

forwardlooking agreements that not only expand markets, but protect worker and consumer rights and the environment. What is acceptable for Chile and Singapore will not be adequate in other countries. We must negotiate future FTAs to ensure that our citizens and our trading partners have the opportunity to experience the full benefits of free and fair trade.

RECOGNIZING THE 29TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKEY'S INVASION OF CYPRUS

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2003*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Hellenic Caucus, I rise today to recognize the 29th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus. On this occasion, we mourn those who lost their lives and remember the barrier created in 1974 that still exists today. The island remains divided between the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots, despite attempts by the United Nations for a reunification settlement. I thank Mrs. MALONEY and Mr. BILIRAKIS for their ongoing leadership in the Hellenic Caucus and for bringing much-needed attention to issues of importance to the Hellenic community.

The European Union has invited Cyprus to enter its membership next May, and on July 14, 2003, the Greek Cypriot parliament unanimously approved the bid to join. At this point in time, only pertains to the Greek Cypriot part of the island, since the Turkish Cypriot part is not formally recognized by the European Union. Shortly after Cyprus agreed to join the European Union, the Turkish Cypriot authorities opened the borders and allowed Cypriots to cross over the line for the first time in 30 years. This past April was the first time that Cypriots from either side were able to travel through the 120-mile barrier, which continues to be guarded by U.N. peacekeeping forces, since the invasion in 1974. Despite this step forward, the nation remains divided.

Along with my colleagues, I will continue to put pressure on the Bush Administration to help Cyprus work toward a peaceful solution. Although relations between the Turkish and Greek Cypriot sides have recently thawed, there is still a long way to go to reunification. The U.N. settlement cleared a path for all of Cyprus to unite once again, to share in the European Union's prosperity, and to end military zones. Now with just the Republic of Cyprus poised for EU membership in 2004, the divide between the two sides may grow without a push for future negotiations.

Rauf Denktash, the Turkish Cypriot Leader, has proven to be the biggest hindrance to reunification talks. He has ignored the calls from the majority of his own people who want reunification, and would rather fight for a two-state confederation, which is not supported by the Greek Cypriots or the United Nations. He has even stood in the way of his people's democratic choice by not allowing them to take part in a referendum on the decision of whether or not to join the European Union. Elections for the Turkish Cypriot authorities are expected in November, and I hope the will of the Turkish Cypriots will be heard.

The U.S. must continue its role in supporting negotiations so that there is still potential for all of Cyprus to join the EU. It has been a long, hard road, but with support from the United States, the European Union, and the United Nations, a reunification of Cyprus is still possible. We should heed the words of the Greek Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos on this special anniversary: "we are determined to try, until the end, in a peaceful manner and through negotiations, to end the invasion and occupation. The people should be brave, patient, and work hard."

UNITED STATES-CHILE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. MAX SANDLIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 24, 2003*

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the U.S. free trade agreements (FTAs) with Chile and Singapore. I do so, however, with serious reservations, and appreciate this opportunity to explain my concerns.

Critics of the Chile and Singapore trade agreements assert that these FTAs contain inadequate labor protections, and specifically note that they include only one labor rights provision that is enforceable through dispute resolution proceedings. While it is accurate that the Chile and Singapore agreements would subject only the "enforce your own laws" standard to dispute settlement, critics of these agreements are well aware that this is only the case because Chile and Singapore's labor laws currently exceed the International Labor Organization's (ILO) five core labor standards, and both countries (especially Chile) have strong, effective labor movements. Similarly tough labor laws and movements did not exist in Mexico during consideration of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and in Jordan during consideration of the U.S.-Jordan FTA. Consequently, NAFTA and the Jordan agreement needed multiple enforceable labor standards included in them.

Opponents of these trade agreements fear that the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) will use the Chile and Singapore agreements as templates for future FTAs. I strongly believe that each free trade agreement should be examined on its own merits, and do not believe that these agreements should be used as templates for future trade agreements. The treatment of workers varies widely from country to country; accordingly, the numbers of enforceable labor standards in future trade agreements need to change to fit the particular circumstances of the parties involved in each agreement.

The USTR has indicated its intention to complete negotiations on the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) by the end of this year, and, as both a member of the Ways and Means Committee and a member of the full House, I will be closely following the progress of these negotiations and the final terms of the agreement. Failure to include significant enforceable labor standards in CAFTA, which includes several Central American countries with disgraceful working conditions

and histories of virtually nonexistent enforcement of labor statutes, will doom this agreement. I will vigorously oppose a weak Central American Free Trade Agreement, and will oppose any other future trade agreements that reward countries with poor labor conditions.

During my time in Congress, I have worked hard with my colleagues from both parties to ensure that core labor standards are both protected and enforced. In 2002, partly in response to serious concerns regarding labor protections in the Trade Promotion Authority Act, I voted against granting fast track authority to the President. I believed then, and continue to believe, that fast track authority contains within it the potential to adversely affect American workers through the loss of domestic jobs in Texas and across the country.

In general, I believe that many of our industries in Texas and the country at large, such as agriculture, financial services, telecommunications, and computers, can benefit from available and fair markets in other countries. Access to foreign markets for U.S. goods and services, however, must be balanced with a concern for domestic industries that are most threatened by uneven trade agreements. I have too often witnessed the downside of trade agreements that allow subsidized foreign imports to overwhelm domestic products such as steel and softwood lumber, which are significant sources of jobs for thousands of East Texans. My qualified support for the U.S.-Chile and U.S.-Singapore free trade agreements is based largely on my belief that these agreements will benefit American exports while not threatening domestic industries in America.

As Congress seeks to influence future trade negotiations and agreements, I will continue to work with my colleagues to craft trade deals that are fair to American workers, working people across the world, and our domestic industries.

HEALTH CENTER WEEK

**HON. SUE W. KELLY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2003*

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, the week of August 10 through August 15, 2003, is "Health Center Week" in Peekskill, New York. Let me urge our citizens to recognize the important contributions of the Hudson River Community Health Centers in safeguarding health and improving the quality of life for the people of Peekskill.

Hudson River Community Health is a private, nonprofit corporation that provides high-quality, comprehensive primary health care to uninsured and medically underserved people in Peekskill, New York.

Hudson River Community Health has made great strides in expanding access to affordable health disparities while empowering the community to address special needs and decrease the cost of illness through preventative strategies.

Hudson River Community Health has improved the health status of Peekskill promoting health awareness and providing primary care and preventive health services of the highest quality to reduce preventable deaths, costly disabilities, and communicable diseases.