

TO AMEND THE MICROENTERPRISE FOR SELF-RELIANCE ACT OF 2000 AND THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961; TO AMEND PUBLIC LAW 107-10; TO AMEND SECTION 527 OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FY 1994 AND FY 1995; URGING PASSAGE OF A RESOLUTION ADDRESSING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN NORTH KOREA; SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY; CONDEMNING THE PUNISHMENT OF EXECUTION BY STONING; COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RESCUE OF BULGARIAN JEWS FROM THE HOLOCAUST AND COMMENDING THE BULGARIAN PEOPLE FOR THEIR TRADITION OF ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

MARKUP

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

**H.R. 192, H.R. 441, H.R. 868, H. Res. 109,
H. Con. Res. 57, H. Con. Res. 26 and
H. Con. Res. 77**

MARCH 5, 2003

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**TO AMEND THE MICROENTERPRISE FOR SELF-RELIANCE
ACT OF 2000 AND THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961;
TO AMEND PUBLIC LAW 107-10; TO AMEND SECTION 527
OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FY
1994 AND FY 1995; URGING PASSAGE OF A RESOLUTION
ADDRESSING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN NORTH KOREA;
SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S
DAY; CONDEMNING THE PUNISHMENT OF EXECUTION BY
STONING; COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE RESCUE OF BULGARIAN JEWS FROM THE HOLO-
CAUST AND COMMENDING THE BULGARIAN PEOPLE FOR
THEIR TRADITION OF ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS TOLER-
ANCE**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2003

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:30 a.m. in Room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Henry J. Hyde presiding.

Chairman HYDE. The Committee will come to order. We do not have a working quorum yet. We need 17. However, we can do some work, waiting for the quorum to appear. There are some markups in other Committees which are borrowing our Members, but there is one bill we will actually mark up in terms of procedure, and that is H.R. 192, the microenterprise bill. There are six other bills which are really relatively noncontroversial, and we can debate those now, prior to a motion to consider them en bloc and adopt them by unanimous consent.

So I will be happy to recognize Members on any of the six bills which you have before you, and I should read them off, and they are here: H.R. 441, to authorize a plan to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual summit of the World Health Assembly; H.R. 868, to require that certain claims for expropriation by the Government of Nicaragua meet certain requirements for purposes of the prohibition on foreign assistance to that government; H. Res. 109, urging passage of a resolution addressing human rights abuses in North Korea at the 59th session of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights; H. Con. Res. 57, supporting the goals of International Women's Day; H. Con. Res. 26, condemning the punishment of execution by stoning as a gross violation of human rights, and for other purposes; and H. Con. Res. 77, commemorating the 60th anniversary of the historic rescue of Bulgarian Jews from the Holocaust and commending the Bulgarian

people for preserving and continuing their tradition of ethnic and religious tolerance.
[The bills referred to follow:]

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 192

To amend the Microenterprise for Self-Reliance Act of 2000 and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to increase assistance for the poorest people in developing countries under microenterprise assistance programs under those Acts, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. HYDE, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. WOLF, Mr. OBERSTAR, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. ISSA, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DICKS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BEREUTER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SHAW, Mr. HOFFEL, Mr. KIRK, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. MICA, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. WOOLSEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To amend the Microenterprise for Self-Reliance Act of 2000 and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to increase assistance for the poorest people in developing countries under microenterprise assistance programs under those Acts, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS TO THE MICROENTERPRISE FOR**
2 **SELF-RELIANCE ACT OF 2000.**

3 (a) PURPOSES.—Section 103 of the Microenterprise
4 for Self-Reliance Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–309) is
5 amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “microentre-
7 preneurs” and inserting “microenterprise house-
8 holds”;

9 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the
10 end;

11 (3) in paragraph (5)—

12 (A) by striking “microfinance policy” and
13 inserting “microenterprise policy”;

14 (B) by striking “the poorest of the poor”
15 and inserting “the very poor”; and

16 (C) by striking the period at the end and
17 inserting “; and”; and

18 (4) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(6) to ensure that in the implementation of
20 this title at least 50 percent of all microenterprise
21 assistance under this title, and the amendments
22 made under this title, shall be targeted to the very
23 poor.”.

