

the first comprehensive Early Childhood Education Act and authored the Women's Educational Equity Act.

In the early 1970's, she played a key role in the enactment of Title IX of the Higher Education Act Amendments. Written in 1972 to be enacted by 1977, Title IX, which prohibited gender discrimination by federally funded institutions, has become the major tool for women's fuller participation not only in sports, but in all aspects of education. Title IX is the reason why girls and women have made such gains in education and particularly in sports. In 1971, only 294,015 girls participated in high school athletics. Today, over 2.7 million girls participate in high school athletics, an 847 percent increase, according to the Department of Education.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reiterate the importance the legacy of my dear friend PATSY MINK. Congresswoman MINK will be remembered for her deep concern and support of education, women rights, and Pacific Islander issues. Her struggles and accomplishments bear witness to the strength of the American Spirit.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP POLITICAL
SPEECH PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2357, the Houses of Worship Political Speech Protection Act, and I urge my colleagues to vote no on this measure. This bill, which would allow houses of worship to participate or intervene in political elections and still maintain tax-exempt status, is unnecessary, unwanted, could have far-reaching and unintended consequences on the tax code, and goes against our constitutional value of the separation of church and state.

Current law does not hinder a religious leader's right to free speech; it simply limits groups from being both a tax-exempt ministry and a partisan political entity. Numerous faith-based organizations have spoken out against this bill because they feel it would lift important safeguards that protect the integrity of both religious institutions and the political process. Some of these organizations include the Interfaith Alliance Foundation, the National Council of Churches, the Congress of National Black Churches, the General Board of Church and Society—United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, and the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Many religious leaders feel this bill could create division among their members and would compromise their position as religious and moral leaders.

In addition, this bill was not approved by the Ways and Means Committee, in part because there are concerns about its unintended consequences. Churches receive preferential tax treatment as 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations and receive very little oversight from the IRS. If this bill were to become law, not only could people's tax deductible contributions be used for political purposes, but there would be sig-

nificant campaign finance implications. Religious entities would be able to undertake substantial amounts of partisan campaign activity, including contributing soft and hard money to federal and state races and national parties. This bill would effectively create a significant new loophole in our campaign finance and tax laws with serious ethical and legal implications.

Finally, this bill stands in stark contrast to our time tested constitutional principle of the separation of church and state. Religious organizations hold a special place in our tax code because it is believed that their work is contributing to the common good of society, not a political party or a partisan campaign. This bill seeks to remove that special and appropriate place.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 2357.

HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER, H.R. 5528

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, at the present, there is no independent institution or resource which focuses exclusively on international human rights. Although there are hundreds of private, nongovernmental entities concerned with international human rights, the community of organizations is often divided on issues of great importance. Accordingly, it is vital to have an entity that transcends the particular ideologies of the human rights groups and fosters the development of a consensus on U.S. human rights policy. Moreover, U.S. human rights policy requires legitimacy and direction as it competes within the broader foreign policy agenda for the resources and attention of policy-makers in Washington.

To that end, I am introducing legislation that will create a center for international human rights which will focus on the role of human rights in U.S. foreign policy and improve the intellectual resources available to professionals and scholars working on human rights policy. The center will involve the participation of U.S. government and non-government policy makers, activists and scholars as well as individuals from other countries. The center will sponsor fellows, activists and thinkers from the U.S. and abroad for integrated research projects as well as conducting seminars that will assist Washington officials in the policy-making process.

Moreover, since the center for international human rights will be the only independent institution that will have human rights as its primary responsibility in Washington, it will complement the work of other institutions that have a slightly different focus such as regional institutions like the East West Center or functional institutions like the National Endowment for Democracy. Accordingly, the center will serve not only as a coordinating organization but as a motivating vehicle for enhancing U.S. government human rights policies.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support this human rights measure, H.R. 5528.

H.R. 5528

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 "Center for International Human Rights Act of 2002".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CENTER.—The term "Center" means the Center for International Human Rights.

(2) BOARD.—The term "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Center.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTER; PURPOSES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Congress finds that there has been established in the District of Columbia a private, nonprofit corporation known as the Center for International Human Rights which is not an agency or establishment of the United States Government.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Center, as set forth in its articles of incorporation, are—

(1) to establish programs devoted to the promotion of human rights throughout the world;

(2) to independently monitor and analyze the status of human rights in Asia, Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and throughout the world;

(3) in conjunction with both private and governmental organizations, to investigate allegations of human rights violations, particularly torture, genocide, extrajudicial killing, imprisonment due to expression of political or religious beliefs, and other gross violations of fundamental human rights;

(4) to sponsor fellows from the United States and other countries who desire to study current issues related to international human rights at the Center's headquarters in the District of Columbia;

(5) to establish and carry out a conference series to bring together experts in the field of international human rights from the United States and other countries to discuss and disseminate information regarding human rights; and

(6) to make grants to, and enter into co-operative agreements with, nongovernmental organizations to promote human rights, with priority on making grants to, and entering into co-operative agreements with, indigenous human rights organizations in countries the governments of which engage in torture, genocide, extrajudicial killing, imprisonment due to expression of political or religious beliefs, or other gross violations of fundamental human rights.

SEC. 4. GRANTS TO CENTER.

The Secretary of State is authorized to make an annual grant to the Center to enable the Center to carry out its purposes as specified in section 3(b). Such grants shall be made with funds specifically appropriated for grants to the Center.

SEC. 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION; OVERSIGHT; RELATED ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

(a) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to make the Center an agency or establishment of the United States Government or to make the members of the Board of the Center, or the officers or employees of the Center, officers or employees of the United States.

(b) OVERSIGHT.—The Center and its grantees shall be subject to the appropriate oversight procedures of Congress.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; AVAILABILITY.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$15,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2003 through 2007. Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under the preceding sentence are authorized to remain available until expended.