

market for those videos. In light of the Supreme Court's decision, however, the animal crush video industry has re-emerged.

H.R. 5566, sponsored by Mr. GALLEGLY and Mr. PETERS, responds to the Stevens decision by specifically criminalizing only animal crush videos. The bill limits this new criminal offense to only obscene material. The Supreme Court has recognized Congress' authority to regulate obscene material as a category of unprotected speech under the First Amendment. The legislation also specifically omits customary and normal veterinary videos, and any depiction of slaughtering, hunting, trapping of animals for food. With this added safeguard for hunters, I support this legislation.

The House of Representatives passed this bipartisan legislation by a vote of 416-3 on July 31 of this year. In September, the Senate approved a revised bill to expand the prohibition to include the creation and noncommercial distribution of animal crush videos, including those videos created overseas but distributed in the United States.

Today we have the opportunity to send the bill to the President's desk and put an end to the revived animal crush industry. Unfortunately, this resolution does not do that; instead, it removes any culpability for those who attempt to make these videos and reduces penalty for coconspirators. By sending the bill back to the Senate today, we guarantee the animal crush legislation probably will not be completed by this Congress and that the animal crush market will continue to grow with little fear of prosecution. It is my hope this outstanding issue can be resolved quickly, however, so that our efforts to curb the proliferation of animal crush videos in this Congress will be successful.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. I yield to our distinguished colleague from Oregon, EARL BLUMENAUER, for such time as he may consume.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy in permitting me to speak on this bill, and I appreciate the expeditious work of the committee bringing this legislation forward.

Mr. CONYERS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. CONYERS. I just wanted to congratulate Judge Poe on his comments about the bill. I agree with him. But let's keep hope alive that the other body will not fail us at this moment with so few days left.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Reclaiming my time, I appreciate the opportunity to speak. I appreciate the quick turnaround. It is a little frustrating. I admire the persistence of our friend, Mr. GALLEGLY. It has been my pleasure to have worked with him for over a decade on this legislation. We thought we had it taken care of when it was woven

into the farm bill of 2002. Unfortunately, as has been referenced, the Supreme Court decision earlier this year created a problem and brought the problem right back.

It was a pleasure to join again with Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. MORAN and others, as a broad bipartisan group introduced the legislation that same week in an attempt to narrow the scope of the ban and ensure that it met the First Amendment standards. I think we have reached the point where we have done that.

I am a little frustrated, as I know people who care deeply about this legislation, that it seems to go back and forth on something where there is broad bipartisan awareness, agreement, and, certainly with the general public, that people ought not to profit out of torturing animals. This is, as is referenced, illegal virtually everywhere. It is disturbing in terms of what happens. And it isn't just issues of animal cruelty. Research has shown that the people who are involved with this despicable trade, both in terms of the dissemination and use of it, are much more likely to engage in other criminal acts.

I am hopeful that at this point we might be able to bring this to a conclusion, to be able to pass this legislation to provide these protections, to get this out of the stream of commerce and be able to provide the protections that the public expects us to provide. We were given an opportunity from the Supreme Court to be able to narrowly craft a response. I think legislatively we have done that. I am hopeful that we can act expeditiously, passing this today and working with the Senate to make sure that it is enacted into law and we meet this objective.

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1712.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RECOGNIZING GAIL ABARBANEL AND THE RAPE TREATMENT CENTER

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 716) recognizing Gail Abarbanel and the Rape Treatment Center, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 716

Whereas in a study conducted by the Department of Justice and the Centers for Dis-

ease Control and Prevention, researchers found that 1 in 6 women are victims of rape or attempted rape;

Whereas on average, a person is sexually assaulted in the United States every 2½ minutes;

Whereas Gail Abarbanel, the founder and director of the Rape Treatment Center at the Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, created the Fast Track Forensics Program, an innovative program that speeds up the processing of DNA evidence to assist local law enforcement agencies;

Whereas delays in processing rape kits hamper investigations, jeopardize public safety, and result in lost justice for the victims who report their rape to the police and consent to the 4- to 6-hour rape kit collection process;

Whereas the Rape Treatment Center is nationally recognized for its exemplary treatment, education, and prevention programs; and

Whereas the work of Gail Abarbanel and the Rape Treatment Center helps sexual assault victims become whole again by addressing the social, emotional, and physical pain resulting from the violence of sexual assault: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) applauds Gail Abarbanel for founding the Rape Treatment Center and creating the Fast Track Forensics Program;

(2) commends the Rape Treatment Center for its work in providing the necessary services to victims of sexual assault;

(3) calls upon local law enforcement agencies and State legislatures to work towards eliminating the delays in processing rape kits by utilizing innovative programs such as the Fast Track Forensics Program; and

(4) urges the Congress to support programs that facilitate the timely processing of DNA evidence to assist local law enforcement agencies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

□ 1440

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CONYERS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Gail Abarbanel is the director of the Santa Monica UCLA Medical Center's nationally known Rape Treatment Center. In 1974, the center became one of the first hospitals in the United States for establishing a protocol for treating victims of sexual assault. Today, under the leadership of Ms. Abarbanel, the Rape Treatment Center serves as a national model for its exemplary treatment, education, and prevention programs.

She is also responsible for innovative programs such as the Stuart House for sexually abused children and the Verna Harrah Clinic to provide state-of-the-

art medical care and forensic exams to rape victims. She was a driving force behind efforts to change the way rape and other sexual crimes are viewed in society and how victims are treated by law enforcement officials and medical personnel, and, most importantly, the judicial system itself.

