

we in this body, as we wrestle with the modern-day embodiment of the ideas of our Founders, that we recognize this historic document. It was a bold and courageous document.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to face some obvious and unattractive blemishes that one might have. It is bold and courageous to say that another's fundamental faith and belief has validity, because that can only raise questions about the meaning of one's own belief. This was a courageous document.

Now, I speak as one who by affirmation, heritage, upbringing, and religious practice is neither Roman Catholic nor Jewish, but the change that this made in America certainly has improved my life and the life of every American. Anti-Semitism has been a poison that has from time to time surfaced in our country. Certainly, we see it on the rise in too many places around the world today. But this document put a check on the official sanction of religious intolerance, and it has led to a number of improvements.

Father John Pawlikowski, pointed out that this year *Nostra Aetate* has led to a cleansing of educational materials, and the removal of hateful and bigoted language that previously appeared. It has led to mutual recognition of the spiritual value of others' religious sacred writings of others; it has led to a fundamental rethinking of the relationship between the church and other religions, a process that is still under way.

It led to Pope John Paul's visit to the Auschwitz death camp when he spoke about the memory of the people whose sons and daughters were intended for total extermination. He said that it is not permissible for anyone to pass by the inscriptions there with indifference.

It led to his unprecedented visit to a synagogue in Rome in 1986, and to Pope John Paul's visit to the Holy Land, including Israel and Palestine. It led to a pivotal moment when he shook hands with Prime Minister Ehud Barak. It led to the moment when he walked across the plaza at the western wall and inserted his handwritten prayer expressing Christian regret for the wrongs done to the Jewish people.

This had reverberations all around the world and certainly here in the United States, the country built on the concept of liberty and religious freedom.

This morning on public radio, a young man presented his essay called "This I Believe." Eboo Patel is the founder and executive director of the Interfaith Youth Corps, a Chicago-based organization fostering the international interfaith youth movement. He pointed out that when he attended high school in the western suburbs of Chicago not many years ago, he, as a Hindu, ate lunch with a Jew, a Mormon, a Catholic, and a Lutheran. They were all devout to a degree, he said, but they never really talked about religion. They all knew that they had

some differences in their permitted diets and certain times that they could not eat certain things. He was comfortable in his tolerance for the others.

But then he went on to talk about the most painful recollection of his life, which occurred when he allowed anti-Semitic comments about his friend to go unchallenged. He quoted the great American poet Gwendolyn Brooks: "We are each other's business; we are each other's harvest; we are each other's magnitude and bond."

He said, "I cannot go back in time and take away the suffering of my Jewish friend, but through action, I can prevent it from happening to others."

Martin Luther King in a different, but related, matter said, "Through the laws that we pass," such as we pass in this body, "we cannot change a person's heart. But," he said, "we can restrain the heartless."

Like Mr. Patel, none of us can go back, but we can look back and we can see the progress that has been made in the last 40 years to fulfill the spirit of *Nostra Aetate*; and we can continue every day to take action to ensure that it does not happen in our schools, in our communities, in our cities and towns.

Nostra Aetate was not empty sentimentality; it was historic, important, and effective. It made a difference in the history of the world. As Rabbi David Rosen, the Director of the American Jewish Committee's Interreligious Department, wrote, "Even if the effect of this transformation has not fully reached the rank and file around the world, its ramifications cannot be overestimated, and there is much to give thanks for on this anniversary. The anniversary 40 years ago at the end of October is well worth recognizing."

Nostra Aetate was the first statement on interreligious respect that had been issued in the 2,000-year history of the church. Rabbi Gary Bretton Granatoor, Director of Interfaith Affairs at the Anti-Defamation League, reminded the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and me that the pilgrimage out of the wilderness took 40 years from Egypt to Sinai to Canaan. He said that it is not surprising that in 40 years, we have not fully achieved the vision of Pope John XXIII around the world or here in this country, but we have made enormous progress. *Nostra Aetate* demanded that the church and all people of faith examine themselves anew in relation to other peoples of faith.

