percent in 2003. The Millennium Challenge Account, MCA, has provided new hope to selected countries. Sadly, appropriations for the MCA have been cut in half in 2004 by the president's request, and neither the President nor Congress is currently keeping the promises they have made. These funds must be resorted in order to make progress against worldwide hunger.

In closing Mr. Speaker, we stand in full support of World Food Day and the efforts of the international community to end hunger throughout the world.

9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to provide for reform of the intelligence community, terrorism prevention and prosecution, border security, and international cooperation and coordination, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this measure, not because I endorse all of its provisions, but because I believe that Congress must act swiftly to reform our intelligence community and to protect our homeland.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I believe H.R. 10 does not go far enough to establish a National Intelligence Director with real authority. I agree that we must provide the Department of Defense and our men and women in uniform with the military intelligence needed to be successful, an assertion that 9/11 Commission Vice Chairman Lee Hamilton accepted even though it was not specifically addressed in the report. At the same time, if we do not grant the NID true authority over our intelligence assets, we run the risk of adding another layer of bureaucracy that complicates, not simplifies, the challenges facing our system.

Furthermore, I am disappointed that H.R. 10 is largely silent in addressing the threat of nuclear weapons proliferation. There is no greater danger to our homeland than the possibility of a nuclear weapon being smuggled into our country by terrorists. Russia and many former Soviet republics retain nuclear material that is not appropriately safeguarded, and the United States must lead an international effort to track down, lock up and destroy those potentially deadly weapons. Unfortunately, an amendment offered in committee by the gentlewoman from California, Mrs. TAUSCHER, and the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. SPRATT, was blocked from consideration.

On a more positive note, this legislation appropriately recognizes the need to enhance our human intelligence capabilities and creates a national counterterrorism center to coordinate interagency intelligence efforts.

I am also heartened that H.R. 10 heeds the Commission's call to enhance America's image in the world and prevent the rise and recruitment of future terrorists. Dr. Joseph Nye, the former dean of the Kennedy School of Government and Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, has talked about the need to supplement our military might with "soft power"—efforts to win the world's hearts and minds with our values and culture. Successfully exercising this type of power requires that we pursue many fronts, including international diplomacy, democracy-building, cultural exchanges, economic development, educational initiatives and communication about our values and ideals.

To win the ideological battle being waged in the world today, we have to offer an alternative to the hopelessness and despair that the likes of Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida prey upon. There are millions of young people in the Islamic world who are hungry for hope and opportunity, and it is in our interest to show them that hope lies in freedom, liberty and democracy—not in extremism and hate. In doing this, we take a major step towards ensuring that we win the long-term war on terror.

As the 9/11 Commission so eloquently put it: "We need to defend our ideals abroad vigorously. If the United States does not act aggressively to define itself in the Islamic world, the extremists will gladly do the job for us." While H.R. 10 does not implement all of the Commission's recommendations in this regard, I am pleased that our nation is finally taking an important step toward bolstering its stature in the world. I am hopeful that the Conference Committee will adopt stronger provisions from the Senate bill regarding our efforts in Afghanistan, public diplomacy initiatives, educational and cultural exchange programs, and economic development initiatives.

With regard to domestic security, the measure before us today takes some major steps forward. As recommended by the Commission, the bill calls for the creation of a stronger biometric entry-exit screening system, global standards for security systems, a transportation security strategy for all sectors, and improved prescreening of airline passengers. H.R. 10 also moves closer to a threat-based formula for distribution of first responder grants, an important change in the way we fund state and local preparedness efforts. Unfortunately, the bill falls short of several critical goals, among which are protecting privacy in information-sharing, ensuring spectrum and equipment for public safety interoperable communications, enhancing private sector preparedness, and improving the way we track terrorist travel and financing.

Most disappointingly, H.R. 10 undertakes a number of controversial immigration modifications not recommended by the 9/11 Commission and not found in the Senate legislation, which passed earlier this week by a resounding vote of 96–2. The inclusion of these divisive sections will likely slow down the upcoming conference and delay implementation of the many beneficial parts of this legislation.

One worrisome provision of H.R. 10 strips from the courts their traditional judicial oversight in many immigration cases and may require automatic deportation of noncitizens, even if they will face torture in the country to which they are sent. Not only is this provision a violation of the International Convention Against Torture, it is morally unacceptable and risks further damaging America's image in the world.

In addition, the bill expands the use of secret intelligence court orders, which can be issued under a far lower standard than conventional warrants or wire taps. The unfortunate inclusion of these and other extraneous provisions threatens civil rights and civil liberties and endangers the future of intelligence reform. I look forward to addressing some of these issues during the amendment process and urge conferees to reject any provisions which would threaten the bipartisan, bicameral response that the 9/11 Commission's report requires.

