

been staunch advocates and compassionate caregivers to the citizens of the Granite State living with mental illness. Working as counselors with The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester, they have provided care to many individuals struggling with a variety of afflictions. After 20 years with the center Peter Janelle took the helm as President and CEO, helping to launch a number of programs focused on not only treatment, but vocational services, supportive living techniques, and illness management. These programs aim to promote wellness and independence for the center's patients, to empower them to manage their mental illness and be productive, contributing members of the community.

Peter has also worked tirelessly with other providers and organizations from across New Hampshire to offer care to those most in need and support the community of mental health professionals in the state. Whether working with patients and staff at NH Hospital, local law enforcement or with local schools he has helped to expand and develop the reach of the services offered by the center to give care to people of all ages from children to seniors, and addressing the need for treatment and care for small behavioral problems and mild depression, to treatment for Alzheimer's, psychosis and schizophrenia. The result of these efforts has enabled the center to provide care to almost 11,000 patients a year.

The work that both Peter and Maureen have done in the field of mental illness is not an easy job, and the success and accomplishments they have been able to achieve in their service to The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester is truly remarkable. I applaud and thank them for devoting their life's work to this worthy and much needed field, and for all they have contributed to New Hampshire and especially the City of Manchester.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this morning, Israelis—whether sitting at their desks, playing on the beach, or driving on a busy highway—came to a complete standstill as sirens rang out across the small country to commemorate the horrors of the Holocaust and the six million Jews systematically murdered by the Nazi regime.

I join the global Jewish community in remembering those we lost and honoring those who survived to carry on the proud traditions of the Jewish people. On this Yom Hashoa, Holocaust Remembrance Day, let us all recommit ourselves to preserving the memory of the past while working to build a better future. As the number of Holocaust survivors continues to diminish it becomes increasingly incumbent upon future generations to never forget.

THE GOLDMAN ACT TO RETURN ABDUCTED AMERICAN CHILDREN: REVIEWING OBAMA ADMINISTRATION IMPLEMENTATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last month I held a hearing to continue and increase attention on international parental child abduction, whose victims include primarily children denied the love and attention of one of their parents, and parents cut off from the children they love.

Every year, approximately 1,000 American children are unlawfully removed from their homes by one of their parents and taken across international borders. Less than half of these children ever come home.

Most of the left-behind parents in the audience at last month's hearing have not seen their children in years and know all too well the financial, legal, cultural, and linguistic obstacles to bringing their children home from a foreign country. Many of them had already been through U.S. judicial proceedings prior to the abduction, and the courts had settled custody and visitation, only to have a kidnapping spouse defy a court order. Other parents were caught completely by surprise when a spouse's vacation turned into an abduction, a phone call in the middle of the night telling them that would never again see their child.

Their suffering is exponentially compounded by knowledge of the pain caused to their child by the separation. Child abduction is child abuse. Parentally-abducted children are at risk of serious emotional and psychological problems, and may experience anxiety, eating problems, nightmares, mood swings, sleep disturbances, aggressive behavior, resentment, guilt, and fearfulness.

These young victims, like their left-behind parents, are American citizens who need the help of their government when normal legal processes are unavailable or have failed.

In 1983, the United States ratified the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction to try to address abduction and access. This convention creates a civil framework for the quick return of abducted children and for rights of access for left-behind parents. Absent extenuating circumstances, the child, or children, are to be returned within 6 weeks to his or her country of habitual residence for the courts there to decide on custody, or to enforce any previous custody determinations.

The Convention has helped return some children but implementation has been unpredictable and spotty at best. Susceptible to abuse by taking parents or judges who either don't understand their obligations under the Convention or are unwilling to abide by them, the Convention has too often been stretched to provide cover for the abduction, rather than recovery of the child.

Some Hague Convention parties are simply not enforcing legitimate return orders. The State Department's 2014 Hague Convention Compliance Report highlights four countries—Brazil, Mexico, Romania, and Ukraine—that habitually fail to enforce return orders. Other countries—Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras,

and the Bahamas—are non-compliant with the Convention.

In other words, abducted American children are not coming home from these countries and so many other countries where the Convention operates weakly, or with which the U.S. has no bilateral agreement of any kind.

To give one more example, Jeffery Morehouse a left behind parent testified that "there have been 400 cases of U.S. children kidnapped to Japan since 1994." We do not know of a single case, however, in which the Government of Japan has issued and enforced an order for the return of an abducted child to the United States.

