

For Egypt, the peace made at Camp David freed their nation to pursue economic and social development without the continual intrusion and disruption of war. Israel, which had never before in its entire existence had even one completely peaceful and quiet border, probably gained the most. For ourselves, the total cost of 30 years of peace forged at Camp David is about \$150 billion, which is a lot of money. But, by comparison, that same \$150 billion buys 1¼ years of war in Iraq.

Unfortunately, over time, Americans, Egyptians and Israelis have all lost sight of the singular importance of the peace made at Camp David, and the massive strategic benefits each nation has silently accrued as a consequence every day since. This oversight is more than just a shame, it is a strategic risk.

Each nation has its complaints with the others, and these are not trivial, nor imagined. Over time it is easy for us as human beings to take each other for granted, and the same can be said about the relationships between nations. But in the Middle East today, the risks are too great to allow this pattern to persist in the trilateral relationship. The security of all three nations depends on our re-remembering what made peace so important thirty years ago.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 282, "Recognizing the 30th anniversary of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel." I want to thank my colleague Congressman JEFF FORTENBERRY of Nebraska for introducing this resolution.

As we near the 30th anniversary of the Camp David Accords, relations between Israel and Egypt, though peaceful, remain cool. In recent days, news headlines have proclaimed positive news for a troubled region. According to reports, rival Lebanese leaders have agreed on steps to end the political crisis which has gripped the country since late 2006.

The Middle East peace process is a complex and multi-faceted issue, requiring the good-faith work and cooperation of a number of countries. Egypt has, historically, been a key player in any effort to establish peace in the region. While relations between Israel and Egypt have been labeled as the "cold peace" and truly difficult points of conflict remain unresolved, the two nations also have areas of common interest. Further, the peace treaty signed in 1979 between Egypt and Israel has remained an important foundation for all subsequent efforts to build a broader peace in the region.

The Arab-Israeli peace process is absolutely vital to achieving security and stability in a crucial region of the world. An Iraq Study Group testified before the Committee on Foreign Affairs, stating that:

"You cannot get anything done in the Middle East without addressing the Arab-Israeli issue. We want these other countries, especially the Sunni Arab countries, to help us. When we go to talk to them about Iraq, they will want to talk to us about the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Mr. Speaker, the United States has played an active role in creating and maintaining peaceful relations between Egypt and Israel. In 1978, the U.S. played an integral role in the Camp David negotiations, helping Israel and Egypt take the risks necessary to sign a peace treaty in 1979. Since that time, the peace has been maintained, due in no small part to the high amounts of economic and mili-

tary aid that the United States continues to give to both nations. Between FY 1979 and FY 2008, the United States provided a total of \$89.73 billion to Israel, and \$62.36 billion to Egypt.

While the peace established in 1979 has been maintained, close diplomatic, political, and economic ties between the two neighboring nations have never been achieved. Despite some specific initiatives, including energy and economic cooperation agreements, relations have never truly warmed between Egypt and Israel.

Part of any successful negotiation between Israel and Egypt must be the question of Hamas, a group which poses a threat to the entire region. Hamas is an Islamic fundamentalist organization formed in late 1987 as an outgrowth of the Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, which became active in the early stages of the intifada, operating primarily in the Gaza District. Various Hamas elements have used both political and violent means to pursue the goal of establishing an Islamic Palestinian state in place of Israel. Loosely structured, with some elements working clandestinely and others working openly through mosques and social service institutions to recruit members, raise money, organize activities, and distribute propaganda.

Particularly since Hamas's 2007 takeover of Gaza, there is a growing need for the Egyptian government to take a strong stand against Hamas. In the tense climate of today's Middle East, Egyptian silence on this issue will be viewed as tacit approval, and will stand in the way of any attempts for lasting peace with Israel.

Mr. Speaker, the successful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process is essential to any effort to build a positive relationship between Israel and Egypt. Currently, decades of mistrust coupled with ongoing regional violence are at odds with any attempt to secure improved relations.

