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Kirkpatrick (AZ)
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Blackburn
Blunt
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Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
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Boren
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
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Ginny
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Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
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Cao
Capito
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Cassidy
Castle
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Costa
Crenshaw

Culberson
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Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dreier
Duncan
Emerson
Fallin
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
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Gallegly
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Gerlach
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Gohmert
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Griffith
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Herger
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Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
King (IA)
King (NY)

Kingston
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Kline (MN)
Lamborn
Lance
Latham
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Latta
Lee (NY)
Lewis (CA)
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Ross
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Aderholt
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Chandler
Cleaver

Conaway
Ehlers
McDermott
Murphy, Patrick

Rogers (MI)
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Waters

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1651

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance security and protect against acts of terrorism against chemical facilities, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to enhance the security of public water systems, and to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to enhance the security of wastewater treatment works, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN EN-GROSSMENT OF H.R. 2868, CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of H.R. 2868, the Clerk be authorized to correct section numbers, punctuation, cross-references, and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to accurately reflect the actions of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHRADER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Mississippi?

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE FORTNEY PETE STARK, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable FORTNEY PETE STARK, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 2, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC

DEAR MADAME SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for testimony and production of documents issued by the Superior Court of California, County of Yolo, in connection with a traffic court matter now pending in the same court.

After consultation with the Office of the General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is inconsistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

PETE STARK,
Member of Congress.

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111-75)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To The Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice, stating that the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was declared in Executive Order 12938, as amended, is to continue in effect for 1 year beyond November 14, 2009.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, November 6, 2009.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR CHINESE HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS HUANG QI AND TAN ZUOREN

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 877) expressing support for Chinese human rights activists

Huang Qi and Tan Zuoren for engaging in peaceful expression as they seek answers and justice for the parents whose children were killed in the Sichuan earthquake of May 12, 2008.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 877

Whereas Chinese human rights activists Huang Qi and Tan Zuoren both sought to help the parents whose children were killed as a result of the collapse of numerous school buildings during the Sichuan earthquake of May 12, 2008;

Whereas the parents allege that school buildings collapsed at a much higher rate than other types of buildings during the Sichuan earthquake;

Whereas the parents also allege that poor construction contributed to the higher rate of school building collapses and that possible corruption among local officials and builders contributed to inferior construction and poor maintenance of the school buildings;

Whereas Chinese courts have refused to hear lawsuits brought by parents seeking accountability for the school collapses, and Chinese officials have warned lawyers not to take on these cases;

Whereas local Chinese officials have taken steps to prevent parents from petitioning to higher authorities and have kept some parents in arbitrary detention;

Whereas, Huang Qi, founder of the human rights advocacy website Tianwang Human Rights Center (64tianwang.com), traveled to the earthquake zone after the Sichuan earthquake and later posted articles on his website about the demands by parents for an investigation into the collapse of school buildings that killed thousands of children;

Whereas plainclothes police took Huang into custody on June 10, 2008, and Chengdu public security officials formally arrested him on July 18, 2008, on charges of illegally possessing state secrets;

Whereas Huang's lawyer said that during Huang's detention, authorities questioned him about interviews he conducted during visits to areas affected by the quake;

Whereas Chinese officials have considerable discretion to declare information a state secret, and their power to use such a charge to deny defendants access to counsel and an open trial is subject to few limitations;

Whereas Huang's closed trial was held on August 5, 2009, and according to the international nongovernmental organization Human Rights in China, four police officers kidnapped a volunteer for the Tianwang Human Rights Center, Pu Fei, to prevent him from testifying on Huang's behalf;

Whereas Huang suffers from numerous serious medical conditions, but Chinese authorities reportedly have denied him adequate treatment;

Whereas Chinese officials denied requests to allow Huang to visit his seriously ill father, who passed away in early September 2009;

Whereas following the Sichuan earthquake, writer and environmental activist Tan Zuoren was active in calling for the government to investigate the cause of the large number of school building collapses during the earthquake;