We need to ensure we carry this message of religious respect to all that we do here. We can learn the spirit of *Nostra Aetate* and take action to check religious bigotry, religious hatred and advance the American experiment—the American Dream—of a more perfect union, built not just on respect, but on an understanding that we are indeed a nation conceived in liberty, dedicated to the proposition that all are equal, and all have something to contribute to America's success.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this point. I would just conclude by welcoming also the resolution's expression of support for the United States to continue to lead the fight against anti-Semitism and other forms of religious and racial prejudice and discrimination, and that people of all faiths have a critical role to play in that matter.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 260, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

SENATOR PAUL SIMON WATER FOR THE POOR ACT OF 2005

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1973) to make access to safe water and sanitation for developing countries a specific policy objective of the United States foreign assistance programs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1973

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 "Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

- (1) Water-related diseases are a human tragedy, killing up to five million people annually, preventing millions of people from leading healthy lives, and undermining development efforts.
- (2) A child dies an average of every 15 seconds because of lack of access to safe water and adequate sanitation.
- (3) In the poorest countries in the world, one out of five children dies from a preventable, water-related disease.
- (4) Lack of access to safe drinking water, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene practices are directly responsible for the vast majority of diarrheal diseases which kill over two million children each year.
- (5) At any given time, half of all people in the developing world are suffering from one or more of the main diseases associated with inadequate provision of water supply and sanitation services.
- (6) Over 1.1 billion people, one in every six people in the world, lack access to safe drinking water.
- (7) Nearly 2.6 billion people, two in every five people in the world, lack access to basic sanitation services.

(8) Half of all schools in the world do not have access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

(9) Over the past 20 years, two billion people have gained access to safe drinking water and 600 million people have gained access to basic sanitation services.

(10) Access to safe water and sanitation and improved hygiene are significant factors in controlling the spread of disease in the developing world and positively affecting worker productivity and economic development.

(11) Increasing access to safe water and sanitation advances efforts toward other development objectives, such as fighting poverty and hunger, promoting primary education and gender equality, reducing child mortality, promoting environmental stability, improving the lives of slum dwellers, and strengthening national security.

(12) Providing safe supplies of water and sanitation and hygiene improvements would save millions of lives by reducing the prevalence of water-borne diseases, water-based diseases, water-privatization diseases, and water-related vector diseases.

(13) Because women and girls in developing countries are often the carriers of water, lack of access to safe water and sanitation disproportionately affects women and limits women's opportunities at education, livelihood, and financial independence.

(14) Between 20 percent and 50 percent of existing water systems in developing countries are not operating or are operating poorly.

(15) In developing world water delivery systems, an average of 50 percent of all water is lost before it gets to the end-user.

(16) Every \$1 invested in safe water and sanitation would yield an economic return of between \$3 and \$34, depending on the region.

(17) Developing sustainable financing mechanisms, such as pooling mechanisms and revolving funds, is necessary for the long-term viability of improved water and sanitation services.

(18) The annual level of investment needed to meet the water and sanitation needs of developing countries far exceeds the amount of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and spending by governments of developing countries, so facilitating and attracting greater public and private investment is essential.

(19) Meeting the water and sanitation needs of the lowest-income developing countries will require an increase in the resources available as grants from donor countries.

(20) The long-term sustainability of improved water and sanitation services can be advanced by promoting community level action and engagement with civil society.

(21) Target 10 of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals is to reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water by 2015.

(22) The participants in the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, including the United States, agreed to the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development which included an agreement to work to reduce by one-half "the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water," and "the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation" by 2015.

(23) At the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the United States announced the Water for the Poor Initiative, committing \$970 million for fiscal years 2003 through 2005 to improve sustainable management of fresh water resources and accelerate and expand international efforts to achieve the goal of cutting in half by 2015 the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water.

(24) United Nations General Assembly Resolution 58/217 (February 9, 2004) proclaimed "the period from 2005 to 2015 the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Life', to commence on World Water Day, 22 March 2005" for the purpose of increasing the focus of the international community on water-related issues at all levels and on the implementation of water-related programs and projects.

(25) Around the world, 263 river basins are shared by two or more countries, and many more basins and watersheds cross political or ethnic boundaries.

(26) Water scarcity can contribute to insecurity and conflict on subnational, national, and international levels, thus endangering the national security of the United States.

(27) Opportunities to manage water problems can be leveraged in ways to build confidence, trust, and peace between parties in conflict.

(28) Cooperative water management can help resolve conflicts caused by other problems and is often a crucial component in resolving such conflicts.