President Obama recently stated that the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel shows that "peace is always possible" even in the harshest of conflicts.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to believe in strong diplomacy and multilateralism. The United States has a history of concerted leadership on the development of Israeli-Egyptian relations, and I believe that we have the opportunity now to continue this legacy.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution to commemorate this reach for peace.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time at this time.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JACKSON of Illinois). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 282, 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. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground 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.

MAINTAINING COMMITMENT TO NATO

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 152) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States remains committed to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 152

Whereas for 60 years the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has served as the preeminent organization to defend the territories of its member states against all external threats;

Whereas NATO, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law, has proved an indispensable instrument for forging a transatlantic community of nations working together to safeguard the freedom and common heritage of its peoples, and promoting stability in the North Atlantic area;

Whereas NATO has acted to address new risks emerging from outside the treaty area in the interests of preserving peace and security in the Euro-Atlantic area, and maintains a unique collective capability to address these new challenges which may affect Allied interests and values;

Whereas such challenges to NATO Allied interests and values include the potential for the re-emergence of unresolved historical disputes confronting Europe, rogue states and non-state actors possessing nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons and their means of delivery, transnational terrorism and disruption of the flow of energy resources, and conflicts outside the treaty area that affect vital security interests;

Whereas the security of NATO member states is inseparably linked to that of the whole of Europe, and the consolidation and strengthening of democratic and free societies on the entire continent, in accordance with the principles and commitments of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, is of direct and material concern to the NATO Alliance and its partners;

Whereas NATO enhances the security of the United States by providing an integrated military structure and a framework for consultations on political and security concerns of any member state;

Whereas NATO remains the embodiment of United States engagement in Europe and therefore membership in NATO remains a vital national security interest of the United States;

Whereas the impending membership of Albania and Croatia will add to NATO's ability to perform the full range of NATO missions and bolster its capability to integrate former communist countries into a community of democracies;

Whereas the organization of NATO national parliamentarians, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA), serves as a unique transatlantic forum for generating and maintaining legislative and public support for the Alliance, and has played a key

role in initiating constructive dialogue between NATO parliamentarians and parliamentarians in associate and observer states;

Whereas NATO PA activities, such as the Rose-Roth program, have played a pioneering role in promoting democratic institutions and encouraging adherence with the principles of the rule of law; and

Whereas the 60th anniversary NATO summit meeting, to be held on April 4, 2009, in Strasbourg, France, and Kehl, Germany, offers the historic opportunity to chart a course for NATO for the next decade: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is to be commended for its pivotal role in preserving transatlantic peace and stability;

(2) NATO continues to be the premier institution that promotes a uniquely transatlantic perspective and approach to issues concerning the interests and security of North America and Europe;

(3) the NATO allies, at the Summit meeting to be held in Strasbourg, France, and Kehl, Germany, in April 2009, should articulate a concrete vision for the Alliance in the 21st century, clearly setting out the continued importance of NATO for the citizens of the Allied nations;

(4) the Alliance should begin considering a new strategic concept that takes into account the changing international security environment, reaffirms the Alliance's functional and symbolic purposes, and outlines how to develop its military capabilities accordingly;

(5) the Alliance, while maintaining collective defense as its core function, should, as a fundamental Alliance task, continue to identify and address new areas where it can provide added value in tackling future threats outside the NATO treaty area, based on case-by-case consensual Alliance decision;

(6) the Alliance should make clear commitments to remedy shortfalls in areas such as logistics, command, control, communications, intelligence, ground surveillance, readiness, deployability, mobility, sustainability, survivability, armaments cooperation, and effective engagement;

(7) the Alliance must ensure equitable sharing of contributions to the NATO operations, common budgets, and overall defense expenditure and capability building;

(8) the Alliance must recognize and act upon the threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism by intensifying consultations among political and military leaders, and consider alternative capabilities to counter these threats to the international community;

(9) the Alliance should pace the process of NATO enlargement and remain prepared to extend invitations for accession negotiations to any appropriate European democracy meeting the criteria for NATO membership as established in the Alliance's 1995 Study on NATO Enlargement; and

(10) the Alliance should fully support the NATO PA's activities in continuing to deepen cooperation within the Alliance to forge strong links with associate and observer nations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. 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 Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 152 to reaffirm American commitment to the values and aspirations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Mr. Speaker, I want to particularly thank our colleague, JOHN TANNER, our good friend from Tennessee and president of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, for introducing this resolution. I commend him for his leadership in ensuring that the voices of legislators are heard in the decision-making process of the Alliance.

