

their elected leader in early 2008 after an internal coup.

But just two weeks ago, many of those same Democratic senators and their more plentiful Republican counterparts gave Ms. Fedor a standing ovation after the chamber unanimously passed House Bill 262, the so-called "Safe Harbor" bill.

Gov. John Kasich is to sign it into law Wednesday at Second Chance, a Toledo social service program offering help to trafficking victims and prostitutes.

"There's no higher calling than fighting for those who can't fight for themselves," said Sen. Mark Wagoner (R., Ottawa Hills), the Senate Judiciary Committee chairman who helped to work through last-minute changes to get the bill over the finish line.

"Teresa is to be commended for taking up this issue, for the energy she put behind it, and for the commitment to see it through," he said.

The bill seeks to push the reset button for government, law enforcement, judges, and others to look at those forced or coerced into selling themselves, especially minors, as victims rather than as criminals.

Initially struggling to get bipartisan support, Ms. Fedor reached out to a man who, at least through much of 2011, was considered by Democrats to be the enemy—Mr. Kasich.

When the Republican governor signed on, Ms. Fedor was in disbelief.

"This was different for her," Mr. Kasich recalled. "She asked me, 'Are you really serious that you're going to help me?'"

The highly contentious fight over Senate Bill 5, which ended last November when voters rejected the Republican-passed restrictions on public employee unions, was still fresh in lawmakers' minds.

"I know I'm dancing on the edge of a knife here, but this issue's more important than the politics of this place," said Ms. Fedor.

No political backlash came.

The trafficking issue has brought Mr. Kasich, the father of 12-year-old twin daughters, close to tears multiple times.

"I knew about human trafficking worldwide, but I was certainly not aware of the situation in this state. . . ." he said. "It doesn't just touch me because I have daughters. That's part of it, but it's anybody's children."

In addition to signing the bill into law, Mr. Kasich's own interagency task force on trafficking will release its recommendations on how the state can better respond to the problem on Wednesday.

"Instead of prosecuting these people, we're beginning to recognize these people are victims," Mr. Kasich said. "Secondly, those people who knowingly engage with these traffickers and abuse them, the book is going to be thrown at them. We had this bust [near Bowling Green] that's had a significant amount of attention, so the word is out: You're going to jail and for a long time."

"And the women who are out there, the people who have been trafficked, they can come forward, and we will not prosecute you," he said. "We will treat you and help you get your life back."

INCREMENTAL GAINS

The gains have been incremental. In 2008, Ms. Fedor persuaded her colleagues to amend a separate bill to create a human trafficking specification that, when attached to a related crime such as compelling prostitution, could increase the severity of the sentence.

Ms. Fedor said she knew the specification would not be used, but saw it as the first step to getting human trafficking recognized in Ohio law.

More important, she said, was a provision authorizing then Attorney General Richard

Cordray, a Democrat, to create a commission to quantify modern-day slavery in Ohio.

The statistics that emerged from the commission were a kick in the stomach.

They suggested that as many as 2,879 youths born in Ohio are at risk for sex trafficking and that 1,078 have been trafficked over the course of a year.

In terms of raw numbers of arrests, investigations, and rescues of children involved in the sex trade, the commission suggested that Toledo ranked fourth in the nation behind Miami, Portland, Ore., and Las Vegas. When adjusted for population, Toledo climbed to No. 1.

"We feel that the models were reasonable and conservatively estimated, but I also think the estimate woke some people up," said Celia Williamson, professor of criminal justice and social work at the University of Toledo and leader of the commission subcommittee that presented the numbers.

But even when armed with those numbers, she was surprised at the success Ms. Fedor had.

"I was astonished that she was able to pass such a comprehensive Safe Harbor law," Ms. Williamson said. "It's more than we could have realistically dreamed."

The numbers were somewhat skewed by a 2005 federal child prostitution sting in Harrisburg, Pa., involving 177 females. Seventy-seven of them, including a 10-year-old, were from the Toledo area. A 2006 series by The Blade trained a spotlight on Toledo's role as a major recruiting hub for children in the sex trade.

"It made no sense to me that pimps weren't getting arrested, that johns weren't getting arrested," Ms. Fedor said. "They were all misdemeanors. The whole focus was on the prostitutes. In other words, it was always the woman's fault. . . . And then, when I saw that it was reaching down to our children, I thought, 'Enough is enough.'"

