

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. I thank Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SMITH, and my colleagues on the anti-Semitism Taskforce.

Mr. Speaker, Susanne Winter, a member of the Austrian Parliament from the extreme rightwing Freedom Party of Austria, received the following post on her Facebook: “The Zionist money Jews are the global problem. Europe, and in particular Germany, are now getting what they deserve from Zionist Jews, particularly rich Zionist Jews in the USA.” Winter responded to the post on Saturday. She said: “It is great. You took the words right out of my mouth.”

Mr. Speaker, this resolution condemning anti-Semitism in Europe takes the words right out of my mouth, and I support it emphatically.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

History has shown us the tragedy of what can happen when this sort of hatred goes on unchecked. It is past time for governments and communities to focus on the rising tide of anti-Semitism in Europe and do whatever it takes to turn it back.

This resolution sends a message that we are keeping a close eye on the problem and that action is needed now to meet this challenge. I encourage my colleagues to support this measure.

I want to also compliment my good friend CHRIS SMITH. We all worked hard on this, but no one works harder than he in combating anti-Semitism. If you know CHRIS SMITH, you know that, when he gets obsessed with something, he follows it to the end; and it, as always, has a great conclusion. He is obsessed against hatred. He is obsessed against bad things happening to any group of people. I am very proud of the work that he has done through the years, and I want to thank him for his leadership in combating anti-Semitism.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, I want to thank Mr. ENGEL for his leadership and his kind words. Again, this is truly a collaborative effort, and I want to thank him for it.

Mr. Speaker, at a congressional hearing I chaired in 2002—and I chaired about 18 such hearings on combating anti-Semitism—Dr. Shimon Samuels of the Wiesenthal Center said: “The Holocaust for 30 years after the war acted as a protective Teflon against blatant anti-Semitic expression, especially in Europe. That Teflon has eroded, and what was considered distasteful and politically incorrect is becoming simply an opinion.” He warned ominously, saying, “cocktail chatter at fine English dinners can end as Molotov cocktails against synagogues.”

Mr. Speaker, Abraham Lincoln once said that “to sin by silence when they

should protest makes cowards of men.” Silence is not an option. And, I would equally say, nor is inaction.

If our fight is to succeed, we need government officials at all levels to not just denounce but to act without hesitation or delay whenever and wherever anti-Semitic acts occur. There are no exceptions. The purveyors of hate never take a holiday or grow weary, nor should we.

H. Res. 354 is a best practices resolution designed to seriously inspire and challenge the governments of Europe, especially law enforcement and their homeland security agencies, to partner with their respective Jewish communities to mitigate and hopefully end and eradicate anti-Semitism in all of its ugly manifestations.

□ 1945

United States law enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, the Justice Department, the FBI, as well as State Homeland Security agencies, including in my own State of New Jersey, have been robust and aggressive in combating anti-Semitism here. We need to replicate this and encourage others to follow our lead and that of the UK, and I do hope we will do that.

This resolution is broadly bipartisan. I want to thank Nathaniel Hurd, on our staff, for his tremendous work on this resolution, working with all of his respective staffers and Members, of course, to bring this about. And I want to thank the leadership for bringing it to the floor this evening.

I urge a “yea” vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 354, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. 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.

THE E-FREE ACT

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, can you imagine such debilitating pain, fatigue, and depression that you feel as if your children have lost you as a parent?

For women impacted by the medical device Essure and its documented damaging side effects, this unimaginable situation is a stark reality.

Since it appeared on the market in 2002, Essure, a permanent sterilization

device for women, has triggered over 5,000 formal complaints to the FDA, including reported symptoms of pelvic and abdominal pain, internal bleeding, autoimmune reactions, loss of teeth and hair, and even metal breaking and migrating throughout the body.

On top of that, Essure has been proven responsible for the deaths of four women and five unborn children.

Yet, in the face of all these facts, today Essure remains on the market, certified with FDA’s stamp of approval. That is unacceptable to me and the tens of thousands of women who are living with this device’s effects.

That is why this week I will introduce the E-Free Act, legislation to remove this device from the market before it can hurt any other women. This is a women’s issue, a safety issue, a regulatory issue, an issue with faces and names.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and join me and the thousands of women across the Nation in this fight.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF THE LATE SENATOR FRED THOMPSON

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American who passed away yesterday, former United States Senator Fred Thompson.

Fred Thompson represented the State of Tennessee in the United States Senate from 1995 until 2003. He had been a staffer on the Watergate Committee and kind of made a name for himself there when he asked such good, probing questions and did such a marvelous job.

He later went on to be an outstanding attorney before he became a United States Senator and an actor and a leader in our country who crossed party aisles and was known to sometimes deviate from everybody to do what he thought was right.

I was a State senator and a Democrat. Fred Thompson, a Republican, encouraged me to get involved, stay involved, and shoot for the top in politics.

He worked with Democrats in the Senate, and he was awarded the National Conference of State Legislators Keeping Federalism Alive Award because of his lone vote, a single bill that has kept the policy of federalism. It wasn’t politics for Fred Thompson. It was philosophy.

He was a great leader. He will be missed. I send my condolences to his family. I thank him for his service to my State and our country.