The NATO PA serves as a unique transatlantic forum for generating public support for Alliance activities, as well as in facilitating dialogue between parliamentarians of member, associate and observer states.

On April 3 and 4, NATO will hold its 60th anniversary summit in Strasbourg, France, and Kehl, Germany. The joint hosting of this meeting by two former adversaries poignantly symbolizes NATO's successful role in contributing to the reconstruction and stabilization of Europe following the devastation of World War II.

By serving as a reminder of the peaceful prosperity that has spread across the continent since the bloody battles of the earliest 20th century, this historic summit should bolster the Alliance's commitment to confronting the new challenges that affect NATO interests values.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, the world is a very different place than it was when the North Atlantic Treaty was signed in Washington, DC, on April 4, 1949, with the chief aim of deferring then-Soviet aggression. In the 20 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall, NATO has sought to aid the democratization and Euro-Atlantic integration of former Warsaw Pact foes as well as to develop more cooperative relations with the Russian Federation.

NATO looks forward to welcoming the newest members of the Alliance, Albania and Croatia, at the upcoming summit. While pacing the process of enlargement, NATO remains prepared to extend invitations for accession negotiations to other European democracies meeting membership criteria.

In the last decade, NATO had increasingly sought to address new risks emerging from outside the treaty area itself that can threaten Euro-Atlantic peace and security. Such challenges include terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, and disruption in the flow of emergency resources. The Alliance

should begin considering a new strategic concept that takes into account the changing international security environment and outlines how to develop military capabilities accordingly.

NATO's first and most significant out-of-area mission has been in Afghanistan, where the Alliance is engaged in stabilization and reconstruction efforts amidst ongoing combat operations against the Taliban. We are now embarking on a new chapter of the U.S. and NATO missions to Afghanistan, one centered around the national election for President and on defeating al Qaeda and its Taliban allies.

NATO's role continues to be critical to the future success in Afghanistan, and achieving that success remains a considerable test, Mr. Speaker, of the Alliance's political will and military capabilities. It is crucial that allies remain committed to the mission, remedy shortfalls in all areas affecting successful engagement, and ensure equitable sharing of responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is to be commended for its pivotal role of preserving transatlantic peace and stability over the last 60 years. I strongly support this resolution and urge my colleagues to do the same.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise here today, Mr. Speaker, in support of House Resolution 152, which expresses the sense of the House that the United States remains committed to the NATO Alliance.

For over half a century, NATO has played a vital role in preserving transatlantic peace and security and in safeguarding freedom and democracy. NATO has contributed to the security of the United States and continues to serve as an important component of our broader national security framework. Although the Cold War is over, the Alliance has and must continue to transform itself to better address new challenges confronting NATO member nations.

The job of the Alliance is not over as the security of NATO member states continues to be threatened by those who seek to spread destruction, oppression and instability. Addressing these challenges will not be easy, and much needs to be done to strengthen the strategic capabilities of the Alliance.

The upcoming summit in Strasbourg, France, and Kehl, Germany, in April serves as an opportunity not only to reaffirm NATO's fundamental purpose but also to articulate a concrete vision for the Alliance in the 21st century.

I would like to thank our distinguished colleague, Congressman TANNER, for introducing this important resolution. I would also like to express particular support for the language in the resolution that states that NATO must ensure equitable sharing of contributions to NATO operations by its members, encourages the Alliance to

begin considering a new strategic concept that would take into account the challenging security environment, and calls on NATO to recognize and help address the threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and by terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to our friend from Kansas (Mr. MOORE).

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for this very important resolution. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization's principal objective is to foster mutual understanding among Alliance parliamentarians of the key security challenges facing the transatlantic partnership. This organization provides a critical forum for international dialogue on an array of security, political and economic matters.

