

for her leadership as she has joined me on so many issues where we deal with women's health and women's safety, children's health, children's safety, including disabled children and people who cannot protect themselves.

Mr. Speaker, whether you live in Florida, Texas, Pennsylvania, or wherever you might be in this country, it is important for us to understand that the focus on children's safety in court matters is essential to the Nation's health and support for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished gentleman and the chairman of the committee, Chairman GOODLATTE, for allowing this to come forth at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Florida for yielding me this time.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me certainly thank Mr. SESSIONS, my colleague out of Texas, for his very important words and moving commentary. I thank Congressman RUTHERFORD for his service and commitment, and the other cosponsors of this legislation, because it really has more impact.

Let me conclude my remarks by acknowledging a tragedy in my district. As a hardworking mother was separating from her spouse, it had not yet gotten to the court, but it is evidence of what can happen. The remarks of the dad were, "Bring them over for me to see them one more time."

And even though the relationship between mom and dad was hostile, mom wanted to be cooperative, and brought them over and left them for a moment as she went to her small business.

The next call she got was the shrill of police and neighbors screaming, and his call to her, the parent's call, the father's call, and he said, "Now come over and see your two dead children, because I have killed them."

So this is constant throughout the Nation, and we need intervention and we need recognition of the tragedies that can happen.

So as I previously stated, I strongly support passage of H. Con. Res. 72. It is a sober acknowledgement of how family courts in the United States are failing to protect the very children they are sworn to protect in cases involving domestic violence, and obviously these cases have histories of domestic violence. But also as a legislative body, we have far more effective ways to deal with these problems. They can complement H. Con. Res. 72.

So I would like to, again, reinforce the bill that was introduced last July—this July, that I introduced, over 150 cosponsors, I believe. I introduced a robust bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act.

This VAWA reauthorization seeks to address the problem of domestic vio-

lence from a holistic perspective by attacking the problem from many different angles with resources, recognizing all the different components that are now before us. We need to reauthorize VAWA, not in any watered down fashion, and we need to do it in complement to H. Con. Res. 72. And if we hope to make any dent in this very serious problem and to protect women and children and men who are abused and victimized day in and day out, this is how we need to do it, pass bills like the concurrent resolution and also VAWA.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and join me in this bipartisan effort as well to pass VAWA.

As I previously stated, I strongly support passage of House Concurrent Resolution 72. It is a sober acknowledgement of how family courts in the United States are failing to protect the very children they are sworn to protect, in cases involving domestic violence.

But, as a legislative body, we have far more effective ways to deal with these problems than merely passing concurrent resolutions. Last July, I introduced a robust bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. This VAWA reauthorization seeks to address the problem of domestic violence from a holistic perspective, by attacking the problem from many different angles. We need to reauthorize VAWA—not in any watered-down fashion—if we hope to make any dent into this very serious problem and to protect women, children and men who are abused and victimized day in and day out.

I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 72.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank the gentlewoman for her comments and for her hard work on this resolution. I also want to thank Chairman SESSIONS for bringing this forward today.

I want to encourage all of my colleagues here to vote in the affirmative for H. Con. Res. 72.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 72, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

KERRIE OROZCO FIRST RESPONDERS FAMILY SUPPORT ACT

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6580) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for expedited naturalization processes for the alien spouses of first responders who die as a result of their employ-

ment, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6580

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Kerrie Orozco First Responders Family Support Act".

SEC. 2. NATURALIZATION FOR IMMEDIATE RELATIVES OF FIRST RESPONDERS.

Section 319 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1430) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(f) IMMEDIATE RELATIVES OF FIRST RESPONDERS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Any person who is the surviving spouse, child, or parent of a United States citizen, whose citizen spouse, parent, or child dies as a result of injury or disease incurred in or aggravated by employment as a first responder, and who, in the case of a surviving spouse, was living in marital union with the citizen spouse at the time of his death, may be naturalized upon compliance with all the requirements of this title, except that no prior residence or specified physical presence within the United States shall be required.

"(2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'first responder' means Federal, State, and local government fire, law enforcement, and emergency response personnel."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 6580, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON), my home State.

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD), our distinguished representative from Florida, my good friend, for yielding some time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6580, the Kerrie Orozco First Responders Act.