24 (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 104 of such Act is
25 amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “for micro-
2 entrepreneurs” and inserting “to microentrepreneurs
3 and their households”; and

4 (2) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(5) VERY POOR.—The term ‘very poor’ means
6 individuals—

7 “(A) living in the bottom 50 percent below
8 the poverty line established by the national gov-
9 ernment of the country in which those individ-
10 uals live; or

11 “(B) living on the equivalent of less than
12 \$1 per day.”.

13 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE MICRO- AND SMALL ENTER-
14 PRISE DEVELOPMENT CREDITS PROGRAM
15 UNDER THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF
16 1961.**

17 (a) FINDINGS AND POLICY.—Section 108(a)(2) of
18 the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.
19 2151f(a)(2)) is amended by striking “the development of
20 the enterprises of the poor” and inserting “the access to
21 financial services and the development of microenter-
22 prises”.

23 (b) PROGRAM.—Section 108(b) of such Act (22
24 U.S.C. 2151f(b)) is amended to read as follows:

1 “(b) PROGRAM.—To carry out the policy set forth in
2 subsection (a), the President is authorized to provide as-
3 sistance to increase the availability of financial services to
4 microenterprise households lacking full access to credit,
5 including through—

6 “(1) loans and guarantees to microfinance insti-
7 tutions for the purpose of expanding the availability
8 of savings and credit to poor and low-income house-
9 holds;

10 “(2) training programs for microfinance institu-
11 tions in order to enable them to better meet the fi-
12 nancial services needs of their clients; and

13 “(3) training programs for clients in order to
14 enable them to make better use of credit, increase
15 their financial literacy, and to better manage their
16 enterprises to improve their quality of life.”.

17 (c) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—Section 108(c) of such
18 Act (22 U.S.C. 2151f(e)) is amended—

19 (1) in the first sentence of the matter preceding
20 paragraph (1)—

21 (A) by striking “credit institutions” and
22 inserting “microfinance institutions”; and

23 (B) by striking “micro- and small enter-
24 prises” and inserting “microenterprise house-
25 holds”; and

1 (2) in paragraphs (1) and (2), by striking
2 “credit” each place it appears and inserting “finan-
3 cial services”.

4 (d) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—Section 108(d) of
5 such Act (22 U.S.C. 2151f(d)) is amended by striking
6 “micro- and small enterprise programs” and inserting
7 “programs for microenterprise households”.

8 (e) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Section 108(f)(1) of
9 such Act (22 U.S.C. 2151f(f)(1)) is amended by striking
10 “for each of fiscal years 2001 and 2002” and inserting
11 “for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2004”.

12 (f) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 108 of such
13 Act (22 U.S.C. 2151f) is amended in the heading to read
14 as follows:

15 “**SEC. 108. MICROENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT CREDITS.**”.

16 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE MICROENTERPRISE DEVEL-**
17 **OPMENT GRANT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**
18 **UNDER THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF**
19 **1961.**

20 (a) FINDINGS AND POLICY.—Section 131(a) of the
21 Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2152a(a)) is
22 amended to read as follows:

23 “(a) FINDINGS AND POLICY.—Congress finds and de-
24 clares that—

1 “(1) access to financial services and the devel-
2 opment of microenterprise are vital factors in the
3 stable growth of developing countries and in the de-
4 velopment of free, open, and equitable international
5 economic systems;

6 “(2) it is therefore in the best interest of the
7 United States to facilitate access to financial serv-
8 ices and assist the development of microenterprise in
9 developing countries;

10 “(3) access to financial services and the devel-
11 opment of microenterprises can be supported by pro-
12 grams providing credit, savings, training, technical
13 assistance, business development services, and other
14 financial and non-financial services; and

15 “(4) given the relatively high percentage of pop-
16 ulations living in rural areas of developing countries,
17 and the combined high incidence of poverty in rural
18 areas and growing income inequality between rural
19 and urban markets, microenterprise programs
20 should target both rural and urban poor.”.

