

in the vineyard of Jewish knowledge as well as general philosophy and literature. Wiesel is the Founding President of the Universal Academy of Cultures. In the book, Werner Sonderberg's grandpa, and unrepentant ex-Nazi officer of the notorious Einsatzgruppen, boasts to his grandson of his murderous record and only regretting that Hitler lost the war with hope of yet a future victory. My own maternal aunt, Bas-Malka Bobrov Gurvitz, husband Shachne and children Aharon, 14, Yisrael, 12, and Rochel-Leah, 2, were murdered in Sarny, the Ukraine, on August 27–28, 1942, among 14,000 Jews by the Einsatzgruppen and their collaborators.

My grandma Esther Bobrov was killed by German air bombs when on the run with my mother, Chasia, from their hometown Sarny. My great-grandparents, Rabbi Yaacov and Dena Manzies Zoberman from Zamosc, Poland, perished in the Belzec death camp and great-grandparents Yitzchak and Zipora Anker were also among the many victims from both family sides, of the 6 million martyrs with its million and a half children. Five million Gentiles were murdered by the Nazis with World War II claiming the lives of 50 million. My uncle, Emanuel Zoberman, who was a member of a Russian attached Polish commando unit, helped liberate Poland and was killed while crossing the Oder River.

My father, Yechiel Zoberman, served in the Russian Army for five years, fighting on the outskirts of Moscow and St. Petersburg (Leningrad), among other battles. We cherish the enormous sacrifices of the heroic American military and all the Allied Forces, along with Righteous Gentiles who stepped forward to protect human dignity and honor.

Wiesel applies the Holocaust's awesome lessons of guilt and responsibility, resonating in the anguished sharing of his German students at Boston University, as well as those of healing and hope, to the lingering conflict between Palestinians and Israelis while trying to acknowledge all concerned and seeking to protect the "The Other" that both sides have suffered from. He probingly reflects on the opposite polls and messages of Auschwitz and Jerusalem, altering and sensitizing us toward mutually respectful and professional relations, and that what we do bears moral consequence. Wiesel eases the burden of memory without diluting its sacred essence.

The outstanding Holocaust Commission of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater of which I have been a proud member for many years, sponsors this season the 15th annual Elie Wiesel Writing Competition and the 10th annual Elie Wiesel Visual Arts Competition. Teachers' Awards for Excellence in Holocaust Education are also given out at an inspiring annual gathering of commemoration. A new documentary, "What We Carry," featuring four local survivors, Dana Cohen, Kitty Saks and of blessed memory David Katz and Hanns Loewenbach, has already received high acclaim.

So close to recalling the destruction of 2/3 of European Jewry—a 1/3 of world Jewry—which has reduced the potential of the Jewish people and humanity, we celebrate this year the 64th anniversary of the only Jewish state, The State of Israel, that is America's very special democratic ally in an uncertain world. With its deep historical roots in the Middle East from whence its prophets challenged humanity with the message of universal shalom, the re-

established Third Jewish Commonwealth absorbed the remnant of Holocaust survivors and dispersed Jews from over 100 countries and diverse cultures, bound together by shared faith and fate. It has set a high bar with its astonishing accomplishments in all fields of human endeavor in spite of mighty existential threats, as it rose from the ashes of a consuming Holocaust following a most trying history of exile and denial, with its survival vow, "Never Again!"

In the midst of a still raging "Arab Spring" with the Syrian slaughter continuing and the international community doing so little, a reminder of the Holocaust's years of deafening silence, Israel's flourishing democracy and loadable stability stand out in a region lacking both, as a beacon of hope and noble example. Iran, whose theocratic leaders are Holocaust deniers calling for Israel's destruction, is a threat to the entire world. It is the world's largest exporter of terrorism seeking a nuclear capability to further its goals of de-stabilization and dominion, and being able to conclude what Hitler began."

#### INCREASING AMERICAN JOBS THROUGH GREATER EXPORTS TO AFRICA ACT

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I chaired a hearing that examined U.S. policy toward American exports to Africa as a part of U.S.-Africa trade. The original African Growth and Opportunity Act, or AGOA, was intended to be mutually beneficial for both African and American entrepreneurs, but the focus of the three administrations since its passage in 2000 has been on increasing African exports to the United States and the resultant job growth on the African continent.

This policy has neglected the job growth here in the United States that could be created through increasing U.S. exports to Africa. The purpose of the Increasing American Jobs Through Greater Exports to Africa Act of 2012, H.R. 4221, which I introduced together with Rep. Bobby Rush on March 20th, is to address this important component of U.S.-Africa trade by increasing U.S. exports to Africa by 200 percent over the next decade. This bill does not replace AGOA; it complements it by providing for a rebalancing that makes it beneficial to Americans as well as Africans. Senators Dick Durbin and John Boozman have introduced an identical version of the bill in the Senate—S. 2215.

The bill intends to achieve its ambitious, but achievable, goal by taking several steps, including the creation of a U.S.-Africa trade coordinator to ensure that all U.S. agencies involved in trade work in concert with one another. This legislation also calls for not less than 25% of available U.S. trade financing to be devoted to facilitating U.S.-Africa trade. Furthermore, it encourages the descendants of Africa in this country, who largely operate small and medium-sized businesses, to play a greater role in trade with the countries in Africa.

