

mark. More specifically, we urge you to support, at the very least, \$5.25 billion for the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and \$750 million for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, as explicitly allocated in S. 1601. In total, we support \$1.05 billion for the Global Fund (of which \$300 million is contained in the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services appropriations bill). Moreover, we are strongly opposed to language contained in the House Subcommittee Mark prohibiting funding for syringe exchange programs, which are proven to reduce the incidence of HIV infection.

U.S. global health programs including PEPFAR, along with U.S. contributions to the Global Fund, are reducing disease burden in low- and middle-income countries, and these programs have important national security and diplomatic elements for the United States. Global health programs directly impact American security interests by stabilizing parts of the world where extremism and a lack of alternatives are a recipe for future conflict. The economic impact of global health activities is also felt in the U.S., providing thousands of jobs to help plan and implement global health programming and to conduct health-related research at colleges and universities.

Thanks to the help of the United States, the Global Fund has grown into a proven, country-driven, performance-based mechanism which ensures that countries themselves are responsible for building their own sustainable programs. The Global Fund has a robust history of improving its function and continues to do so through its recent announcement of an improvements agenda to further ensure every dollar is utilized effectively, remains accountable, and is transparent in operation.

We also welcome PEPFAR's leadership on advancing combination HIV prevention approaches and urge the conferees to ensure that these interventions are implemented to their fullest and meet the needs of those most at-risk, especially marginalized populations. Moreover, integration of HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment programs—and, where appropriate, other critical global health programs funded by this bill, including maternal health, child survival, family planning/reproductive health, and nutrition—is critical for ensuring that the health needs of individuals are met and the impact of funding is maximized.

In recent months, U.S.-funded research has made enormous progress in shaping the response to AIDS and malaria worldwide. These remarkable scientific advances call for a renewed emphasis on ensuring that we maintain robust support for PEPFAR and the Global Fund and continue the vital U.S. commitment to the fight against global HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria.

These programs amount to a fraction of one percent of the federal budget, but they affect the lives of tens of millions, guard against future conflicts, open up developing markets, and will have lasting impact on the global AIDS epidemic in the long term.

Thank you for considering this request.

Barbara Lee, Member of Congress; Wm. Lacy Clay, Member of Congress; Bobby Rush, Member of Congress; Maurice Hinchey, Member of Congress; Donna Christensen, Member of Congress; Donald Payne, Member of Congress; John Lewis, Member of Congress; Keith Ellison, Member of Congress; Emanuel Cleaver, Member of Congress; Dale Kildee, Member of Congress; Sheila Jackson Lee, Member of Congress; Pete Stark, Member of Congress; Tammy Baldwin, Member of Congress; John Conyers, Jr., Member of Congress; John