This legislation, named after a fallen Omaha police officer, Kerrie Orozco, is a first responders bill that will give our heroes peace of mind every day when they leave their home for work to keep us safe. This legislation is simple, common sense, and compassionate.

Under current law, the surviving family members of first responders who have pending immigration applications face delays in the naturalization process. This could weigh heavily on our

first responders because of the undue burden upon them as they protect our communities.

Should they be killed, would their family members who are not U.S. citizens lose their ability to remain in the country?

This legislation would allow the immediate relatives of first responders who die in the line of duty to continue to process their immigration application in a timely manner despite the death of their loved one.

We owe it to our first responders to ensure their family is taken care of should they pay the ultimate sacrifice of keeping our citizens safe. Supporting this bill will protect those who protect us and it will give them peace of mind.

This legislation will extend the same privileges to our first responders that are currently afforded to our military servicemembers. This bill honors our first responders, it values family.

This bill is for Hector Orozco and all of the widows and widowers of our fallen first responders. This bill tells our law enforcement officers, our firefighters that we have your back.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of H.R. 6580.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 6580, the Kerrie Orozco First Responders Family Support Act.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsor for introducing this bill.

The bill, as is made clear by its title, is a tribute to Ms. Orozco, a police officer in Omaha, Nebraska.

On May 20, 2015, after 7 years of service in the Omaha Police Department, Kerrie was fatally shot in the line of duty while serving a felony arrest warrant.

She was survived by her husband, Hector Orozco, and her two step-children, Natalie and Santiago.

H.R. 6580 gives tribute to the sacrifice made by Kerrie and her family by recognizing the sacrifices made by all first responders who are killed in the line of duty as well as their surviving family members.

The bill honors their sacrifice by speeding up the citizenship process for the surviving immigrant's spouses, children, and parents of slain first responders.

□ 2015

Specifically, the bill would waive certain physical resident requirements for surviving immediate family members who are already on the road to becoming citizens.

Current law requires such individuals to reside in the United States as lawful permanent residents for 5 years before becoming eligible to apply for naturalization. This bill would waive that 5-year requirement and, thus, allow surviving family members to naturalize more quickly. It is modeled on the Military Personnel Citizenship Processing Act, which became law in 2008

after receiving unanimous support in both Houses of Congress. That bill provides similar benefits to the surviving immigrant family members of U.S. armed services members who were killed in action.

H.R. 6580 simply recognizes that domestic first responders also serve this country at great sacrifice both to themselves and their families. This bill is the least we can do to recognize their service and their sacrifice.

I congratulate Representative BACON for introducing this bill and ensuring its vote on the floor. Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank Judiciary Committee Chairman BOB GOODLATTE and Ranking Member JERRY NADLER for their support of this important piece of legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6580, the Kerrie Orozco First Responders Family Support Act. This legislation is short, but it will have an immense impact on the lives of close family members of certain first responders who die as a result of injury and illness occurring in the line of duty.

The Immigration and Nationality Act currently requires that, in order to naturalize and become a United States citizen, a lawful permanent resident must reside continuously in the United States for 5 years prior to naturalization. For spouses, that residency requirement is 3 years. H.R. 6580 waives that residency requirement altogether for the surviving spouse, child, or parent of a Federal, State, or local first responder who dies as a result of injury or illness incurred during line of duty activities as a first responder.

There is precedent in immigration law for such a waiver. In fact, the language of H.R. 6580 is patterned on the current law, which waives the same residency requirements for the surviving spouse, child, or parent of a military servicemember killed while in Active-Duty service in the Armed Forces.

First responders routinely place their lives in peril to help those of us who are in need, and when they are killed or injured carrying out their duties, we owe their families a deep debt of gratitude. H.R. 6580 is a small price to pay in return for the sacrifice that first responders make every day.

The legislation was named after Kerrie Orozco, an Omaha, Nebraska, police officer, killed while serving an arrest warrant on May 20, 2015. At the time of Officer Orozco's death, her husband was in the process of becoming a U.S. citizen. H.R. 6580 will speed up that process and make sure other surviving immediate relatives in the same situation are afforded the same opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the work of the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) on this important piece of legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6580, the "Kerrie Orozco First Responders Family Support Act," which amends the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 to provide for expedited naturalization processes for the alien spouses of first responders who die because of their employment.

