

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, one of the most marvelous scientific breakthroughs in the criminal justice system has been DNA evidence. I remember when I was a judge in the courthouse when DNA started being used at the courtroom.

Prior to DNA, many times prosecutors and law enforcement had to rely on blood samples and fingerprints. But once DNA came in, we learned that everybody has a unique genetic makeup that can be tested and it can be traced to perpetrators of crime when they commit a crime, especially in sexual assault cases.

And convictions have gone up. The evidence is better. The proof beyond a reasonable doubt is much more concrete in DNA cases.

In 1985, there was a 13-year-old girl named Lavinia Masters. Lavinia lived in Dallas, Texas. One evening she told her folks good night. She went to her bedroom, which should be, Mr. Speaker, the safest place on Earth for children. Went to sleep, and during the middle of the night, she was woken up by an outlaw putting a knife to her throat. He sexually assaulted her. Then he snuck away in the darkness of the night.

That was in 1985. She went to the hospital. Her parents took care of her medical needs. DNA evidence was taken from her and put in a "rape kit". It was given to the law enforcement authorities, but that DNA evidence from that sexual assault that night in 1985 was not tested for 20 years. It sat on the shelf in a crime lab somewhere in Dallas, Texas.

Because the Dallas Police Department had a new incentive to go and look at those old cases, this case was looked at 20 years later. That evidence was tested, and the Dallas Police Department discovered that Kevin Glen Turner had committed this crime back in 1985. But that was 20 years ago. The statute of limitations had run, and justice could not occur in Lavinia's case because the system waited too long to find the outlaw.

Kevin Turner turned out to be a criminal in other cases and ended up in the penitentiary for those crimes, but justice was denied for Lavinia, denied because of bureaucratic red tape.

You see, Mr. Speaker, many rape kits sit on the shelves of evidence rooms across the country untested. Some of them sit there so long that they're discarded by law enforcement, and the statute of limitations runs like it ran in Lavinia's case.

She is not alone, Mr. Speaker. There are 400,000 untested rape kits in this country—400,000, that's a number; but every one of those represents a person. To try to put it in some perspective, there were a little over 400,000 Americans killed in World War II. They were killed by the enemies of our country. 400,000, primarily young women, have been assaulted by rapists who try to kill the soul of these victims. It's important that we not stop prosecuting these cases because of funding.

That's why I've introduced, along with Congresswoman MALONEY from New York, the bipartisan SAFER Act, companion bill with the bipartisan bill in the Senate by Senator CORNYN and Senator BENNET.

The SAFER Act does a lot of good things, but basically it allows funding to go so to make sure that we test these cases. It audits these backlogs so that we know where these cases are that are sitting on the shelves. So it does the audit. It gets more funding. It brings these cases to justice so that we can make sure that these victims of crime have their day in court as well.

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DNA is a wonderful thing. It's important that we make sure that that evidence is available for law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges in the courtroom.

She was a child. Lavinia was a child when she was sexually assaulted. That was a long time ago. But there are 400,000 cases waiting to be tested. This is something that we can do in a bipartisan way today, to test those cases so we can bring justice to the victims of crime and make sure those outlaws get their day in court as well and be held accountable for the rape of children in our country.

And that's just the way it is.

FIGHTING HIV/AIDS: A PILLAR OF SMART SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, we observed World AIDS Day, a time to remember those lost to this horrific disease and to recommit ourselves to prevention, treatment and, ultimately, a cure. For more than 30 years now, HIV/AIDS has exacted a huge toll, killing more than 25 million people. Every 9.5 minutes in our country, someone is infected. But this is predominantly a disease of the developing world. A shocking 33.4 million people are living with HIV/AIDS today, almost all in the world's poorer countries, particularly sub-Saharan Africa. Too many of them don't have access to the medication and overall health care infrastructure that they need.

AIDS is linked to many other problems of poverty, malnutrition, and other infectious diseases as well. It contributes to instability and a sense of hopelessness in countries that are already susceptible to violence and terrorism. If we don't contain and defeat this epidemic, it will undermine democratic governments, it will continue to impede economic growth overseas, and it will threaten us right here in the United States. In other words, this isn't just an economic issue or a health care issue; it's a national security issue.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, over the last decade, "acting in our national se-

curity interests" has come to mean invading and occupying foreign nations. The Iraq war lasted 9 years and was responsible for untold human misery. The Afghanistan war, now in its 12th year, continues to damage our national security interests instead of enhancing them. It hasn't defeated the Taliban, nor has it alleviated crushing poverty or produced a stable democracy in Afghanistan. And then there's the cost—some \$10 billion a month. That would be a staggering amount of money for a successful policy. For a failed policy, it's downright scandalous. And it is rarely mentioned in all the conversations about so-called deficit crises and fiscal cliffs.

