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No. 79

## House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. HIRONO).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
May 24, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAZIE HIRONO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) at 2 p.m.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, help us in our weakness.

Send forth Your Spirit, for we do not know how to pray for what we really need.

Your spirit within us will make intercessions through groanings and longings that cannot always be expressed in speech.

Because You alone search human hearts, You know how easily we are distracted or drawn toward false desires. Help us to find what is truly meaningful by seeking to do Your holy will.

Show us how we can follow Your inspiration and accomplish what You want us to do, both now and for ages to come.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### YOU CUT

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, it is clear the American people are tired of business as usual in Washington, particularly when it comes to out-of-control spending. The images of the riots in Greece caused in part by overspending that led to an economic collapse should concern every single American. Between the \$1 trillion government health care takeover, the \$789 billion so-called stimulus, and the bankrupt cash-for-clunkers programs, America could be headed down the same path.

There is clearly no better time to get serious about the spending spree in Washington. I applaud Republican Whip ERIC CANTOR for launching YouCut, an easy, interactive way for all Americans to vote, both online and via cell phone on spending cuts they want Congress to enact. In the first week of this program, over 280,000 people cast their votes to cut the new Non-Reformed Welfare Program that cost \$2.5 billion a year.

Please visit [JoeWilson.house.gov](http://JoeWilson.house.gov) or [RepublicanWhip.house.gov](http://RepublicanWhip.house.gov) to see this week's new options and cast your votes.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the global war on terrorism.

### 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 after 6:30 p.m. today.

### MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H3709

the resolution (H. Res. 1258) expressing support for designation of May 2010 as Mental Health Month, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 1258

Whereas the mental health and well-being of people in the United States is a critical issue that affects not only quality of life, but also the health of communities, families, and economic stability;

Whereas the stigma associated with mental health continues to persist;

Whereas more than 57,000,000 people in the United States suffer from mental illness;

Whereas approximately 1 in 5 children and adolescents may have a diagnosable mental disorder;

Whereas more than a quarter of the members of the United States Armed Forces suffer from psychological or neurological injuries sustained from combat, including major depression and post-traumatic stress disorder;

Whereas more than half of all prison and jail inmates suffer from mental illness;

Whereas mental illness is the leading cause of disability in the Nation;

Whereas major mental illness costs businesses and the United States economy over \$193,000,000,000 per year in lost earnings;

Whereas untreated mental illness is a leading cause of absenteeism and lost productivity in the workplace;

Whereas, in 2006, over 33,300 individuals died by suicide in the United States, nearly twice the rate of homicide;

Whereas suicide is the third leading cause of death among youth between the ages of 15 and 24;

Whereas, in 2006, individuals age 65 and older comprised only 12.4 percent of the population but accounted for 15.9 percent of all suicides;

Whereas 1 in 4 Latina adolescents report seriously contemplating suicide, a rate higher than any other demographic;

Whereas Native Americans currently rank as the top ethnicity for suicide rates nationwide;

Whereas studies report that people with serious mental illness die, on average, 25 years earlier than the general population; and

Whereas it would be appropriate to observe May 2010 as Mental Health Month: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the designation of Mental Health Month in order to place emphasis on scientific facts and findings regarding mental health and to remove the stigma associated with mental illness;

(2) recognizes that mental well-being is as important as physical well-being for citizens, communities, businesses, and the economy in the United States;

(3) applauds the coalescing of national and community organizations in working to promote public awareness of mental health and providing critical information and support to the people and families affected by mental illness;

(4) supports the finding of the President's Commission on Mental Health that recovery from mental illness is a real possibility and steps can be taken to improve the lives of those living with mental illnesses, which will benefit American families, communities, schools, and workplaces; and

(5) encourages organizations and health practitioners to use Mental Health Month as an opportunity to promote mental well-being and awareness, ensure access to appropriate

services, and support overall quality of life for those living with mental illness.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 1258. This resolution expresses support for the designation of this month, the month of May, as Mental Health Month.

We all know it, but sometimes we forget that mental health is absolutely essential to the overall health of every single person in this country. Mental health is an important contributor to the health of our communities, our families and even to our economy.

Mental illness affects 57 million people in the United States, Madam Speaker. The people impacted by mental illness are workers, their bosses, their employees, their mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers and close friends.

And increasingly, they are children. One in every five children and adolescents may have a diagnosable mental disorder.

Mental illnesses are clinically indicated, and they range from bipolar disorder to bulimia and other eating disorders to anxiety-related conditions like post-traumatic stress disorder. These illnesses affect all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups. They can strike at any place and at any time.

