

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition to this bill. The Violence Against Women Act has never been a divisive piece of legislation until this Tea Party Majority came into power. Instead of bringing the bipartisan bill already passed by the Senate to this floor for a vote, House Republicans are attempting to pass a partisan and discriminatory bill that eliminates protections for violent crime victims.

The Republican bill on the floor this week eliminates long-standing critical protections for immigrant women who are the victims of crime and abuse. This bill rejects the new protections adopted by the Senate for gay and transgender individuals. The LGBT community experiences domestic violence at roughly the same rates as other populations, but these survivors often face discrimination when seeking the services they need to escape abuse. The bipartisan Senate bill included provisions to ensure LGBT victims can find refuge and access needed services.

This bill also eliminates the new provisions for Native American victims. One in three native women is raped in her lifetime, three in five suffer domestic assault, and a majority of the perpetrators are non-Indian. Considering these horrific statistics, I am dismayed that the bill the Republican majority brought before us today does not include adequate protections for Native women. The provision included at the last minute—section 1006—actually takes a step backward by placing the burden on the woman seeking protection, who would have to travel to a federal court and hire legal counsel. It forces tribal women to rely on federal law enforcement, who already decline to prosecute more than half of the violent crimes in Indian Country, and an even higher percentage of sexual assault cases.

According to the National Congress of American Indians, in one alarming case, a woman was assaulted by her non-Native boyfriend and had her nose broken. When she filed a police report, she heard that the injury was just broken cartilage, and that the case would not be prosecuted because U.S. attorneys will not take a domestic violence case unless the disfigurement is permanent. This is the status quo that the bill before us will maintain. It is unacceptable, especially with a better bipartisan alternative available.

The Violence Against Women Act reauthorization bill passed by the Senate, S. 1925, had provisions that provided for tribes to prosecute a non-Indian for domestic violence in a constitutional manner. Defendants would still have access to free counsel, to due process, and to a jury of their peers including non-Indians. These common-sense provisions were developed during years of consultation with tribes and were recommended by the U.S. Department of Justice after studying the crisis. Tribal communities need this authority at the local level to protect their mothers, sisters and daughters from abuse.

If the House passed the bipartisan Senate bill, it would send a clear message that this

country does not tolerate violence against women, regardless of their ethnicity or sexual orientation. Moreover, it would show Congress' commitment to reducing domestic violence, protecting women from sexual assault and securing justice for victims.

Over a decade ago, VAWA passed the House and Senate by votes of 371–1 and 95–0, respectively, and then this overwhelming support was repeated in 2005. Yet here we are today, with my colleagues across the aisle turning this into a divisive and partisan issue.

It is wrong, it is unfair to victims of domestic violence, and it is the latest example of this Tea Party Republican Majority's failure to find common ground even on issues that have been historically non-controversial. We must do better for all women who experience violence, which is why I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill. I remain hopeful that the House will have the opportunity to consider the Senate-passed bipartisan language instead.

The purpose of VAWA has always been to ensure that all victims of violence are protected and that their basic human rights are upheld, no matter one's sexual orientation, ethnicity, or legal status in this country, and this bill shirks that responsibility.

THE DEATH OF DC LEGEND CHUCK
BROWN

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I say goodbye to a great artist, consummate professional and my friend, Chuck Brown. Chuck dedicated over 50 years to filling the hearts and spirits of both young and old with the infectious sound of his soulful music. No man, woman or child could remain seated when Chuck took the stage, as he played his signature brand of music that he coined "Go-Go." While my friendship with Chuck only begin 6 years ago, the "Godfather" as he is affectionately known by DC natives, has been rockin' and rollin' since the early 60s.

He was deeply loved and he will be sorely missed. My heart goes out to his family, loved ones and Washington, DC. We truly lost a legend yesterday.

IN TRIBUTE TO DAVID HADLEY

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to David Hadley, who is the quintessence of a community volunteer—and a lifelong friend.

I have known Dave since we were boys. Dave, his brother, Peter, and I were in the Sea Explorers together. Their dad, "Skipper" Al Hadley, was our Explorer advisor. Skipper instilled in us, and our fellow Scouts, the values of patriotism and public service.

Dave took his father's teachings to heart.