Whereas Tan was quoted in a May 27, 2008, South China Morning Post article as saying that "the government and the public must work together to find an answer" regarding why so many school buildings collapsed and urging local governments to inspect other school buildings for poor construction;

Whereas in February 2009, Tan issued a proposal via the Internet calling on volunteers to travel to Sichuan to compile lists of students killed in the quake, research the treatment of the deceased students' parents, and conduct an independent investigation into the quality of school building construction;

Whereas Tan issued a preliminary report in March 2009 that criticized officials for failing to follow through on a commitment to fully investigate the role that inferior construction played in the school building collapses and for failure to deal with parents' demands;

Whereas authorities detained Tan on March 28, 2009, three days after the report was published;

Whereas the indictment, dated July 17, 2009, said Tan was charged with inciting subversion of state power in part because he gave interviews to international media after the earthquake in which he allegedly harmed the image of the Communist Party of China and the Chinese Government;

Whereas Tan's trial, held by the Chengdu Intermediate People's Court on August 12, 2009, was marred by procedural violations;

Whereas the court reportedly rejected requests by Tan's lawyers to call three witnesses, including Ai Weiwei, a noted artist who helped design the Beijing Olympics' National Stadium, or Bird's Nest, and who also was investigating student deaths in the Sichuan earthquake;

Whereas Ai told various news agencies that police came to his hotel and used force to prevent him and 10 other volunteers from leaving until after the trial ended;

Whereas Tan's lawyers reported that the judge frequently cut them off during the trial and that their request to show video evidence was not accepted;

Whereas the parents of earthquake victims who attempted to attend Tan's trial were detained;

Whereas court officials reportedly did not allow reporters into the courtroom, and police also barred hundreds of supporters from entering the courtroom, saying the supporters needed passes even though court officials had told them earlier that no passes were necessary;

Whereas the courts have not yet issued judgments in either Huang's case or Tan's case; and

Whereas the Chinese Government's own National Human Rights Action Plan, issued by the State Council Information Office in April 2009, says that "the state will guarantee citizens' rights to criticize, give advice to, complain of, and accuse state organs and civil servants, and give full play to the role of mass organizations, social organizations and the news media in supervising state organs and civil servants": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its support for Huang Qi and Tan Zuoren for engaging in peaceful expression as they seek answers and justice for the parents whose children were killed in the Sichuan earthquake of May 12, 2008; and

(2) calls on the Government of the People's Republic of China to—

(A) provide Huang Qi and Tan Zuoren with the rights that all Chinese citizens have under article 35 and article 41 of China's Constitution, namely freedom of speech and association and the right to make suggestions to officials free from suppression and retaliation;

(B) ensure that Huang Qi and Tan Zuoren are afforded the rights guaranteed to all defendants under the Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China; and

(C) implement its own National Human Rights Action Plan by allowing parents, concerned citizens, and the news media to conduct their own investigations into the role inferior construction and corruption may have played in the collapse of school buildings during the Sichuan earthquake, free from government harassment and official interference, and by ensuring that citizens have full access to effective legal remedies for their grievances.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) and the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROSLEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of this resolution. This resolution expresses support for two Chinese activists who have been crusading for answers and justice for the parents of the thousands of children killed in the Sichuan earthquake of May 12, 2008.

I would like to thank my friend the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) for introducing this resolution and for bringing the plight of these two activists to our attention.

This past August, Chinese courts held separate trials for Huang Qi and Tan Zuoren, both of whom sought to help the parents of children who died in the collapses of school buildings during the May 2008 earthquake in Sichuan Province. That devastating earthquake left almost 69,000 people dead and 18,000 missing. Five thousand three hundred thirty-five children were, according to official records, killed or missing in that earthquake.

The collapse of such a large number of schools, while nearby buildings remained standing, raised questions of shoddy construction. Chinese officials acknowledged that poor construction may have contributed to the buildings' collapse.

They also initially pledged to investigate the collapses and punish those responsible. But officials later were unwilling to honor those commitments and, even worse, responded with suppression and harassment.

