

insufficient funding for such vetting the major problem?

Of the 158 countries we provide with security assistance each year, 46 had some aid withheld in 2011. The typical percentage of global Leahy vettings that don't meet requirements is at most 1–2 percent with just under 10% suspended. In Fiscal Year 2012, according to Congressional Research Service expert Lauren Ploch “the State Department vetted 1,377 members of the Nigerian security forces—of that figure, almost 85% were cleared to receive assistance, with 15% were rejected or suspended.”

In Colombia, the government rejected the requirements of the Leahy laws before changing their minds and accepting the process. Now there reportedly are more high-ranking Colombian military officers behind bars than in any country other than Argentina, and Colombia is cited as a Leahy law success. In Nigeria, there have been no disciplinary actions against Nigerian military for scorched earth assaults on populations, and few high-ranking Nigerian military officers have been held accountable for human rights violations.

We are here today to examine the questions these facts raise, and our witnesses have been asked to walk us through the process, to tell us what works and what doesn't work and to suggest ways to make this process more effective.

In more than three decades of promoting human rights adherence in Congress, I have seen far too much brutality and indiscipline among military and security forces that are charged with establishing the peace and protecting their people. The Leahy laws are intended to prevent our Government from supporting such behavior, but if these laws are not implemented properly, they cannot achieve the goals for which they were created. No law is perfect, and we must never stop trying to perfect the laws we create—especially when they are meant to be both practical and aspirational.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE YMCA OF GREATER HOUSTON AND CHILDHOOD SWIM SAFETY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the three children who die every day in our country as a result of drowning and to recognize organizations, like the YMCA, that are working to give America's children the necessary skills to prevent these tragic accidents from happening.

Drowning is the leading cause of death nationally for children aged one to four and is the second leading cause of death for children aged five to nine. For children between five and nine, the drowning rate for African American and American Indian children is three times the rate of white American children. At ages 11 and 12, the disparity between black and white children grows even worse. Regardless of race or ethnicity, lower income populations disproportionately bear the burden of drowning.

For my hometown and state, the numbers are very sobering. In the Houston metropolitan

area, 22 children drowned last year. For the State of Texas, 82 children were victims of drowning in 2013 and 66 percent of all child-aged drowning victims in our state in 2012 were male.

The YMCA is one example of an organization that is changing statistics for children across the country. The YMCA is bringing swimming safety and drowning prevention programs to underserved communities throughout the U.S., including communities in Houston and Harris County. YMCAs partner with schools to bring kids to the Y for lessons and offer swimming lessons year around. I learned to swim at the M.D. Anderson YMCA in our congressional district.

I am proud that the YMCA of Greater Houston is one of 15 YMCAs across the country piloting a program to improve childhood swimming and drowning prevention. This commendable program is providing drowning prevention and water safety skills to underserved communities who would otherwise not have access to these lifesaving skills.

The YMCA of Greater Houston is one of 103 Y's providing additional scholarships to children in their communities that may not otherwise have access to swim lessons as part of a nationwide data collection project on effectiveness of skill instruction in all communities.

I would like to congratulate the YMCA of Greater Houston on serving the people of Houston and Harris County for over 100 years and on its great efforts to save the lives of all our children and I invite Members of this chamber to join them in educating parents and providing children the skills they need to swim safely and avoid harm.

REMEMBERING THE GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues of the ongoing genocide in Darfur, which began in 2003 and continues unabated. During that time more than 300,000 Darfuris have been murdered, countless numbers of women and children as young as 6 years of age have been brutally raped. Millions have been left homeless. The International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar Bashir for crimes against humanity and, in July 2010, issued a warrant for his arrest on charges of genocide.

The government of Sudan, however, has yet to turn him over, and since the issuance of the warrants, the country has seen increased violence. Furthermore, the government's forceful expulsion of humanitarian aid agencies from the country has further jeopardized conditions for many more thousands of displaced and marginalized civilians. Days, weeks, months, years pass and the people of Darfur are not closer to security, a just peace, or adequate humanitarian relief. The international community must do much more to help the people of Darfur.

RECOGNIZING JUAN ESPARZA LOERA

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Juan Esparza Loera as he receives the “Service Above Self” award presented by the Fresno Latino Rotary. Juan's dedication and commitment to reporting quality news to the community is something to be honored.

Juan was born in Chihuahua, Mexico, and immigrated with his parents to the United States when he was only three and a half years old. He moved to the San Joaquin Valley in 1969, and has lived there ever since. Upon his graduation from Delano High School, Juan continued his education at Bakersfield Junior College and then went on to California State University, Fresno, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Journalism.

Juan's career in journalism began in Bakersfield as the high school sports editor for the Bakersfield Californian. His career would then take him to Modesto, where he worked for the Modesto Bee. During his time at the Modesto Bee, Juan held multiple positions ranging from general assignment reporter to business editor. His hard work in Bakersfield and Modesto created opportunities for him in Fresno. In May 1990, Juan was hired as the Editor and Publisher for Vida en el Valle. Twenty-four years later, Juan still holds the position.

Over the years, Vida en el Valle has been recognized for national awards. In 1998, Vida en el Valle was awarded the General Excellence Award by the California Newspaper Publishers Association. It was the first time a bilingual newspaper had ever won the award. Since then, Vida en el Valle has earned more than 20 additional awards from the California Newspaper Publishers Association. In 2003, Juan was recognized by Hispanic Media 100 as one of the most influential Latino journalists in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize Mr. Juan Esparza Loera. The contributions he has made to our San Joaquin Valley deserve to be commended.

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS RELATING TO H.R. 4263

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following exchange of letters between the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure relating to H.R. 4263, the Social Media Working Group Act of 2014.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, July 7, 2014.

Hon. MICHAEL T. McCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write concerning H.R. 4263, the Social Media Working Group