

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 59) expressing the sense of Congress regarding the establishment of National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 59

Whereas more than 1,000,000 children were abused or neglected in the United States during the most recent year for which Government data is available regarding child abuse and neglect;

Whereas more than 3 children die from abuse or neglect each day in the United States;

Whereas, in 1998, 37.9 percent of all fatalities of children under the age of 1 were caused by child abuse or neglect, and 77.5 percent of all fatalities of children under the age of 5 were caused by child abuse or neglect;

Whereas head trauma, including the trauma known as shaken baby syndrome, is the leading cause of death of abused children;

Whereas shaken baby syndrome is the loss of vision, brain damage, paralysis, seizures, or death that is caused by severely or violently shaking a baby;

Whereas an estimated 3,000 babies, usually younger than 1 year of age, are diagnosed with shaken baby syndrome every year, with thousands more misdiagnosed or undetected;

Whereas shaken baby syndrome often results in permanent, irreparable brain damage or death;

Whereas the medical costs associated with caring for a baby suffering from shaken baby syndrome often exceed \$1,000,000 in the first few years of the life of the baby;

Whereas the most effective method for ending the occurrence of shaken baby syndrome is to prevent the abuse which causes it;

Whereas educational and prevention programs regarding shaken baby syndrome may prevent enormous medical costs and unquantifiable grief at minimal cost;

Whereas programs to prevent shaken baby syndrome have been shown to raise awareness and provide critically important information about shaken baby syndrome to parents, caregivers, day care workers, child protection employees, law enforcement personnel, health care professionals, and legal representatives;

Whereas programs and techniques to prevent child abuse and shaken baby syndrome are supported by the Shaken Baby Alliance, Children's Defense Fund, National Children's Alliance, American Humane Association, Prevent Child Abuse America, National Ex-

change Club Foundation, Child Welfare League of America, National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions, Center for Child Protection and Family Support, Inc., American Academy of Pediatrics, and American Medical Association; and

Whereas increased awareness of shaken baby syndrome and of the techniques to prevent it would help end the abuse that causes shaken baby syndrome: Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) strongly supports efforts to protect children from abuse and neglect; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to educate themselves regarding shaken baby syndrome and the techniques to prevent it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 59, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have the House consider House Concurrent Resolution 59, legislation introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON), my esteemed colleague. This resolution expresses the sense of Congress regarding the prevention of shaken baby syndrome. Shaken baby syndrome is a medical term used to describe the violent shaking and resulting injury sustained from shaking a young child. Often there are no external signs of injury to a baby or young child's body, but there is injury inside, particularly in the head or behind the eyes. The term was first discussed in medical literature in 1972, but knowledge about the syndrome continues to develop today.

Shaken baby syndrome can occur when children are violently shaken, either as part of a pattern of abuse, or simply because an adult or young caretaker has momentarily succumbed to the challenges of responding to a crying baby. Violent shaking is especially dangerous to infants and young children because their neck muscles are underdeveloped, and their brain tissue is exceptionally fragile. Their small size further adds to the risk of injury. Vigorous shaking repeatedly pitches the brain in different directions.

Shaken baby syndrome can have disastrous consequences for the victim, the family, and society in total. If the child survives the syndrome, medical bills can be enormous. The victim may require lifelong care for injuries such as mental retardation and cerebral palsy. The child may even require in-

stitutionalization or other types of long-term care.

Madam Speaker, this resolution expresses Congress' support to protect children from abuse and neglect. I encourage all Members to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of this resolution, a very important resolution which seeks to protect the most innocent among us, children; children who are a few days to 5 years old. These children often need protection from parents and caregivers who shake their babies beyond control. Shaken baby syndrome is caused by vigorous shaking of an infant or young child by the arms, legs, chest or shoulders. Forceful shaking will result in brain damage, leading to mental retardation, speech and learning disabilities, paralysis, seizures, hearing loss and even deafness. It may cause bleeding around the brain and eyes, resulting in blindness.

An estimated 50,000 cases of shaken baby syndrome occur each year. One shaken baby in four dies as a result of this abuse. Some studies estimate that 15 percent of children's deaths are due to battering or shaking. The average victim is 6 to 8 months old.