21 (b) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 131(b) of such Act
22 (22 U.S.C. 2152a(b)) is amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (3)(A)(i), by striking “entre-
24 preneurs” and inserting “clients”; and

25 (2) in paragraph (4)(D)—

1 (A) in clause (i), by striking “very small
2 loans” and inserting “financial services to poor
3 entrepreneurs”; and

4 (B) in clause (ii), by striking “micro-
5 finance” and inserting “microenterprise”.

6 (c) MONITORING SYSTEM.—Section 131(c) of such
7 Act (22 U.S.C. 2152a(c)) is amended by striking para-
8 graph (4) and inserting the following:

9 “(4) adopts the widespread use of proven and
10 effective poverty assessment tools to successfully
11 identify the very poor and ensure that they receive
12 needed microenterprise loans, savings, and assist-
13 ance.”.

14 (d) DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION OF POVERTY
15 MEASUREMENT METHODS.—Section 131 of such Act (22
16 U.S.C. 2152a) is amended—

17 (1) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as
18 subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

19 (2) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(d) DEVELOPMENT AND CERTIFICATION OF POV-
22 ERTY MEASUREMENT METHODS; APPLICATION OF METH-
23 ODS.—

24 “(1) DEVELOPMENT AND CERTIFICATION.—(A)
25 The Administrator of the United States Agency for

1 International Development, in consultation with
2 microenterprise institutions and other appropriate
3 organizations, shall develop no fewer than two low-
4 cost methods for partner institutions to use to assess
5 the poverty levels of their current or prospective cli-
6 ents. The United States Agency for International
7 Development shall develop poverty indicators that
8 correlate with the circumstances of the very poor.

9 “(B) The Administrator shall field-test the
10 methods developed under subparagraph (A). As part
11 of the testing, institutions and programs may use
12 the methods on a voluntary basis to demonstrate
13 their ability to reach the very poor.

14 “(C) Not later than October 1, 2004, the Ad-
15 ministrator shall, from among the low-cost poverty
16 measurement methods developed under subpara-
17 graph (A), certify no fewer than two such methods
18 as approved methods for measuring the poverty lev-
19 els of current or prospective clients of microenter-
20 prise institutions for purposes of assistance under
21 this section.

22 “(2) APPLICATION.—The Administrator shall
23 require that, with reasonable exceptions, all organi-
24 zations applying for microenterprise assistance
25 under this Act use one of the certified methods, be-

1 gining no later than October 1, 2005, to determine
2 and report the poverty levels of current or prospec-
3 tive clients.”.

4 (e) LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE.—Section 131(e) of such
5 Act, as redesignated by subsection (d), is amended by in-
6 serting “and \$175,000,000 for fiscal year 2003 and
7 \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2004” after “fiscal years
8 2001 and 2002”.

9 (f) DEFINITIONS.—Section 131(f) of such Act, as re-
10 designated by subsection (d), is amended by adding at the
11 end the following:

12 “(5) VERY POOR.—The term ‘very poor’ means
13 those individuals—

14 “(A) living in the bottom 50 percent below
15 the poverty line established by the national gov-
16 ernment of the country in which those individ-
17 uals live; or

18 “(B) living on less than the equivalent of
19 \$1 per day.”.

20 **SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30,
22 2005, the Administrator of the United States Agency for
23 International Development shall submit to Congress a re-
24 port that documents the process of developing and apply-
25 ing poverty assessment procedures with its partners.

1 (b) REPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006 AND BE-
2 YOND.—Beginning with fiscal year 2006, the Adminis-
3 trator of the United States Agency for International De-
4 velopment shall annually submit to Congress on a timely
5 basis a report that addresses the United States Agency
6 for International Development’s compliance with the
7 Microenterprise for Self-Reliance Act of 2000 by
8 documenting—

9 (1) the percentage of its resources that were al-
10 located to the very poor (as defined in paragraph (5)
11 of section 131(f) of the Foreign Assistance Act of
12 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2152a(f)(5))) based on the data
13 collected from its partners using the certified meth-
14 ods; and

15 (2) the absolute number of the very poor
16 reached.