In addition to making his mark in girls softball for the past 35 years—to the extent that

the Boys & Girls Club baseball field in Fallbrook, California, is named the Dave Hadley Field in recognition of his longtime dedication to youth sports—Dave has been active in his church and has been advisor to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors.

During his 35 years of coaching youth softball, Dave has also helped organize youth softball leagues with administrative positions, organized local and traveling teams, and coached "Smurf" softball programs for kindergarten girls. And, like his dad, Dave also taught his players the value of giving back. His former players have gone on to play and coach in the National Pro Fast Pitch League and at numerous high schools, community colleges and colleges.

Also in keeping with his dad's example, Dave's daughters, Heather and Holly, also were recipients of Dave's coaching and example. He also is providing guidance, direction and coaching to his seven grandchildren: Amber, Hunter, Kai, Shea, Mackynley, Ben and David.

Dave's dedication to youth expands beyond the softball field. He has been a Confraternity of Christine Doctrine (CCD) teacher at St. Peter's Catholic Church for 20 years and an executive board member and past president of the Boys & Girls Club of Fallbrook for 22 years.

In addition, Dave served for five years as an Advisory Board member from San Diego County Service Area 81, providing community input to county supervisors. Somehow he also found the time to be an entrepreneur, owning and operating S-K Specialties, a full-service machine shop, for 35 years.

Mr. Speaker, Dave is to be rightly honored for his service to his community. I know my colleagues join Fallbrook, California, and me in thanking Dave for his decades of dedication and in recognizing not only his accomplishments, but in recognizing the accomplishments of those he has mentored and has passed on the values of patriotism and public service.

Well done, my friend.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4310) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of an amendment offered by Representative JOHNSON of Georgia that would include a finding that states the deployment of tactical weapons to South Korea would destabilize the Western Pacific region and would not be in the national security interests of the United States.

Due to increased provocative actions taken by North Korea, I feel there is a thought that the placement of tactical nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula would act as a deterrent

against North Korea's continued desire to build nuclear weapons. I disagree.

Our military's extended nuclear deterrent capabilities are already sufficient to deal with the North Korean threat. The Kim Jung-un regime is aware that with our advanced submarine launch capabilities, our sophisticated stealth bombers, and our ICBM missiles, the United States military has the ability to cause devastating harm to North Korea.

Instead of acting as a deterrent to North Korea, placing tactical nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula will only embolden the Kim Jung-un regime to develop their nuclear capabilities faster, increasing the risk of development or testing mistakes that could harm innocent North Koreans in the process.

Placing tactical nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula without the support of the South Korean, Japanese, or Chinese governments could severely hamper the progress made during the six-party talks. The United States should not unilaterally decide to take a destabilizing action in this region of the world without close consultation with our allies in the region.

For these reasons I strongly urge my colleagues to support the Johnson amendment.

IN SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF
TIBET

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the people of Tibet and to thank groups like Students for a Free Tibet for all the work they do to raise awareness on this issue. For too long, the Tibetan people have suffered numerous human rights violations at the hands of the People's Republic of China. In the fight for Tibetan freedom, 35 Tibetans have set fire to themselves since February 2009 to protest China's occupation of their land. At least 23 of them have died. Their sacrifice should not go unnoticed. They have given their lives to show the world the suffering the Tibetan people endure at the hands of Chinese government.

Additionally, there are numerous Tibetans who have been arrested for speaking out against the government and advocating for the freedom of Tibet. These political prisoners need to be set free. Their only crime is standing up for the rights of the Tibetan people. While China continues to enforce policies that encroach on the freedoms of Tibetans, the people continue to conduct peaceful demonstrations. It is our responsibility to support the Tibetan people both politically and financially.

As a body, we should carry on our support for the Tibetan people by continuing to fund areas such as development, refugee programs, and Radio Free Asia and Voice of America. By supporting programs such as these, we encourage Tibetan livelihood and culture. U.S. assistance has supported sustainable development, environmental conservation, and cultural preservation in Tibet since 2000. Let us continue this support to contribute to a better future for Tibet.

We should also continue to support the Dalai Lama's efforts to negotiate a peaceful

solution for Tibet with the Chinese government. The Tibetan people are a peaceful people and we should support their belief system in finding a peaceful solution to this problem. Let us lend our support to the people of Tibet so that they can continue their fight for freedom.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the people of Tibet.