However, certain groups in our country appear to be more vulnerable to mental illness than others. For example, Latina adolescents have a higher suicide rate than any other demographic. And one-quarter of the members of our Armed Forces suffer from psychological or neurological injuries sustained during combat. This is a problem that we cannot and we must not ignore.

Madam Speaker, we know that mental illness is becoming more and more common in the United States and around the world. We know that mental illnesses have biological causes, and we know that the vast majority of mental illnesses can be treated. And yet people with mental illness continue to live under a stigma that surrounds those who fight diseases of the mind.

Today's resolution gives this House a valuable opportunity to help our con-

stituents understand the biological basis for many mental disorders. It salutes the important work of national and community organizations who promote public awareness of mental illness and who help fight the unfair stigma associated with mental disease.

House Resolution 1258 also encourages health providers and organizations to promote mental well-being and to ensure that people with mental illness have access to the services that can literally save their lives.

This and previous Congresses have taken important and necessary steps to improve access to mental health services. Personally, I look forward to working with my colleagues to increase access to community-based mental health services.

In my hometown of Sacramento, the community-based mental health system is crumbling under the weight of severe budget cuts and ever-increasing demand for services.

We here in Washington cannot sit idly by as vital community services are slashed. Those whose very lives depend on a trained and understanding mental health provider are counting on us, and this resolution honors those who have dedicated their lives to treating others with mental illness.

I want to commend Representative NAPOLITANO, the sponsor of this resolution and co-chair of the Congressional Mental Health Caucus, for her leadership on this important health issue.

I would also like to commend my Energy and Commerce Committee colleague, Representative TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, for working so closely with Mrs. NAPOLITANO on the Mental Health Caucus.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1258, acknowledging the month of May as National Mental Health Month because it has helped raise awareness in our communities, which has contributed to removing the stigma associated with mental illness.

I would like to express my thanks to the organizations working to promote awareness of mental health and to educate families affected by mental illness. As a former president myself of the Mid Carolina Mental Health Association, I know firsthand of its success and significance.

I also appreciate my oldest son, Alan Wilson, has served on the Mental Health Association State Board. Your work is critical to increasing the quality of life for those with mental illness.

I am grateful to also work with Hidden Wounds, founded by Ann Bigham, a volunteer organization in Columbia, South Carolina, which provides services for our military and veterans who are successfully defeating terrorism overseas.

I would like to thank the author of the resolution, Congresswoman Grace NAPOLITANO of California, for her leadership in helping Americans' well-being and addressing mental disorders.

I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO), the sponsor of this resolution.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank both the congresswoman from California (Ms. MATSUI) and the congressman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for talking about H. Res. 1258, recognizing May as Mental Health Month.

As you've heard, there are many instances where we ignore this fact, and we are currently trying to erase the stigma. That's the biggest issue that we have in the United States.

Today we must continue to shed light on those who suffer in silence with mental illness. It knows no boundaries. As you've heard, it goes into any race, any gender, any class, any religion, any political party, everywhere. It does not discriminate.

Every day our children, our soldiers, our veterans, our family members, our coworkers and friends carry their wounds and pain on the inside. It is an invisible illness that often goes unseen and unmentioned, even as it leaves a trail of devastation in its wake.

Recent reports show that military suicide has claimed more lives of our servicemen and -women than the Afghan war, and that approximately one in five servicemembers suffer from major depression or post-traumatic syndrome. It is now recognized by military leaders that there is a great big issue, and they're trying to provide services to those men and women so that they can return to semi-normal life when they return to their respective residences.

Also, findings by the National Alliance of Mental Illness, NAMI, show that most mental illnesses are highly treatable, yet only one in three individuals suffering from mental illness seek or receive treatment. We must protect our soldiers' and their families' right to effective mental health services. They have earned it protecting our freedom.

Today, suicide is the third leading cause of death for youth ages 15-24. Again, third leading cause of death for youth ages 15-24. With each young life lost to suicide, we lose some of our Nation's future. We must continue to destigmatize mental illness so that all individuals, including our youth, know that it is okay, it's not shameful to ask for help and receive the treatment needed, because no child should ever feel this world would be a better place without them.

The mental health and well-being of all Americans are critical issues that affect not only the quality of life and health of our communities, but as importantly, our national economic stability.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, serious illnesses cost

Americans at least \$193 billion, with a "b," billion a year in lost earnings alone, never mind what businesses lose in over \$500 billion a year.

□ 1415

Mental illness is also the leading cause of absenteeism and lost productivity in the workplace. We need to learn how to prevent suicide. We must take those classes, and we must learn what those signs are so that we can begin to at least address those issues with our own, if not those near us.