RUGGED DETERMINATION

Judge Tim Grendell of Geauga County Common Pleas Court was a Republican state senator in 2010 when he teamed with then Sen. Fedor for the next step, creation of Ohio's first stand-alone, second-degree felony of "trafficking in persons." Mr. Grendell's northeast Ohio district was dealing with its own problem of Asian massage parlors investigated for trafficking.

"She brought a rugged determination and dedication to the issue that, I think, was critical in passage of that legislation a year and a half ago and this legislation," he said. "In my personal opinion, [the latest bill] certainly would not have passed in this advanced state without her efforts."

But he also said that without Mr. Kasich's intervention, a bill as strong as the one that ultimately just passed probably still would have been several years off.

"She's been a huge force," said Attorney General Mike DeWine, a Republican who resurrected the trafficking commission begun under his predecessor.

"She has a real passion for this and persistence," he said. "I've found in government that you have to have those two, and she has them on this issue."

Theresa Flores, of Columbus, a former trafficking victim and now a member of Mr. DeWine's commission, detailed her story in the 2007 book *The Sacred Bath: An American Teen's Story of Modern Day Slavery*: As a teenager in an affluent Detroit suburb, she was blackmailed and trafficked at night, even if she did return to her own bed under her unsuspecting parents' roof before the sun rose.

"[Ms. Fedor] really is empowering victims and survivors to find their voices," she said.

"She's helping them to realize that what happened to them wasn't necessarily their fault. Somebody did this to us, and we need to go after them."

Although happy with the bill that reached Mr. Kasich's desk, Ms. Fedor is already plotting her next move, battling what she perceives to be a misunderstanding among her colleagues over whether a trafficking victim can consent to prostitution—even if she is over 16, the legal age of consent.

"Age of consent should never apply," she said. "These victims are not consenting. They're enslaved. They can't get out. They're being forced to have sex with 20 or 30 men a night—beaten, drugged, raped, kidnapped. They go from city to city. There's no consent involved at all."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BREAST CANCER COALITION

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Against the Tide, a competitive race benefitting the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition, MBCC, an organization dedicated to ending breast cancer.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer and second leading cause of death for women. Studies estimate that in 2012, breast cancer will claim the lives of over 39,000 women in the United States. Statistics also show that approximately 1 in 8 women born today will be diagnosed with breast cancer at some point in their lifetime.

The citizens of my home state of Massachusetts have been severely impacted by breast cancer. Our state has the highest incident rate of breast cancer in the United States, affecting 139.5 per 100,000 women in Massachusetts, as compared to a national average of 121.9 per 100,000 women. Additionally, the highest incident rates of breast cancer are within the counties of Dukes, Nantucket and Barnstable, which are all located in my district.

The Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition, the MBCC, was founded in 1991 to combat breast cancer. The organization challenges the commercialization and exploitation of breast cancer by corporations which stand to profit from the disease and those companies whose products contain carcinogens linked to breast cancer. Its mission to combat cancer through prevention has led the MBCC to advocate the investigation of environmental links to breast cancer, to dispel misconceptions about the realities of breast cancer, and to reject the concept of breast cancer as a chronic disease.

Through the funds raised by the Against the Tide race, the MBCC has been able to continue its cause to combat breast cancer. 2012 is the twentieth consecutive year the MBCC will hold this popular race, which unites people of all ages and backgrounds in a common fight against breast cancer.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in applauding the efforts of the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition to fight this devastating epidemic and wish them the best of luck for a successful race.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, as a society we must work to ensure that lives of those who are unable to protect themselves are safeguarded; however elected leaders also have an obligation to ensure that laws which are passed, especially at the national level, allow for public input by the people they affect.

I strongly agree with the underlying intent of H.R. 3803, the District of Columbia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, to prevent the termination of lives of the most vulnerable in our society—that of unborn children. H.R. 3803 would prohibit abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy, except when an acute physical condition endangers the life of the mother. The bill further requires that any termination of pregnancy be done in a manner that provides the best conditions for the unborn child to survive.

I am, however, concerned with the process used to develop and publicly debate the bill. Further, I am concerned about the impact it has on home rule for the District of Columbia. Congress has delegated much authority to the D.C. government to establish policies that reflect the needs of those who live here. But H.R. 3803, which only affects Washington, D.C., would implement this abortion ban without the input of D.C. residents and Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON who represents the people of the District of Columbia in the United States Congress.