○

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 441

To amend Public Law 107–10 to authorize a United States plan to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual summit of the World Health Assembly in May 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 29, 2003

Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. COX, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. HOEFFEL, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. WEXLER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To amend Public Law 107–10 to authorize a United States plan to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual summit of the World Health Assembly in May 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS TO PUBLIC LAW 107-10.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Section 1(a) of Public Law 107–10
5 (115 Stat. 17) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

1 “(14) The government of Taiwan, in response
2 to an appeal from the United Nations and the
3 United States for resources to control the spread of
4 HIV/AIDS, donated \$1,000,000 to the Global Fund
5 to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.”.

6 (b) PLAN.—Section 1(b)(1) of Public Law 107–10
7 (115 Stat. 17) is amended by striking “May 2002” and
8 inserting “May 2003”.

○

This Act may be cited as the "Nicaragua Property
Dispute Settlement Act of 2000."
.....
(Original Signature of Member)
SEC. 2. CERTAIN CLAIMS FOR EXPROPRIATION BY THE
GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA.

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 868

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BALLENGER (for himself and Mr. DELAHUNT) introduced the following
bill; which was referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend section 527 of the Foreign Relations Authorization
Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 to require that certain
claims for expropriation by the Government of Nicaragua
meet certain requirements for purposes of the prohibition
on foreign assistance to that government.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Nicaragua Property
3 Dispute Settlement Act of 2003”.

4 **SEC. 2. CERTAIN CLAIMS FOR EXPROPRIATION BY THE**
5 **GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA.**

6 Section 527 of the Foreign Relations Authorization
7 Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 2370a) is
8 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
9 section:

10 “(i) CERTAIN CLAIMS FOR EXPROPRIATION BY GOV-
11 ERNMENT OF NICARAGUA.—(1) Any action of the types
12 set forth in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of subsection
13 (a)(1) that was taken by the Government of Nicaragua
14 during the period beginning on January 1, 1956, and end-
15 ing on January 9, 2002, shall not be considered in imple-
16 menting the prohibition under subsection (a) unless the
17 action has been presented in accordance with the proce-
18 dure set forth in paragraph (2)

19 “(2) An action shall be deemed presented for pur-
20 poses of paragraph (1) if it is—

21 “(A) in writing; and

22 “(B) received by the Department of State on or
23 before 120 days after the date specified in para-
24 graph (3) at—

25 “(i) the headquarters of the Department of
26 State in Washington, D.C.; or

1 “(ii) the Embassy of the United States of
2 America to Nicaragua.

3 “(3) The date to which paragraph (2) refers is a date
4 after the enactment of this subsection that is specified by
5 the Secretary of State, in the Secretary’s discretion, in a
6 notice published in the Federal Register.”.

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 109

Urging passage of a resolution addressing human rights abuses in North Korea at the 59th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, and calling on the Government of North Korea to respect and protect the human rights of its citizens.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Mr. PITTS, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ROHR-ABACHER, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. HOEFFEL, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. LEACH, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. GALLEGLY, and Mr. WAMP) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Urging passage of a resolution addressing human rights abuses in North Korea at the 59th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, and calling on the Government of North Korea to respect and protect the human rights of its citizens.

Whereas the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (in this preamble referred to as "North Korea") is, in the words of the United States Department of State, "a dictatorship under the absolute rule of the Korean Workers' Party" that "prohibits freedom of speech, the press, as-

sembly, and association . . . [and] restricts freedom of religion, citizens' movements, and worker rights";

Whereas according to the State Department, "[t]he [North Korean] Penal Code is Draconian, stipulating capital punishment and confiscation of assets for a wide variety of 'crimes against the revolution,' including defection, attempted defection, slander of the policies of the party or State, listening to foreign broadcasts, writing 'reactionary' letters, and possessing reactionary printed matter";

Whereas, as noted in the State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, the North Korean regime executes political prisoners, opponents of the regime, some repatriated defectors, some members of underground churches, and others, sometimes at public meetings attended by workers, students, and school children;

Whereas the North Korean regime subjects all its citizens to systematic, intensive political and ideological indoctrination in support of the cult of personality glorifying Kim Jong Il and the late Kim Il Sung which, in the words of the State Department, "approaches the level of a state religion";