THE FIVE-STAR AMERICAN GAS STATION IN AFGHANISTAN

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, thanks to the American taxpayers, what might be the world's most expensive gas station was built in Afghanistan. A mysterious Department of Defense special task force spent \$43 million on a gas station in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, that must be a humdinger of a truck stop. What should have only cost \$500,000 cost 140 times that amount, charged to the taxpayers' credit card. Yet, there are no answers or explanations.

Mr. Speaker, it has now since been reported that Afghans don't even use the gas station because of the cost of the gas.

No one has been held accountable for such wasteful government spending, not surprisingly. This is getting to be normal for government "spendocrats."

Time for no more Washington spending-sprees on the taxpayers' dime. People need to be held personally responsible for such wasteful spending.

The American people deserve an explanation. After all, it is their money that is funding \$43 million gas stations in other countries.

Mr. Speaker, why are we building a five-star gas station in Afghanistan anyway?

And that is just the way it is.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 22, HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2015; PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 6, 2015, THROUGH NOVEMBER 13, 2015; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. WOODALL from the Committee on Rules submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-325) on the resolution (H. Res. 507) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 22) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; providing for proceedings during the period from November 6, 2015, through November 13, 2015; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in

which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to lead tonight's Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour, where we will have the opportunity to speak directly to the American people.

But before we get to business, I do want to take a second, even though it feels like an eternity, to congratulate my dear friend and colleague, our CBC chairman for the 112th Congress, the Honorable EMANUEL CLEAVER of Kansas City, for his hometown Kansas City Royals victory in last night's World Series game.

I am an Illinoisan by way of New York. So I had a little stake in this one. But, again, my congratulations to the city of Kansas City and to Congressman CLEAVER.

Mr. Speaker, I truly do believe that it is an honor and a privilege to host the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour. So I speak to you this evening very much concerned and severely disappointed that we are even having tonight's topic under such circumstances.

Tonight we are here to address saving our communities, where our focus for this hour will be on key legislative priorities that this Congress, this year's Congressional Black Caucus, and our Nation must confront in order to help make this union more perfect for our next generation.

Mr. Speaker, this year there have been a lot of tragic episodes that may make one shake their head and ask what is going on.

We have covered a number of these topics in the course of this year, whether it be the issue of criminal justice reform, gun violence, economic investment as a antidote to violence, community policing, or the value of Black lives in America.

Mr. Speaker, the issues that I will cover this evening aren't Black Caucus issues. I know that most in this Congress and most across this great country would acknowledge that they are American issues.

Falling short as a Nation on these fronts only divides us and only serves as a barrier to our boundless possibilities as an American people.

Over the past few weeks, we heard a lot about the need to clean out the barn before the baton was passed from Speaker to Speaker. I think we made some progress in clearing out the barn last week as we passed a bipartisan budget agreement, which President Obama signed into law earlier today.

But, Mr. Speaker, as the baton has been passed from Speaker BOEHNER to Speaker RYAN, we must keep in mind that there is still much that needs to be cleaned out of the barn when it

comes to criminal justice reform, creating opportunity in vulnerable communities, addressing inequities in the justice system, valuing all lives, regardless of race, religion or sexual orientation, making sure that good cops can do their job in keeping communities safe, and making sure that bad cops don't get to be the Nation's norm.

We must have a culture where bad cops don't have a safe haven, where they can't get away with violations of the public trust in communities they were sworn to protect, and where they aren't in a position to spoil the whole bunch of good cops we have protecting American communities.

Mr. Speaker, tonight we will have a long and overdue conversation about saving our communities.

At this time, I yield to the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, my colleague from North Carolina, Representative G.K. BUTTERFIELD.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Let me first thank you, Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY, for yielding time to me tonight. Thank you for your willingness to stay on the floor tonight, even though this suspension bill was placed in front of us tonight. We certainly understand that has that happen from time to time. But thank you so very much for staying on the floor to manage the time this evening.

I also want to thank you, Ms. KELLY, for your extraordinary leadership. Thank you for what you do for the Congressional Black Caucus. Thank you for what you do for your constituents in Illinois. Most importantly, thank you for what you do for our country. It is certainly appreciated.

I will certainly join you, Ms. KELLY, in congratulating the Kansas City Royals on their well-deserved victory. I did not watch the entire World Series, but I watched enough of it to know that this team was much deserving of this victory. And so congratulations not only to Mr. CLEAVER, who is so proud of Kansas City and talks about his hometown all of the time, but congratulations to all of those fans of that great team.

Tonight we are talking about the urgent need to save our communities. What an appropriate topic, Ms. KELLY, because communities all across the country are in crisis.

I travel quite a bit across the country and visit many different communities not only in my State, but in many other States. I can tell you firsthand that communities all across our country are facing crises. They are facing crises in so many different respects.

They are facing the whole issue of pervasive poverty. Poverty in America is real. We have more than 400 counties in the United States of America that have poverty rates that exceed 20 percent, and all of these have had poverty rates for more than 30 years greater than 20 percent. So poverty is a critical issue in our country, and communities are feeling the effect of it in a significant way.

Joblessness. Joblessness. I continue to say that the unemployment rate is