

The Congressional Resolution to End Violence Against Children Globally (H. Res. 230/ S. Res. 112) recognizes the harmful impacts of violence and calls upon Congress to develop and implement a coordinated strategy based on proven practices. The resolution highlights the INSPIRE framework—seven key evidence-based strategies to end violence against children. INSPIRE, developed in collaboration with the CDC, USAID, and others, provides common metrics and indicators which can measure and monitor progress.

Over the years, the U.S. Government has demonstrated its commitment to the health and well-being of children. Providing safety and security for vulnerable children supports U.S. efforts to address violence and mitigate its impacts, therein bolstering other anti-poverty international development efforts, including education, health, and economic well-being. Building upon the work of the U.S. Government's Strategy on Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity, passage of H. Res. 230 would enhance existing government efforts to address pervasive violence against children.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of H. Res. 230. We urge you to support these one billion children and support passage of this important resolution.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics, ChildFund International, Futures Without Violence, Save the Children, UNICEF USA, World Vision, Bethany Christian Services, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Feed the Children, Food for the Hungry, Global Campaign for Education-US, GlobalPartnersUnited, Islamic Relief USA, RESULTS, RISE Institute, SPOON Foundation.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, even though we have made great strides in identifying and addressing much of the violence that affects children and young people around the world, the sad reality is that violence against children is still pandemic.

Every 5 minutes, a child dies of violence. Half of all children—1 billion—are victims of violence. Homicide is among the top causes of death in adolescents.

That is not just a shame, Mr. Speaker. That is absolutely unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, 80 percent of those homicide victims are boys, and nearly one in five girls is sexually abused at least once in her life.

Mr. Speaker, sadly, violence can happen anywhere—in communities, in schools, in the home, in emergency and crisis situations, in churches, on the streets, online, and on the phone. It happens in the most idyllic-seeming neighborhood and in the midst of conflict and war.

Violence takes many forms: human trafficking, child marriage, child labor, murder, assault, beatings, psychological abuse, and online exploitation. And too much of the violence is based on gender.

We know that children who are exposed to violence at a very young age can be affected for life. Violence can impair brain development. It could damage the circulatory and immune systems.

Such violence can cause lifelong risks of being vulnerable to disease, ill-

ness, and disabilities. It can harm the ability to reproduce and engage in a full sexual life. It can severely affect the ability of a child to live up to their full potential.

Luckily, nations, healthcare providers, teachers, communities, and nongovernmental groups have come together to end violence against children. They have identified and agreed upon some solutions to ending violence against children.

We in this House should be proud that the CDC, USAID, World Health Organization, and others have developed what is called the INSPIRE package, which is a set of strategies to reduce and end violence against children everywhere.

So many of us in this Chamber are parents. I am the father of a son and a daughter. I know how we worry about our children's safety and well-being. This is true of all families everywhere. In many ways, each and every child is our child. We need to be concerned about their vulnerability, about their safety, about their care, and about their protection.

This resolution announces to the world that we are aware; that we do care; and, more importantly, that we want our health and aid agencies to take action.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution, and I thank my colleagues for their support.

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I again thank my colleagues for their hard work on this important cause.

The exploitation, violence, and abuse experienced by so many of the world's most vulnerable children cannot be tolerated. This resolution raises awareness of this horrific reality and urges the United States Government to develop and coordinate evidence-based strategies to address this issue.

The United States must continue to use its influence on the global stage to end violence against children wherever it exists.

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank Congressman MCGOVERN for his hard work on this measure. He has been a tireless advocate for children and protecting children around the world.

American leadership on this issue is absolutely vital. Ensuring the safety of our children today safeguards the future of our communities tomorrow.

Protecting children across the world must be an American foreign policy priority. We owe it to our younger generations everywhere the best shot possible at a full, healthy, and prosperous life.

Mr. Speaker, this is an excellent measure. I am pleased to be a cosponsor, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 230, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1330

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia) at 1 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and:

Agree to H. Res. 387, and pass

H.R. 4508.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

CONDEMNING CONTINUED VIOLENCE AGAINST CIVILIANS BY ARMED GROUPS IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 387) condemning continued violence against civilians by armed groups in the Central African Republic and supporting efforts to achieve a lasting political solution to the conflict, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 378, nays 7, not voting 44, as follows: