

I attended the march in DC, and it was heartening to see such incredible enthusiasm.

According to Metro, the system has not seen crowds that large since Barack Obama's first inauguration.

But not even 72 hours after more than 500,000 mothers, daughters, husbands, and fathers descended onto our nation's capital in collective opposition to President Trump's appalling misogyny, the House majority has decided to double down on its anti-woman, anti-health care assault.

The only bill to be considered under a rule on the floor this short work week, H.R. 7, is yet another attempt by the majority to restrict a woman's right to choose and put Congress between a woman and her doctor.

As it cloaks itself in a complete state of denial about the message America sent them on Saturday, the House majority is taking its cue from President Trump.

The House majority and the White House seem bound and determined to ignore the powerful message sent by a protest march that no doubt shook the Eisenhower china.

COMMENDING KAZAKHSTAN ON 25 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD an opinion piece written by our former colleague, the gentleman from American Samoa, Mr. Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, who was the first Asian-Pacific American in U.S. history to serve as Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment, which had broad jurisdiction for U.S. policy affecting the region, including Central Asia. Mr. Faleomavaega also founded the Congressional Caucus on Central Asia, and his work continues to influence the region today.

In 1991, Kazakhstan gained its independence from the Soviet Union. For some 15 years, I have been honored to work closely with the government of Kazakhstan in various capacities—as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Foreign Affairs; as Chairman of the Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment; as Ranking Member; and as founder of the Congressional Caucus on Central Asia.

I am proud of Kazakshtan for the great progress it has made since independence, and I especially commend President Nursultan Nazarbayev for his leadership on nuclear non-proliferation. Upon inheriting the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal and the world's second largest test site from the Soviet Union after its collapse, President Nazarbayev voluntarily chose to dismantle and disarm with the help of U.S. assistance.

His act was both heroic and principled. For this, I have repeatedly called upon the Nobel Peace Prize Committee to recognize the deeds of President Nazarbayev as well as former Senators Sam Nunn and Richard Lugar, who co-authored the Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) program, which has contributed to world peace, in untold ways.

While I have no illusions about whether or not we can bring about a nuclear-weapons free world, I do have some thoughts because, like Kazakhs, Pacific Islanders share a similar history. From 1946 to 1958, the United States used the Republic of the Marshall Islands—a Micronesian nation of atolls and islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean—as its Cold War nuclear testing ground, detonating 66 nuclear weapons including the first hydrogen bomb, or Bravo shot, which was 1,000 times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Acknowledged as the greatest nuclear explosion ever detonated, the Bravo test vaporized 6 islands and created a mushroom cloud 25 miles in diameter.

The U.S. nuclear testing program in the Marshall Islands also set a precedent for France to use the islands of the Pacific for its own testing program after getting kicked out of Algeria where it conducted 17 nuclear tests from 1960–1966. To this day, radioactive material is still seeping out of the Sahara desert as a result of French nuclear testing.

Having been defeated in Algeria and emboldened by U.S. nuclear testing in the Pacific, France detonated approximately 218 nuclear devices in Moruroa and Fangataufa atolls in French Polynesia. Consequently, these islands also seep radioactive materials and are no longer inhabitable.

This is why I share President Nazarbayev's vision, especially as Kazakhstan has just celebrated its 25 years of independence. My position regarding this matter is no different than the position the United States took during a joint meeting between President Obama and President Nazarbayev on April 11, 2010 when President Obama noted that “the U.S. appreciates the leadership of President Nazrbayev and the contribution of Kazakhstan to nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation.”

My position is also no different than the stance taken by former President George H.W. Bush, who welcomed President Nazarbayev to the White House and his son, President George W. Bush, who also welcomed President Nazarbayev to the White House and declared our commitment “to strengthen the long-term, strategic partnership and cooperation between our nations.”

I thank Kazakhstan for all it has done to re-shape the world, post Cold-War, and I stand with President Nazarbayev as he champions nuclear disarmament among possessor states and prevents proliferation to new states.

