

international coalition that has been so critical to the current sanctions regime could fracture, thus weakening the leverage we already have.

There is no guarantee that a final deal is possible. But given the stakes involved, we simply must try, for the alternative is far worse. Iran would then be left to develop its nuclear program without supervision, and the U.S. could be drawn into another costly war in the Middle East.

I urge my colleagues to support the interim nuclear agreement and oppose any attempt to undermine our country's diplomacy.

□ 1215

TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

(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, each year, Congress deliberately acts to craft, pass, and sign into law the National Defense Authorization Act, the annual policy bill for the U.S. Department of Defense.

For the first time in 52 years, this may no longer be the case. This year, the House passed its version in June, while the Senate, again, dragged its feet.

Fortunately, earlier this week, congressional leaders reached a compromise that will allow both Chambers to move forward. It includes an important amendment I offered accepted under the House version dealing with the Transitional Assistance Management Program, or TAMP, which offers health care coverage for servicemembers transitioning into civilian life.

All too often, symptoms related to post-traumatic stress do not appear until 8 to 10 months after deployment. The amendment will extend coverage under TAMP by 180 days for all services rendered through telemedicine, which is critical, especially for those coping with mental injuries.

As a father of an Active Duty soldier, I am hopeful we can bring this bill to the finish line and make good on our commitments to our troops and continue meeting our obligations around the world.

COMMEMORATING HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Human Rights Day, an occasion to recognize the struggles of individuals all around the world who fight for their basic rights of life, liberty, and security of person.

On March 2, 2011, Jean-Claude Roger Mbende of Cameroon was arrested for, "homosexuality and attempted homosexuality" and sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment.

Jean-Claude is one of the individual cases of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission's Defending Freedoms Project, which seeks to have Members of Congress adopt the case of an individual like Jean-Claude and work for their rights and freedom.

Sadly, cases such as these are far too common in areas of the world where people can be imprisoned for simply exercising their basic human rights.

I call upon the Cameroonian authorities to live up to their obligation to respect and protect the rights of Jean-Claude Mbende and all Cameroonians.

I pledge to continue to follow his story and do what I can to secure his safety. I hope my colleagues will join me in taking up cases from the Defending Freedoms Project, and that, together, we can ensure justice for wrongly imprisoned individuals all across the world.

THE EMAIL PRIVACY ACT

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, the number of Americans who support updating our electronic communication privacy laws is growing every day. Just today, The Washington Post reported that over 100,000 Americans have signed a petition asking President Obama to support changes in the 27-year-old privacy law called the Electronic Communications Privacy Act that currently allows government agents to search Americans' private emails without a warrant.

The Constitution prohibits government from searching postal mail without a warrant. It defies common sense that emails should have any less protection.

Our existing laws were written before Facebook and Google even existed. Just think how far we have come in regard to Internet technology. It is time to update these laws.

The American people are shocked when they learn that their emails do not have the same privacy protections as their mail and other documents in their homes. That is why I introduced H.R. 1852, the Email Privacy Act, a bipartisan bill to affirm that Americans have a reasonable expectation of privacy in their emails.

Mr. Speaker, it is time Congress and the President worked together to update our email privacy laws. I urge the House to pass this needed legislation.

EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, over the next few weeks, the American people will be celebrating the warmth of the holidays with friends and family alike.

But for nearly 1.3 million people, the situation will be desperate. The pains

of long-term unemployment will be compounded as their benefits totally run out on December 28.

These people have struggled for months on end to find work after losing a job. They include thousands of veterans who recently completed their military service, and they include families who need unemployment benefits to clothe their children and put food on the table.

It is unconscionable that this budget deal does not protect these vulnerable families who had no part in causing the recession that put them in such dire circumstances.

As we go into this holiday season, let us help those in greatest need. Extend unemployment benefits.

CONGRATULATING THE DESALES COLTS, KENTUCKY'S 2013 CLASS 2A HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, last weekend in Louisville, the world-famous Twin Spires of Churchill Downs glowed orange in support of something the hallowed track knows well, a champion.

The DeSales High School Colts of Louisville's South End entered the State championship on a streak of dominance, posting six shutouts, and holding opponents to just 9.4 points per game. When they lined up against Newport Central Catholic to play for the title on Saturday, the DeSales defense hadn't allowed a point in 2 weeks.

Fueled by three touchdowns from all-time leading rusher Dylan Byrd, two passing scores from quarterback Nathan Roush, and a defense anchored by middle linebacker Matt Bouchard, the Colts overcame a tough opponent 34-26, taking State for the first time in school history.

The title caps a remarkable 14-1 season for the Colts, who became only the second South End team ever to win State.

For DeSales Head Coach Harold Davis, the title run offered a nice symmetry. Davis was a senior safety on the 1981 DeSales team, one of only two others in school history to play in the finals.

The debate over the best Colts team in school history will continue back home, but there is no question this year's team now stands at the top. They might have been outsized through much of the playoffs, but they were never outmatched or outplayed.

Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to join all of Louisville in honoring the DeSales Colts, Kentucky's 2013 Class 2A High School football champions. Go Colts.

A UNIQUE MOMENT IN HISTORY

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