USAID and other civilian arms of government could do a world of good towards solving the AIDS crisis with a fraction of that money. Why does the Pentagon get a blank check while agencies that dispense aid have to fight for every single nickel that they receive? Why do we spend without restraint on wars and weapons that destroy lives but we squeeze those programs that save lives?

For many years now—and you have all heard me; this is my 443rd 5-minute speech on this issue. For many years now, I have been promoting the idea of SMART Security. SMART Security means protecting our interests not with military force or by maintaining a massive nuclear arsenal, but by investing in development and diplomacy and through humanitarian assistance and partnerships around the world.

At the AIDS Conference in Washington this past summer, there was a panel discussion on how, in the struggle against HIV/AIDS, we can do more with less. And what I want to know is: Why do we have to settle for less when it comes to HIV/AIDS? This is a humanitarian crisis. Our sense of moral decency should compel us to invest whatever it takes to bring an end to it.

It's not just the right thing, Mr. Speaker; it's the smart thing to do for our national security. Let's bring our troops home, let's implement SMART Security now, and let's have the resources available for what we really need to invest in around the world.

AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I find it so ironic that our Nation is on the cliff of collapse and yet we continue to borrow money from China to prop up a corrupt leader in Afghanistan. Our country is in the most dire of fiscal straits, and we continue to send money to Afghanistan. The worst part is, the money we are sending, we cannot audit, and many times the taxpayers' money ends up in the hands of the Taliban to buy weapons to kill Americans.

Mr. Speaker, this poster beside me is a book that I read. The title is, "Funding the Enemy." The subtitle is, "How U.S. Taxpayers Bankroll the Taliban."

I would like to quote Lisa Freeman, who recently acknowledged that we have lost 2,000 young Americans in Afghanistan. She lost her son, Captain Matthew Freeman, in 2007, in Afghanistan. Ms. Freeman said:

Where is America's outrage? Where is America's concern that we're still at war?

I agree with Ms. Freeman. Where is the outrage here in Congress? Does it make any sense that we continue to borrow money from foreign governments to prop up a corrupt leader and half the money going to the leader of Afghanistan ends up in the hands of the Taliban to buy weapons to kill Americans? Our Nation is broke—China owns us—and we're sending our young men and our money to Afghanistan, yet we're going to cut programs right here in America for the American people.

The American people need to put the pressure on Congress to bring our troops home now and not wait until December of 2014. Mr. Speaker, I assure you, if we start bringing them home in December of 2014, it will become 2015 and it will become 2016, and how many more families have to cry about their loved ones being killed in a war that has no end to it?

Mr. Speaker, again, I ask the people to look at this poster and realize that this war is costing us in so many, many ways—the most important, our young men and women who are dying. If you agree with me that we need to bring our troops home before the current December 2014 deadline, please go to www.bringthemhome2013.com and sign the petition.

Mr. Speaker, I have been to Walter Reed and Bethesda now so many times to see the broken bodies, to see the faces of the moms and dads with pain in their face, to see the young men or women's faces that know that they will never be physically able to do what they had done before going to Afghanistan.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I make one last reference. I would hope that colleagues of mine in both parties would read this book, "Funding the Enemy," by Douglas Wissing, "How the U.S. Taxpayers Bankroll the Taliban."

This is a sin, and it must stop.

Mr. Speaker, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform, to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform, to bless the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. And I ask God to help this Congress come together with the Senate and come forward with a plan that we, the American people, can be proud of. I ask three times, God please, God please, God please continue to bless America.

