

House by a vote of 399–0—a strong show of support for foster youth.

Foster youth are some of the most at-risk children in our society. They are often the victims of abuse or neglect; and too many face trials and tribulations beyond their years. So much that we take for granted—a stable home, living with our siblings, or returning to the same school year after year—are constant obstacles for these children.

This legislation will specifically address the link between girls in foster care and sex trafficking, and will require states to develop a child protection plan to identify and assess all reports involving children known or suspected to be victims of trafficking. Additionally, states must provide training plans for child protective services workers to appropriately respond to reports of child trafficking and have procedures in place that will connect child victims to public or private specialized services.

I am proud to support this bipartisan legislation, and again I urge all my colleagues to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 469.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MISSING CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 246) to improve the response to victims of child sex trafficking.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 246

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. RESPONSE TO VICTIMS OF CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING.

Section 404(b)(1)(P)(iii) of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5773(b)(1)(P)(iii)) is amended by striking "child prostitution" and inserting "child sex trafficking, including child prostitution".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

□ 1700

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 246.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 246, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today, the House of Representatives continues its commitment to bolstering enforcement efforts against human traffickers in the United States and ensuring that we properly identify and serve victims.

I want to thank Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY for her leadership on this issue and for introducing H.R. 246, which will improve the ability of law enforcement officials and others to respond to and assist these victims.

The House voted 409–0 to pass this legislation last summer, and as previous House efforts have done, the bills being considered today attempt to change for the better how we view victims.

For too long, these victims have been seen as willing participants and treated as actors in the criminal scheme; however, we now know that, oftentimes, individuals are trapped as victims by human trafficking organizations and, sadly, many of these victims are children.

Congresswoman BEATTY's legislation will ensure that we view victims of sex trafficking not as participants, but as victims, and ensure that child sex trafficking crimes are reported.

Under current law, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children operates the CyberTipline to provide online users and electronic service providers a means of reporting Internet-related child sexual exploitation in many areas, including child prostitution.

H.R. 246 would replace the term "child prostitution" with "child sex trafficking" in the CyberTipline reporting categories to reinforce that children who are sex-trafficked or sexually exploited are victims whose situation should be taken seriously when reported.

It would also ensure the public recognizes that child prostitution is included in how NCMEC uses the term "child sex trafficking" and thus should still be reported to the CyberTipline.

Again, I want to thank Congresswoman BEATTY, along with the Education and the Workforce Committee and House leadership for recognizing the need to steadfastly address this dreadful practice.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 246, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 246, a bill to improve the response to victims of child sex trafficking.

The bipartisan bill, sponsored by the gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY), would amend the Missing Children's Assistance Act by adding the term "child sex trafficking" to the list of items which may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline.

Under the act, the center operates the CyberTipline to allow online users and electronic service providers a way of reporting Internet-related child sexual exploitation, including child prostitution.

The term "trafficking" more accurately describes the circumstances by which children are sexually exploited and reinforces the notion that they are victims, not criminals. Adding trafficking to the list of items that may be reported to the center will not only help the center continue its outstanding work of finding and helping victims, but it will also help experts in the field of missing and exploited children better understand the nature and extent of the problem.

I am grateful to the gentlewoman from Ohio for introducing this important legislation, and I appreciate her partnership with the majority, including the chairman of the full Committee on Education and the Workforce, Chairman KLINE; the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG); and other sponsors.

I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY), the sponsor of the legislation.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 246, a bipartisan bill I introduced which will help victims of child sex trafficking by decriminalizing their behavior.

First, I would like to thank Chairman KLINE from Minnesota and Ranking Member SCOTT from Virginia of the Education and the Workforce Committee for bringing this important bill to the floor for consideration.

I want to also thank Representative WALBERG, who is managing the bill, for his kind words and his leadership. He is managing the bill today for the Republicans. I also thank Congresswoman KAREN BASS and Congresswoman ANN WAGNER for their leadership and support.

Also, I would like to thank Senator PORTMAN, who I partnered with on this issue last Congress and who introduced the companion legislation in the Senate. I look forward to working with him again during the 114th Congress to advance this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, last Congress, the House passed this exact bill unanimously by a vote of 409–0. Today, I hope that my colleagues in the House will again approve this legislation with overwhelming bipartisan support so we can better assist victims of child sex trafficking and ensure they are viewed and treated as victims, not criminals.

Earlier this month, I had the opportunity to participate in Ohio's sixth annual Human Trafficking Awareness Day, which was held in my district at the Ohio statehouse. It was standing

room only. The event was chaired by State Representative Teresa Fedor from Toledo, who has spent a lifetime on this issue. There, we heard story after story from victims, survivors, and advocates, just like the ones we heard on the House floor earlier today.