Madam Speaker, we ask ourselves why babies are being shaken, and how can this resolution help. Crying is the most common trigger for shaking a baby. The normal crying infant spends 2 to 3 hours each day crying. Crying becomes particularly problematic during the 6-week to 4-month age bracket, an age period that coincides with the peak incidence of shaken baby syndrome.

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The shaking of the infant is often repeated because the infant stops crying but only because the infant has been injured by the shaking. Shaking often occurs when a frustrated caregiver loses control with an inconsolable crying baby. Parents and caregivers must be made aware of how to deal with a crying infant and that shaking an infant is abusive and criminal. By making Americans more aware of shaken baby syndrome, we can save more of America's children. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and help save the babies.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON).

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Speaker, I rise today as the proud sponsor of this legislation. This bill expresses the sense that Congress strongly supports shaken

baby syndrome prevention and urges all Americans to educate themselves about shaken baby syndrome and the techniques to prevent it.

First I would like to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, for his assistance in bringing this bill to the floor and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) for managing the bill on the floor. I would also like to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the majority whip, for his cosponsorship and his dedication to child advocacy. Also supporting this cause are the Shaken Baby Alliance, the Children's Defense Fund, the National Children's Alliance as well as many other children and family organizations.

This cause was presented to me by one of my constituents, Joyce Edson. Joyce's son, James, was shaken by his licensed child care provider between March and April of 1998. As a result, James was sent to the emergency room with a skull fracture, subdural hematoma, bilateral retinal hemorrhages and a broken right femur. All of this and he was only 5 months old. While James survived this tragic period, he unfortunately has experienced periodic seizures up to 1 year after the abuse. James is still currently under the continual care of a pediatric neurologist and an ophthalmologist. The Edson family will not know about learning disabilities or behavioral problems until he enters a more structured environment such as kindergarten or the first grade.

Madam Speaker, many other children are not as lucky as James. Each day, more than three children in the United States die from abuse and neglect. Furthermore, over 3,000 babies under the age of 1 are diagnosed with shaken baby syndrome annually while thousands more are misdiagnosed or go completely undetected. Madam Speaker, it saddens me that this situation even exists. However, I am hopeful with this resolution, Congress can increase the knowledge of and ultimately prevent this dreadful occurrence.

Therefore, I urge all my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 59.

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the majority whip.

Mr. DELAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support this resolution which demonstrates the importance of National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week. I also want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) for bringing this issue to the House's attention during the month that President Bush has proclaimed as National Child Abuse Prevention Month and also thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) for bringing it to the floor. It is my hope that the facts and consequences of abuse will create a national consensus that underscores the importance of prevention.

This issue requires that we answer several fundamental questions. First, what do we know about children who are abused? Second, who are the abusers? Third, what do we know about the way abuse hurts children and its attendant costs to society? And, finally, what have we learned about preventing child abuse?

Let us begin with abused children. The years before a child's 5th birthday are the most dangerous age for children in the United States. That is because more than three-quarters of the children who die from abuse are preschoolers. We know that the leading cause of death among infants is head trauma. It most often happens when abusers violently shake a baby.

Now, let us talk about the perpetrators. Nearly 9 out of every 10 perpetrators are parents. Sadly, the most dangerous place for a child to be is in a home with parents or those entrusted with their care when those people intend to abuse children.

Next, we need to consider how abuse impacts children and ponder the associated costs to society. The victims of child abuse suffer in many ways. Some die. Other kids suffer brain damage. Many are haunted through life by a familiar pattern of debilitating injuries. For the young victims of shaken baby syndrome, approximately 15 to 30 percent die while the rest of these children suffer from disabilities that last their whole lives. Of the few SBS victims who escape without physical injuries, many are destined to suffer more abuse from the people who care for them. We find a consistent pattern of symptoms among abused children: school failure, feelings of worthlessness, and the aggressive behavior that too often culminates in criminal activity.

It is estimated that each child abuse case costs society \$2,500 initially. And that expense only covers the short-term costs of abuse, including the initial investigation and the short-term placement of the child in a safe home. All told, this costs \$3 billion every year. When a child is hospitalized or placed in foster care, the costs soar higher.

Finally, let us talk about our ability to prevent child abuse. We know that it is very difficult to prevent very young children from being abused by their parents. Half of the children killed by abusers are from families who have never been investigated. Even among cases that are under active investigation, abused children are left at risk in dangerous homes. An unpopular body of evidence warns us that every abusive family cannot be sufficiently changed to protect every child. But that does not mean that we ought to abandon the goal of protecting every child. Prevention is worth the risk. It is worth it even if some programs fail. Prevention is worth it because we may still be able to save additional lives through education, counseling, and home visits by specially trained nurses.

