

OPPOSITION TO AN ANTI-SECESSION LAW PROPOSED BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

**HON. PETER T. KING**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2005*

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong opposition to an Anti-Secession Law that is being proposed by the People's Republic of China. While some positive developments in cross-strait relations between China and Taiwan have occurred recently, the consideration of an Anti-Secession Law by Beijing threatens to disrupt the status-quo. Recently, an agreement was reached by both governments to allow historic non-stop charter flights between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan during February's Lunar New Year holiday. And the arrival on February 1 of a delegation from China to pay their respects to the late negotiator Koo Chen-fu, former Chairman of the Straits Exchange Foundation, has been a welcome development as well. Unfortunately, China's National People's Congress Standing Committee is considering a bill that is expected to set up a legal framework to provide for the incorporation of Taiwan by China. This legislation, however, could be interpreted to legally require Beijing to move unilaterally against Taiwan in the event Beijing construed any acts or statements by Taipei as a move toward independence.

I have deep reservations about an Anti-Secession Law. Beijing until now has considered Taiwan to be a part of China but has refrained from attempting to legally extend its sovereignty over it. While this position leaves some flexibility for negotiations on unification, I fear that the enactment of this new measure will restrict the debate. In addition, there would also be great uncertainty among the thousands of Taiwanese who work on the mainland. Would Taiwanese businessmen in China run the risk of being jailed for actions interpreted as being supportive of Taiwanese authorities? Reactions from Taiwan to the proposed law have been universally negative among all of Taiwan's political parties and leaders. At a time when the differences between Beijing and Taipei can best be resolved through dialogue, the enactment of this legislation would make the resumption of these negotiations more difficult and inevitably increase tensions in the Taiwan Strait.

Both the People's Republic of China and Taiwan have a vital interest in maintaining peace in the region. My hope is that China will not enact an Anti-Secession Law or take any step, for that matter, which might prompt a confrontation in the Taiwan Strait.

PROMOTING HEART HEALTH

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, heart disease is the leading cause of death for all Americans—more than 70 million Americans, one in four, suffers from heart disease, stroke or another cardiovascular disease. For women, heart disease is responsible for more deaths than the

next seven causes of death combined, including all forms of cancer. And shockingly, only 8 percent of women think that heart disease is a major personal concern.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to help get the message out, to call attention to heart health and to encourage men and women to learn about the signs and causes of cardiovascular disease. This past Friday, the American Heart Association sponsored "Go Red for Women" day to raise awareness and help women take back control of their personal health. Women in particular must educate themselves to know the risk factors they can control: diabetes, blood pressure, tobacco use, cholesterol, exercise and obesity. One in ten American women aged 45 to 64 and one in four American women aged 64 or older has some form of heart disease. Those numbers are way too high.

As the family gatekeeper, women do more than just improve their own health—they can put children and families on the path to a lifetime of good heart health. Childhood obesity and diabetes are pandemic in the U.S.—it's a trend we must stop by making sure our families are eating healthy and getting physical activity. These simple but important steps will mean a great deal to the future health of our families and our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I know you will join me in encouraging all Americans to contact the American Heart Association to find out the information that can save their lives.

TRIBUTE TO HELEN MAYHAK

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2005*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Helen Mayhak who regrettably passed away recently at the age of 91. A dedicated and selfless woman, Helen's charity and work throughout the community made Southwest Michigan an even greater place to live and grow.

For the last 40 years Helen served the Hartford community as township clerk, making her one of Michigan's longest-tenured officials. A lifelong resident of Berrien County, Helen was an active member in her community. Whether she was serving hot lunches to students in our public schools, working with the Boy Scouts of America, or assisting in our local hospitals, Helen did her part to improve the lives of everyone she encountered. As a member of the Van Buren Republican Party, she was honored as the Van Buren Republican of the Year.

Helen will be remembered for her commitment to the betterment of the lives of those she served. We will certainly miss her enthusiasm and passion that she brought to her work each and every day.

On behalf of the Sixth District of Michigan, our prayers and sincere regards go out to Helen's family and friends—she will certainly be deeply missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2005*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I received Unanimous Consent for an excused absence for February 1, 2005 and the balance of the week on account of family medical reasons, I witnessed the birth of my first grandchild Lauren Elissa Hewlett and I ask Unanimous Consent to include this personal explanation in the RECORD.

On February 1, 2005, I was unable to be present for Rollcall votes #14 and #15, and on February 2, 2005, I was unable to be present for Rollcall votes #16, #17, #18, and #19.

On Rollcall vote #14, a Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 23 "Honoring the contributions of Catholic schools," I would have voted "Yea."

On Rollcall vote #15, a Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 120, "To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 30777 Rancho California Road at Temecula, California, as the Dalip Singh Saund Post Office Building," I would have voted "Yea."

On Rollcall vote #16, agreeing to the Resolution H. Con. Res. 36, "Expressing the continued support of Congress for equal access of military recruiters to institutions of higher education," I would have voted "Yea."

On Rollcall vote #17, a Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 56, "Commending the Palestinian people for conducting a free and fair presidential election on January 9, 2005, and for other purposes," I would have voted "Yea."

On Rollcall vote #18, a Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 57, "Expressing the strong concern of the House of Representatives that the European Union may end its embargo against the Peoples Republic of China," I would have voted "Yea."

On Rollcall vote #19, agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 60, "Relating to the free election in Iraq held on January 30, 2005," I would have voted "Yea."

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2005*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, the President's budget is a blueprint of his priorities. A way of showing what direction he wants to move the country. Based on the last four years, it is no surprise that the President's budget is more of the same: continued tax cuts for the wealthy paid for by slashing programs that Americans depend on.

While the President has urged a return to fiscal discipline, he has been more of a culprit than a savior. This year's budget continues to move in the wrong direction, and the FY 2006 deficit will likely be the largest in history. The President's projected deficit is not even a credible accounting, as the budget completely omits the President's own plans for tax cuts, Social Security privatization, and fighting the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. These programs