

learners. While they may work for some children, other children spend years isolated in classes that do little to prepare them for future success.

I am concerned that the current federal Bilingual Education Act requires 75 percent of available funds to be used for this form of instruction. My bill would change all of this. First, it would turn the Bilingual Education Act into a formula grant to the States and allow the States to determine the method of instruction to be used by eligible entities receiving grant awards.

Of equal importance, this legislation would require that a parent must sign a consent form prior to the time a child is placed in a program using native language instruction. We are hearing more and more reports that schools are ignoring the wishes of parents regarding the participation of their children in bilingual education classes. For example, it took Erika Velasquez two years to have her son, who is fluent in both English and Spanish, removed from a class for Spanish speakers. While intentions may have been good, his elementary school was preventing her son, Tony, from mainstreaming into a regular classroom and confusing him as to what language he was to be using.

Mr. Speaker, the success of every new wave of immigrants coming to the United States in search of the American dream has always been dependent on several factors: their willingness to work hard; their ability to mainstream into society; and, most importantly, their ability to learn the English language.

It is generally easier to help adult learners because they have already completed their basic education and only need to learn English to continue their schooling or obtain a job. For children, it is a different story. If they come to our country when they are ready to enter school, they have twelve years of education before them. For these children, much of their ability to succeed in school is dependent on their ability to read, write, speak, and think in English. However, as I mentioned earlier, many children are not learning English.

Are these children being taught English? Yes, but, unfortunately, English language instruction is limited and they end up spending far too many years in classes which preserve their native language to the detriment of learning English. This prevents them from mainstreaming into society, from communicating with their peers and from learning the skills they need to be successful once they leave school.

Proponents of bilingual education will claim this form of instruction is necessary to keep children current in their other academic classes while learning English so they don't fall too far behind and end up dropping out. However, statistics reveal that nationally over one-third of Hispanic students do not complete high school. This figure jumps to 50 percent in my own State of California. Simply, these programs are failing to give children the skills they need to stay in school and succeed. And our children deserve better.

The parents of these children did not bring them to our country to be relegated to low paying jobs. They brought them here to have the same opportunity for success as all other children. They want for their children the opportunity for them to become doctors, lawyers, teachers or whatever else they want to be.

It is my view that the major focus of any class for limited English speaking children should be the attainment of the English language skills they need to mainstream into regular classrooms as soon as possible. While bilingual education may work for some children, it has not proven itself to be the most effective solution for all children.

It is time that we allow States and local schools and parents the right to select the method of English language instruction most appropriate for their children. This legislation will accomplish this goal.

Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth and Families, I intend to make this legislation a priority. I urge my colleagues to support my bill—the English Language Fluency Act—and insure that all English language learners obtain the skills they need to succeed.

H.R. 3636, THE AFRICA SEEDS OF HOPE ACT OF 1998

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, today, Congressman BEREUTER and I are introducing in the House legislation to advance agricultural and rural development in Africa.

As President Clinton continues his historic trip through Africa, it is especially fitting that this legislation be introduced, because it will help make good on the promise of closer ties between the United States and the people of Africa.

Rural and agricultural markets are vital to African trade and economic development. If we are serious about improving the economic position of Africa in global markets, we must encourage women and small-scale farmers and entrepreneurs to be the engine of growth. I commend my friend, DOUG BEREUTER, for his hard-work and leadership on this legislation, which takes an important step forward in encouraging and strengthening those vital resources.

WHY IT MATTERS

While the Congress and the Administration are right to focus on African trade and investment, many African countries are not yet ready to graduate from aid recipient to trading partner. The poorest countries in Africa still need substantial foreign assistance and debt relief to accomplish things that increased trade and investment will not address.

Chief among these is combating hunger.

Over the last 30 years, the number of undernourished people in Africa has more than doubled, to around 215 million today.

Hunger causes profound—and needless—human suffering. It also undermines the development of human and physical capital necessary to fuel economic development and break the cycle of poverty.

The spread of democracy, the availability of advanced agricultural technology, and the emergence of robust voluntary and civic organizations throughout Africa present us, today, with an opportunity to significantly reduce hunger and poverty in Africa. By carefully targeting U.S. assistance on agriculture and rural development, H.R. 3636 will allow us to harness this opportunity.

WHAT IT DOES

H.R. 3636 will advance rural and agricultural development in Africa by directing the Administration to place a higher priority on these areas in its assistance policy toward Africa, and by improving existing programs to combat hunger and ensure that Africa's food supply is secure.