I believe that the United States should enact strong policies that recognize and protect the sanctity of human life. However if Congress wants to make meaningful progress to achieve this, legislation should consider the views of those impacted by the legislation and not ignore their points of view or concerns.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION AND SYRIA HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, Today, a time of heightened tensions in U.S.-Iran relations, I voted for the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012, H.R. 1905, a balanced and serious approach towards ensuring Iran will never have nuclear weapons.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have firmly opposed the use of indiscriminate sanctions as a blunt tool of foreign policy, one often more successful as political fodder than as leverage to effect positive change.

The timing of previous Iran sanctions legislation was damaging, undermining the administration in the midst of complex, delicate discussions with Iran. Today, the circumstances have changed. Negotiations are stalled, and this legislation has been focused and toned-down, making it an asset, not a liability, for the administration as it works to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran.

A coherent and unified U.S. policy towards Iran is the best way to strengthen diplomacy, which remains the best, some say the only, way to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. This revised legislation—based on input from a broad coalition, including the White House—brings coherence and focused pressure to the negotiating table.

I commend Chairwoman ROS LEHTINEN and Ranking Member BERMAN of the House Foreign Affairs Committee for producing a bill that is based on policy, not politics. There were extreme voices pushing to include some very harsh language that, for example, would have made the few currently permitted humanitarian transactions with Iranian financial institutions illegal. To the benefit of the U.S. and innocent Iranian civilians, these provisions were left out.

Another critical change to this legislation is language that clarifies in the Act is not an authorization of the use of force against Iran or Syria.

The resolution would provide the administration with additional leverage for their broader diplomatic effort. Sanctions are effective when it is clear that if concessions are made, the other side has the ability to reciprocate by easing elements of the sanctions regime. This bill provides the administration with such flexibility.

In the midst of negotiations yet to yield progress, focused sanctions that unite both Congress and the executive provides leverage that increases the likelihood of success, and an alternative to military action, which our nation can ill-afford and which I oppose.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker on rollcall No. 539, on Tuesday, July 31, 2012, my plane was delayed in Detroit due to bad weather. As a result, I missed votes that evening, including a measure of personal importance, H.R. 3803, the District of Columbia Pain Capable Unborn Child Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL GUARD UNIT IN AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. ENI F.H. FALDOMAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. FALDOMAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will authorize the Secretary of the Department of Defense to establish a National Guard unit in American Samoa.

Mr. Speaker, the National Guard has a long, proud history in the United States. As part of their federal duties, National Guard units have been mobilized to supplement regular armed forces during times of war or national emergencies. As State entities, National Guard units have been utilized in their respective States upon declaration of a State of Emergency.

National Guard troops have been activated in response to emergencies as a

result of snowstorms, droughts, flooding, earthquakes, and other natural hazards that require providing basic necessities to people across the country. Indeed, one is reminded that National Guard units played a major role in providing security and assisting recovery efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, in September 2005.

Mr. Speaker, today, there are 54 separate National Guard units—one for each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia, plus Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. There is no National Guard unit in American Samoa.

Mr. Speaker, on September 29, 2009, American Samoa was hit by a powerful earthquake which struck below the ocean about 140 miles southwest of Pago Pago, American Samoa, and 125 miles south of Samoa. The earthquake, which registered 8.3 on the Richter scale, set off a massive tsunami that crashed into American Samoa. Entire villages were devastated creating a disaster of epic proportion in the Territory.

Mr. Speaker, one of the lessons of the 2009 Tsunami is the fact that American Samoa is prone to disasters and we must be prepared. Especially, with American Samoa being out there on its own in the midst of the vast South Pacific Ocean, it is very difficult to coordinate and organize first responders from the mainland. Having a National Guard unit is extremely helpful when there is a State emergency.

In addition, American Samoa has a per capita enlistment rate in the U.S. military which is higher than any State or U.S. Territory. Our sons and daughters have served in record numbers in every U.S. military engagement from WWII to present operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. We have stood by the United States in good times and bad, and I believe this relationship would only be strengthened by establishing a National Guard unit in American Samoa.

For these reasons, I am pleased to introduce legislation today to establish a National Guard unit in American Samoa. I understand that there are several other issues to consider in order to fulfill the objectives of this legislation. My hope is to work together with my colleagues to make improvements and adjustments as needed.

I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

CONGRATULATING JOHN ANNALORO ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor John Annaloro, the CEO of the Northwest Credit Union Association, on his retirement after nearly 30 years of working in the credit union industry.

John's passion for people and economics first brought him to the credit union industry in