I am pleased that we will have the opportunity to vote on a substitute offered by the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. MENENDEZ, and I urge all of my colleagues to support its passage. The Menendez substitute is based on the bipartisan McCain-Lieberman-Collins legislation, which has the support of the 9/11 Commission, the White House and families of the 9/11 victims. This amendment addresses all 41 of the Commission's recommendations, and does so without adding controversial and divisive provisions that jeopardize the broad-based support the recommendations have garnered.

I am deeply disappointed that the House leadership has denied the minority a voice in drafting this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support the Menendez substitute to correct these problems. However, should it fail, I am confident that we will be able to improve this legislation in negotiations with the Senate and the White House so that we may provide the type of reform that the American people deserve.

THE DEBT WE OWE OUR WOUNDED

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, in his 1917 poem, Disabled, the British poet Wilfred Owen, whose haunting verse brought the horror of the First World War to millions throughout the English-speaking world, described the loneliness and emptiness of a soldier who had lost his leg in war.

Alone, in a wheelchair by a window, the soldier remembers all that he has lost and how the cheers that accompanied his departure for the front were not so loud upon his return—how

only a solemn man who brought him fruits
Thanked him; and then enquired about his soul.

Today thousands of young Americans face many of the same challenges of the young amputee in Owen's poem. Thanks to vastly improved battlefield medicine and body armor, fewer of our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan die from their wounds than in any of America's previous wars. But this improved survival rate does not come without a price: Thousands of young Americans are returning home paralyzed or without limbs. More than 7,000 Americans have been wounded in Iraq according to the Defense Department and many hundreds more have been wounded in Afghanistan.

Last month, when I visited our troops in Iraq, I spent some time at a military field hospital near Baghdad. It was a deeply moving experience to confront the costs of war. Two weeks ago, I shared with this House a discussion I had had with two young Marines whose armored Humvee had been blown up by a

roadside bomb. Nearby there was another soldier whose spine had been severed by shrapnel. He was unconscious when I was there, but his doctor told me that he will be a quadriplegic for the rest of his life.

We have asked so much from the young people we send into battle and they have the right to expect that if they are wounded that we as a nation and as a people will be there for them. That is the covenant that we have made with them.

The vast majority of our most severely wounded will receive cutting-edge medical care; many will convalesce right here in the Washington area at Walter Reed or the Bethesda Naval Hospital. During my visits to Walter Reed I have been impressed by the work of the doctors, nurses and therapists who are doing a marvelous job for the troops there, many of who stay for months as they recover from their wounds and begin a new life—often with prosthetic limbs.

Many of the troops who are treated at Walter Reed or Bethesda are discharged from the military shortly after leaving the hospital. As they continue their recovery most of these former soldiers will still require medical treatment, physical therapy, and counseling. Some will need care for the rest of their lives.

For many veterans, especially the severely wounded, navigating the labyrinthine bureaucracy of the Department of Veterans Affairs is a frustrating challenge in itself. Yet, even as the VA is taking on thousands of newly disabled veterans, the largest such group since Vietnam, three VA hospitals are slated for closure, while another eight will be partially closed.

The backlog of disability claims is growing and now exceeds 330,000, while the backlog of veterans claims pending before the Board of Veterans Appeals has nearly doubled in the last four years. Even though it now takes the VA about 160 days to process a claim—more than 5 months, the Administration wants to cut 500 claims processors in FY 2005.

I see no reason why, at a time when we should be adding to the VA's 162 medical facilities, we are shutting them down. In a survey released in March of last year by the American Legion, patients wait an average of seven months to see a primary care physician at VA facilities and more than half reported that they had an appointment postponed by the VA, with an average wait of an additional 2½ months.

When they finally receive care at VA facilities, some of our veterans receive substandard care. In April of this year, an ABC News aired investigation of two VA facilities in the Cleveland area, found dirty bathrooms, halls filled with dirty linens, unclean examination rooms, and memos discussing broken sterilization machines. Former patients spoke of insensitive staff who often ignored patient needs; one woman spoke of patients begging for food and water.

As bad as conditions were before, they are likely to be worse now as the influx of wounded from Iraq grows. In August alone, more than 1,100 U.S. troops were wounded.

The treatment of those wounded in battle is a good measure of a nation, and Congress, and the president must take corrective action now. I realize that fixing a problem of the magnitude of that facing our veterans cannot happen overnight, but we can begin now. The House should do is to pass immediately H.R. 5057, which will expand the Army's innovative Disabled Soldier Support System to all of the military services. The bill was introduced by my colleagues, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. HOYER, and Mr. JONES, and enjoys support on both sides of the aisle. The DS3 program has helped more than 200 severely wounded soldiers to adjust to their new lives, but there are thousands more who need help.