This bill does not call for increased U.S. spending although I believe the Congress should support higher aid levels for Africa. By carefully targeting aid programs already in place, and by fine-tuning the way they are administered, this bill will allow the U.S. to get the most out of its development programs.

RURAL FINANCE

First, this bill would take several steps to increase U.S. support for rural finance in Africa, by requiring U.S. AID to:

Develop a micro-enterprise strategy for Africa;

Place a high-priority on providing credit and micro-credit to small-scale farmers—especially women, who produce up to 80 percent of the total food supply in Africa; and

Support producer marketing associations and enhance the capacity and expertise of African business associations by: Using available assistance programs; cooperating with U.S. and local NGOs; and facilitating partnerships between U.S. and African businesses and cooperatives.

This bill also urges U.S. support for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which provides loans for famine relief. And, it encourages OPIC to work with U.S. AID to support agricultural and rural development in sub-Saharan Africa through available funds, loans and insurance.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

Second, this bill would make U.S. efforts in Africa more effective by increasing program coordination.

It directs AID and the Department of Agriculture to develop a plan for coordinating international and national agricultural centers, research, and extension efforts with two goals in mind: To ensure that research responds to the needs of African farmers; and to support farmers' self-reliance by specifically targeting their agricultural skills.

The bill also expresses the sense of Congress that U.S. AID devote increased resources and staff to agriculture and rural development.

Well-coordinated policies that are more responsive to the needs of the people we are trying to assist will maximize the impact of U.S. assistance without increasing funding levels.

FOOD SECURITY

Third, this bill will bolster the existing Africa Food Security Initiative, which supplies government-to-government food aid to combat hunger and promote economic development.

Currently, this Initiative receives \$31 million in funding from AID. To maximize the efficiency of current programs, H.R. 3636 directs AID to: Target its resources where they are most needed—on programs and projects that focus on infants, young children, women, and the rural poor; consult with and consider the views of the people these programs are trying to help; and ensure that programs are conducted by U.S. and African NGOs, to increase accountability and long-term sustainability.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

Finally, this bill will reform the Food Security Commodity Reserve to increase its long-term

viability. The Reserve was created to meet urgent humanitarian food needs in developing countries. Commodities in the Reserve—such as wheat, corn, sorghum, and rice—can be released when domestic supplies are tight, or to meet unanticipated emergency needs in developing countries.

The problem with the Reserve today is the manner in which it is replenished. When commodities are released, the Commodity Credit Corporation, which administers the Reserve, is reimbursed for the value of the commodities from PL-480 food assistance program funds. These funds cannot be used to replenish the Reserve.

The Reserve can only be replenished either with an appropriation, or by designating Commodity Credit stocks for the Reserve. Neither of these is a viable option—Congress has never made an appropriation to replenish the Reserve, and the Commodity Credit Corporation does not hold excess stock.

This bill would convert the Reserve into the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust, which could hold as a commodity either food, or an equivalent amount in funds. It creates two alternative mechanisms for replenishing the Reserve, in addition to the current option of replenishing by appropriation.

First, the bill gives the Secretary of Agriculture authority to hold PL-480 funds—used to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation—as an asset of the Trust. This would allow the Reserve to buy commodities when domestic market prices are favorable.

Second, the Trust could be replenished from unexpended balances at the end of the fiscal year—from both the PL-480 account and the Commodity Credit account. Commodity Credit balances that are already obligated would not be available nor would balances be drawn down from export promotion programs.

Allowing the Reserve to be replenished from these additional sources permits the Reserve to operate more efficiently and increases our ability to respond to humanitarian crises.

WHO SUPPORTS IT

This bill is the result of bipartisan cooperation. Humanitarian groups—such as Bread for the World and the Coalition for Food Aid—must be commended for their serious commitment and valuable suggestions to this bill. We have also consulted with the Administration on the bill. These efforts have been undertaken to ensure that this bill reaches its goal of advancing agricultural and rural development and reducing famine.

I look forward to continuing to work on this bill with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and I intend to work with the Administration to try to accommodate their concerns as we move forward.

CONCLUSION

Without increasing U.S. spending, this bill will maximize our current efforts to protect and develop the vital human and physical resources that are necessary to drive economic prosperity in Africa. By making U.S. programs more effective and sustainable, it will ensure that the United States continues to be constructively engaged with the people of Africa.

H.R. 3636 will bring Congress and the Administration closer to our shared goal of creating a U.S. policy toward Africa that is no longer dominated by crises, but that is driven by a long-term commitment to development and economic partnership.