Preventing child abuse is a pro-life policy. Some programs do cut child

abuse rates. These programs should be supported across our society by Federal, State and local governments as well as private and faith-based organizations. Only by combining our prayers and efforts will we protect every possible young life. That goal is worthy of our full commitment.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I reiterate my strong support for this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

As the parent of two young children, I especially commend and appreciate the efforts of the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) for introducing this important resolution and for his efforts to bring it to the floor to raise the awareness of the public of the need to protect our children.

Most of the time, shaken baby syndrome occurs because a parent or caretaker is frustrated or angry with the child. Other times children become victims when a parent or caretaker, not realizing how seriously this behavior can harm, throws a child into the air vigorously or plays too roughly or hits an infant too hard on the back. Anyone who takes care of a baby or small child, parents, older siblings, baby-sitters, child care professionals, grandparents and others, should be reminded to never shake babies or small children. There are organizations in each of our communities that can provide help to parents whose patience has been strained by the burden of caring for an infant who cries continually or who might need more help with parenting or coping skills.

I want to add my words of thanks to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH), the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), the committee and subcommittee chairmen, and ranking members for working expeditiously to bring this important resolution to the floor. I urge all Members to lend their support to this resolution which seeks to protect our Nation's most precious resource and our Nation's most innocent citizens, our children.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 59, which expresses the sense of Congress that a National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week should be established.

As a cosponsor of this resolution, I want to bring attention to a problem that is often overlooked: Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS). This issue was brought to my attention by one of my constituents, Janet Goree of Clearwater, Florida, whose granddaughter Kimberlin lost her life as a result of SBS. While nothing can be done for Kimberlin, it is my sincere hope that bringing the public's attention to this important issue will prevent further tragedies.

Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) is a serious acquired traumatic brain injury caused by "shaking" a child in order to stop them from

crying. SBS frequently occurs in children less than one year of age, although there have been documented cases of SBS in children as old as five years of age.

Madam Speaker, most individuals with experience dealing with small children can relate to the frustration of not knowing how to meet the needs of a consistently crying child. However, it is important that everyone understands that infants cannot and should never be shaken as a remedy to stop them from crying.

The typical causes of SBS is an adult holding a child by the arms or trunk and shaking him or her back and forth with a repeated force. When a child is shaken, delicate veins between the brain and skull are ruptured and begin to bleed. Naturally, the pooling of blood between the skull and the dura—a fibrous membrane that lies next to the brain—causes the formation of subdural hematomas, which produces pressure that, along with the natural swelling of the bruised brain, causes damage to brain cells. Once brain cells are damaged, they can never be regenerated or replaced.

The swelling and pressure associated with SBS also causes the brain to push and squeeze down on the brainstem, which controls vital functions such as breathing and heartbeat. If the swelling and pressure are not alleviated, vital functions will cease and the child will die. Previous studies have suggested that 15–30% of the children die, and it is estimated that only 15% escape SBS without any type of permanent damage.

Medications may be administered to reduce the swelling and surgical methods may be used to relieve pressure on the brain, but an ounce of prevention is always worth a pound of cure. Parents, child care workers, and anyone who deals with small children should remember that much less force is required to cause significant damage to a child's brain than an adult's. Although no scientific studies have documented the exact amount of force needed to cause SBS in humans, most medical professionals recognize that shaking is often so violent that any reasonable person would know it to be dangerous to a child.

I am pleased that individuals such as Janet Goree are taking action to educate the public about the dangers of Shaken Baby Syndrome. The Shaken Baby Alliance maintains a database of victim families willing to offer support, as well as provides volunteers to run an electronic mail support group for families as well as professionals. Information on the Alliance can be found on their website at www.shakenbaby.com.

On Saturday, April 28, the Shaken Baby Alliance is sponsoring a candlelight vigil on the West Front steps of the Capitol to remember the lives of those children lost to SBS and shine a light on this problem so that future tragedies can be prevented.

Madam Speaker, Shaken Baby Syndrome is a form of child abuse. Like any other form of abuse against children, it cannot be tolerated. I hope that my colleagues will support H. Con. Res. 59, and join us in efforts to educate the public about SBS, reminding our constituents to “never, never, never shake a baby.”