This act is named for Kerrie Orozco who died in the line of duty in May 2015, just a few weeks after giving birth to a premature infant.

Officer Kerrie Orozco was a seven-year veteran of the Omaha Police Department and a new mother.

As a member of the Metro Area Fugitive Task Force, she was conducting surveillance just before 1 p.m. that Wednesday, May 20, 2015, when the suspect being pursued fired at officers after being spotted.

She is remembered not only for her police work but also for her extensive involvement in community service.

She was active in coaching baseball and had been coaching since 2009 at the North Omaha Boys and Girls Club.

She volunteered with Special Olympics and was president of the Police Officer Ball to benefit Special Olympics in Nebraska.

Kerrie was a Girl Scout Leader, participated with Shop with a Cop, and assisted with the Latino Police Officers Easter Egg Hunt.

Shop With A Cop is an annual event where 50 children from the Open Door Mission shop for their families and for themselves with an officer at a few local Walmart stores in Omaha.

When she went to work on May 20, 2015, she did not know that she would not be returning home that night.

Her husband is still waiting for his U.S. Citizenship while he deals with the heartbreak of his wife's death.

For most immigrants, becoming a United States' citizen is the culmination of many years of hard work.

Being a citizen offers new opportunity to have a greater say and a stronger voice in determining our country's future.

There is room in our country for law-abiding individuals from all over the world to come and be a part of the goodness and greatness that the United States of America has to offer.

Our first responders put their lives on the line every time they enter the line of duty.

As the senior member of the House Committees on Judiciary and Homeland Security and Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations, I am humbled to call first responders my friends and also my protectors.

I am committed to working tirelessly to assure that they have full support of Congress in getting the resources and training they need to protect our communities but also to ensure the welfare of their families.

This legislation provides the same courtesy that is given to the families of men and women in uniform who are killed.

The burden on families that have lost a family member is cumbersome enough on its own.

By enacting this legislation, we can provide an uplifting moment in their period of grief and sorrow for this generation of spouses and hopefully ameliorating the situation of future spouses in similar circumstances.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to stand with me in the support of H.R. 6580.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6580, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for naturalization processes for the immediate relatives of first responders who die as a result of their employment, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECIPROCAL ACCESS TO TIBET ACT OF 2018

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1872) to promote access for United States officials, journalists, and other citizens to Tibetan areas of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1872

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Government of the People's Republic of China does not grant United States diplomats and other officials, journalists, and other citizens access to China on a basis that is reciprocal to the access that the Government of the United States grants Chinese diplomats and other officials, journalists, and citizens.

(2) The Government of China imposes greater restrictions on travel to Tibetan areas than to other areas of China.

(3) Officials of China have stated that Tibet is open to foreign visitors.

(4) The Government of China is promoting tourism in Tibetan areas, and at the Sixth Tibet Work Forum in August 2015, Premier Li Keqiang called for Tibet to build "major world tourism destinations".

(5) The Government of China requires foreigners to obtain permission from the Tibet Foreign and Overseas Affairs Office or from the Tibet Tourism Bureau to enter the Tibet Autonomous Region, a restriction that is not imposed on travel to any other provincial-level jurisdiction in China.

(6) The Department of State reports that—
(A) officials of the Government of the United States submitted 39 requests for diplomatic access to the Tibet Autonomous Region between May 2011 and July 2015, but only four were granted; and

(B) when such requests are granted, diplomatic personnel are closely supervised and given few opportunities to meet local residents not approved by authorities.

(7) The Government of China delayed United States consular access for more than 48 hours after an October 28, 2013, bus crash in the Tibet Autonomous Region, in which

three citizens of the United States died and more than a dozen others, all from Walnut, California, were injured, undermining the ability of the Government of the United States to provide consular services to the victims and their families, and failing to meet China's obligations under the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963 (21 UST 77).

(8) Following a 2015 earthquake that trapped dozens of citizens of the United States in the Tibet Autonomous Region, the United States Consulate General in Chengdu faced significant challenges in providing emergency consular assistance due to a lack of consular access.