PREVENTING CONVEYANCE OF VETERANS MEMORIALS TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce a bill that would preserve the sacred monuments to our fallen soldiers. This legislation would prevent the conveyance of any veterans memorial, or any part of any memorial, to a foreign government without the express consent of Congress. This has become an issue in recent months with the Bells of Balangiga, part of a veterans memorial at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in my home State of Wyoming. I strongly believe we should protect this and every other monument to the sacrifice made by our Armed Forces.

Since the founding of our Republic over 200 years ago, our brave soldiers and sailors have been called upon to defend our liberties and preserve the vital national security interests of the United States. Many have given their lives in the line of duty.

Many monuments dedicated to our veterans commemorate events that occurred abroad. As time passes, the memory of those who fought so gallantly in the service of our nation often fades. I believe it is absolutely essential to preserve the memory of our veterans who served their country when they were called.

In an attempt to satisfy a request from the Philippine Government, there is a movement afoot to return the bells from the monument at F.E. Warren AFB. The Philippine Government would like the bells in time for its centennial celebration of independence from Spain. However, the bells are completely unrelated to the Spanish-American War.

The bells, once used to call the faithful to worship were converted to instruments of war in 1901 when they were used to call insurgents to massacre unsuspecting American soldiers stationed in Balangiga, a village in the Philippines. Fifty-four Americans died in that attack. The twenty survivors of that brutal attack brought the bells back to Fort D.A. Russell, now F.E. Warren Air Force Base, as a memorial to their fallen comrades.

When I harbor no malice towards the people of the Philippines, I believe the United States has an obligation to protect the memory of those who fought and died for their country. The Bells of Balangiga should not be simply dealt away in the conduct of foreign policy. This war memorial represents the blood and sweat invested by America to bring about an independent Philippines. I hope my colleagues will join me in prohibiting the conveyance of the Bells of Balangiga or any other veterans monument to a foreign government.

THE OLDER WOMEN'S PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the Hargraves had nine children, 23 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. Helen

Hargrave was 71, her husband, 83. Last Memorial Day, Charles Hargrave became violently angry. He pushed her to the ground, then shot and killed her before turning the gun on himself. Unfortunately, Helen Hargrave is not alone.

Older people are victimized by different types of abuse, including psychological, financial, physical abuse and neglect. And there is a significant population of older people who are abused by adult children or care givers. The number of reports of elder abuse in the United States increased by 150% between 1986 and 1996. Further, of the more than one million people aged 65 and over who are victims of abuse each year, at least two-thirds are women. And older women report more serious injuries than male victims of elder abuse.

These figures can no longer be ignored, these women can no longer be overlooked. The time has come to effectively and comprehensively address the issue of violence against older people. We must provide professionals with the skills needed to identify the problem, support for those who are too frightened or demoralized to ask for help, and protection for those who are vulnerable.

In an effort to confront this complex issue, Congressman MIKE CASTLE and I have introduced the "Older Women's Protection from Violence Act of 1998." This legislation will help protect older people from elder abuse, including domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as institutional and community violence. This legislation will also encourage existing outreach efforts and other services to better assist older people victimized by such crimes.

Older women often experience such violence differently than their younger counterparts. For example, it is more difficult for an older woman to do something about an abusive relationship. She has fewer options than a younger woman, and usually is more dependent on her husband's medical coverage as well as his income. And like many women her age, she is unlikely to have a career or pension of her own on which to rely. Older women have reported being pushed, hit, and even shoved down flights of stairs, suffering fractures, dislocated joints, and deep muscle bruises that take weeks to heal. Further, domestic violence can be exacerbated by age-related conditions or circumstances, including retirement, failing health, financial pressures, and changing patterns of dependency in relationships.

Several potential scenarios of older abused women exist. Some women have been in violent relationships for 30, 40, even 50 years. Others are starting new relationships following a divorce or the death of spouse, while some older battered women have been in non-violent relationships for many years with abuse starting later in life.

Experts have found that service providers in the field of domestic violence often lack critical experience and skills in working with elderly clients. Most shelters for abused women are not equipped to deal with older women who may have physical limitations or health problems. Similarly, service providers in the field of elder abuse have also had difficulties in working with older battered women because their approaches often do not address the root causes of such violence.

Some of the key issues addressed in the "Older Women's Protection from Violence Act" include: domestic violence services and outreach programs to address the specific needs