Whereas the North Korean regime divides its population into categories, based on perceived loyalty to the Party and the leadership, which determine access to employment, higher education, place of residence, medical facilities, and other resources;

Whereas the North Korean regime attempts to control all information, artistic expression, and academic works inside North Korea and strictly curtails freedom of speech;

Whereas the Government of North Korea holds an estimated 150,000 to 200,000 political prisoners in camps that its State Security Agency manages through the use of forced labor, beatings, torture, and executions, and in which many prisoners also die from disease, starvation, and exposure;

Whereas according to eyewitness testimony provided to the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives by camp survivors, camp inmates have been used as sources of slave labor for the production of export goods, as targets for martial arts practice, and as experimental victims in the testing of chemical and biological poisons;

Whereas according to eyewitness testimony provided to the Committee on International Relations by a camp survivor, female camp prisoners are not permitted to have children and their newborn babies are routinely and brutally killed by camp authorities;

Whereas according to the State Department “[g]enuine religious freedom does not exist” in North Korea and, in the words of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, “[t]he North Korean state severely represses public and private religious activities”;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom has highlighted “reports that [North Korean] officials have arrested, imprisoned, tortured, and sometimes executed North Korean citizens who were found to have ties with overseas Christian evangelical groups operating across the border in China, as well as those who engaged in such unauthorized religious activities as public religious expression and persuasion”;

Whereas according to eyewitness testimony provided to the Committee on International Relations in May 2002, a North Korean prison camp survivor witnessed a group of Christian prisoners being tortured to death in 1990 for refusing to repudiate their faith;

Whereas more than 1,000,000 North Koreans are estimated to have died of starvation since 1995 because of the failure of the centralized agricultural system operated by the Government of North Korea;

Whereas the risk of starvation and the threat of persecution in North Korea have caused many thousands of North Koreans to flee their homeland, primarily into the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the Governments of the People's Republic of China and North Korea have been conducting aggressive campaigns to locate North Koreans who are in the People's Republic of China without permission and to forcibly return them to North Korea;

Whereas North Koreans who seek asylum while in the People's Republic of China are routinely imprisoned and tortured, and in some cases killed, after they are returned to North Korea; and

Whereas the 59th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights is scheduled to be held in Geneva, Switzerland from March 17 to April 25, 2003: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) urges the Secretary of State to draft, intro-
- 3 duce, and work toward the passage of a resolution
- 4 addressing human rights abuses in North Korea at

1 the 59th session of the United Nations Commission
2 on Human Rights; and

3 (2) calls on the Government of the Democratic
4 People's Republic of Korea to respect and protect
5 the human rights of its citizens, such as those recog-
6 nized in the Universal Declaration of Human
7 Rights.

○

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 57

Supporting the goals of International Women's Day.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mrs. BIGGERT, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. LANTOS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. KIRK, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. WATSON, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. FILNER, Mrs. CAPPES, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. LEE, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Ms. NORTON, Mr. FROST, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. OLVER, Mr. BALLANCE, Mr. NADLER, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. EVANS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. EMANUEL, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. FALDOMAEGA, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, and Mr. RUSH) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals of International Women's Day.

Whereas women worldwide are contributing to the growth of economies, participating in the world of diplomacy and

politics, and improving the quality of the lives of their families, communities, and nations;

Whereas pervasive discrimination continues to deny women full political and economic equality and is often the basis for violations of women's basic human rights;

Whereas the lives and health of women and girls continues to be endangered by violence which is directed at them simply because they are women or girls;

Whereas violence against women and girls includes rape, genital mutilation, sexual assault, domestic violence, honor killings, sexual trafficking, dowry-related violence, female infanticide, sex-selection abortion, forced sterilization, and forced abortion;

Whereas an analysis by the World Bank indicates that between 25 percent and 50 percent of all women have been battered by an intimate partner;

Whereas, according to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, worldwide at least 1 out of every 3 women and girls has been beaten or sexually abused in her lifetime;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at least 1 out of every 6 women and girls in the United States has been beaten or sexually abused in her lifetime;

