha'is. The son of the faith's founder laid the cornerstone on the Baha'i Temple in Wilmette, Illinois—now basically a de facto symbol of the North Shore and our commitment to diversity and tolerance. Would that this view be shared by the Iranian Government.

For the life of me, I do not understand why they attack Baha'is. The Baha'i faith teaches that Moses and Jesus and Mohammed are all respected teachers who added to the faith of our times. The Baha'is embody acceptance and tolerance and accommodation. They have a faith which renders them incapable of being a threat to a government, so it is up to us to speak for them. It's up to us to hold up a mirror to the Iranian Government to show it as a vicious and cruel state.

We have seen this movie before, but they have worn other uniforms in other countries. It is my hope that we can make this call to action to join with the European Parliament. We can help change the ending of this flick so that hundreds of thousands of Baha'is may one day be able to sleep well in future days knowing that the great democracies from across the seas in Europe and America watch over them.

I urge the adoption of this Kirk-Andrews resolution and mightily thank the chairman of the committee, Mr. BERMAN, Ranking Member Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and the ranking member of the subcommittee, Mr. CHABOT, for helping to bring this before America's Parliament and calling real attention to help avert what could be a new crime of the century.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1008, condemning the per-

secution of the Baha'is in Iran. The Baha'is are Iran's largest non-Muslim minority and have faced severe and often brutal persecution since the Iranian government banned all formal Baha'i activity in 1983. Incidents of violence and persecution targeting members of the Baha'i community have increased under the current regime of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

On July 18, the house of the Shaaker family in Kerman was torched only weeks after their car went up in flames. Officials investigating the scene attributed the incidents to electrical problems despite a series of threatening phone calls received by the family in the days leading up to the incident. This is one of over a dozen cases in a string of arson targeting Baha'is over the past 15 months.

These attacks follow the arrest and detention of the seven members of Iran's national Baha'i coordinating group in May. All of these individuals remain isolated in the notorious Evin Prison in Tehran without access to legal representation and are prohibited from contacting their families. At this time, no formal charges have been brought against these seven individuals.

I am pleased to join a bipartisan group of my colleagues as a cosponsor of this important resolution, and I hope its passage will send a strong message to the Iranian government that the United States Congress will always stand in solidarity with the persecuted people of the world.

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

Mr. BERMAN. 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. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1008, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. KIRK. 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.

EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS UNDER THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 3352) to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 3352

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

(a) EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS.—Section 2(a) of the Higher Education Extension Act of

2005 (Public Law 109-81; 20 U.S.C. 1001 note) is amended by striking "July 31, 2008" and inserting "August 15, 2008".

(b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section, or in the Higher Education Extension Act of 2005 as amended by this Act, shall be construed to limit or otherwise alter the authorizations of appropriations for, or the durations of, programs contained in the amendments made by the Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-171), by the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (Public Law 110-84), or by the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-227) to the provisions of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Taxpayer-Teacher Protection Act of 2004.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if enacted on July 31, 2008.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on S. 3352 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3352, a bill to temporarily extend programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

We are at the final stages of completing the Higher Education Act, which we anticipate bringing to the floor for consideration of the conference report this week.

The bill under consideration today, S. 3352, will extend the programs under the Higher Education Act until August 15, 2008 to allow sufficient time for the Clerk to enroll the bill and send it to the President for his signature.

It has been nearly 10 years since the Higher Education Act was last authorized. I look forward to joining my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in both Chambers in completing the work on the HEA on behalf of our Nation's hardworking families and students.

Let me take a moment to commend the leadership of the Education Committee on both sides of the Capitol and on both sides of the aisle and their staffs for working so hard and so diligently to bring this very important piece of legislation to the floor in a bipartisan fashion.

The conference report has virtually unanimous agreement, and it includes in it several very important areas that will move us forward on issues of access and affordability on behalf of our students. It simplifies the student financial aid application process. It strengthens the campus-based financial aid programs principally through strengthening the Perkins loan pro-

gram. It improves access to higher education for veterans. It deals with the abuses that we all now know so much about in the student loan program by incorporating the provisions of the Student Loan Sunshine Act. It strengthens the role of creditors, cracks down on diploma mills, and it strengthens college prep programs such as the TRIO programs.

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These are just some of the important and beneficial features of the Higher Education Act that are now working their way through the conference process. Once it reaches the floor, I urge my colleagues to support it and to participate in the speedy passage of this important legislation.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of S. 3352, to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965. I am pleased to announce that this is the very last extension of the Higher Education Act that Congress will have to pass during this reauthorization. It has been a long journey, but I fully expect that Chairman MILLER, that senior Republicans MCKEON and KELLER and that the rest of my colleagues will be here on the floor later this week to pass a conference report.

Since 2003, we've passed over one dozen extensions of this law since it first expired. S. 3352 will ensure that vital Federal college access and student aid programs will continue to serve those students for the next 2 weeks who depend upon them while the final conference report makes its way to the President's desk.

I am excited that Congress is ready to pass the Senate proposals that will ensure that students and their families will have the ability to get higher education Pell Grants, to obtain Perkins loans and to gain additional transparency into the costs of college, especially as students are getting ready to head back to school in a few short weeks.

Mr. PETRI. I urge my colleagues to support this extension, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. 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 New York (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 3352.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4137, COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY AND AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 2008

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California submitted the following conference re-

port and statement on the bill (H.R. 4137) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 110-803)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4137), to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes, 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 "Higher Education Opportunity Act".

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. References.

Sec. 3. General effective date.

TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 101. General definition of institution of higher education.

Sec. 102. Definition of institution of higher education for purposes of title IV programs.

Sec. 103. Additional definitions.

Sec. 104. Protection of student speech and association rights.

Sec. 105. Treatment of territories and territorial student assistance.

Sec. 106. National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity.

Sec. 107. Drug and alcohol abuse prevention.

Sec. 108. Prior rights and obligations.

Sec. 109. Diploma mills.

Sec. 110. Improved information concerning the Federal student financial aid website.

Sec. 111. Transparency in college tuition for consumers.

Sec. 112. Textbook information.

Sec. 113. Database of student information prohibited.

Sec. 114. In-State tuition rates for Armed Forces members, spouses, and dependent children.

Sec. 115. State higher education information system pilot program.

Sec. 116. State commitment to affordable college education.

Sec. 117. Performance-based organization for the delivery of Federal student financial assistance.

Sec. 118. Procurement flexibility.

Sec. 119. Certification regarding the use of certain Federal funds.

Sec. 120. Institution and lender reporting and disclosure requirements.

TITLE II—TEACHER QUALITY ENHANCEMENT

Sec. 201. Teacher quality enhancement.

TITLE III—INSTITUTIONAL AID

Sec. 301. Program purpose.

Sec. 302. Definitions; eligibility.

Sec. 303. American Indian tribally controlled colleges and universities.

Sec. 304. Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions.

Sec. 305. Predominantly Black Institutions.

Sec. 306. Native American-serving, nontribal institutions.

Sec. 307. Assistance to Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions.

Sec. 308. Part B definitions.

Sec. 309. Grants to institutions.

Sec. 310. Allotments.