RECOGNIZING HIGH PERFORMANCE
BUILDING WEEK

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize America's engineers, architects, and skilled workforce who construct our new state-of-the-art new buildings and to speak in support of H.R. 2866, the Mechanical Insulation Installation Incentive Act.

Next week is High-Performance Building Week, and America's leading trade groups will come together to promote their efforts to design, build, and maintain buildings to a higher level of performance. Throughout the week, the High-Performance Building Congressional Caucus Coalition—a diverse group of building professionals—will hold a number of briefings on high-performance basics and new technological breakthroughs, conduct tours of local green roofs, and offer other outreach opportunities. These activities will remind attendees that these buildings are not only attainable, but can improve the quality of our lives.

High-performance buildings have eight specific attributes that ensure that the buildings are designed for the people they serve and the environment they impact. These buildings should be accessible, cost-effective, functional, productive, safe, sustainable, aesthetically pleasing, and mindful of historic preservation.

While all of the attributes of high-performance buildings are important, efficiency and cost-effectiveness are increasingly vital given the rising costs of energy. H.R. 2866, the Mechanical Insulation Installation Incentive Act, will help alleviate these rising costs, promoting the construction of truly high-performance buildings. H.R. 2866 will create tax incentives to encourage commercial and industrial entities to go beyond current minimum building requirements—as set by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers—in new construction or retrofit projects, and to also keep up with regular and timely maintenance of their mechanical insulation systems.

Over a five-year period, these incentives have the potential to save American companies \$35 billion in energy costs and reduce our CO₂ emissions by 170 million metric tons. In addition, this bill will not only help building owners save money and use less resources, it will also create jobs. It is estimated that this initiative could support the development of more than 89,000 sustainable jobs for skilled craft personnel to install and maintain mechanical insulation systems.

H.R. 2866 is just one step this body can take to help achieve all these goals and make our country more competitive. During High-Performance Building Week, I encourage my

colleagues to learn more about the work of building professionals and join me in supporting this measure. Our residential, commercial and industrial buildings are more than just places where we live, work, and shop. They can inspire us and reflect our values, and be engines for energy independence and job creation.

ONE LAPTOP PER CHILD

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ketaki Desai, Elizabeth Cullinan, Tim Kelly, and Reginald Cox, four graduate students from Carnegie Mellon's Heinz School of Public Policy and Management, for their first place finish at the Hult Global Case Challenge.

Their innovative program, One Laptop Per Child, seeks to provide durable, low energy laptops for children in 3rd world countries with limited educational resources. This idea garnered the top prize at the Hult Challenge, where these CMU grad students were awarded \$333,000 to encourage and further their initiative.

The Hult Global Case Challenge, now in its third year, is focused on bringing some of the brightest minds in the world together to find ways to solve key social challenges. This year, the three categories—education, energy, and housing—had hundreds of entrants from over 130 countries around the world. Such luminaries as Muhammad Yunus, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize judged the final round; and President Bill Clinton handed out the top awards for each category. CMU's Ketaki Desai, Elizabeth Cullinan, Tim Kelly, and Reginald Cox won first place in the education category.

One Laptop Per Child seeks to provide greater educational resources for children ages 6 through 12 in impoverished areas of the world. OLPC has designed laptops with several key features geared towards helping these children. They cost significantly less to manufacture than the standard laptops we use here in the U.S.; they are pre-loaded with lots of educational software, and have wireless internet built in; they are low energy, ensuring that even children in communities without electricity can use them, then recharge the laptops using solar energy; the laptops' screens can be read in sunlight—an important feature because so many of these children go to school outside; and, perhaps most importantly, these laptops are extremely durable and rugged, because, let's face it, kids are going to be kids, no matter where they are in the world.

By providing children with these laptops, One Laptop Per Child hopes to broaden children's worldview, and enrich their educational experiences, because, as they see it, education is the foundation for the other solutions to problems like a lack of shelter or running water. Their goal is to donate and distribute 20 million laptops to poor children throughout the world over the next 5 years.

This is just one more example of the innovative work that's being done in Pittsburgh, and I am proud to be their representative.