

Resources, pending my appointment to the Committee on Government Reform.

Sincerely,

BETTY MCCOLLUM,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 670) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 670

Resolved, That the following named Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE: Ms. Herseth (to rank immediately after Mr. Chandler).

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM: Ms. McCollum.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the additional motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote of the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken tomorrow.

ASSISTANCE FOR ORPHANS AND OTHER VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ACT OF 2004

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4061) to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance for orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4061

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 "Assistance for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1)(A) According to estimates by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), there are more than 132,000,000 children in the world under the age of three.

(B) Of these children, 4,000,000 will die in their first month of life and another 7,000,000 will die each year before reaching the age of five. Thus an average of 30,000 children under the age of three die each day.

(2) According to a report developed by the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNICEF, and the United States Agency for International Development, in 2001 there were more than 110,000,000 orphans living in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

(3) Assessments carried out by the International Labor Organization (ILO) to investigate the situation of children who are working found that orphans are much more likely than non-orphans to be working in commercial agriculture, the domestic service industry, prostitution, as street vendors, or in industries that violate internationally recognized rights of children.

(4) Infants who are poor and malnourished are more likely to contract respiratory infections, diarrhea, measles, and other preventable diseases, and are less likely to receive needed health care.

(5) According to UNAIDS and UNICEF, by the end of 2001 there were an estimated 14,000,000 children under the age of 15 who had lost one or both parents to AIDS.

(6) As the number of HIV cases increases in sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean, as well as in Eastern Europe and Asia, the death rate from AIDS among adults in those regions is expected to increase. By 2010 the total number of children in those regions who will lose one or both parents to AIDS is expected to be approximately 30,000,000.

(7) One-third of children born from an HIV-infected mother develop HIV/AIDS. Few of these children have access to HIV/AIDS medications.

(8) Globally, more than 11,800,000 young people ages 15 to 24 were living with HIV/AIDS in 2001, and each day another 6,000 young people became infected with HIV. New estimates indicate that more than 70 percent of new HIV cases among this age group in sub-Saharan Africa are young women and girls.

(9) As their parents fall progressively sick from HIV/AIDS, children generally must take on an increasing number of responsibilities. Girls take responsibility for more household chores, often drop out of school, and care for their parents.

(10)(A) Without an adequate diet, individuals infected with HIV often die at an earlier age. Individuals with HIV become increasingly weak and fatigued, do not respond to drug treatment, and are prone to other illnesses such as malnutrition and tuberculosis (TB).

(B) Hunger can also cause previously HIV-negative people to engage in high-risk survival strategies that increase their chances of becoming infected with HIV.

(11) Extreme poverty and hunger coupled with the loss of one or both parents as a result of AIDS can force children from their families to a life on the streets, where the risk of HIV infection is extremely high.

(12)(A) A considerable number of United States and indigenous private voluntary organizations, including faith-based organizations, provide assistance to orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries, especially children affected by HIV/AIDS.

(B) Many of these organizations have submitted applications for grants from the United States Agency for International Development in order to provide increased levels of assistance for orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries but in most cases the Agency has not approved the applications.

(13)(A) Section 403(b) of the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-25) establishes the requirement that for fiscal years 2006 through 2008, not less than 10 percent of amounts appropriated for HIV/AIDS

assistance for each such fiscal year shall be expended for assistance for orphans and other vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS.

(B) Further, section 403(b) of Public Law 108-25 requires that at least 50 percent of such amounts shall be provided through non-profit, nongovernmental organizations, including faith-based organizations, that implement programs on the community level.

(14)(A) It is essential that the United States Government adopt a comprehensive approach for the provision of assistance to orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries.

(B) This comprehensive approach should ensure that important services, such as basic care, treatment for those children with HIV/AIDS, mental health and related services for those children affected by HIV/AIDS, school food programs, increased educational opportunities and employment training and related services, and the protection and promotion of inheritance rights, are made more accessible.

(C) This comprehensive approach should also ensure that government agencies and the private sector coordinate efforts to prevent and eliminate duplication of efforts and waste.

(15) As a result of the numerous United States Government programs under which assistance is specifically authorized or otherwise available for orphans and vulnerable children in developing countries, the United States Agency for International Development will be required to develop innovative methods for the conduct and monitoring of these programs, including through the collection, analysis, and reporting of information on the programs and the extent to which such programs provide assistance directly and indirectly to such children.

SEC. 3. PURPOSE.

The primary purpose of this Act, and the amendments made by this Act, is to provide assistance to orphans and other vulnerable children, especially such children affected by HIV/AIDS, and in particular, for such children in countries heavily affected by HIV/AIDS. To the maximum extent practicable, such assistance shall be provided for the direct benefit to such orphaned and vulnerable children.

SEC. 4. ASSISTANCE FOR ORPHANS AND OTHER VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

Title V of chapter 2 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2201) is amended to read as follows:

"TITLE V—ASSISTANCE FOR ORPHANS AND OTHER VULNERABLE CHILDREN

"SEC. 241. FINDINGS; DECLARATION OF POLICY.

"(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

"(1) By 2010, HIV/AIDS will orphan more than 25,000,000 children worldwide.

"(2) Ongoing conflicts and civil wars in developing countries are adversely affecting children in these countries, the vast majority of whom currently do not receive humanitarian assistance or other support from the United States Government.

"(3) The United States Government currently administers assistance programs for orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries. When requested by the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives to provide information on the overall number of orphans and other vulnerable children receiving assistance from the United States Agency for International Development in fiscal year 2002, the Agency was only able to report on its HIV/AIDS assistance program, under which the Agency provided assistance to 462,000 such orphans and other vulnerable children.