Now compare the plight of this American citizen with millions of people who have crossed into this country illegally. They proudly attend rallies and speak on television, openly proclaiming that they are in this country in defiance of our laws. Many do not pay taxes while many others are receiving monetary benefits from the government.

It is reprehensible that our federal law enforcement would falsely and recklessly arrest one of our own citizens who owns a small business, pays taxes, and employs other Americans, while allowing lawbreakers from other countries to openly flaunt their violation of our laws. American citizens are not being served when the priorities of the federal government are so twisted.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 805

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, there are not many of us who have not heard of the horrific battleground stories experienced by our young men and women who have served in Operation New Dawn and Operation Enduring Freedom. These stories reveal a gruesome and difficult war in which servicemembers often sustain long lasting emotional and physical injuries. Of these injuries, none is more deafening than the amputations undergone by servicemembers as a direct result of the widespread use of roadside bombs otherwise known as improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

This class of injury, which has spiked significantly since the onset of the Operation New Dawn, requires special consideration within the Department of Veterans Affairs. After returning home, these individuals must embark upon extensive rehabilitation and special treatment to receive a shot at living a normal life, and this is why I have introduced H.R. 805.

H.R. 805 instructs the VA to actively inform veterans and educate employees at each VA prosthetics and orthotics clinic of the Injured and Amputee Veterans' Bill of Rights. In addition, this bill requires the VA to monitor and resolve complaints from injured and amputee veterans alleging mistreatment.

I believe that this bill will do much to protect the rights of our injured and amputee veterans, as well as bolster the consistency of prosthetic and orthotic care throughout the VA health system.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 193, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

TAIWAN WOULD BE A CONSTRUCTIVE MEMBER OF THE UNFCCC

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan is one of the most geologically sensitive regions of the world and they are keenly aware of their vulnerability to the various threats of accelerating global environmental change.

Taiwan recognizes that the climate system is a shared resource whose stability can be affected by industrial and other emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. For these reasons, Taiwan would be a constructive member of the global organizations of the United Nations (UN) through its Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). As a member of UNFCCC, Taiwan will be able to contribute their skills and experiences to the world community such as gathering and sharing information on greenhouse gas emissions, national policies and best practices, providing financial and technological support to developing countries and preparing for adaptations to the impacts of climate change.

Since 2008, Taiwan's new administration has proactively engaged in many UN activities. In 2009, UN member states for the first time accepted Taiwan as an official observer for the World Health Assembly. The UN should further consider Taiwan's inclusion in the United Nations' environmental conventions and activities.

END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, research tells us that veterans are over represented in the homeless population. VA is the largest single provider of homeless services reaching about 25 percent of that population.

VA operates a wide variety of homeless veterans programs designed to provide outreach, supportive services, health care as well as counseling and treatment for mental health and substance use disorders. They rely heavily on their partnerships with the community and faith based organizations to provide these services.

Many of VA's homeless population:

Have had a serious psychiatric problem defined as psychosis, mood disorder or PTSD.

Were dependent on alcohol and/or drugs.

Were dually diagnosed with serious psychiatric and substance abuse problems.

Have suffered from a serious medical problem.

The number of homeless women veterans is rising.

Prior to becoming homeless, a large number of veterans at risk have struggled with PTSD or have addictions acquired during, or worsened by, their military service. These conditions can interrupt their ability to keep a job, establish savings, and in some cases, maintain family harmony.

Veterans' family, social, and professional networks may have been broken due to extensive mobility while in service or lengthy periods away from their hometowns and their civilian jobs. These problems are directly traceable to their experience in military service or to their return to civilian society without having had appropriate transitional supports.

VA reports that approximately 1,500 homeless veterans are from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn. This is a growing population. It took roughly a decade for the lives of Vietnam veterans to unravel to the point that they started showing up among the homeless.

Concern has been expressed by many that such an early showing of more recent veterans in the homeless population does not bode well. It is also believed that the intense repeated deployments leave newer veterans particularly vulnerable.

We know the Department of Veterans Affairs has many programs to address currently homeless veterans, and they do a great job. However, the most important piece to ending homelessness among the Nation's veteran population is to prevent it in the first place.

It is unacceptable that even one of our veterans sleep on the streets or in shelters after risking their lives on behalf of this country.

My legislation, H.R. 806, will go a long way in strengthening our efforts to ultimately end homelessness.

This bill increases funding to successful programs for homeless veterans; requires each VA medical center that provides supporting housing services to provide housing counselors; requires housing counselors to conduct landlord research; strengthens permanent housing programs, and pays special interest to the needs of homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children.

The time to act is now. We cannot afford to let history repeat itself.

I urge your support of this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH TAYLOR

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, with the passing of Elizabeth Taylor last week, America, and the world, lost much more than a great movie actress, more than a celebrated legend and cherished celebrity, and more than a woman of enduring beauty and appeal.

We lost a champion fighter for the survival and dignity of those with HIV/AIDS.

Of many causes which Elizabeth Taylor embraced, such as her support for the State of Israel and the Jewish people, it was her great courage and selfless commitment that defined her work to support every effort to find a cure for HIV/AIDS, and to protect the rights of every person living with HIV/AIDS.

We forget how long and hard the struggle has been—precisely because of the heroic progress that has been made, medically and socially, in treating and living with HIV/AIDS. It's hard to remember, but in the early 1980s, people knew very little about AIDS. The nation went on a publicity roller-coaster, going from complacency to panic and back again.