Whereas, according to the Department of Justice, a woman is battered, usually by an intimate partner, every 15 seconds in the United States;

Whereas, according to the Department of Justice, a woman is raped every 90 seconds in the United States;

Whereas, according to the American Medical Association, approximately 1 out of every 5 adolescent girls in the United States has been physically or sexually abused by a person whom the girl was dating;

Whereas, according to the United States Agency for International Development, only 17 countries consider marital rape to be a criminal offense;

Whereas worldwide women account for almost half of all cases of HIV/AIDS;

Whereas in countries with a high HIV prevalence, young women are at a higher risk of contracting HIV than young men;

Whereas sexual violence, including marital rape, has been denounced as a major cause of the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS among women;

Whereas, according to the United States Agency for International Development, two-thirds of the 876,000,000 illiterate individuals worldwide are women;

Whereas, according to the United States Agency for International Development, two-thirds of the 125,000,000 school-aged children who are not attending school worldwide are girls;

Whereas girls are less likely than boys to complete school;

Whereas, according to the United States Development Program, women and children account for 70 percent of the 1,300,000,000 poorest people;

Whereas, according to the report of the General Accounting Office "Women and Management", in the United States between 1995 and 2000 female managers earned less

than their male counterparts in the 10 industries that employ the vast majority of all female employees;

Whereas, according to the World Bank, worldwide women remain vastly underrepresented in national and local assemblies, accounting on average for less than 10 percent of the seats in parliament, except for East Asia where the figure is approximately 18 to 19 percent, and in no developing region do women hold more than 8 percent of the ministerial positions;

Whereas, according to the Congressional Research Service and the Department of State, illegal trafficking in women and children for forced labor, domestic servitude, or sexual exploitation involves between 1,000,000 and 2,000,000 women and children each year, of whom 50,000 are transported into the United States;

Whereas women still earn less, own less property, and have less access to education, employment, and health care than do men;

Whereas March 8 has become known as International Women's Day and is a day on which women, often divided by ethnicity, language, culture, and income, come together to celebrate a common struggle for equality, justice, and peace;

Whereas the dedication and successes of those who are fighting for gender equality and working to end violence against women and girls should be recognized; and

Whereas the people of the United States should be encouraged to participate in International Women's Day: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

1 (1) supports the goals of International Women’s
2 Day;

3 (2) recognizes and honors the women in the
4 United States and in other countries who have
5 fought and continue to struggle for gender equality
6 and women’s rights;

7 (3) reaffirms its commitment to ending dis-
8 crimination and violence against women and girls, to
9 ensuring the safety and welfare of women and girls,
10 and to pursuing policies that guarantee the basic
11 rights of women and girls both in the United States
12 and in other countries; and

13 (4) encourages the President to—

14 (A) reaffirm his commitment to pursue
15 policies to protect the health and rights of
16 women and girls; and

17 (B) issue a proclamation calling upon the
18 people of the United States to observe Inter-
19 national Women’s Day with appropriate pro-
20 grams and activities.

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108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 26

Condemning the punishment of execution by stoning as a gross violation of human rights, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 29, 2003

Ms. MCCOLLUM (for herself, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DICKS, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GILCHREST, Ms. NORTON, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. LEE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. OLVER, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. RAHALL, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. TIERNEY, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. WEINER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Condemning the punishment of execution by stoning as a gross violation of human rights, and for other purposes.

Whereas death by stoning continues to be imposed as a form of punishment in several countries, as documented by the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices of the United States Department of State;

Whereas the brutal sentence of death by stoning is applied to women who have been accused of adultery, some of whom are coerced into prostitution, or even raped;

Whereas execution by stoning is an exceptionally cruel form of punishment that violates internationally accepted standards of human rights, including those set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;

Whereas women around the world continue to be disproportionately targeted for discriminatory, inhuman, and cruel punishments by governments who refuse to protect the rights of all their citizens equally;

Whereas in some places stoning has also been invoked as punishment for “blasphemy”, thereby suppressing religious freedom and diversity and stifling political dissent;

Whereas, in July 2002, Amnesty International referred to execution by stoning as “a method specifically designed to increase the victim’s suffering”;