Small and medium enterprises in Africa and the United States have not benefited from

AGOA to the extent that they could have or should have, and the bill addresses this deficit. U.S. companies can benefit from an expanding African market of businesses and consumers, and increased American production will create new, sustainable jobs.

Some have expressed concern that such an expansion of U.S. exports to Africa could flood African markets and damage their economies. However, many of these U.S. exports, such as in the agriculture sector, will enable African producers to become more efficient and profitable and create jobs for their workers as well. In trade, the best situation is one of observing the principle of comparative advantage: countries sell what they make most efficiently and buy what another country makes most efficiently. In this way, both buyer and seller countries benefit from trade by meeting each other's needs.

According to the U.S. International Trade Administration, the United States is the world's largest importer of sub-Saharan African goods, receiving 20.2% of the region's total global exports. On the other hand, during the height of the global recession in 2008–2009, our exports to sub-Saharan Africa plummeted by 45% from \$78.3 billion to \$42.8 billion. As of the end of 2011, the United States sold nearly \$20.3 billion worth of goods to sub-Saharan Africa, while purchasing more than \$74 billion worth of goods. Consequently, we had a trade deficit with the nations of sub-Saharan Africa last year of nearly \$54 billion.

The African Development Bank estimates that one out of three Africans is considered to be in the middle class—that's 314 million Africans who have escaped poverty and can now buy consumer goods, including those from the United States. In order to reduce our trade deficit with the nations of Africa, there is room to engage in trade that increases economic opportunity for Africans and Americans. We just haven't taken advantage of the opportunities that exist. The United States has over the last decade taken many steps to enhance U.S.-Africa trade. African governments have taken steps to encourage trans-Atlantic trade as well. Still, both sides can do better.

More exports help the economy grow because they typically boost factory production, which can fuel more hiring and lead to greater consumer spending. Fewer imports subtract less from growth, largely because consumers are spending less on overseas goods and services. H.R. 4221 would contribute to job growth in the United States by facilitating increased sales to the emerging markets of Africa.

The rest of the world understands how valuable the nations of Africa have become as economic markets. Last month, this subcommittee held a hearing on the role of China in Africa that not only pointed out China's designs on selling their goods to Africa countries, but also illustrated the economic interest in Africa shown by nations as far-flung as Brazil, Turkey and South Korea. We in the United States must join in the more equal two-way trade the rest of the world envisions for their commerce with Africa.

Our witnesses yesterday discussed current administration policy toward U.S.-Africa trade, the U.S. business sector view on trade with Africa, and examined the realities of doing business in Africa by both a current and a prospective enterprise on the continent.

H.R. 4384—PATIENT SAFETY AND  
DRUG LABELING IMPROVEMENT  
ACT

**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, the Patient Safety and Drug Labeling Improvement Act is meant to address a troubling inconsistency in the law, created by *Pliva v. Mensing*, which does not allow consumers injured by generic drugs to hold the manufacturer accountable for inadequate warnings.

The *Mensing* ruling also eliminates any incentive for generic drug manufacturers to monitor the safety of the products they sell and propose necessary changes to labeling to the FDA, as currently required by federal law.

Under the Patient Safety and Drug Labeling Improvement Act manufacturers of generic drugs assume the same duties as brand manufacturers to monitor the safety of the drugs they sell and to ensure that their labeling contains accurate risk information. More specifically, the legislation authorizes generic drug manufacturers to independently initiate labeling changes through the Changes Being Effected (CBE) process under the same circumstances that apply to manufacturers of branded drugs in order to ensure that all drug labels accurately reflect current health and safety information.

HONORING DR. DENNIS FISHER

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dr. Dennis Fisher on his retirement as the Superintendent of the Park Hill School District in Kansas City, Missouri.

Dr. Fisher started his career in education as a Junior High Social Studies teacher in Papillion, Nebraska. He also served as the interim Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent for Business Services at the Liberty School District in Liberty, Missouri. He began his time at Park Hill in 1999 as the Assistant Superintendent for Business Services before becoming Superintendent in 2005. Dr. Fisher has a total of 36 years of experience in education.

Under Dr. Fisher's leadership, the Park Hill School District has achieved many awards. They became the first school district ever to receive the Missouri Quality Award and continues to receive the Distinction in Performance Award from the State of Missouri each year. Park Hill is one of the highest-achieving districts in the state, but Dr. Fisher has still pushed for continuous improvement through the years.

Dr. Fisher has received many acclamations personally also. In 2011, he was named the

Missouri Superintendent of the Year and received the Pierce Award, the Missouri Association of School Administrators' highest honor. In 2005, Dr. Fisher received the Missouri School Business Official of the Year award.

He leads not only 10,292 students, 1,400 staff members, and an annual operating budget of \$120 million, but also many organizations of his peers. He has served as President of the Missouri Association of School Business Officials, the Kansas City Association of School Business Officials, and the Greater Kansas City Administrators Association. He is also very dedicated to helping the community and has served on the Board of Directors for the Missouri Securities Investment Program, Synergy Services Inc, the Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Platte County Economic Development Council, and the Parkville Economic Development Council.

I have had the honor of working with Dr. Fisher over the last few years and have seen first hand his dedication to the education and development of students in the Park Hill School District. His commitment to the students, staff, and community is all-encompassing.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating Dr. Fisher on his retirement and in wishing him the best of luck in the years to come.