NAMES OF RECENTLY DECEASED IN AFGHANISTAN

Spc. Daniel L. Carlson
Pfc. Brandon L. Buttry
Staff Sgt. Dain T. Venne

Spc. Ryan P. Jayne
Spc. Brett E. Gorniewicz
Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew G. Kantor
Cpl. Alex F. Domion
Staff Sgt. Kashif M. Memon
Sgt. Clinton K. Ruiz
Chief Warrant Officer Michael S. Duskin
Pfc. Shane G. Wilson
Sgt. Robert J. Billings
Spc. Brittany B. Gordon
Cmdr. Joel Del Mundo Tiu
Sgt. First Class Ryan J. Savard
Sgt. Thomas R. Macpherson
Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Milton W. Brown
Warrant Officer Joseph L. Schiro
Staff Sgt. Justin C. Marquez
Sgt. Camella M. Steedley
Sgt. 1st Class Daniel T. Metcalfe
Sgt. Thomas J. Butler IV
Sgt. Jeremy F. Hardison
Sgt. Donna R. Johnson
Sgt. 1st Class Aaron A. Henderson
Sgt. 1st Class Riley G. Stephens
Staff Sgt. Orion N. Sparks
Sgt. Jonathan A. Gollnitz

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DO WHAT'S RIGHT FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, America has always been known to rise to the occasion—the American people, our values—when there is a need for us to come together. Just a few minutes ago, I sat in for a moment on the recapturing of the enormous bravery of those who were on Flight 93, Americans who came together and made a sacrifice. So although all my remarks will not speak to the issue of sacrifice, some of what I say this morning speaks to the values of the American people who always, when called upon, have said: Send me.

But first I'd like to speak to an issue of just basic fairness. Let me give great respect to the constitutional premise that the Senate has the right to advice and consent. Of course that comes with the Presidential right to nominate persons to serve in his or her administration—either at the Cabinet level, under Secretaries, various appointees—throughout the administration, administrations from years gone by. So I rise today to query the character assassination of Ambassador Susan Rice. She has not been nominated.

We are so fortunate to have such a dynamic Secretary of State in Hillary Clinton, who has indicated her desire to leave the administration at the end of her term, but has also indicated her willingness to continue her work—recently in Syria, possibly even today in that devastating area.

Certainly, her partner at the United Nations for 4 years in diligent, excellent, astute, thoughtful and patriotic service has been Susan E. Rice, a daughter of Washington, D.C. and parents who loved America, a graduate of Stanford University, where of course she earned department honors and university distinction, became a Harry S.

Truman scholar, Phi Beta Kappa and a Rhodes scholarship, certainly a beginning that did not warrant the kind of personal attacks that we have seen.

I think we should leave politics and campaigns and won or lost races to November 6, 2012, for you cannot debate a political and Presidential campaign around a patriotic public servant. If there is a nomination for Ambassador Rice, the Senate has every right to advice and consent, and the votes need to be taken on up and down.

I can assure you that if she is nominated by the President she will serve this Nation well, as she has done in the past. I know her well as the Assistant Secretary for African Affairs under the Clinton administration, dealing with very difficult issues involving African countries such as Ethiopia and Eritrea, responsive and detailed. Why in the world, with others who may have been equally culpable in misunderstanding what actually occurred on that day—the tragic day where we should be speaking more to the loss of brave Americans in Benghazi, Libya—why is she the one that is pinpointed, pinpointed, pointed, and with, I think, inappropriate accusations, casting aspersions and doing damage to a reputation of service that is undeserving?

So my words are simply this: let's be fair. Let's carry on our rights as Members of Congress to speak to the issue of what a tragic incident occurred in Benghazi. If there is a nomination—which I hope there will be—among the many talented people that the President has, it will be his choice. Senators that are eager, friends of mine, Senator KERRY and others, may have this opportunity. But let us hold to the premise that you are innocent until proven guilty, that someone's great service is deserving of respect—and she is deserving of respect. Susan Rice is deserving of respect.

Let me move quickly to this idea that America cannot settle its issues of financial concern before the fiscal deadline. See, there is no cliff, because as we all well know, the simple premise of making sure that we have tax cuts for those making \$250,000 and below have the right to follow through on the President's premise because this is what the American people voted on.

Vote for the tax relief for \$250,000 and below, Mr. Speaker, and move forward in reconciliation on doing the right thing for Medicare holders, Social Security, and Medicaid. None of that has anything to do with the deficit; therefore, we need to know that we are in a nonstarter position, Mr. Speaker. We need to go forward and reconcile to do what is right for the American people.

BUHLER, KANSAS, IS UNDER ASSAULT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. POMPEO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the 1,300 citizens of