I respectfully encourage all my colleagues to support this resolution and thereby recognize May as Mental Health Month. Knowledge and prevention are key to continue eradicating the myths and stigma behind mental illness. If allowed to go ignored and untreated, this will only pass on to our future generations. We must unite on this critical issue and recognize the scientific facts and findings of mental illness to ensure access to professional help, including early detection and intervention.

In closing, I leave you with words from two young women from my district whose lives have been saved by a suicide prevention program we started in 2001. From Patty, 15 years old: "Thank God we have this program, because if I didn't have this treatment, I would be dead at this time." From Ofelia, 17 years old: "After my mom and dad died in an accident, I wanted to die. This program and my therapist helped me to go off my depression and two suicide attempts." These are just more reminders of who we must represent and who we must continue to try to help and why we were elected to serve everybody.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as we are recognizing Mental Health Month, I would also like to commend the National Alliance for Mentally Ill, NAMI. I was honored earlier this month to participate in the Mental Health Walk at the Riverwalk in West Columbia in the Midlands of south Carolina. The walk itself was organized by Buddy Wier. It was amazing to see hundreds of persons participate. There was competition between different businesses and the businesses participating. It was just really heartwarming to see such an outpouring of community support.

I look forward in October. The Mental Health Walk by NAMI will be on the beaches at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina; and I look forward to participating at that time, again raising awareness of mental health issues and how communities and civic organizations and individuals can help persons who have mental health issues.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues, Representative NAPOLITANO, Representative MURPHY, for their work on this resolution and mental health issues in general. And I would like to thank my colleague from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON).

This resolution represents one small step toward a future where the serious burden of mental illness is but a thing of the past. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for designation of May 2010 as Mental Health Month. Designating May 2010 as Mental Health Month in America is a much needed step to help bring attention to the various challenges that the mentally ill face on a day to day basis which include not having access to appropriate medical care, affordable housing, job opportunities, and over-all economic security.

More than 57,000,000 people in the United States suffer from mental illness. Approximately 1 in 5 children and adolescents has a diagnosable mental disorder. A quarter of the members of the United States Armed Forces suffer from psychological or neurological injuries sustained from combat, including major depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. Tragically, more than half of all prison and jail inmates suffer from mental illness. It is also the leading cause of disability in the America. In 2005, over 32,000 individuals died by suicide in the United States, nearly twice the rate of homicide. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among youth between the ages of 15 and 24. In 2004, individuals age 65 and older comprised only 12.4 percent of the population, but accounted for 16.6 percent of all suicides.

Sadly, there are too many Americans with serious mental illness who do not have access to high quality and long-term mental health treatment, and fall through the cracks of our fragmented and underfunded mental health system. This is because the U.S. does not yet have a comprehensive and effective federal mental health system that can provide a single standard of high quality mental health treatment for all of our Nation's mentally ill—regardless of one's income or employment status.

The uninsured, underinsured, or Americans with low-incomes often receive their mental health services in emergency rooms, or in hospitals where they are "stabilized," and then released with little or no follow-up care, medication, or housing services. This creates a "revolving door" cycle of hospitalizations, homelessness, unemployment, arrests, and incarceration that is the result of having an underfunded mental health system where mental health professionals do not have the optimal resources they need to provide medically appropriate care for the mentally ill and their families.

Many of our Nation's mentally ill become homeless, or are forced to live with family members or friends, because they can not afford housing due to skimpy Social Security Disability Checks, or the inability to maintain employment. Clearly, America must have a robust Federal affordable housing and employment program for the mentally ill, so those with mental illnesses have access to affordable housing, a job, and the respect and dignity that goes with being self-sufficient and productive.

Tragically, there are many uninsured or underinsured mentally ill Americans who can not afford to take medications for such debilitating illnesses as bipolar manic depression. This creates untold stress on families and friends who must deal with the unpredictable

and often inappropriate behaviors of the mentally ill who can become a danger to themselves or others if they do not take their medication on a regular basis.

I also urge my colleagues to support H.R. 676, "The United States National Health Care Act," which would create a universal health care system where all mental health services would be fully covered, and there would be optimal funding for mental health facilities so the mentally ill could receive the long term and appropriate care needed to get well, and have a better quality of life.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1258, in expressing support for designation of May 2010 as Mental Health Month.

The time has come to pay special recognition to the needs and shortfalls that are associated with mental health in the United States. Mental health and the well-being of people of the United States is a critical issue that affects not only quality of life, but also the health of communities, families, and economic stability. Often it is the youngest among us, our children, which suffer from the lingering stigma of mental illness. Words, that make fun of those diagnosed with mental health can sometimes create a sense of shame, feelings of guilt, and loss of self esteem.

