

PROTECTING ADOPTED CHILDREN ACT

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Protecting Adopted Children Act, which was introduced by Congressman JIM LANGEVIN this afternoon.

By now, we have all read the reports about adopted children who have been “rehommed” by their legal adoptive parents. These children usually end up in the custody of strangers through arrangements that are often illegally made online in hidden Internet groups.

In order to combat these transfers, Representatives JIM LANGEVIN, ROB WITTMAN, and I have crafted legislation that provides protections and support services for adopted children and their families.

This legislation provides a more stable home for children with pre and postadoptive support services, such as training and counseling for parents, mentoring, and treatment services specifically for adopted children.

The bill also expands the scope of the preexisting Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force under the Department of Justice to include combating the illegal transfer of a child.

I firmly believe that this measure gives law enforcement the tools it needs to combat illegal transfers, which we have learned through investigative reporting, typically take place online.

We must be committed to helping these children succeed in a family that they may call their own.

2015 CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, over the weekend, I was thrilled to be at the Winkler Gallery of Fine Art in DuBois, Pennsylvania, for the 2015 Congressional Art Competition awards ceremony for my congressional district.

The Congressional Art Competition began in 1982 to recognize and encourage artistic talent among U.S. high school students. This year, I had the honor to serve as cochair of the annual national competition.

Madam Speaker, this year, I was blown away by the quality of work and the levels of creativity by the students in Pennsylvania’s Fifth Congressional District.

This year’s first place winner, determined by an independent panel, is Leah Kleiner of Waterford, Pennsylvania. Leah, whose work is titled “Little Brother,” attends Fort LeBoeuf High School in Erie County.

I am looking forward to hosting Leah in Washington this summer and dis-

playing her award-winning work in the Halls of the Capitol Building.

This year’s second and third place winners are Bethany Stoddard of DuBois and Madelyn Ostermann of Summit Township, respectively. Natalie Haupt of Oil City and Caitlin Cesa of Sandy Township both received honorable mentions.

I would like to congratulate all of this year’s winners and thank everyone who participated in this fun and exciting competition.

STANDING WITH THE PEOPLE OF NEPAL

(Ms. DELBENE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELBENE. Madam Speaker, our thoughts are with the people of Nepal and their families.

My heart sank when I heard about the 7.8 magnitude earthquake and its unthinkable devastation. It is estimated that thousands of people have died, and more are missing.

Three of those still missing are constituents of Washington’s First District. These people are pillars of our community: retired special education teacher Doreen Richmond, retired Bellingham firefighter Jim Lane, and small-business owner Jeannie DeBari.

I want to do everything I can to assist and support their families during this difficult time. I will continue to pray for their safety and their return home. I was glad to see the State Department provide \$10 million in initial disaster assistance.

To the people of Nepal and those affected in the region or here at home, know that the United States stands with you during this tragic time.

FREE NADIYA SAVCHENKO

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, since July of last year, Nadiya Savchenko, a member of the Ukrainian parliament and a military veteran, has been unlawfully detained by Russian authorities—her crime, unsubstantiated charges stemming from her defense of her nation against Russian military aggression.

For months, Ms. Savchenko has been incarcerated in Russia, in clear violation of her human rights and international standards. As Russia tries to redraw the world’s borders, Ms. Savchenko has become the face of both Russian lawlessness and Ukrainian resistance.

This evening, I join with the free people of Ukraine in demanding Russia free Savchenko and call on this body and this administration to utilize all legislative and diplomatic means to secure her long-overdue release.

That is why I have joined with other lawmakers in introducing H. Res. 50,

which calls for an end to this injustice and reaffirms the United States’ commitment to a democratic Ukraine free from Russian interference.

Together, we must free Savchenko and push back against Russia’s continued threat to freedom.

COMMITMENT TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, we all watched with great concern and horror the tragic funeral of Freddie Gray and then the enormous outpouring of violence and young people taking to the streets in Baltimore.

We command our colleague Congressman CUMMINGS and the many other citizens—pastors—who went to the streets and called for peace, but it is important for this Congress to stand up and call for criminal justice reform because, as we move into the summer, I express great concern as to the reactions of young people who are unemployed, who feel oppressed, and feel that no one cares.

I will be introducing—and have introduced—the Build TRUST bill; the CADET bill that collects data on lethal force between civilians and police; a bill on prison reform—giving good time, 1 day of incarceration, 1 day of good time—to provide for early release of nonviolent prisoners.

At the same time, I will be asking for legislation that will provide the same reporting requirements for private prisons as public prisons, as well as grand jury reform, among others.

The important point is that the Nation needs to hear this Congress make a statement of their commitment to criminal justice reform.

I look forward to working with my colleagues and introducing legislation that will draw bipartisan support so that we can respond to these tragedies and get America on the right footing and rebuild the trust between police and the community.

PROTECTING ADOPTED CHILDREN ACT

(Mr. WITTMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, today, too many children are falling victim to a system of adoption that lacks necessary oversight.

Horrifying stories have come to light about children being “rehomed” into the custody of strangers through dubious or even illegal arrangements. As a child of adoption myself, I am personally invested in this issue.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Protecting Adopted Children Act today to reduce that risk and better help these children find stable, loving homes and to improve support services for adoptive parents.