In broader terms, I also commend Kazakhstan's Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Kairat Umarov for all he has done to strengthen the U.S.-Kazakhstan relationship. I have known him for nearly 15 years and I know firsthand of his tireless efforts to promote goodwill between Kazakhstan and the United States. His great work for and on behalf of our nations is deserving of inclusion in the Congressional Record for historical purposes, as his contributions are unparalleled.

I also commend Mr. Roman Vassilenko who now serves as Deputy Foreign Minister and previously served as Chairman for the Committee for International Information of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, and also as Counselor for the Embassy of Kazakhstan to the United States. Like Ambassador Umarov, I have known Deputy Foreign Minister Vassilenko for nearly 15 years. I have watched his career soar as he has put his talents to use for the Republic of Kazakhstan. His impact in communicating Kazakhstan's policies to its citizens and communicating its foreign policy to international audiences and governments

through digital diplomacy has been nothing short of revolutionary.

I also note the work of Mr. Aibek Nurbalin who I also met some 15 years ago when he worked as the Congressional Liaison for the Embassy of Kazakhstan to the United States, and later as Deputy Chief of Staff to the Secretary of State for the Republic of Kazakhstan. Mr. Nurbalin left no stone unturned in promoting the cause of Kazakhstan and in making certain that President Nazarbayev's policies and agenda were known and supported, especially in the U.S. Congress.

I have known many diplomats during the course of my service as a Member of Congress. Never have I known diplomats who worked harder on behalf of the Republic of Kazakhstan than Ambassador Umarov, Deputy Foreign Minister Vassilenko, former Deputy Chief of Staff Aibek Nurbalin, Secretary of State Kanat Saudabayev, and current Foreign Minister Erlan Idrissov. It was often said that Roman and Aibek were the left leg and the right leg of my dear friend, Kanat Saudabayev, when he served as Kazakhtan's Ambassador to the United States. If they were the legs, Ambassador Umarov was his heart. And, current Foreign Minister Idrissov is to be fully commended for taking the U.S.-Kazakh relationship to the next level, and beyond. His service, like the service of Ambassador Umarov and Secretary Saudabayev, is also unmatched.

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Kazakhstan's independence, I would be remiss if I did not publicly honor these outstanding diplomats for all they have done to help build an independent nation worthy of its place in the world community. I also cannot let this historic occasion pass by without once more commending President Nazarbayev for leading the way for a nuclear free world. As a Pacific Islander, it is my sincere hope that the world will follow his lead as we work together for this cause, which is good.

HONORING QUINN HALL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Quinn Hall. Quinn is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Quinn has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Quinn has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Quinn has led his troop as the Patrol Leader, became a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, and earned the rank of Warrior in the tribe of Mic-O-Say. Quinn has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Quinn constructed an octoball arena for his youth group at Liberty United Methodist Church in Liberty, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Quinn Hall for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, days after hundreds of thousands of women marched in my hometown of Portland, Oregon and cities across the world, Congressional Republicans once again are seeking to limit women's access to safe reproductive health care. H.R. 7 is a sweeping ban on abortion coverage and another callous attempt to insert Congress into the most personal of conversations between a woman and her physician, and had I been present, I would have voted "no" on final passage of H.R. 7 (Roll Call No. 65).

This legislation comes on the same week we mark the 44th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision, *Roe v. Wade* and the same week Donald Trump reinstated the global gag rule, or 'Mexico City policy,' which bans all foreign non-profits that receive U.S. aid from offering abortion-related services. H.R. 7 and the Mexico City policy are flawed and ineffective policies that will harm health and economic security of women around the world.

I have repeatedly voted against attempts to limit a woman's right to a safe and legal abortion. Once again, these actions by Congressional Republicans and the Trump-Pence Administration make it clear that the GOP does not care about the rights and autonomy of women anywhere, not just in the United States.

As we clearly saw this past weekend, Republicans have no mandate to take away women's basic rights. Women everywhere will continue to fight these harmful policies, and I will continue to be one of their strongest allies in this fight.

Had I been present for the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question, Roll Call Vote No. 62 I would have voted "no."

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on H. Res. 55 (Roll Call Vote No. 63).

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the Democratic Motion to Recommit (Roll Call Vote No. 64).

**THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST
EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS ACT**

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Pacific Northwest Earthquake

Preparedness Act, a comprehensive bill to address the earthquake risk facing the Pacific Northwest.

The Pacific Northwest is at extraordinary risk of a magnitude 9.0 earthquake on the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) followed by a tsunami. The question is no longer if, but when, this event will occur.

The CSZ stretches from northern California up into British Columbia. Historically, the Cascadia Subduction Zone slips every 300 years or so causing major earthquakes. The last quake was in 1700 and evidence suggests it was a magnitude 8.7 to a 9.2. Thursday is the 317th anniversary of the last major Cascadia earthquake.

Experts agree that Oregon is due for another major earthquake. Some forecasts suggest there is a ten percent chance of a magnitude 8 to 9 quake on the CSZ in the next thirty years, while others predict a thirty-five to forty percent chance of a major quake on the south end of the CSZ in the next fifty years.

The Cascadia Subduction Zone is a minor image of the subduction zone off the coast of Japan that caused the magnitude 9.0 earthquake and triggered the devastating tsunami in 2011. That event caused an estimated \$300 billion in damages and killed over 15,000 people.

We can expect similar, if not more, damage in the Pacific Northwest and beyond. The United States Geological Service estimates that over 22,000 people live in Oregon's tsunami inundation zone and even more enter the zone daily for employment purposes. The State of Oregon predicts thousands of deaths and injuries plus approximately \$32 billion in infrastructure and economic damages in Oregon alone. Hundreds of thousands of survivors will be displaced, some possibly for years.

The next big Cascadia quake will likely cause massive damage. Critical lifelines, such as power, natural gas, and petroleum lines, roads and bridges, water and sewer systems, buildings, and communication systems over large parts of California, Oregon and Washington will likely be damaged, complicating response and recovery efforts. It may take years to fully restore utility services. State and local economies will be decimated.

It is important to note that this is not just a Pacific Northwest issue, this is a National issue. Yes the impact of an earthquake and tsunami in the CSZ will be felt the most in Oregon and Washington, but there will be Nation-wide effects. Seismic shaking is expected to be felt as far as Sacramento, California. Most infrastructure in the United States as a whole has not been constructed to withstand seismic shaking of the magnitude that sci-

entists predict has a high likelihood of occurring.

The national economy will be impacted by this event. Fortune 500 companies, such as Microsoft, Amazon, and Nike, are headquartered in Oregon and Washington. International ports used to export U.S. goods and to import foreign goods could be closed for months or longer. In fact, the ports of Portland, Oregon, and Seattle and Tacoma, Washington accounted for a combined 75 million tons of goods in 2012. Major highways and other thoroughfares used for interstate commerce will be damaged and rendered unusable.

This is not a question of if an earthquake will happen, only a matter of when. We need to start taking this threat seriously and begin to prepare for the event. There is a saying that "earthquakes don't kill people, buildings do." This means we need to start investing in the Nation's infrastructure to ensure it can withstand seismic activity and minimize potential damage and economic disruption.

My bill proposes to address the earthquake risk in several ways. First, the bill proposes to save lives, reduce injuries, and minimize infrastructure damage by requiring FEMA to prepare a plan to fund the purchase and installation of an earthquake early warning system for the Cascadia Subduction Zone. It also clarifies that FEMA may use hazard mitigation funds to improve the earthquake early warning system.

An early warning system can send alerts to trigger automatic shutdowns of trains, manufacturing lines, and close bridges. An earthquake early warning system worked during the 2011 Japan earthquake and it can work here.

An earthquake early warning system is only the first step though. The bill also directs the President to establish an Earthquake and Tsunami Task Force to develop a comprehensive strategy and recommendations on how the Nation should prepare and plan for, mitigate against, respond to, recover from, and more successfully adapt to an earthquake and tsunami in the CSZ. This will ensure that Federal, State, local, and tribal governments as well as individuals begin preparing now for a smarter response and recovery.

If we want to save lives and mitigate the damage, we cannot afford to wait. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill and taking the threat of a catastrophic earthquake seriously.