Mr. Huang publicized the parents' demands on his human rights Web site, while Mr. Tan organized an independent investigation into the causes of the collapses. For their actions, the Chinese Government charged Mr. Huang with illegal possession of state secrets and Mr. Tan with inciting subversion. The pair's separate trials were reportedly marred by procedural irregularities and misconduct, and both

their trials have adjourned without verdicts issued.

Mr. Huang and Mr. Tan were engaged in peaceful activities guaranteed under China's constitution and international law, and this resolution urges the Chinese Government to protect their rights to freedom of speech, expression and association.

The resolution also calls on the Chinese Government to allow parents, concerned citizens and the media to conduct their own investigations into the school collapses, free from harassment or interference. I urge the Chinese Government to provide greater transparency regarding its own investigations into the building collapses and release any information it may have.

The parents of those children killed at the school during the earthquake deserve answers and deserve justice. Mr. Tan and Mr. Huang deserve our support for their efforts in trying to help those parents.

I strongly urge the resolution be supported.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this resolution, which addresses the unjust incarceration of two Chinese human rights advocates whose only crime was to seek answers and justice for the parents of children killed in the collapse of a schoolhouse during a major earthquake last year. Any parent would understand this resolution.

□ 1700

This is about dead school children. This is about accountability. These courageous individuals sought such accountability from a government which allowed the construction of substandard buildings for school children, buildings which could not withstand the aftershocks of a major quake.

It has been widely assumed in China that the building materials used for these schools were substandard due to the corruption involving those officials who authorized the construction. Grieving parents have a right to know why their children died after being buried in rubble, but their efforts for legal redress were summarily dismissed. These two brave men sought answers for the grieving parents, but their efforts led to their own imprisonment on trumped-up charges followed by trials in kangaroo courts.

How can anyone call the Chinese regime a responsible stakeholder when it uses its massive police force and its court system to engage in a major cover-up of corruption which led to the deaths of innocent children? And how can America be silent to such blatant defiance of not only the rule of law but also what is considered decent and moral?

This resolution is more than just about two human rights activists, heroic victims of injustice though they are. This is about a totalitarian system

which is so afraid of its own population that it resorts to harsh and brutal measures to conceal the truth about the deaths of innocent school children.

This is about the massive human rights abuses such as the continued persecutions of tens of thousands of Falun Gong petitioners, an issue addressed in a resolution which I introduced with wide bipartisan support months ago but which has yet to reach the floor of this Chamber. This is about the continued repression of the Tibetan and Uyghur people and the need to engage in truth-telling with their leaders, the Dalai Lama and Ms. Kadeer, not only in Beijing, but in the White House here in Washington, D.C.

This is about speaking truth to power. It is about President Obama during his upcoming summit in China putting human rights and religious freedom issues squarely on the table, instead of just agreeing to disagree.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California, my good friend, Mr. LEWIS, the ranking member on the Committee on Appropriations.

(Mr. LEWIS of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the gentle-lady yielding, and I rise in part to express my appreciation to both her and Mr. BERMAN for working so hard on behalf of human rights throughout the country.

But, Mr. Speaker, I rise at this moment to express my grave concerns about the impact the Democratic health care plan will have upon businesses and jobs in this country, another human rights concern.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my grave concerns about impact that the Democrat health reform plan will have on businesses and jobs across this country. Despite the trillions the Federal Government has spent on shoring up our economy, today we learned that national unemployment rose over 10 percent—the highest since 1983. In the Inland Empire of California that I represent, unemployment remains over a staggering 14 percent.

Instead of focusing on fixing the economy and creating more jobs—the House is taking up a \$1.3 trillion government takeover of healthcare that includes \$135 billion in new taxes on businesses. The Congressional Budget Office has confirmed that this tax on jobs will reduce the hiring of new workers and President Obama's own advisor has suggested that 5.5 million jobs could be lost due to this bill's new taxes.

As we approach the holiday season this House is threatening to deliver a big bah hum bug. No sensible business owner is going to hire more workers in the face of these new taxes.

