

The scope and complexity of the challenges facing children affected by AIDS cannot be overstated. Children become responsible for their own survival while providing care for dying parents. They are forced to abandon school and face the stigma and isolation far too frequently associated with AIDS. Tragically, orphan children who are the most vulnerable are often forced into labor, sexual exploitation, and the hopelessness of a life of mere survival.

This amendment can help transform the future of communities filled with AIDS orphans by committing to reinvest into communities that have faith-based organizations and other groups that are committed to working with orphans. We are ensuring by doing this that an entire generation of children in Africa will not be lost.

We have the responsibility today to make a firm commitment to ensure that the resources in this bill go to provide the most basic needs of every child; food, shelter, safety, medicine, education, and, most importantly of all, hope for the future.

I urge my colleagues to join me today in supporting the millions of children orphaned by AIDS. I respectfully ask my colleagues to support this amendment and to make a strong commitment to the millions of AIDS orphans and vulnerable children who desperately need our help today.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. MCCOLLUM. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Chairman, the children and orphans who are affected by this scourge could have no better champion than the gentlewoman from Minnesota, and we are very pleased to accept her excellent amendment.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. MCCOLLUM. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, I want to congratulate and commend my friend from Minnesota for offering this most important amendment, which dramatically improves the underlying bill. On this side we are proud and pleased to accept her amendment.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I am very honored to have this amendment accepted, and I thank both my mentors for their help in preparing this amendment.

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

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin) having assumed the chair, Mr. SWEENEY, Chairman pro tempore of the Committee of the Whole

House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1298) to provide assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

MAKING IN ORDER CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT NO. 6 OUT OF SEQUENCE DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1298, UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP AGAINST HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS, AND MALARIA ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Amendment No. 6 in House Report 108-80 be considered out of sequence in the Committee of the Whole.

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

There was no objection.

UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP AGAINST HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS, AND MALARIA ACT OF 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 210 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1298.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1298) to provide assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and for other purposes, with Mr. SWEENEY (Chairman pro tempore) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, Amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 108-80 offered by the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) had been disposed of.

Under the recent order of the House, it is now in order to consider Amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 108-80.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF MICHIGAN

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 6 offered by Mr. SMITH of Michigan:

Page 81, beginning on line 22, strike "\$30,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2004 through 2008" and insert "\$2,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2004, \$2,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2005,

\$3,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2006, \$3,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2007, and \$4,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2008".

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 210, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment brings back the level of funding for the first year to the level recommended by the President, the amount of \$2 billion, which is the amount that is also in our budget resolution.

The third reason is I would like to document and persuade to my colleagues, expert witnesses from Africa that are suggesting that it is going to be much more effective to start gradually and then increase the spending over the year.

My amendment does not decrease the total 5 year commitment of \$15 billion, but, rather, is consistent with what the President has requested, starting at \$2 billion and then growing each year.

I would like to read a letter from a former United States ambassador to several of those African countries.

"As the son of a medical missionary to Africa, a career State Department diplomat with over 28 years of service, mainly in Africa, and as the former United States Ambassador to Rwanda and Mali, I am well aware of the problems making foreign aid genuinely benefit the populations it was intended to impact. Throughout my career, I have been involved in rural health initiatives in Africa, and while there is great need to meet the challenge of AIDS in Africa, front-loading a program might well do more harm than good. There is great risk in squandering precious funds when expenditures are made without adequate controls or accountability. We also risk forcing our big-ticket solutions on Africans who may need more modest help in finding local solutions and building up their own capacity to deal with the challenge in the early year.

"Accordingly, I support the original emergency plan for AIDS relief proposed by the President that would launch this new initiative to \$2 billion in '04 and steadily escalate spending over 5 years."

Again, because we can maximize this money over the 5-year period, because it would be consistent with the President and the budget resolution, I hope Members support the amendment.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, I am delighted to yield such time as he may consume to my distinguished friend the gentleman from California (Mr. HYDE).

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the distinguished gentleman from California for yielding me time.