I am honored to represent the United States as a member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, a group of bipartisan lawmakers representing all NATO countries who regularly meet to discuss matters of crucial importance, I believe it's crucial and critical to the United States' interests at home and abroad to maintain a solid line of communication with our neighbors in the global community.

That's why, Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be part of our country's NATO Parliamentary Assembly delegation, and I will continue to do my part to foster greater communications and cooperation. Now more than ever, we must support efforts to build relationships between nations so that we can work together to address the issues that affect our entire world.

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Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time at this 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 Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 152, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EARLY HEARING DETECTION AND INTERVENTION ACT OF 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1246) to amend the Public Health Service Act regarding early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of hearing loss.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1246

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. EARLY DETECTION, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT OF HEARING LOSS.

Section 399M of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g-1) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking "infants" and inserting "newborns and infants";

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "screening, evaluation and intervention programs and systems" and inserting "screening, evaluation, diagnosis, and intervention programs and systems, and to assist in the recruitment, retention, education, and training of qualified personnel and health care providers,";

(B) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

"(1) To develop and monitor the efficacy of statewide programs and systems for hearing screening of newborns and infants; prompt evaluation and diagnosis of children referred from screening programs; and appropriate educational, audiological, and medical interventions for children identified with hearing loss. Early intervention includes referral to and delivery of information and services by schools and agencies, including community, consumer, and parent-based agencies and organizations and other programs mandated by part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which offer programs specifically designed to meet the unique language and communication needs of deaf and hard of hearing newborns, infants, toddlers, and children. Programs and systems under this paragraph shall establish and foster family-to-family support mechanisms that are critical in the first months after a child is identified with hearing loss.";

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) To develop efficient models to ensure that newborns and infants who are identified with a hearing loss through screening receive follow-up by a qualified health care provider. These models shall be evaluated for their effectiveness, and State agencies shall be encouraged to adopt models that effectively increase the rate of occurrence of such follow-up.

"(4) To ensure an adequate supply of qualified personnel to meet the screening, evaluation, diagnosis, and early intervention needs of children.";

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking "hearing loss screening, evaluation, and intervention programs" and inserting "hearing loss screening, evaluation, diagnosis, and intervention programs"; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking "for purposes of this section, continue" and insert the following: "for purposes of this section—

"(A) continue";

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting "and"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) establish a postdoctoral fellowship program to foster research and development in the area of early hearing detection and intervention.";

(4) in paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (c), by striking the term "hearing screening, evaluation and intervention programs" each place such term appears and inserting "hearing screening, evaluation, diagnosis, and intervention programs";

(5) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking "ensuring that families of the child" and all that follows and inserting "ensuring that families of the child are provided comprehensive, consumer-oriented information about the full range of family support, training, information services, and language and communication options and are given the opportunity to consider and obtain the full range of such appropriate services, educational and program placements, and other options for their child from highly qualified providers.";

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking "after rescreening,"; and

(6) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "fiscal year 2002" and inserting "fiscal years 2010 through 2015";

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking "fiscal year 2002" and inserting "fiscal years 2010 through 2015"; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking "fiscal year 2002" and inserting "fiscal years 2010 through 2015".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is Public Health Week. Tomorrow, my subcommittee, that is, the Health Subcommittee of Energy and Commerce, will be holding a hearing on the role of public health and health care reform. We'll be exploring the role of public health systems and policies and improving the health status of all Americans.

We have before us today a bipartisan set of bills that exemplify this. The bills make a range of policy and program changes designed to keep Americans safer, help them access needed services, and support research into important health problems.

These bills have been introduced and cosponsored by Members on both sides of the aisle. They all passed the House under suspension in the last Congress. They were passed unanimously from committee this year, and I urge you to join me and the broad set of cosponsors in supporting these bills.

The first one, Mr. Speaker, is H.R. 1246, the Early Hearing Detection Intervention Act. I rise obviously in support of that.

Every year, more than 12,000 babies are born with hearing loss. Often, their condition goes undetected for years, and many of these children end up experiencing delays in speech, language, and cognitive development. However, if the hearing loss is detected early, many of these delays can be mitigated or even prevented. For that reason,