Mr. Speaker, we must work together in a bipartisan fashion to fix this economy and create more jobs—not pass massive spending increases, job-destroying taxes, and a government takeover of health care.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 6 minutes to the

gentleman from Oregon (Mr. Wu), a former member of our committee and the sponsor of this resolution.

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, it is a tragedy when any child is killed. It is an abomination when the act of asking questions about one's child's death leads to harassment or persecution by one's own government.

We all remember when a major earthquake struck Sichuan Province, China, on May 12, 2008. It was the most devastating natural disaster to hit China in over three decades. That day, I was the first personally to present condolences to the Chinese people for their grievous loss. Particularly heart-breaking were the stories of the children who were killed as their school buildings collapsed around them and the images of parents overwhelmed with grief.

In the aftermath of the earthquake, these parents started questioning why school buildings collapsed at a much higher rate than other types of buildings. They allege that poor construction and corruption among local officials and builders contributed to the school building collapses.

These allegations have been stonewalled or, worse, resulted in the harassment of the complainants. Chinese courts have refused to hear lawsuits brought by the parents. Local officials have even kept some complaining parents in arbitrary detention. As a parent myself, I find it a tragic failure of justice to have these grievances go unaddressed, especially if a society chooses to enforce a one-child policy.

Two human rights activists from Sichuan's capital city of Chengdu attempted to stand up for these grieving parents and give voice to their concerns. Soon after the earthquake truck, Mr. Huang Qi posted articles on his Web site, the Tianwang Human Rights Center, about the parents' demands for an investigation into the school building collapses.

Separately, in February of this year Mr. Tan Zuoren issued a proposal on the Internet calling for volunteers to travel to Sichuan to compile lists of students killed in the quake, to document the parents' treatment, and to conduct an investigation of school building construction.

Mr. Tan's report criticized officials for failing to follow through on their commitments to fully investigate the role that inferior construction played in the school building collapses and for failure to deal with the parents' demands.

For these actions, the local Chengdu municipal government charged both Mr. Huang and Mr. Tan with endangering national security. Mr. Huang was charged with illegally possessing state secrets, and Mr. Tan was also charged with inciting subversion of state power. After months of being held in prison, Mr. Huang for over a year, both of these men were put on trial in August of this year.

There are allegations that both trials were fraught with numerous substantive and procedural violations. In the case of Mr. Tan, the parents of the earthquake victims said they were detained to prevent them from attending the trial.

The court reportedly rejected requests from Mr. Tan's lawyers to call three witnesses, including the noted architectural designer, Ai Weiwei, who helped design the Beijing Olympics' Bird's Nest Stadium and who also was investigating student deaths in the Sichuan earthquake. According to Mr. Ai, police came to his hotel and used force to prevent him and 10 others from leaving the premises until after the trial ended.

Mr. Huang's trial was allegedly fraught with similar violations, including the detention of a volunteer from the Tianwang Human Rights Center to prevent him from testifying on Mr. Huang's behalf.

To date, judgments have not issued in either Mr. Huang's or Mr. Tan's trial. The trials have been suspended or held open. Both men continue to be held in prison.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to pass House Resolution 877 to express their support for Mr. Huang's and Mr. Tan's peaceful request for answers and justice on behalf of the parents whose children were killed in the Sichuan earthquake. This bipartisan resolution, with 176 cosponsors, calls on the Chinese government to adhere to its own constitutional guarantees, its own criminal procedure laws, and its own recently passed national human rights action plan to ensure that Mr. Huang and Mr. Tan and all Chinese citizens are accorded the right to free speech and the right to criticize and make suggestions to their government as guaranteed by their own Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, no one who suffers the loss of a child deserves abandonment by or punishment from his or her own government. Support this resolution.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), the ranking member on Appropriations, on Commerce, Justice, and Science, and a longtime advocate of human rights for the people of China and elsewhere.

Mr. WOLF. I thank the gentlelady, and I particularly thank her for her comments about China.

