

No security is fail-proof, but working together we can create a rail security program that protects passengers and keeps the trains running on time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on Monday, July 19, 2004 due to official business. If I was present for rollcall votes for the following bills: 391 on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 1587—To promote freedom and democracy in Viet Nam; 392 on motion to suspend the rules and agree, S. Con. Res. 114—“Concerning the importance of the distribution of food in schools to hungry or malnourished children around the world”; 393 on motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 2264—The Northern Uganda Crisis Response Act, I would have voted “yea” to all of these bills.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BRUCE MIMS
UPON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER
38 YEARS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to express and convey congratulations to Mr. Bruce Mims, my longtime friend and professional associate on the occasion of his retirement from the Illinois Department of Public Health. Mr. Mims started work in Public Health at a time when very few African Americans were engaged in this profession. It was also a very exciting time in that the Voting Rights Act had been passed, the war on poverty program was being implemented, health problems, needs and issues were being identified in a big way and Bruce was a young, energetic and willing participant.

I first knew Bruce as Executive Director of the Mid-South Health Planning Organization, a Sub-B Agency of the comprehensive Health Planning Agency. The Agency was a sister to the Westside Health Planning Organization, an agency that I ran. When the law for our agencies sunset, Bruce went to work for the Illinois Department of Public Health, where he became one of the foremost Public Health experts in the country and remained there until his retirement.

It has been a pleasure knowing and working with Bruce for all of these years. I congratulate him on his outstanding contributions and wish him well in all of his future endeavors.

RECALLING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE TRAGIC AND INFAMOUS
INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recall a tragic and in-

famous event, the 30th anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus by Turkey.

On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus. As part of a two stage offensive, Turkish troops forcefully seized approximately one-third of the island nation of Cyprus. This abominable act of violence against the people of Cyprus has never been undone. To this day, Turkish troops occupy Cyprus, splitting the nation into two areas.

Since 1974, the nation has been divided, but progress is being made toward the reunification of Cyprus. In late April, the people of Cyprus went to the polls to vote on a plan of reunification. Unfortunately, this reunification proposal was rushed to coincide with the ascension of Cyprus into the European Union. Citing many issues of concern, including security, approximately 75 percent of Greek Cypriots opposed the plan.

In the end, it was too much to ask that concerns that have been unresolved for 30 years be effectively settled in a process that lasted less than 3 months. However, one failure must not be the end of attempts to reunify the island. A lasting and equitable solution for the people of Cyprus, and the goal of a united Cyprus, is too important to abandon, now or ever. The goal of the process must be to attain a just and lasting solution, not a rushed solution. I remain committed to achieving a solution to this problem so that we never have to gather again to commemorate an anniversary of this hostile and unjustifiable invasion.

The people of Cyprus have suffered from the division of their nation for 30 years. Mr. Speaker, I pray that this will be the last year of a divided Cyprus. I sincerely hope that 30 years after the nation of Cyprus was torn asunder, all Cypriots can be reunited, living in peace and freedom forever.

EXPAND ACCESS TO MEDICINE
FROM ABROAD

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, although the pharmaceutical industry and the supporters of the Republican prescription drug plan may disagree, Americans have a right to affordable medicine! That is why so many continue to ask Congress to take action, such as allowing the importation of safe prescription drugs from abroad.

The residents of Calexico, El Centro, San Ysidro, Chula Vista and other border communities join in that call, but in the meantime many are already going to Mexico to buy up to a 90-day supply of prescription drugs for personal use.

They purchase medicines in Mexico because the pharmaceutical companies continue to gouge them at home.

Yet the Senate's Pharmaceutical Market Access and Drug Safety Act, which takes the important step of permitting importation from Canada and Europe, would reduce the 90-day cap on personal use medicine from Mexico to a 14-day supply.

It is inconsistent to increase access to Canadian and European prescription drugs while decreasing access to safe medicine from Mexico. It is unfair to low-income seniors who rely

on these life-enhancing—and often life-saving—medications.

The supporters of the bill may have reservations about the safety of medicine from Mexico. This is a valid issue to raise. Yet the FDA has not provided convincing evidence that the importation of inexpensive drugs from Mexico has resulted in health problems. If the authors of the bill were convinced that medicines from Mexico were in fact dangerous, why would they allow even a 14-day supply?

The fact is seniors in my district have found these medicines to be a safe, affordable and accessible alternative to their local pharmacies. That is why I call on my colleagues in the Senate to oppose this legislation as it is currently written and ensure that communities on the U.S-Mexico border have access to affordable drugs.

The availability of inexpensive medicine is such an important issue at the border because many senior citizens and other residents of these communities have low-incomes and no insurance.

The U.S.-Mexico Border Commission reports that if the border region were the Nation's 51st state, it would rank: Last in the percentage of insured residents, last in per capita income, last in access to care, first in unemployed; and first in the number of school children living in poverty.

We must move forward in boosting the health of our border communities and increasing the availability of safe and inexpensive medicines, rather than moving backward and placing new restricts on access to prescription drugs from Mexico.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF TURKEY'S INVASION
OF CYPRUS

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the thirtieth anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus. This anniversary serves as a reminder of three decades of illegal occupation by Turkish military forces of over one-third of Cyprus's territory.

On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus, forcing nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes. To this day, in defiance of United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, Turkey maintains more than 30,000 troops in the occupied territory.

The division of Cyprus has gone on for too long. The past year has seen great efforts by the Cypriots, the United States, and the U.N. to develop a plan for reunification. Unfortunately, the U.N. sponsored April 2004 vote on reunification failed to pass.

Cyprus's recent accession to the European Union presents great opportunities to join its European counterparts in strongly supporting human rights and fundamental freedoms. These values should lay the foundation for a final settlement. On this anniversary, I join my colleagues in looking forward to a future where Greek and Turkish Cypriots can once again live in peace on one unified island.