Sarbanes, Member of Congress; Mike Quigley, Member of Congress; Eleanor Holmes Norton, Member of Congress; Gwen Moore, Member of Congress; Karen Bass, Member of Congress; Frederica Wilson, Member of Congress; Diana DeGette, Member of Congress; Yvette Clarke, Member of Congress; Edolphus Towns, Member of Congress; Lynn Woolsey, Member of Congress; Bruce Braley, Member of Congress; Raúl Grijalva, Member of Congress; Barney Frank, Member of Congress; Donna Edwards, Member of Congress; Lucille Roybal-Allard, Member of Congress; Janice Schakowsky, Member of Congress; Theodore Deutch, Member of Congress; Alcee Hastings, Member of Congress; Terri Sewell, Member of Congress; Jim McDermott, Member of Congress; Tim Ryan, Member of Congress; Grace Napolitano, Member of Congress; Russ Carnahan, Member of Congress; Marcia Fudge, Member of Congress; Colleen Hanabusa, Member of Congress; Hansen Clarke, Member of Congress; Sanford Bishop, Member of Congress; Ed Perlmutter, Member of Congress; Charles Rangel, Member of Congress; Robert Brady, Member of Congress; G.K. Butterfield, Member of Congress; Eliot Engel, Member of Congress; Eddie Bernice Johnson, Member of Congress; Henry Waxman, Member of Congress; Danny Davis, Member of Congress; Mike Honda, Member of Congress; Sam Farr, Member of Congress; David Scott, Member of Congress; Joe Baca, Member of Congress; Betty Sutton, Member of Congress; John Garamendi, Member of Congress; Melvin Watt, Member of Congress; Dennis Kucinich, Member of Congress; Maxine Waters, Member of Congress; Cedric Richmond, Member of Congress; Jackie Speier, Member of Congress; Doris Matsui, Member of Congress; Carolyn Maloney, Member of Congress; Bobby Scott, Member of Congress; Steve Cohen, Member of Congress; Laura Richardson, Member of Congress; Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Member of Congress; Rubén Hinojosa, Member of Congress; James Moran, Member of Congress; Gary Ackerman, Member of Congress; André Carson, Member of Congress; Bennie Thompson, Member of Congress; Hank Johnson, Member of Congress; Al Green, Member of Congress; Judy Chu, Member of Congress; Bob Filner, Member of Congress; Jared Polis, Member of Congress; Corrine Brown, Member of Congress; Chaka Fattah, Member of Congress; Albio Sires, Member of Congress; Joseph Crowley, Member of Congress; Ed Pastor, Member of Congress; Zoe Lofgren, Member of Congress; Michael Capuano, Member of Congress; Louise Slaughter, Member of Congress; Chris Van Hollen, Member of Congress; Shelley Berkley, Member of Congress; Howard Berman, Member of Congress; José Serrano, Member of Congress; Rosa DeLauro, Member of Congress; Lois Capps, Member of Congress; Luis Guterrez, Member of Congress; David Cicilline, Member of Congress; James McGovern, Member of Congress; Jerrold Nadler, Member of Congress; David Price, Member of Congress; Sander Levin, Member of Congress; Madeleine Bordallo, Member of Congress; Rush Holt, Member of Congress; Gregory Meeks, Member of Congress; John Olver, Member of Congress; Elijah Cummings, Member of Congress; Earl Blumenauer, Member of Congress; George Miller, Member of Congress.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Jay Therrell, Cape Coral First United Methodist Church, Cape Coral, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, Your word says that "from everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded." Today, we offer our gratitude for the blessings of freedom You have given our Nation. You have blessed us with much. Acknowledging our blessings, we pray that You would continue to remind us that America has been blessed to be a blessing to others.

Grant the Members of this House of Representatives Your wisdom and grace to provide leadership at home and around the world. Help our country to continue to be a light to everyone by pointing all people to true freedom and justice that can only come from You.

As we enter this season of hope, please bless this Congress and all of our leaders with Your guidance to make decisions filled with Your love. God, please continue to bless America, but please help America to bless You.

We ask these things in the name of Your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HULTGREN 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

WORKFORCE DEMOCRACY AND FAIRNESS ACT

(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. Mr. Speaker, in June the National Labor Relations Board, NLRB, proposed a new rule that accelerates the election process for unionization. Union workers would be forced into memberships without having a reasonable time for managers to fully explain the advantages and disadvantages of membership.

This afternoon, under the leadership of Education and Workforce Chairman JOHN KLINE, Congress will vote on the Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act, legislation that limits the NLRB's ability to deny employers and workers the right to a free election, a right granted to every American by the laws of our country.

It is time for the President's National Labor Relations Board to stop focusing on policies that trample over the rights of American workers. I encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of the bill today and reaffirm the protections workers and job creators have received for decades.

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

WORKFORCE DEMOCRACY AND FAIRNESS ACT

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to legislation that will hinder the rights of American workers. There are several junctures in the union certification process in which an election can be delayed through unnecessary litigation. In June the National Labor Relations Board announced reforms to reduce litigation and streamline the process so that elections are held in a fair and timely manner.