We must also rely on the generosity of the American people to help wounded soldiers. Local communities, service clubs, religious congregations, schools and individuals can pitch in to help new veterans. Medical professionals, social workers, and therapists can volunteer to help until we can get the VA medical system into shape. Contractors can donate their services to remodel homes for soldiers who are paralyzed or have lost a limb. Automobile dealers can donate vehicles that are modified for the needs of their new owners. Students can volunteer their time to run errands, do laundry or just visit with these heroes, many of whom are only a few years older than they are.

Mr. Speaker, no American who has served this Nation in the armed services and been grievously wounded should ever be left to stare out a window and dream of a life that could have been. We are a stronger, prouder and more grateful nation than that.

IN HONOR OF MIM KELBER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mim Kelber once again. When Mim passed away this summer, we lost a woman whose clear vision and verbal acumen helped change the world. A brilliant writer, Mim used her facility with words to inspire supporters of the feminist, labor and environmental movements, among others.

Mim became friends with Bella Abzug when they were still in high school, and they attended Hunter College together. At Hunter, Mim became editor of the Hunter Bulletin while Bella was elected president of the student body. From 1943 to 1955, Mim was national news editor and Washington Bureau Chief of Federated Press, a national syndicated labor news service. She covered the founding meeting of the United Nations in San Francisco, and the labor movement, as well as Congress and the White House. She was an editor/writer for Science and Medicine from 1958 to 1970, leaving that position after Bella was elected to Congress (1971–78).

Mim served as Bella's executive assistant and chief speechwriter, co-edited Bella's Congressional newsletter and was her policy adviser on women, foreign policy, urban affairs and civil liberties. Family life was always of paramount importance to Mim, and she insisted on working out of Bella's New York office, so she could remain in her Brooklyn apartment with her husband, Harry Kelber, a labor journalist and educator, and their two daughters.

In 1974, Mim chaired the Media Committee of the National Women's Political Caucus and directed a national media campaign, Win With Women, a major effort to elect more women to Congress. She was a policy consultant/writer for President Carter's National Advisory Committee for Women (1978–79) and co-authored the official report of the committee's Houston conference. She also co-authored Gender Gap: Bella Abzug's Guide to Political Power for American Women (1984); Women and Government: New Ways to Political Power (1994), and Women's Foreign Policy Directory (1988). In 1990 she co-founded Women's Environment and Development Organization with Bella, and remained involved with WEDO until her death. Mim leaves her beloved husband, Harry, two daughters, Karli and Laura, and five grandchildren.

Many people spoke movingly at a memorial service held for Mim on August 17, 2004, and I have already included some of their tributes in the RECORD. To honor Mim's memory, I am pleased to offer some additional statements given that day:

Robin Morgan: "I wrote down a few thoughts, because I could almost hear Mim saying, "Don't wing it," and adding, "Quote me every chance you get."

When Harry kindly asked me to say a few words today, the first thing I thought of was Mim's lifelong love affair with words. Others have noted—as history will—the many details of her early, continued, consistently principled life, starting with political engagement even as a young girl and intensifying across the decades: the social-justice and labor and civil rights and peace and feminist and environmental organizations she founded, cofounded, and participated in with never-lessening commitment—and always more than slightly ahead of the curve.

Of course, just as it was difficult to speak of Bella Abzug without speaking of Mim, so the reverse is true. They met in the 1930s: young girls in high school. As Mim herself wrote: "Bella was class president and already a fearless leader, and I was shy and hung out in the library. She was an active young religious Zionist—I was an atheist marching in radical May Day parades." Later, they were both in the first class to enter tuition-free Hunter College's new Park Ave. building where—Mim's words again: "Bella majored in political science and was president of the Student Council—I was a journalism major, news editor of the Hunter Bulletin—and still shy." Over their lifetimes, Mimi and Bella loomed as giants in virtually every progressive movement of the time and—with all due respect to their beloved husbands (Harry; and the late Martin)— they were like a 20th-century version of a "Boston marriage": joined in political creativity and dedication, their relationship illuminated by laughter, trust, incredibly hard work, dauntingly long hours, the familiarity and ability to finish each others' sentences, HUGE fights, and makings-up. In sum, a lasting political and personal dynamic duo, an historic—and certainly odd—couple. It's no exaggeration to say that they were the Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony of our time. Personally, I never fully realized, just how challenging it had been for Mimi to write speeches or statements for Bella—for years—until I tried it for the first time myself. I just about killed myself, draft after draft, revision after revision. Finally, Bella approved the text. "It's OK," she shrugged, "but it sure ain't Mimi."

Nor were speeches all Mim penned, with and for Bella—but also on her own. Books. Articles. Manifestos. Reports. Position papers.