Whereas, in 2002, the European Union, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the Australian Government, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand, the President of Mexico, the Congress of the Deputies of Spain, and other world leaders each condemned stoning and called for clemency for individuals sentenced to stoning; and

Whereas, in 2002 there were acquittals or dismissals of sentences to death by stoning: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That Congress—

1 (1) condemns the practice of execution by ston-
2 ing, and calls upon the international community to
3 recognize this practice as a gross violation of human
4 rights;

5 (2) requests that the President formally com-
6 municate this resolution to governments imposing
7 this cruel punishment and urge the suspension of
8 sentences of death by stoning; and

9 (3) requests that the President direct the Sec-
10 retary of State to work with the international com-
11 munity toward the repeal of stoning laws and adher-
12 ence to international standards of human rights.

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(Original Signature of Member)

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 77

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina submitted the following concurrent resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on _____

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 60th anniversary of the historic rescue of 50,000 Bulgarian Jews from the Holocaust and commending the Bulgarian people for preserving and continuing their tradition of ethnic and religious tolerance.

Whereas the people of the United States and the Republic of Bulgaria respect all faiths, including Judaism and Jewish culture;

Whereas during World War II, despite being allied with Germany, Bulgarians did not cede to Nazi pressure to fully enforce anti-Jewish legislation and resisted orders to de-

port their Jewish compatriots to Nazi concentration camps;

Whereas in the spring of 1943 the Bulgarian people succeeded in preventing the deportation of 50,000 Jews to such camps;

Whereas Bulgaria was the only European country during World War II to increase its Jewish population;

Whereas members of the Bulgarian Parliament, the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, King Boris III, politicians, intellectuals, and citizens all played a part in the resistance to Nazi pressure to carry out the deportation;

Whereas March 2003 marks the 60th anniversary of Bulgaria's refusal to deport its Jews to Nazi concentration camps;

Whereas the Bulgarian people today preserve and continue their tradition of ethnic and religious tolerance; and

Whereas President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Simeon Saxe-Coburg Gotha are leading the United States and Bulgaria into a long-term strategic partnership: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That Congress—

3 (1) commemorates the 60th anniversary of the
4 historic rescue of 50,000 Bulgarian Jews from the
5 Holocaust and commends the Bulgarian people for
6 preserving and continuing their tradition of ethnic
7 and religious tolerance; and

3

1 (2) reiterates its support for strong ties be-
2 tween the United States and Bulgaria.

Chairman HYDE. Now, any Member who wishes to submit a statement for the record is encouraged to do so, and it shall be received without objection, and anybody who wishes to speak on any of these bills, we will recognize you as you seek recognition.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Wexler follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE ROBERT WEXLER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Mr. Chairman,

I rise in strong support of H.R. 441, to endorse observer status for Taiwan at the upcoming annual World Health Assembly Summit in Geneva, Switzerland and to recognize the invaluable contributions Taiwan has made toward the promotion of global health.

In the past decade, Taiwan has blossomed into a strong and dynamic democracy—the first in over 5,000 years of Chinese history. Taiwan has experienced unprecedented economic, political and social growth, culminating with its recent entry into the World Trade Organization. Since September 11, Taiwan has boldly joined the campaign against international terrorism and has assisted global efforts to rebuild Afghanistan in a post-Taliban regime. At the same time, Taiwan is not resting on its past achievements. The government of Taiwan has clearly stated its vision of additional financial, educational, judicial and political reform.

Today with the support of the United States, Taiwan has set higher goals to become an even stronger democracy with greater prosperity and participation in international bodies, such as the World Health Organization. This is a vision that we, as members of Congress, have a professional responsibility and moral obligation to help Taiwan fulfill. It is unconscionable that 23 million Taiwanese are precluded from receiving the benefits of membership status in the WHO, including participation in innovative research programs, collaborative efforts to combat infectious disease, the allocation of humanitarian assistance and the development of basic health care throughout the world.

The exclusion of Taiwan from the WHO has deprived people of Taiwan from a number of progressive health care developments, impaired its crisis response teams and created a wall of separation between Taiwan's medical field and the rest of the global health care community. Moreover, Taiwan's exclusion from the WHO has deprived other member populations—including the poorest nations of the world—from the invaluable contributions Taiwan has made to promote global health.