The legislation before us will block those reforms and introduce even more opportunity to delay elections indefinitely. I don't believe most employers try to delay elections. In fact, I often cite our history of cooperative labor relations as one of western New York's strengths. But the record shows that some will use every loophole to prevent workers from voting on whether to bargain collectively. The National Labor Relations Board rules will close those loopholes and prevent elections from proceeding. We should allow these reforms to stand and focus instead on legislation to create jobs and get our economy moving in the right direction.

GABE ZIMMERMAN RESOLUTION

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, an attack on one who serves is an attack on all who serve.

I don't think I fully understood the meaning of those words until last January's senseless assault on our fellow citizens and our most fundamental responsibilities. This House responded in prayer and solidarity, reminding the world that no act of violence could silence the sacred dialogue of democracy.

It is in that same spirit that later today we will gather here to honor Gabe Zimmerman, the first congressional staffer to give his life in the line of duty and, God willing, the last.

Like every Member of this body, he took an oath to uphold and defend our Constitution. He died while well and faithfully discharging his duties. I think it is fitting and appropriate to honor Gabe Zimmerman with a permanent memorial in the United States Capitol.

I extend the thanks of the whole House to Gabe's family for their participation in this project.

Let us honor Gabe's memory by following his example of service to this institution, which remains the direct voice of the American people and their will. So later today, I would ask the House to support the resolution.

SUBMITTING TEMPORARY GUEST WORKER APPLICATIONS ONLINE

(Ms. HOCHUL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HOCHUL. Madam Speaker, last week, like millions of Americans across this country, my family and I gave thanks for our blessings, our Nation's freedom, and for the food on our table—provided by the hardworking farmers of our country and from my district. Now I ask my colleagues to join me in giving thanks for our farmers who make this great harvest possible.

America's farms are the best in the world. Our food is safer, higher in quality, and more efficiently grown than that of any other country. The labor and innovation of America's farmers puts food on the tables of not just families here at home, but for hungry people across the world.

As our farmers bring their goods to market in the 21st century economy, they expect to have a 21st century government that will help, not hinder, their business. That's why I call on the Secretary of Labor to allow farmers to submit their H-2A applications for temporary guest workers online.

New York farmers are increasingly relying on this program for the legal labor they need to plant and harvest their crops. This summer, I was absolutely shocked to learn that one of my

union farms in Genesee County had to mail almost 20 pounds of paperwork to the Federal Government in order to participate in this program. There must be a better way.

An online application program would save money for our farmers and our taxpayers, and I urge the Secretary of Labor to swiftly implement this program.

TIME FOR THE SENATE TO ACT

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Madam Speaker, recently a constituent of mine wrote to me and asked: What is going on in Washington?

It's a good question.

She said that her husband, a small business owner, is taxed so hard that money is tight and, as a result, they cannot grow their business. And she said: If we cannot grow, we cannot create new jobs. I want to know what you are doing for job growth?

Again, a good question.

The answer is simple. We need growth, pro-jobs policies. The House has passed more than 20 bills that do just that through low taxes, reasonable regulation, less spending, and a smaller, less intrusive Federal Government. These are commonsense bills. Most of them passed with bipartisan support. Where are these bills now? Languishing in the do-nothing Senate.

To my constituent, to many others who share her concern, my simple response is: We in the House have acted; now it's time for the Senate to do the same.

WORLD AIDS DAY

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, 25 million people dead around the world, 14 million orphaned children on the continent of Africa alone. This is part of the toll that the human race has borne since the terrible scourge of HIV/AIDS began its deadly work a generation ago. Tomorrow, December 1, is World AIDS Day.

I rise today to commemorate the millions of brothers, sisters, friends, and children that we've lost to this disease. I rise to commemorate the struggle of the 33 million people around the world who are living with this terrible disease today. And I rise to celebrate the new and real possibility that we could end AIDS in this generation.

Madam Speaker, this government funded the PEPFAR fight which brought hope and health to millions of people around the world, and we have funded the research that allows us to say today that we could end AIDS.

Madam Speaker, as we do the hard work of balancing our budget and governing this country, let's do what we need to do to end this disease and make