I rise in support of this, but there is a connection because in China today there are 35 Catholic bishops that are either in house arrest or in jail and Protestant pastors that plundered Tibet.

China, unfortunately, and I think the American people know, has now become our banker. This ties in to the health care bill that we are ready to vote on tomorrow. That bill will cost \$1 trillion.

To think America is unsinkable, the White House projects the Federal debt

will grow by more than \$9 trillion in the next 10 years. How big is a trillion? One million seconds equals 12 days. One trillion seconds is more than 30,000 years. China is our banker. This bill will cost \$1 trillion, and it is important that we deal with this issue.

Now, the second poster sums up on where we are today. This happens to be Uncle Sam. He is saying, don't let the debt defeat a great nation.

We are obligated to China. China holds a large portion of our debt. The Saudis hold a large portion of our debt. The Saudis, who funded the radical madrassas up on the Pakistan-Afghan border and some who were on the airplanes that killed the people on 9/11, 30 or more so from my congressional district, hold our debt.

We need to get control of this debt. And the health care bill will not lower costs. The health care bill will cost over \$1 trillion. What kind of legacy are we leaving for our children, and I have five, or our grandchildren, and I have 14? A legacy of debt and deficit.

So \$1 trillion for this health care bill. We have \$57 trillion of unfunded obligations. We have \$12 trillion in debt.

So I close by saying to vote against the bill, because it costs us money; and on behalf of Uncle Sam we say, don't let debt defeat a great nation.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA), the chairman of the Asia, Pacific, and Global Environment Subcommittee.

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I certainly would like to thank our distinguished chairman of our Foreign Affairs Committee and our senior ranking member, the gentlelady from Florida, for their leadership and sponsorship and certainly support for this important resolution. I also would like to particularly thank my colleague, the gentleman from Oregon, for his authorship of this important bill.

I think I know something about earthquakes, since recently my own district was just devastated by an 8.3 Richter scale earthquake for which the distance was only about 120 miles south of Samoa. Traveling at about 500 miles an hour, the shock wave was such that, within a matter of minutes, we ended up with a 20-foot tsunami that caused tremendous devastation in property, our homes, and villages, and the deaths of many people.

I do want to commend my good friend from Oregon for his leadership and for raising this important issue to our colleagues and also to commend the two citizens who really wanted just to investigate how was it that, because of faulty construction of these classroom facilities, that these children died, and the government of China did not allow these investigations to go on.

I have tremendous respect for the leaders of the People's Republic of

China, given the fact they have only been in existence for about 60 years. As I remind my colleagues sometimes, when China was founded in 1948, there were 400 million people living in China at the time. Yes, under Communist rule, China has evolved itself, and it still has a lot of serious problems, like any other country.

I think also in the time I have that I want to express very much the concerns that I have that I think it is time, especially under the circumstances on how these children ended up dead because of faulty construction of the buildings and the Chinese government refused to have this kind of investigation, for which these two citizens of China were victimized and prosecuted and certainly abused by the Chinese officials. This is not right.

I want to again thank my good friend from Oregon, DAVID WU, for bringing this matter to the attention of our colleagues, and I urgently urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

□ 1715

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY G. MILLER), an esteemed member of the Financial Services and Transportation Committees.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. I thank the gentlewoman for the time. The resolution before us deals with China, and many of our jobs are going to go to China if the health care bill the Democrats are proposing is enacted. The administration is using the American Medical Association and AARP to garner support for their health care bill. The AMA House of Delegates is meeting today in Houston, Texas. It is made up of elected representatives from across the country, representing doctors and their members of the AMA. They meet to vote on policy issues affecting doctors. They're saying that it was an unauthorized vote of the board prior to the delegates arriving that went to support this bill.

AMA doctors are demanding a vote of no confidence against the board of directors. In fact, there are two resolutions that they're demanding to be heard tomorrow. One is from the rank-and-file membership and members of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association. It reads: "We of the rank and file membership and the members of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association do hereby object to your recent vote supporting H.R. 3962, also known as the Affordable Health Care for America Act.