And, I must emphasize, that since they have signed the Hague, Japan's efforts have been breathtakingly unresponsive especially for abductions that occurred prior to their ratification of the Hague Convention.

Mr. Morehouse testified that, "one year ago next week, at the very moment Japan acceded to the Hague Abduction Convention, parents joined us to hand-deliver 30 Article 21 Access applications (I joined those parents at the Japanese Embassy) . . . none of the BAC Home parents have received access to their kidnapped children. Japan's implementation of the Hague Abduction Convention is an abysmal failure. Sanctions under the Goldman Act will provide some of the necessary public pressures on Japan to create change to this ongoing human and family rights crisis."

The status quo is simply unacceptable.

Over the last 5 years, many of those at the hearing helped me write and pass through the Congress the Sean and David Goldman Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act. Last month's hearing occurs more than seven months after the Goldman Act became law and gave us an opportunity to hear from the State Department and parents whether the bill's key provisions are being implemented according to the law.

A brief refresher on Sean and David: David Goldman spent over 5 agonizing years trying to legally rescue his son, Sean, from an abduction to Brazil, which is a signatory nation, like the United States, to the Hague Abduction Convention.

Despite Mr. Goldman's airtight case that demonstrated an egregious example of both child abduction and wrongful retention, the Hague treaty was unavailing, and the outcomes in the Brazilian courts largely proved infuriating, infirm, and ineffective.

David Goldman waged his case by the book and won judgments in the New Jersey courts. Yet both Sean and David were made to suffer emotional pain for over half a decade as one delaying ploy after another was employed by the abducting party. In the end, because of the father's abiding love for his son and an indomitable will, the Goldmans today are united and happy.

To underscore: the Goldman Act was not intended to simply reform the system, but to bring about a fundamental sea change in U.S. diplomacy so that State Department officials would see themselves as advocates for the return of abducted American children.

Now under the Goldman Act, when a country fails to appropriately address an abduction case pending more than 12 months, the law requires the Secretary of State to take action. When a country has more than 30% of its U.S. cases pending for more than a year, the law requires the Secretary of State to designate the country as "Non-Compliant" in an annual report, and take action.

The Goldman Act specifically lists the increasingly escalating actions that Congress has in mind, from a demarche—or a protest through diplomatic channels—to a public condemnation to a delay or cancellation of one or more bilateral visits and even the withdrawal, limitation, or suspension of foreign assistance including non-humanitarian aid and including security assistance to the central government of a country. These are serious sanctions that must be seriously applied by a country that takes parental child abduction seriously.

We may also request extradition where appropriate.

If these measures sound pointed, it is because they are intended to focus the destination country on quick and accurate resolution of abduction and access cases.

The Goldman Act was written to cover countries that have signed the Hague Convention, such as Brazil; countries that have not signed the Convention, such as India; and countries that have a mix of open abduction cases from before and after signing the Hague Convention, such as Japan.

In 2013, India was the number three destination in the world for parents who abducted from the United States. Currently, there are 64 known open abduction and denial of access cases involving India. And yet the United States does not have any sort of resolution mechanism with India. Moms and dads left behind in the United States are forced to enter a labyrinthine foreign court system known for its incessant appeals and multi-year delays.

But now the Goldman Act applies. India will now face real penalties for any case that has been pending for more than one year, and will be “named and shamed” in the State Department’s report. As with the State Department’s annual trafficking report, there is morally suasive value in simply reporting what a country does, and some countries will I am sure respond to such moral pressure.

Thus we expect the State Department to apply these penalties zealously, and to work with India on establishing a bilateral agreement for the efficient and fair resolution of abduction and access cases. If the State Department faithfully applies the law as written, it will be in India’s interest to come to the negotiating table.

The same holds true for Japan, even though Japan recently signed the Hague Convention. Among such cases is that of Michael Elias, who has not seen his children, Jade and Michael Jr., since 2008. Michael served as a Marine who saw combat in Iraq. His wife, who worked in the Japanese consulate, used documents fraudulently obtained with the apparent complicity of Japanese consulate personnel to kidnap their children, then aged 4 and 2, in defiance of a court order, telling Michael on a phone call that there was nothing that he could do, as “my country will protect me.”

Her country will protect her, but what is our country doing to protect Michael and his children?

