

History will long remember what we do here today. These may be the most significant votes that we ever cast. They may be the votes by which many of us are remembered, and they will likely define our own individual legacies as well as the President's. I urge my colleagues to bear that in mind when they vote today.

IN MEMORY OF CHRISTINA  
WILLIAMS

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart and profound sadness. I am overcome by the emotions I feel as both a father and a Member of Congress.

On June 12, 1998, Christina Williams disappeared from her California neighborhood. Now seven months of waiting and worry have come to a sad end. This weekend we will bury Christina.

Our community knows now that what should have been a perfectly innocent, completely safe activity for a 13-year-old—walking the family dog—turned into something so horrible, so unimaginable, that we tremble to think of the fate that Christina met.

The coming weeks and continuing investigation will provide some answers. But we must ask greater ones.

Each and every one of us must ask what we can do to make this world a safer place for children. As an elected official, I know there are limits to what the law can do and the tragedies it can prevent. But I vow before you today that I will do all I can as a Congressman, a citizen and as a parent.

One of my first tasks is to thank the countless volunteers who have come to the aid of Christina's family during this tremendously painful ordeal. My heart is with the friends, relatives, community members and law enforcement officials who now face this tragedy after such dedication.

Yet our greater responsibility remains. We must join Christina's parents, Alice and Michael, and the Williams family in the great challenge that lies before them. Those who loved Christina have vowed to make her memory a call to action. To turn their anger and pain into a mission to make our country a safe place to raise loved, secure children.

My fellow Members of Congress, you must pledge that our federal government will do everything in its legislative and fiscal powers to bring a halt to crimes against children, especially those whose whereabouts are still unknown. Only then will every parent and every child live in a world made safer by Christina's ordeal.

To all watching us today, I ask for your continued prayers for the Williamses and the extended family that is the Central Coast of California. And I ask you to join us, when it is time to move from the mourning and grief, in the challenge that lies before us.

## CRIME STOPPERS RESOLUTIONS

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution recognizing the success of Crime Stoppers worldwide.

Originally beginning in Albuquerque, New Mexico 23 years ago, today there are over 1,000 Crime Stoppers chapters throughout the world. Crime Stoppers International was established to support a worldwide network of Crime Stoppers programs. It provides a forum for leadership and training as well as fosters cooperation and information exchange between local Crime Stoppers programs across the globe.

Crime Stoppers is based on the principle that "someone other than the criminal has information that can solve a crime." Crime Stoppers combats the three major problems faced by law enforcement in generating that information: fear of reprisal, an attitude of apathy, and reluctance to get involved. By offering anonymity to people who provide information and by paying rewards Crime Stoppers combats these problems leading to arrest of the criminal.

This formula has resulted in a commendable record of success. Crime Stoppers programs worldwide have solved over half a million crimes and recovered over 3 billion dollars worth of stolen property and narcotics.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the success of Crime Stoppers and applaud Crime Stoppers International in its work to bring Crime Stoppers chapters worldwide together to fight crime.

## THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT OF 1999

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, every year nearly 1.5 million women are the victims of domestic violence. Today I am proud to introduce the Violence Against Women Act of 1999. I am joined by Congresswomen CONSTANCE A. MORELLA and LUCILLE ROYBAL-AL-LARD, along with 89 other original co-sponsors. Together, we take the first step that will make America safer for women.

Nearly 5 years ago, Congress passed the original Violence Against Women Act. In the original legislation, funding was provided for battered women's shelters and rape crisis centers as well as establishing a domestic violence hotline. Now we must work to continue those commitments.

I am hopeful for passage of this legislation in the 106th Congress. Last year, significant portions of this legislation were unanimously agreed to by the House of Representatives as an amendment to the Child Protection and Sexual Predators Punishment Act of 1998. I feel confident that this Congress can see fit to not only follow that lead, but do even more for victims of sexual abuse, domestic violence and rape.

One of the key titles of this landmark legislation is Violence Against Women and the

Workplace. This section establishes a grant for a national clearinghouse and resource center to provide information and assistance to employers and labor organizations in their efforts to develop and implement responses to assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Also found in this section is a tax credit for businesses implementing workplace safety programs to combat violence against women as well as establishing Victim's Employment Rights which prohibits employers from taking adverse job actions against an employee because they are the victim of violent crime.

The legislation makes important strides in improving the lives of not only women, but children as well. Title II, Limiting the Effects of Violence on Children, provides grants to create safe havens for children of victims of domestic violence. Children who witness domestic violence are at a high risk of anxiety and depression, and exhibit more aggressive, anti-social, inhibited and fearful behaviors. This title helps to ensure that children are protected from the effects of witnessing acts of domestic violence. Also, this title will provide funds to train child welfare workers to recognize the signs of domestic violence and sexual assault in the home.

Title III of VAWA '99 works to prevent sexual assault against women. It establishes a National Resource Center on Sexual Assault as well as increases funds for rape prevention and education. This title also includes the language of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act which amends federal hate crimes legislation to permit federal prosecution for bias crimes based on gender, sexual orientation, or disability. Furthermore, language concerning the prevention of custodial sexual assault by correctional staff will make sexual conduct between all prison custodial staff and inmates a federal crime and establish measures to ensure that those convicted of such crimes are prevented from becoming correctional staff in the future.

The Violence Against Women Act of 1999 includes other important provisions such as the rescheduling and classification of date-rape drugs; establishing grants for improved legal advocacy and representation of victims of sexual violence; and provisions to protect battered immigrant women.

Nearly one in every three adult women experience at least one physical assault by a partner during adulthood. I urge my colleagues to join me in the fight to protect women from sexual abuse and violence. I encourage all Members to become a co-sponsor of this legislation and work towards passage of the Violence Against Women Act of 1999.

## THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT OF 1999

SECTION BY SECTION JANUARY 1999

### TITLE I.—Continuing the Commitment of the Violence Against Women Act

Subtitle A. Law Enforcement and Prosecution Grants to Combat Violence Against Women—reauthorizes and amends STOP grants to increase funds and to ensure that domestic violence and sexual assault advocates are involved in planning and implementation of programs; proposes new formula—35% to victim services, 20% each to prosecution and law enforcement, 10% to state courts, and 15% discretionary with language to ensure that there will be no harm to existing programs.

Subtitle B. National Domestic Violence Hotline—reauthorizes funding for the National Domestic Violence Hotline; includes