

important work they have done over the past twenty years.

THE LONG TERM CARE SUPPORT  
AND INCENTIVE ACT OF 2004

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an important issue facing our community: the affordability of long-term care. People today are living longer and healthier lives than ever before.

When the Declaration of Independence was signed, the average life expectancy was 23. In the United States today, life expectancy at birth is 80 years.

While this increased life expectancy is allowing us to live fuller lives, it is also presenting us with serious financial challenges. Half of all older Americans who live alone will "spend" themselves into poverty after only 13 weeks in a nursing home.

My own family had to make difficult emotional and financial decisions when my father needed care. My dad was a pediatrician, and always lived a full life. When he needed care, my sister and I struggled to find the perfect place for him to live.

We wanted to make sure he was happy and received high quality medical care. We searched for months to find the right place for our dad and we learned very quickly how expensive long-term care is. Fortunately, we had the financial resources to take care of him, but many families do not.

My experience with my dad renewed my commitment to improve our long-term care system. I took on this mission in Congress and I am pleased today to reintroduce the Long Term Care Support and Incentive Act. This much needed legislation will make a real difference for San Diegans caring for older family members.

First, the bill will give a \$4,000 tax credit for seniors with long-term care needs and their caregivers. We know how many sacrifices families make to take care of their loved ones. They miss work, or in some cases are forced to give up their jobs. They pay for expensive medical supplies and equipment, and bare the burden of enormous medical bills. This tax credit will help ease their financial burden.

The second section of my legislation will establish a tax deduction for long-term care insurance premiums. As the long-term care needs in our community increase, we must face the reality that many seniors do not have family or friends to take care of them full time.

This is particularly important to women. Women live longer than men. Often times, women are the primary caregivers for their husbands. After their husbands pass away, there is often no one around to take care of them.

Long-Term Care Insurance can help fill this gap, but premiums can be expensive. My legislation will make long-term care insurance more affordable by allowing individuals over 65 to deduct 75 percent of the cost of their premiums and individuals under 65 to deduct 50 percent of the cost of their premiums.

In addition, I have included several important consumer protections in the bill to ensure

that people are purchasing responsible insurance plans that will adequately meet their long-term care needs.

The bill requires plans to include:  
Mandatory Inflation Protection.

A Lifetime Deductible Requirement that ensures policy holders must only pay their deductible one time in their lifetime.

Mandatory Interchangeability so that individuals can determine where their benefits are spent.

A Care Coordination program that ensures seniors receive assistance in planning and securing the services they need.

By encouraging people to plan ahead for the future and purchase Long-Term Care Insurance, we can ensure that seniors live dignified and independent lives. I urge all of my colleagues in Congress to work with me to pass it quickly into law.

RECOGNIZING WATER AWARENESS  
MONTH

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize May as Water Awareness Month throughout California and the United States of America.

As our most precious natural resource, water sustains all life in our planet. From humans and animals to plants and trees, every living organism needs water to live. For this reason, it is important for all Americans to protect and conserve our water from contamination and careless waste.

This year marks the 29th anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act, which authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to regulate public health by setting high health standards and regulating the nation's public drinking water supply. I salute all government leaders, public water providers such as the Walnut Valley Water District, and the California Water Awareness Campaign for their hard work and tireless leadership in making safe drinking water a priority and Water Awareness Month a reality.

In addition, I salute our responsible citizens, urban and agricultural water agencies, and farm bureaus in California who have made exceptional strides to improve water quality and conservation since the state's drought years of 1987-1993. Their significant work and leadership have educated communities throughout California and have set an example to other states to care for the quality of their drinkable and non-drinkable water.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Water Awareness Month and the people who work hard to make water safe for our daily consumption.

THE JEWISH STATE AND A PALESTINIAN STATE: MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE OR INCLUSIVE?

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the State of Israel has for decades been an un-

wavering friend and ally of the United States. And Israel has stood in complete solidarity with the United States in the War on Terror. So, it is critically important that we send the message to our Israeli friends that we stand in complete solidarity with them in their fight against terrorism, because you cannot negotiate with terror or trust the promises of terrorists; you can only defeat them. And the establishment of a new terror-supporting regime on the shores of the Mediterranean seems inconsistent with the strategic goal of the U.S. and Israel to defeat terrorism and stabilize the Middle East.

I recently was presented a copy of an interesting advertisement that is running in Israeli newspapers regarding the dangers of ceding Israeli territory to terrorists. This particular ad is the ninth in a series, and it focuses on the Security Significance of Judea & Samaria Mountain Ridges. I would like to have the text of this advertisement placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my statement.

THE JEWISH STATE AND A PALESTINIAN STATE:  
MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE OR INCLUSIVE?

THE SECURITY SIGNIFICANCE OF JUDEA AND  
SAMARIA MOUNTAIN RIDGES

*The Demise of Saddam Has Not Waived the Threat to Israel*

The Mideast is the world's most violent and unpredictable region, which requires preparedness for the worst-case scenario, including an Eastern Front Assault on Israel.

In 1967 Israel crushed Egypt, Syria and Jordan, and grew over-confident that no Arab attack would be forthcoming. The 1973 War almost annihilated Israel.

Will the U.S. be able to stabilize Iraq? Will Bush retreat from Iraq? Will his successor (in 2005 or 2009) retreat from Iraq? A U.S. evacuation of Iraq could produce more terror than it intended to quell.

*Judea and Samaria Mountain Ridges—Irreplaceable for Israel's Security*

Missiles cause damage; they don't bring enemies to submission. There is a marked difference between a barrage of missiles on Tel Aviv, and the invasion of Arab tanks to Tel Aviv.

The centrality of ground forces suggests the centrality of ground features (Topographic edge and geographic depth).

The eastern mountain ridge of Judea & Samaria—rather than the Jordan Valley—constitutes the best tank obstacle in the world (3,000 foot steep slopes, controllable by a small force).

The western mountain ridge of Judea & Samaria (2,000 foot moderate slope overtopping Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa) constitutes an invader's dream platform. A withdrawal from Judea & Samaria would submit the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv-Haifa area (80 percent of the Israeli population) to daily terror.

The Judea & Samaria mountain ridges constitute the "Golan Heights" of Israeli's Soft Belly.

Until 1967, Israel limited Jordan's military presence in Judea & Samaria to 5,000, lest it become a lethal threat. The 40,000 armed Palestinian terrorists in Judea & Samaria amount to 4 brigades. A withdrawal from Judea & Samaria would make a 1973-style surprise Arab attack a lethal threat.

*Technology Cannot Replace Ground Features*

High-tech today becomes low-tech tomorrow, but high-ground today remains high-ground tomorrow.

Every high-tech system is eventually outflanked by an emerging system. The dominant mountain ridges of Judea & Samaria can never be outflanked by an emerging ground feature.