(9) The Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 of the Department of State stated "With the exception of a few highly controlled trips, the Chinese government also denied multiple requests by foreign diplomats for permission to visit the TAR."

(10) Tibetan-Americans, attempting to visit their homeland, report having to undergo a discriminatory visa application process, different from what is typically required, at the Chinese embassy and consulates in the United States, and often find their requests to travel denied.

(11) The Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2016 of the Department of State stated "The few visits to the TAR by diplomats and journalists that were allowed were tightly controlled by local authorities."

(12) A September 2016 article in the Washington Post reported that "The Tibet Autonomous Region . . . is harder to visit as a journalist than North Korea."

(13) The Government of China has failed to respond positively to requests from the Government of the United States to open a consulate in Lhasa, Tibet Autonomous Region.

(14) The Foreign Correspondents Club of China reports that—

(A) 2008 rules prevent foreign reporters from visiting the Tibet Autonomous Region without prior permission from the Government of such Region;

(B) such permission has only rarely been granted; and

(C) although the 2008 rules allow journalists to travel freely in other parts of China, Tibetan areas outside such Region remain "effectively off-limits to foreign reporters".

(15) The Department of State reports that in addition to having to obtain permission to enter the Tibet Autonomous Region, foreign tourists—

(A) must be accompanied at all times by a government-designated tour guide;

(B) are rarely granted permission to enter the region by road;

(C) are largely barred from visiting around the March anniversary of a 1959 Tibetan uprising; and

(D) are banned from visiting the area where Larung Gar, the world's largest center for the study of Tibetan Buddhism, and the site of a large-scale campaign to expel students and demolish living quarters, is located.

(16) Foreign visitors also face restrictions in their ability to travel freely in Tibetan areas outside the Tibet Autonomous Region.

(17) The Government of the United States generally allows journalists and other citizens of China to travel freely within the United States. The Government of the United States requires diplomats from China to notify the Department of State of their travel plans, and in certain situations, the Government of the United States requires such diplomats to obtain approval from the Department of State before travel. However, where approval is required, it is almost always granted expeditiously.

(18) The United States regularly grants visas to Chinese diplomats and other officials, scholars, and others who travel to the United States to discuss, promote, and display the perspective of the Government of China on the situation in Tibetan areas, even as the Government of China restricts the ability of citizens of the United States to travel to Tibetan areas to gain their own perspective.

(19) Chinese diplomats based in the United States generally avail themselves of the freedom to travel to United States cities and lobby city councils, mayors, and governors to refrain from passing resolutions, issuing proclamations, or making statements of concern on Tibet.

(20) The Government of China characterizes statements made by officials of the United States about the situation in Tibetan areas as inappropriate interference in the internal affairs of China.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(2) TIBETAN AREAS.—The term "Tibetan areas" includes—

(A) the Tibet Autonomous Region; and

(B) the areas that the Chinese Government designates as Tibetan Autonomous, as follows:

(i) Kanlho (Gannan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, and Pari (Tianzhu) Tibetan Autonomous County located in Gansu Province.

(ii) Golog (Guoluo) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Malho (Huangnan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Tsojang (Haibei) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Tsoilho (Hainan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Tsonub (Haixi) Mongolian and Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, and Yulshul (Yushu) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, located in Qinghai Province.

(iii) Garze (Ganzi) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Ngawa (Aba) Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, and Muli (Mili) Tibetan Autonomous County, located in Sichuan Province.

(iv) Dechen (Diqing) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, located in Yunnan Province.

SEC. 4. ANNUAL REPORT ON ACCESS TO TIBETAN AREAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the following five years, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees, and make available to the public on the website of the Department of State, a report that includes an assessment of the level of access Chinese authorities granted diplomats and other officials, journalists, and tourists from the United States to Tibetan areas, including—

(1) a comparison with the level of access granted to other areas of China;

(2) a comparison between the levels of access granted to Tibetan and non-Tibetan areas in relevant provinces;

(3) a comparison of the level of access in the reporting year and the previous reporting year; and

(4) a description of the required permits and other measures that impede the freedom to travel in Tibetan areas.

(b) CONSOLIDATION.—After the issuance of the first report required by subsection (a),