These support services—including counseling on potential parenting challenges, postadoption mental health services, and peer mentoring—can play a critical role in providing a healthy environment for a child entering an adoptive home.

These initiatives will also foster an ongoing dialogue between the families and adoption service agencies that should last during and beyond the adoption process.

I would like to thank Representative LANGEVIN for his leadership on this issue. We must do all we can to prevent adoptive children from being placed in dangerous situations. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Protecting Adopted Children Act.

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A MISSION OF MERCY

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am on a mission of mercy. The people of Nepal have suffered a tragedy. The bad news is that thousands have lost their lives and many are injured.

There is some good news in that the United States has, currently, disaster assistance teams on the way to Nepal. There is also additional good news. The Nepalese community in Houston, Texas, has organized, and they are working to make sure that they do their part to provide disaster assistance.

I am also proud to say that we are sponsoring legislation, H.R. 2033. H.R. 2033 would provide temporary protected status for those who are in this country, for those in this country on the 25th, the date of this tragedy, for a period of 18 months, so that they can stay here and not have to return home to circumstances that are untenable.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to say that many have cosponsored this legislation, and we are looking for more cosponsors, Mr. HONDA and I.

I would also add that the United States has sent \$10 million already allocated, and there is more to come. This is a time for us to show our friends where we stand, and we stand with them.

A LEGAL FICTION

(Mr. HUELSKAMP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Madam Speaker, today I spoke on the steps of the Supreme Court as it heard arguments on whether more than 50 million Americans who voted to affirm marriage as between one man and one woman should have their voices snuffed out by as few as five unelected judges.

To argue that the Constitution demands the Supreme Court invalidate

centuries of marriage laws is a claim of legal fiction. Let me repeat; it is a legal fiction. There is no constitutional right to so-called same-sex marriage.

Marriage predates government and the nations that make these laws. No judge, no jury, no court nor government can legitimately redefine marriage to suit their personal preferences.

I implore the Supreme Court to do their job and correctly recognize that the people of every State are free to affirm or restore marriage as the union of one woman and one man.

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, when the survivors of human trafficking are freed from their captors, they are often victimized again. This time they are abused by a system that does little to help them recover from years of rape and abuse.

The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act would help change that. It would provide support and restitution to survivors, and it would clarify the law, helping to bring the demand side—the pimps, the sex traffickers, and the purchasers of women and girls—to justice.

I have been proud to work with Congressman TED POE on very similar legislation that passed this body overwhelmingly, unanimously, in January; but to become law, the House must now take up the Senate version and pass it here in the House.

I urge the leaders of the House to schedule a vote. Let's send a message: women and girls are not for sale in the United States of America. They cannot afford to wait any longer for this vital legislation.

FLORIDA KEYS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(Mr. CURBELO of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable contributions of Dr. Jonathan Gueverra, President of Florida Keys Community College in Key West, Florida.

Dr. G, as he is known, recently introduced me to a portal that connects students with jobs and serves as a guidance instrument for them while they are in school. I was particularly impressed with the component that informs students about the return on their educational investments, especially because financing is a fundamental aspect of the higher education debate today. This type of transparency is imperative in helping our students navigate a massive amount of information in an easily accessible way.

I applaud Dr. G's work to ensure that students in the Keys are connected with opportunities that will help them achieve their professional goals, while also educating them about the financial responsibility that is inherent in pursuing higher education.

As we continue our work on higher education here in the House, I look forward to encouraging innovation in the way that we help students achieve success, and also promoting access to funding sources like flexible Pell grants.

Dr. G and his colleagues at Florida Keys Community College have made it their mission to offer the best tools to their students, and I hope that their efforts can serve as an example to be replicated throughout the country.

THERE IS NO POWER LIKE THE POWER OF A MOTHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. COMSTOCK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, Mother's Day is soon approaching, and as we, our Nation, take time to honor our mothers, I would like to make a special appeal to African American mothers across this country that they begin to use their awesome powers to take back our streets from the daily violence that far too many of our youth, far too many of our families, and far too many of our communities are experiencing each and every day.

It is now time, time right now, for Black mothers to once again rise up to stop the unmitigated and endless violence that is occurring often—far too often—in our Nation's streets.

Madam Speaker, there is no power like the power of a mother. Beside me today is an image that many across the Nation have seen, and it is the subject of conversation all across our country. It is the image of a strong Black mother giving her son what I will call a “love whipping”—a “love whipping,” Madam Speaker—to snatch him back from the grips of senseless violence that is currently plaguing the city of Baltimore, Maryland.

As this picture demonstrates, Madam Speaker, mothers can and mothers must be the mobilizing force to take back our streets. Mothers feel the pain of a loss of a child unlike any other. The primal scream of a mother at the sudden death and departure of her child is unlike any other outcry known to mankind.

As my own history has demonstrated, I am not one to excuse police brutality and police murder and police mayhem and police utter disrespect for the citizens that they are pledged and sworn to serve and to protect. And as a former member of the Black Panther Party, we in the party have always said, and I quote, that “spontaneity is the art of the foolish.”