Statistically, the figures associated with mental health are quite staggering. It is estimated that more than 57 million people in the United States suffer from mental illness. Furthermore, 1 in 5 children and adolescents have a diagnosable mental order. And in 2005 alone, over 32,000 individuals died by suicide in the United States, nearly twice the rate of homicide. The goals of Mental Health Month are to bring these figures to light in order to draw more attention and support for addressing this health crisis.

From my time as a psychiatric nurse in the Dallas Veteran Affairs Hospital, I know firsthand the burden placed upon those who serve in our armed forces suffering from mental illness. More than a quarter of the members of the United States Armed Forces suffer from psychological or neurological injuries sustained from combat, including major depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. For far too long the disparities of taking care of our veterans in regards to mental health went unaddressed, and too many suffered because of it.

In closing, I encourage all organizations and health practitioners to use Mental Health Month as an opportunity to promote mental well-being and awareness, ensure access to appropriate services, and support overall quality of life for those living with mental illness.

Ms. MATSUI. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1258, 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.

Ms. MATSUI. Madam 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.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO FAMILIES OF SOUTH KOREAN SEAMEN KILLED BY NORTH KOREA

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1382) expressing sympathy to the families of those killed by North Korea in the sinking of the Republic of Korea Ship Cheonan, and solidarity with the Republic of Korea in the aftermath of this tragic incident.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 1382

Whereas, on March 26, 2010, the Republic of Korea Ship (ROKS) Cheonan was sunk by an external explosion in the vicinity of Baengnyeong Island, Republic of Korea;

Whereas of the 104 members of the crew of the ROKS Cheonan, 46 were killed in this incident, including 6 lost at sea;

Whereas, on April 25, 2010, the Government of the Republic of Korea commenced a 5-day period of mourning for these 46 sailors;

Whereas, on May 20, 2010, the Government of the Republic of Korea released an international investigation report on the circumstances surrounding the sinking of the ROKS Cheonan;

Whereas the report, conducted by 74 experts, including 24 from the international community and 50 from the Republic of Korea, found conclusive evidence that the sinking of the ROKS Cheonan was the result of a torpedo attack made by North Korea, in clear violation of the Korean War Armistice Agreement;

Whereas the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea has been a vital anchor for security and stability in Asia for more than 50 years; and

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea are bound together by the shared values of democracy and the rule of law: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its sympathy and condolences to the families and loved ones of the sailors of the Republic of Korea Ship (ROKS) Cheonan who were killed in action on March 26, 2010;

(2) stands in solidarity with the people and the Government of the Republic of Korea in the aftermath of this tragic incident;

(3) reaffirms its enduring commitment to the alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States and to the security of the Republic of Korea;

(4) supports the findings and conclusions of the investigation report released by the Government of the Republic of Korea on May 20, 2010;

(5) condemns North Korea in the strongest terms for sinking the ROKS Cheonan;

(6) calls for an apology by North Korea for its hostile acts and a commitment by North Korea never to violate the Korean War Armistice Agreement again;

(7) urges the international community to provide all necessary support to the Republic of Korea as the Government of the Republic of Korea prepares to respond to the actions committed by North Korea, which led to sinking of the ROKS Cheonan;

(8) urges the international community to fully and faithfully implement all United Nations Security Council Resolutions pertaining to security on the Korean Peninsula, including United Nations Security Council Resolution 1695 (2006), United Nations Security Council Resolution 1718 (2006), and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1874 (2009); and

(9) further urges the United States, in coordination with its allies and partners, to take other appropriate actions in response to the sinking of the ROKS Cheonan and other hostile acts of North Korea.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, on March 26, 2010, a South Korean naval ship, the Cheonan, was on a routine mission in waters off the west coast of South Korea. At 9:22 p.m., an explosion ripped through the Cheonan's hull. The ship tilted 90 degrees to starboard and it sank. Of the 104 members of the crew on board, 46 sailors died that evening.

Madam Speaker, our hearts go out for the 46 brave Korean soldiers who lost their lives in this tragedy. Again, we express our deepest sympathies and condolences to the families and loved ones of these 46 brave sailors, and may their families be comforted with the fact that my colleagues here in this Chamber share their pain and sorrow. And we remember well what the Lord said in his Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

Madam Speaker, despite the immediate suspicion that North Korea was responsible for the attack and the shocking loss of life, the Republic of South Korea reacted calmly and deliberately. As the country mourned its dead, the government formed a Joint Civilian-Military Investigation Group to assess the cause of the explosion. The 74-member team, which included 24 experts from the United States, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Australia, spent several weeks examining the evidence as objectively and scientifically as possible.