Irrespective of their exclusion from the WHO, Taiwan has boldly taken the lead in contributing to HIV/AIDS research, donating one million dollars to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS in the past year. Taiwan has also provided humanitarian relief to 78 countries in the past eight years—including the United States and Afghanistan—and has donated over 120 million dollars to medical or humanitarian relief funds.

Mr. Chairman, health is an issue that transcends borders and politics, and can be accomplished more effectively and efficiently through international cooperation. This is why the United States must have the courage and conviction to fully support Taiwan's efforts to obtain observer status at the World Health Assembly in May, 2003.

I rise in strong support for HR 441 and I urge my colleagues to do so as well. The people of Taiwan have overcome great odds to become a beacon of freedom, prosperity and hope for the world, and they deserve inclusion—let alone observer status—in international organizations, such as the WHO.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Chairman.

Chairman HYDE. Mr. Pitts.

Mr. PITTS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have a few questions regarding H. Con. Res. 57, and I would like to ask Mr. Lantos or one of the sponsors of this resolution for clarification. May I ask the gentleman questions?

Chairman HYDE. I am sure it is okay. Now whether he will answer you or not, I have no prediction.

Mr. PITTS. On page 5 of the resolution, line 1, it says, and I think, in general, the resolution is basically acceptable, but in line 1 it says, "We support the goals of the International Women's Day,"

and I am wondering if the gentleman could elaborate on what the goals of International Women's Day might be. My concern is this, Mr. Lantos. If we are supporting abortion as a human right, if we are supporting the ratification of CEDAW by the Senate, if there is a pro-choice agenda, I would like to know that before voting on this.

Mr. LANTOS. If my friend will yield.

Mr. PITTS. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. LANTOS. There is no hidden agenda in this proposal. We all know each other's respective positions. I happen to have a 100 percent pro-choice voting record over 23 years, so there is nothing hidden about that agenda.

This is a resolution which is designed to underscore the rights of women to equality in all societies, which we painfully know is not the case. So if my friend is asking is there a hidden agenda, the answer is no. If my friend is asking are we changing our positions with respect to the question of choice, I do not think people on either side of this issue will change their position as a result of this resolution. It is a resolution which recognizes that half of the globe's population is made up of women, who in many countries, some of them allied to the United States, have a distinctly second-class status, in some places are persecuted, discriminated against, have no opportunity of functioning as free individuals, and that is the purpose of this resolution.

Chairman HYDE. If the gentleman would permit,——

Mr. PITTS. Yes.

Chairman HYDE [continuing]. We have a vote on the Floor. It is a journal vote. I think if we include the microenterprise legislation, in my unanimous consent request, we could finish our work this morning and get on to the Floor vote and not have to return. Mr. Flake.

Mr. PITTS. Could I just say, Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, that I agree with the sentiments that the gentleman expressed. We certainly want to support ending violence against women and the discrimination against women. I will not object to the resolution but for the record want to state that support of this resolution does not in any way indicate support of a goal that might be a pro-choice agenda, abortion as a human right, or encouraging the Senate to ratify CEDAW, for the record. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman HYDE. Ms. McCollum. No? Mr. Flake.

Mr. FLAKE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, just for about 15 seconds. I just want to register my concern. I know I do not have votes to prevail, but on the microenterprise loans, increasing the amount by \$25 million over the next year seems to me—at a time of deficit and debt in this country—that we ought to look at areas where we can cut, if not hold the line. This seems rather extreme to me, and I just want to register my concern and objection.

Chairman HYDE. Thank you. All right. If there is no further commentary, for which the Chair expresses deep appreciation, without objection, the Chair is authorized to request consideration of the following bills under suspension of the rules: H.R. 441, H.R. 192, H.R. 868, H. Res. 109, H. Con. Res. 57, H. Con. Res. 26, H. Con. Res. 77. Without objection, it is so ordered, and the Committee stands adjourned. Thank you for your cooperation.

[Whereupon, at 10:37 a.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