While the State Department has touted Japan’s accession to the Hague Convention as an accomplishment, Japan has said the Convention would only apply in post-ratification cases. As Ambassador Jacobs knows, I and several others predicted that unless a MOU or other bilateral agreement was concluded with Japan, American children and their left behind parents will be left behind in perpetuity. I ask to my friends at the State Department, what

then is to happen for parents already suffering from abductions prior to ratification? Would they be left-behind again—this time by their own government?

I know Ambassador Jacobs, who testified at last month’s hearing, as recently as February 2014 in her testimony before the Senate, stated that she would continue to make “progress with the Japanese government on resolving existing cases in the spirit of the Convention.”

The Goldman Act requires accountability for the Japanese government on the abduction cases open at the time Japan signed the Convention. Unless Japan resolves scores of American cases before the end of next month, nearly 100% of abduction cases in Japan will still be unresolved and Goldman Act penalties will apply.

The Goldman Act has given the State Department new and powerful tools to bring Japan, and other countries, to the resolution table. The goal is not to disrupt relations but to heal the painful rifts caused by international child abduction.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EQUALITY FOR ALL RESOLUTION

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Equality for All Resolution—which declares that gay, lesbian, and transgender people should be protected from discrimination under the law.

Earlier this month, I watched as Indiana—my home state—enacted the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, giving businesses the right to refuse service based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Over the last few weeks, I’ve heard from businesses, religious organizations, community leaders, and countless concerned Americans.

It’s clear that the vast majority of Americans oppose this kind of discrimination.

Yet, in 2015, it is still legal in over 30 states to discriminate in the workplace, to refuse to sell or rent a home, or to turn someone away from your business—just because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

As elected representatives, we have a responsibility to show that America is better than this. I would like to thank the 126 colleagues who join me today as original cosponsors of this resolution.

I encourage every Member of the House to join me in supporting the Equality for All resolution.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mark an important milestone in the history of my home state of Maryland. On April 15, 2015, the faculty, staff, students, and alumni of Bowie State

University will celebrate the school’s 150th anniversary at its annual Founders Day.

In the final months of the Civil War, the Baltimore Normal School began serving emancipated African-Americans by offering training for teachers. In 1910, it outgrew its facilities and moved to a 187-acre lot in Bowie, Maryland, and in 1914 it became the Maryland Normal and Industrial School at Bowie. Over the course of the twentieth century, the institution evolved into a four-year degree-granting college and eventually became a liberal arts college whose mission extended well beyond training educators. Renamed Bowie State College in 1963, it provided access to higher education for African American students, many of whom were barred from other institutions as a result of segregation.

In 1988, in recognition of the school’s important role in higher education for Marylanders and its expansion into graduate studies, it was elevated to University status and welcomed into the University System of Maryland. Since then, Bowie State University has been one of Maryland’s top institutions of higher education and has continued to rank as one of our nation’s leading historically black colleges and universities, preparing not only some of the brightest young minds in Maryland but also training a new generation of leaders for our nation’s African American community.

Mr. Speaker, I have been proud to represent Bowie State University in Congress and to help secure federal grants that help the school expand its cutting-edge programs, including in the high-demand areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—or “STEM” education. In recent years, Bowie State University has become a national leader in what many are calling “STEAM” education, which brings traditional “STEM” fields together with art and design in order to prepare students for careers in digital technologies. At the same time, Bowie State University has become a national center for training in cybersecurity, drawing on its proximity to Ft. Meade and defense institutions in the Greater Washington area. It continues to build on a groundbreaking \$27 million award from NASA and the National Science Foundation in 1995 that recognized Bowie State University as a national Model Institution for Excellence in STEM education.

Last year, I joined President Obama in Prince George’s County, Maryland, to highlight a \$7 million Youth Career Connect grant that was made possible through an innovative partnership between the County’s public schools, Lockheed Martin, and Bowie State University’s Maryland Center to grow the pipeline of students pursuing college degrees and STEM-related careers. The University is playing a major role in growing Maryland’s high-skill workforce for the twenty-first century, and I am excited for what the future holds.

I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Bowie State University’s proud history as it marks its sesquicentennial. I look forward to continuing to work closely with President Mickey Burnim and the Administration to ensure that Bowie State University can continue to carry out its mission of providing high-quality higher education and research that supports learning and careers in Maryland and across the United States.