"Whereas, H.R. 3962 will change the practice of medicine in America forever; and whereas, the AMA leadership voted to support H.R. 3962 prior to the convening of our House of Delegates; and whereas the AMA House of Delegates has strong feelings, beliefs that in many cases grave misgivings regarding H.R. 3962; and whereas the AMA leadership has denied our membership full discussion on this vitally important issue, we the undersigned do hereby demand, prior to addressing any

item of business on the current agenda, immediate suspension of the rules of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association.”

And they called for a “full discussion and debate of H.R. 3962, including a vote of no confidence in our leadership by the members of the House of Delegates.” A very, very strong statement.

The second resolution was filed, and it’s called Resolution 1006. It was introduced by the Alabama delegation, the Arkansas delegation, the Delaware delegation, the District of Columbia delegation, the Florida delegation, the Georgia delegation, the Kansas delegation, Louisiana delegation, the New Jersey delegation, the South Carolina delegation, the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, the American Society of General Surgeons and Triological Society.

The subject is “Withdrawal support of H.R. 3962.” Obviously, there is a problem that doctors are having with this bill. AARP has also come out saying that they represent seniors supporting this bill. But you have to look at this bill. I represent over 70,000 Medicare-eligible seniors in my district alone. The bill cuts over \$500 billion out of Medicare starting in 2010, including \$23.9 billion in cuts to skilled nursing facilities, \$143.6 billion in cuts to hospitals, including skilled nursing facilities, long-term care facilities, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, psychiatric hospitals and hospital care. Again, \$143.6 billion in cuts to hospitals.

Worst of all is \$170 billion in cuts to Medicare Advantage, which effectively will eliminate Medicare Advantage in the future. You can’t support this bill and say you support seniors and you support doctors who represent their patients. With unemployment over 10.2 percent, a 26-year high, in reality it’s 17.5 percent when you include the individuals who are discouraged trying to find jobs and they can’t find them and those who are underemployed having part-time jobs and would really prefer to work full time.

We have a problem in this country. We’ve passed a stimulus bill that said unemployment would not go above 8 percent. It’s 10.2 percent today. It said it would not go up to 8 percent and lose more jobs, and it lost over 3 million jobs since then. We need to look at what we’re doing. We need to say we care about the American people; we care about those people who are going to be taxed to pay for this; and we care about a system of health care that’s the best in the world that will be ruined.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), a very distinguished member of our committee.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the distinguished chairman, and I

thank the distinguished ranking member for coming together around the legislation of my friend Mr. WU from Oregon.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recapture the moment of why we’re here on this floor today. We will have an expanded opportunity tomorrow, Saturday, for there to be a vigorous debate on this health care reform, which, by the way, Mr. Speaker, the American Medical Association has indicated their recognition of the importance of this legislation. But I think it’s important for us to recapture the horrific scenes, those of us who are parents, those of us who engaged with children during the tragedy of the earthquake in China on May 12, 2008.

We looked in horror as rescue workers worked feverishly to draw out children, limp bodies covered with dirt and dust, crying parents, some losing more than one child, children being where they were supposed to be, in school, just as any of us who during our lifetime have dropped our precious souls off at a school building. You can imagine the outcry and the pain.

Just go back to that time and see the video of parents on their knees screaming, maybe in prayer to ask for mercy, maybe to hope that their child either would be found or the limp body was not their child. Can you imagine two wonderful, heroic individuals Huang Qi and Tan Zuoren who came to speak for those voiceless parents, many of them oppressed by, unfortunately, the structure of China, even though it is a country that is represented to have democratic and constitutional rights.

These men, these individuals were working to get the truth. What happened? Why did most of the school buildings fall as they did? What kind of cheap construction? Why was life so cheap that they did not focus?