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to

the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 59, as amended.

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

The title of the concurrent resolution was amended so as to read: “Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the prevention of shaken baby syndrome.”

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 91) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the human rights situation in Cuba.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 91

Whereas, according to the Department of State and international human rights organizations, the Government of Cuba continues to commit widespread and well-documented human rights violations against the Cuban people and to detain hundreds more as political prisoners;

Whereas the Castro regime systematically violates all of the fundamental civil and political rights of the Cuban people, denying freedoms of speech, press, assembly, movement, religion, and association, the right to change their government, and the right to due process and fair trials;

Whereas, in law and in practice, the Government of Cuba restricts the freedom of religion of the Cuban people and engages in efforts to control and monitor religious institutions through surveillance, infiltration, evictions, restrictions on access to computer and communication equipment, and harassment of religious professionals and lay persons;

Whereas the totalitarian regime of Fidel Castro actively suppresses all peaceful opposition and dissent by the Cuban people using undercover agents, informers, rapid response brigades, Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, surveillance, phone tapping, intimidation, defamation, arbitrary detention, house arrest, arbitrary searches, evictions, travel restrictions, politically-motivated dismissals from employment, and forced exile;

Whereas workers' rights are effectively denied by a system in which foreign investors are forced to contract labor from the Government of Cuba and to pay the regime in hard currency knowing that the regime will pay less than 5 percent of these wages in local currency to the workers themselves;

Whereas these abuses by the Government of Cuba violate internationally accepted norms of conduct;

Whereas the House of Representatives is mindful of the admonishment of former Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo during the last Ibero-American Summit in Havana, Cuba, that “[t]here can be no sovereign nations without free men and women [. . .] men and women who can freely exercise their essential freedoms: freedom of thought and opinion, freedom of participation, freedom of dissent, freedom of decision”;

Whereas President Vaclav Havel, an essential figure in the Czech Republic's transition to democracy, has counseled that “[w]e thus know that by voicing open criticism of un-

democratic conditions in Cuba, we encourage all the brave Cubans who endure persecution and years of prison for their loyalty to the ideals of freedom and human dignity”;

Whereas former President Lech Walesa, leader of the Polish solidarity movement, has urged the world to “mobilize its resources, just as was done in support of Polish Solidarnosc and the Polish workers, to express their support for Cuban workers and to monitor labor rights” in Cuba;

Whereas efforts to document, expose, and address human rights abuses in Cuba are complicated by the fact that the Government of Cuba continues to deny international human rights and humanitarian monitors access to the country;

Whereas Pax Christi further reports that these efforts are complicated because “a conspiracy of silence has fallen over Cuba” in which diplomats and entrepreneurs refuse even to discuss labor rights and other human rights issues in Cuba, some “for fear of endangering the relations with the Cuban government”, and businessmen investing in Cuba “openly declare that the theme of human rights was not of their concern”;

Whereas the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva provides an excellent forum to spotlight human rights and expressing international support for improved human rights performance in Cuba and elsewhere;

Whereas the goal of United States policy in Cuba is to promote a peaceful transition to democracy through an active policy of assisting the forces of change on the island;

Whereas the United States may provide assistance through appropriate nongovernmental organizations to help individuals and organizations to promote nonviolent democratic change and promote respect for human rights in Cuba; and

Whereas the President is authorized to engage in democracy-building efforts in Cuba, including the provision of (1) publications and other informational materials on transitions to democracy, human rights, and market economies to independent groups in Cuba, (2) humanitarian assistance to victims of political repression and their families, (3) support for democratic and human rights groups in Cuba, and (4) support for visits and permanent deployment of democratic and international human rights monitors in Cuba: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the House of Representatives condemns the repressive and totalitarian actions of the Government of Cuba against the Cuban people; and

(2) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the President—

(A) should have an action-oriented policy of directly assisting the Cuban people and independent organizations, modeled on United States support under former President Ronald Reagan, including support by United States trade unions, for Poland's Solidarity movement (“Solidarnosc”), to strengthen the forces of change and to improve human rights within Cuba; and

(B) should make all efforts necessary at the meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva in 2001 to obtain the passage by the Commission of a resolution condemning the Government of Cuba for its human rights abuses, and to secure the appointment of a Special Rapporteur for Cuba.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.