I commend Representative PATRICK KENNEDY for introducing this resolution to recognize Ms. Abarbanel's groundbreaking work on behalf of sexual assault victims.

I urge Members to support the resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support House Resolution 716, which commends Gail Abarbanel for her dedication to advancing forensic sciences and reducing the DNA evidence backlog. Ms. Abarbanel is the founder of the Rape Treatment Center at the Santa Monica UCLA Medical Center, where she established the Fast Track Forensics Program.

I would like to thank a good friend and colleague, PATRICK KENNEDY, for his sponsorship of this bill, as well as for his longstanding dedication to people in need. His compassion for others will be remembered and missed after he leaves Congress later this year.

One of the most significant issues facing the criminal justice system today is the substantial backlog of unanalyzed DNA samples and biological evidence from crime scenes. This issue is particularly urgent in sexual assault and murder cases.

The Fast Track Forensics Program was developed by Gail Abarbanel to help crime laboratories speed up the processing of DNA evidence. This in turn gives local law enforcement agencies a headstart on bringing criminals to justice.

DNA evidence is important in cases where a suspect has been identified and proof is needed to link the suspect to a crime scene or victim. It is equally important in cases where there is no suspect. In a case without a suspect, DNA from the crime scene or the victim can be compared to offender profiles in DNA databases in an effort to identify and apprehend the perpetrator. DNA technology that improves the analysis process is increasingly vital to ensure accuracy and fairness in the criminal justice system.

In 2008, Congress reauthorized the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, which provides Federal grants to States to help fund initiatives such as the Fast Track Forensics Program. Programs designed to help alleviate DNA backlogs are imperative in ensuring that this forensic evidence is preserved, tested, and used in criminal cases to bring violent offenders to justice. Congress must continue its commitment to assisting backlog initiatives. This is especially true for rape and sexual assault cases.

In the United States, a person is sexually assaulted every 2½ minutes. According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, the Nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization, one of every six American women will be the victim of an attempted or actual rape in her lifetime. With the use of DNA, our State and local law enforcement agencies and officials can bring these attackers to justice.

The development of programs such as the Fast Track Forensics Program is important to our criminal justice system. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I yield back the balance my time.

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

I want to congratulate the author of this resolution, Mr. PATRICK KENNEDY, and also his original cosponsors, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. Wexler and Ms. ROSA DELAUNO. I think this is an excellent resolution. I thank the ranking member for his remarks.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of H. Res. 716, a resolution recognizing the crucial services provided through the Rape Treatment Center, RTC, at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and to honor Gail Abarbanel, the founder and director of the RTC.

The Rape Treatment Center, RTC, is nationally recognized for its exemplary treatment, education, and prevention programs, and has provided expert care for over 35,000 sexual assault victims. According to the latest statistics, one person is sexually assaulted in the United States every 2½ minutes. While an attack can occur in an instant, the social and emotional trauma can last a lifetime. The RTC, and the work of Gail Abarbanel, provide crucial insight to understanding that sexual assault victims suffer long after the assault has occurred. Her work and the work of the Center helps these individuals fully recover, addressing the social, emotional and physical pain resulting from such violence.

In many states DNA evidence processing suffers delays of up to 6 months to a year, hampering investigations and jeopardizing public safety. These untested rape kits represent lost justice for the victims who reported their rape to the police, and consented to the 4-to-6 hour rape kit collection process.

In response to the delays suffered by victims in her own state, Ms. Abarbanel created a pilot program called the Fast Track Forensics Program, FTF. Through the FTF Program, the RTC has partnered with California's state DNA laboratory for immediate processing and then possible identification within the state and Federal DNA offender databases. This has resulted in processing that takes approximately 4 days.

I encourage my colleagues to join me today in commending the important work of Gail Abarbanel and the Rape Treatment Center, along with emphasizing the need to eliminate the delays in testing rape kits through innovative programs such as the FTF Program.

Mr. CONYERS. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 716.

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. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

## INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION SIMPLIFICATION ACT

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1376) to restore immunization and sibling age exemptions for children adopted by United States citizens under the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption to allow their admission to the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1376

*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 "International Adoption Simplification Act".

### SEC. 2. EXEMPTION FROM VACCINATION DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT.

Section 212(a)(1)(C)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(1)(C)(ii)) is amended by striking "section 101(b)(1)(F)," and inserting "subparagraph (F) or (G) of section 101(b)(1);".

### SEC. 3. SIBLING ADOPTIONS.

Section 101(b)(1)(G) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)(1)(G)) is amended to read as follows:

"(G)(i) a child, younger than 16 years of age at the time a petition is filed on the child's behalf to accord a classification as an immediate relative under section 201(b), who has been adopted in a foreign state that is a party to the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, done at The Hague on May 29, 1993, or who is emigrating from such a foreign state to be adopted in the United States by a United States citizen and spouse jointly or by an unmarried United States citizen who is at least 25 years of age, Provided, That—

"(I) the Secretary of Homeland Security is satisfied that proper care will be furnished the child if admitted to the United States;

"(II) the child's natural parents (or parent, in the case of a child who has one sole or surviving parent because of the death or disappearance of, abandonment or desertion by, the other parent), or other persons or institutions that retain legal custody of the child, have freely given their written irrevocable consent to the termination of their legal relationship with the child, and to the child's emigration and adoption;

"(III) in the case of a child having two living natural parents, the natural parents are incapable of providing proper care for the child;

"(IV) the Secretary of Homeland Security is satisfied that the purpose of the adoption is to form a bona fide parent-child relationship, and the parent-child relationship of the