This resolution recounts that these individuals who are human rights activists were literally picked up by plain-clothes police on June 10, 2008, and formally arrested on July 18, 2008, on charges of illegally possessing state secrets. All they were trying to do was to give a voice to the voiceless and to recognize that truth had to be found. When Huang’s closed trial was held on August 5, 2009—and according to the international nongovernmental organization of human rights in China, four police officers kidnapped a volunteer for the human rights center to prevent him from testifying on Huang’s behalf. So there are a lot of violations. In fact, China has violated their own constitutional rights.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. BERMAN. I am pleased to yield the gentlewoman 1 additional minute.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the gentleman. So when they reached out to try to get others to join their cause, to tell the truth or have the truth be told to these parents, these mourning parents, these parents without children—and we all know about

China’s birth control policies. Some may have had only one child. Each child is precious. So I rise today to support providing these human rights activists with the rights that all Chinese citizens have under article 35 and 41 of China’s constitution, namely, freedom of speech and association, a right to make suggestions to officials free of suppression and retaliation. I ask for a human rights plan for China. It is time to tell the truth, but it is also time that China rises to recognize the rights of all of its citizens and the right to promote human rights.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY), a member on the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I too rise in support of this resolution and commend my friend and colleague and classmate from Oregon. He and I share something. We both have children about similar ages, elementary school, now middle school ages. I can’t think of anything more horrific than your children dying when the buildings collapse upon them and the frustration of a parent who just wants answers.

When I think about those buildings collapsing on those children, I can’t help but think about the incompetency of a large centralized government that’s in charge of every facet of their economy. Here we are faced this weekend with a debate of whether or not we’re going to move our government in that same direction, of building a huge bureaucracy, one that is separated from the people, one that will be a thousand miles away, that won’t really have the passion or interest, other than just passing paper around desks, and realizing that their lack of interest allows for this waste and the fraud and the abuse that’s inherent in the buildings that collapsed in Sichuan.

I fear that as we grow our massive government and bureaucracy to manage the government’s portion of the health care taking over 18 percent of our economy, we’re going to have to live with that level of incompetency, fraud, waste and abuse. Think of those schools collapsing and that equaling how our health care is going to be run in this country.

Another thing that the gentleman from Virginia said—and I want to associate myself with his remarks—this is a \$1.2 trillion bill. Yeah, they raise a lot of taxes to be able to pay for it. Some of it’s \$500 billion out of Medicare. My worry is that that \$500 billion out of Medicare really isn’t going to be cut. It’s just going to go to our national debt. Therefore, we’re going to have to rely on China to buy that debt from us. Again, relying on it. Notice that this resolution condemns the action of the Chinese Government for their humanitarian violations, but there are no penalties here.

See, when they’re our creditors and they own us like they do and will continue to own more of us when we have

to sell our debt to them, it limits our abilities to sit down and negotiate with them. Did you notice that the last couple of administration officials that have gone, or even congressional officials that have gone, to China haven't brought up human rights violations with China?

Well, that's because they know they've got us by the economics. We can't do that or they could do such things as flood the world's economy with our debt, ruining our dollars and further jeopardizing our economy and more jobs. But then again, maybe the bright side of this health care bill, perhaps costing as many as 5.5 million jobs, is that they can go to China and help rebuild Sichuan.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), a member of the Committees on Agriculture, Education, and Natural Resources.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, when they have events such as they had in China, one thing that happens is that as the buildings fall upon folks, they crush their muscles, and they end up having kidney failure. This comes to mind because after Katrina, one of the disasters that happened was that there were many people on dialysis that had to be evacuated from New Orleans to Baton Rouge, and there had to be an emergency dialysis center situation established.

I thought about it: one of the great things about our current system of care is that there is this elasticity that exists in our country that often does not exist elsewhere. Yet when I toured recently those dialysis centers in my city, as it turns out, they're kept afloat by the few patients they see who have private insurance. Many of those patients are on Medicaid or Medicare. As it turns out, Medicaid pays about 60 percent of costs and Medicare pays about 90 percent of cost. So were it not for the private insurers paying over cost, we would not have the ability to treat the dialysis patients here or in the emergency situations, those that are evacuated up.