Almost every time I am home in my district in Ohio, I hear from people who are concerned about the victims of child sex trafficking. Constituents implore me to have Congress do more to protect those among us who are the most vulnerable, those who are being forced into what many deem modern-day slavery.

This is for a good reason. Human trafficking is one of the fastest-growing crimes in the world. In fact, according to the U.S. State Department, human trafficking is the world's second largest criminal enterprise, after the illegal drug trade. Criminals involved in trafficking trade prey on those children already at risk in our society, the children who fall through the cracks in our society.

In the United States, some 300,000 children are at risk each year of commercial sexual exploitation. Mr. Speaker, many of these children are runaways, homeless, and in and out of foster care. These children deserve better.

The average age of a trafficked victim in the United States is 12 years of age. Mr. Speaker, this is shameful. At 12 years old, children should be playing sports, participating in their school science fair, learning new languages, or just being children. They should not be for sale night after night.

In my home State of Ohio, each year, there is an estimated 1,100 Ohio children who become victims of human trafficking, and over 3,000 more are at risk. Ohio is the fifth leading State for human trafficking because of its proximity to a waterway that leads to an international border and a system of interstate highways that allow an individual to exit the State within 2 hours to almost anywhere.

The I-75 corridor runs through Toledo, Dayton, and Cincinnati. It is infamous for subjecting children to the horrors of sex trafficking, with reports of victims being repeatedly abused.

We know that no single system can successfully combat trafficking. Preventing, identifying, and serving victims of trafficking requires a multi-coordinated approach across all levels of government. We need to encourage all people: when they see something, say something.

How can concerned citizens report activities of suspected child exploitation? Currently, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children operates a CyberTipline, which receives leads and tips regarding suspected crimes of sexual exploitation committed against children.

This CyberTipline is operated in partnership with the FBI, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the United States Postal Inspection Service,

United States Secret Service, United States Department of Justice, as well as other State and local enforcement agencies.

These reports are constantly monitored to help ensure children in imminent danger get first priority. More than 2.8 million reports of suspected child exploitation have been made to the CyberTipline between 1998 and October of 2014.

Under current law, child sex trafficking is not identified as one of the types of sexual exploitation that should be reported to the CyberTipline, even though the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children encounters child victims of sex trafficking and currently uses this term on its Web site in order to encourage the public's reporting of these types of crimes.

Instead, the statute uses the term "child prostitution"—yes, child prostitution, Mr. Speaker—which we know does not fully and accurately capture these types of crimes against children. My bill would add the phrase "child sex trafficking, including child prostitution," to section b(1)(p) of the Missing Children's Assistance Act.

This legislation was crafted in order to improve and update the law in order to reflect the current state of Federal laws and to reinforce that children who are sex-trafficked or sexually exploited are victims and not criminals.

Mr. Speaker, children in sex trafficking situations are often misidentified as "willing" participants. We know there is a widespread lack of awareness and understanding of trafficking.

Take, for instance, a story I recently heard about Holly, who is a survivor of human trafficking. When Holly was 14 years old, she ran away from home with a man she had met at a shopping mall. Holly and this man exchanged phone numbers. He continued to pursue Holly over the course of many months.

Convincing her to run away with him was not an overnight accomplishment. He got to know her, analyzed her troubles, and asked about her dreams. He did this so that when Holly was on her summer break from the eighth grade, the pressures of her 14-year-old world boiled to the surface.

With all this confusion and pressure Holly was feeling, this predator was able to convince her to flee towards what she thought was opportunity, possibility, and freedom. In reality, Holly ran right into the clutches of a sexual trafficking ring. Within hours of running away with what turned out to be a manipulative and threatening pimp, she was coerced into prostitution.

Fortunately for Holly, eventually an officer on the street thought that she seemed underage, so he approached her and arrested her. She was soon recognized to be a victim and began the long journey toward healing. Today, I am proud to say that Holly is an advocate for stronger anti-trafficking laws and greater protection for survivors of all forms of human trafficking.

This bill, H.R. 246, is intended to protect young children like Holly, to rescue and restore them. By adding the term "child sex trafficking, including child prostitution," to the Missing Children's Assistance Act, we will be able to continue to fight the perception that sex trafficking is a voluntary, victimless crime, and this will exclude them from prostitution.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

□ 1715

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, we have no further speakers at this time, and so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, how much time is available on this side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia has 8½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS), who has worked on all of the bills we have considered today.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 246, a bill to improve the response to victims of child trafficking.

First, I would like to commend my colleague, Representative JOYCE BEATTY, for her commitment to transforming the language that we use to discuss child victims of sex trafficking and for taking the lead on this important legislation. After all, a child cannot consent to sex, so a child cannot be considered a prostitute. And her exploiter should never be called a john; he should be called what he is, a child molester.

While trafficking advocates and organizations have worked tirelessly over the years to ensure that the framework and language we use to describe child victims of trafficking recognizes that they are, in fact, victims, we still have a long way to go. These children have gone through enough trauma. They do not need to continue to hear language that places the blame on them for a crime that an adult committed.

Phone hotlines and cyber tip lines operated by organizations throughout the country are critical to ensuring that individuals have a means to report these incidents of human trafficking and child exploitation.

Under this legislation, reports of domestic minor sex trafficking to the CyberTipline of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children would be classified as "child sex trafficking" and no longer as "child prostitution." This change would reinforce the fact that the children are victims and not criminals.

Representative BEATTY's bill is another critical building block to transforming the framework and dialogue around child victims of sex trafficking. I look forward to continuing to change the conversation and urge my colleagues in the House to support this important legislation.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, we have no further requests for time. I want to thank all of the sponsors of the legislation for bringing it forward, this and the other two bills that we have also considered.

I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remainder of my time.

The passage of this legislation shows the House's commitment to providing the necessary tools and policies to help reduce child sex trafficking and better serve these victims, and on the recommendations and admonition of my colleagues today, again I would say, these victims in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, this is good work that we are doing here. I submit, it is probably the type of work that our constituents are calling us to work across the aisle to accomplish.

During the human trafficking roundtables I have held in my district, law enforcement officials have consistently raised the need to make community members aware of the real and present threat of human trafficking. We must work to not only educate children, but also families and the general public, about the safety risks.

The statistics on sex trafficking and exploitation among young people are startling. Approximately one out of six runaway youth are likely victims of sex trafficking, and roughly one out of three youth are lured into prostitution, victimization, sex-trafficked within 48 hours of running away from home.

This is happening all over the country and not just in my home State. Therefore, I urge all Members to lead efforts in their districts to continue the conversation about human trafficking to learn what more we can do in our communities and to curtail this heinous crime.

H.R. 246 is another step to educating our communities about human trafficking victims, and it continues our work to ensure that we are doing what we can to help reduce this horrible crime.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 246.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 246.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU, IRAN, AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I support Speaker BOEHNER's invitation to Prime Minister Netanyahu to address this body to discuss the Iranian threat and the growing instability in the Middle East due to the rise of global jihadist networks.

A nuclear-capable Iran will spark an arms race in the region and directly threaten America's interests as Iran continues to make progress on its intercontinental ballistic missile program. But as grave as this threat is to America, it pales in comparison to the existential threat that it poses to our democratic ally, the Jewish State of Israel.

No other nation is more familiar with the Iranian threat and the pitfalls of our ongoing nuclear negotiations than Israel, and that is why it is imperative that we hear firsthand from Prime Minister Netanyahu on Israel's assessment of Iran's nuclear program and other terrorist threats that are emanating from the Middle East.

Thank you, Speaker BOEHNER, for that invitation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JERMAINE KEARSE

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

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, Gandhi once famously said: "Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will."

Jermaine Kearse has been making plays in Washington State for more than 10 years, first as a Lancer at Lakes High, then as a Husky at the University of Washington, and since 2012 as, of course, a Seattle Seahawk.

You may very well have seen his game-winning catch in the NFC Championship game in the end zone. But that game wasn't a cakewalk for Jermaine by any means. There were interceptions and there were drops.

It was on the sidelines, however, that one of Jermaine's injured teammates said to him to forget about it and to remember that there are still plays to be made here.

Ever want to give up? Ever think it is too hard? Ever think the odds are stacked against you? Remember the will of Jermaine Kearse and the Seattle Seahawks. Tell yourself there are still plays to be made.

Congratulations, number 15. Lake-wood and the entire 10th Congressional District are very, very proud of you and, frankly, we can't wait to see you fly in Glendale and make the New England Patriots shake and the earth move.

Go, Hawks.

ANWR DESIGNATION IS AN ENERGY MORATORIUM

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an area of great concern. The Obama administration has just announced their intention to designate more than 12 million acres of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska as wilderness.

Now, this move would place a de facto moratorium on oil and gas production on the largest onshore, unexplored, and potentially productive areas in the United States.

While this area only represents about 8 percent of the total size of ANWR, the Energy Information Administration suggests a great potential for the recovery of oil and gas based upon nearby plays in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the President often touts America's move towards greater energy independence. The irony is that most of that, much of this production has occurred on private lands and by private hands. Placing new prohibitions on Federal lands is simply doublespeak.

Thomas Edison once said, and I quote, "Seeming to do is not doing."

Mr. Speaker, while we may not be focused on energy prices at the moment, planning for the future is as prudent as it is wise. I encourage the administration to think about our future. The American people deserve as much.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HILL) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 26, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for documents issued by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana in connection with a criminal case currently pending before that court.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will determine whether compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) is recognized