It brings to mind immediately, of course, the health care bill that is before us. It attempts to expand the system of Medicaid and Medicare that is actually depriving our system of the resources it needs to care more carefully for those who are in times of natural disaster.

That said, it is admirable to control costs in this bill, but paradoxically, the CBO says that this bill, which supposedly controls costs, actually will have an inflation rate of 8 percent per year. So 8 percent per year more than doubles costs over the next 10 years, Mr. Speaker. It's ironic when the President says that if we do nothing, costs will double in 10 years, if we do this bill, according to the Congressional Budget Office, costs will more than double in the next 10 years.

So I guess, Mr. Speaker, in closing I would say that there are three impera-

tives to health care reform: it is controlling costs so we can expand access to quality care. We've seen in other countries where there is inadequate resources placed or inadequate attention to cost that, indeed, these are not addressed. I would ask that we reject this reform for its deleterious effects on our system.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield the remainder of my time to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), a member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. KINGSTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding. When I think of China, I think of this health care plan. Centralized planning, that's what it is. Mr. Speaker, I know you and so many others have been spending their weekends reading this 1,990-page monstrosity, which some people think is going to save health care. I think rather it will save the bureaucracy.

□ 1730

This bill, these 1,990 pages, which have yet to be amended with yet another amendment called the manager's amendment. Now, what goes into the manager's amendment are kind of what is the result of having your arm twisted. What did you get for your twisted arm? It will be in the manager's amendment, which is not in these 1,990 pages. But what is?

Premium increases, tax increases, Medicare cuts, bureaucrats between you and your doctor, and at a mere cost of \$1 trillion.

In the year that we have had the highest deficit in the history of the United States, \$1.4 trillion, the Pelosi plan comes in weighing at \$1 trillion, when we just got our unemployment figures back.

Think about this: The President, with an 8.5 percent unemployment rate, pushes upon the Congress a \$787 billion stimulus bill, and now unemployment has gone from 8.5 percent to 10.2 percent, and in so many other pockets of America it's 14, 15, and 16 percent.

Where are the jobs? Why have we taken the focus off the main thing, the economy? Why are we going down the track of government takeover of health care and massive mandates on individuals, doctors, and small businesses, just like China? Mr. Speaker, 1,990 pages, it's ridiculous.

The Republican alternative, which is not even half, not even 25 percent, but I'd say maybe 15 percent in size, weighing in at, say, maybe a mere 150 pages: Cross-line selling to bring more competition for individuals. Association health care plans to let small businesses pull together. Expansion of health savings accounts. Medical malpractice reform to reduce frivolous lawsuits. This is the Republican alternative.

The difference in the philosophy is simple. If your kitchen sink is leaking, you fix the sink. You don't take a wrecking ball to the entire kitchen. That's what the Pelosi plan does.

The Republican plan focuses on those who have unfortunately fallen through the cracks, people who may be too young for Medicare, too wealthy for Medicaid. Maybe they're 40 years old, unemployed in this Obama economy, and maybe they have a preexisting illness. The Republican targeted reforms try to help that person. They don't try to take the health care away from the rest of the American public who are happy with what they have. We do not need a centralized command/control government in Washington, D.C., that tries to take away the rights of businesses and individuals in the form of a huge government takeover of health care.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute simply to point out that the relevance of the size of the Democratic health care bill to the Republican alternative is, I think, limited to the ratio of people covered under the Democratic bill and covered under the Republican bill, about 10 to 1.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and 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. 877.

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. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the grounds that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RECOGNIZING 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENDING OF THE COLD WAR

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 892) recognizing the 20th anniversary of the remarkable events leading to the end of the Cold War and the creation of a Europe, whole, free, and at peace.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 892

Whereas the year 1989 witnessed a series of remarkable events in Europe that helped lead to the end of the Cold War and the beginning of the creation of a Europe whole, free, and at peace;

Whereas, on February 6, 1989, after almost 10 years of unarmed struggle, the Polish free trade union Solidarity finally succeeded in