(29) Cooperative water management can help countries recover from conflict and, by promoting dialogue and cooperation among former parties in conflict, can help prevent the reemergence of conflict.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to increase the percentage of water and sanitation assistance targeted toward countries designated as high priority countries under section 6(f) of this Act;

(2) to ensure that water and sanitation assistance reflect an appropriate balance of grants, loans, contracts, investment insurance, loan guarantees, and other assistance to further ensure affordability and equity in the provision of access to safe water and sanitation for the very poor;

(3) to ensure that the targeting of water and sanitation assistance reflect an appropriate balance between urban, periurban, and rural areas to meet the purposes of assistance described in section 135 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as added by section 5(a) of this Act;

(4) to ensure that forms of water and sanitation assistance provided reflect the level of existing resources and markets for investment in water and sanitation within recipient countries;

(5) to ensure that water and sanitation assistance, to the extent possible, supports the poverty reduction strategies of recipient countries and, when appropriate, encourages the inclusion of water and sanitation within such poverty reduction strategies;

(6) to promote country and local ownership of safe water and sanitation programs, to the extent appropriate;

(7) to promote community-based approaches in the provision of affordable and equitable access to safe water and sanitation, including the involvement of civil society;

(8) to mobilize and leverage the financial and technical capacity of businesses, governments, nongovernmental organizations, and civil society in the form of public-private alliances;

(9) to encourage reforms and increase the capacity of foreign governments to formulate and implement policies that expand access to safe water and sanitation in an affordable, equitable, and sustainable manner, including integrated strategic planning; and

(10) to protect the supply and availability of safe water through sound environmental management, including preventing the destruction and degradation of ecosystems and watersheds.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) in order to make the most effective use of amounts of Official Development Assistance for water and sanitation and avoid waste and duplication, the United States should seek to establish innovative international coordination mechanisms based on best practices in other development sectors; and

(2) the United States should greatly increase the amount of Official Development Assistance made available to carry out section 135 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as added by section 5(a) of this Act.

SEC. 5. ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDE SAFE WATER AND SANITATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 135. ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDE SAFE WATER AND SANITATION.

"(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of assistance authorized by this section are—

"(1) to promote good health, economic development, poverty reduction, women's empowerment, conflict prevention, and environmental sustainability by providing assistance to expand access to safe water and sanitation, promoting integrated water resource management, and improving hygiene for people around the world;

"(2) to seek to reduce by one-half from the baseline year 1990 the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation by 2015;

"(3) to focus water and sanitation assistance toward the countries, locales, and people with the greatest need;

"(4) to promote affordability and equity in the provision of access to safe water and sanitation for the very poor, women, and other vulnerable populations;

"(5) to improve water efficiency through water demand management and reduction of unaccounted-for water;

"(6) to promote long-term sustainability in the affordable and equitable provision of access to safe water and sanitation through the creation of innovative financing mechanisms such as national revolving funds, and by strengthening the capacity of recipient governments and communities to formulate and implement policies that expand access to safe water and sanitation in a sustainable fashion, including integrated planning;

"(7) to secure the greatest amount of resources possible, encourage private investment in water and sanitation infrastructure and services, particularly in lower middle-income countries, without creating unsustainable debt for low-income countries or unaffordable water and sanitation costs for the very poor; and

"(8) to promote the capacity of recipient governments to provide affordable, equitable, and sustainable access to safe water and sanitation.

"(b) AUTHORIZATION.—To carry out the purposes of subsection (a), the President is authorized to furnish assistance for programs in developing countries to provide affordable and equitable access to safe water and sanitation.

"(c) ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.—Assistance provided under subsection (b) shall, to the maximum extent practicable, be used to—

"(1) expand affordable and equitable access to safe water and sanitation for underserved populations;

"(2) support the design, construction, maintenance, upkeep, repair, and operation of water delivery and sanitation systems;

"(3) improve the safety and reliability of water supplies, including environmental management; and

"(4) improve the capacity of recipient governments and local communities, including

capacity-building programs for improved water resource management.

“(d) LOCAL CURRENCY.—The President may use payments made in local currencies under an agreement made under title I of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 (7 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to provide assistance under this section.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 104(c) of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 (7 U.S.C. 1704(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(9) SAFE WATER AND SANITATION.—To provide assistance under section 135 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to promote good health, economic development, poverty reduction, women’s empowerment, conflict prevention, and environmental sustainability by increasing affordable and equitable access to safe water and sanitation.”.

SEC. 6. SAFE WATER AND SANITATION STRATEGY.

(a) STRATEGY.—The President, acting through the Secretary of State, shall develop a strategy to further the United States foreign assistance objective to provide affordable and equitable access to safe water and sanitation in developing countries, as described in section 135 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as added by section 5(a) of this Act.

(b) CONSULTATION.—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall be developed in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the heads of other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, international organizations, international financial institutions, recipient governments, United States and international nongovernmental organizations, indigenous civil society, and other appropriate entities.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of State, acting through the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall implement the strategy required by subsection (a). The strategy may also be implemented in part by other Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate.

(d) CONSISTENT WITH SAFE WATER AND SANITATION POLICY.—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall be consistent with the policy stated in section 3 of this Act.

(e) CONTENT.—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an assessment of the activities that have been carried out, or that are planned to be carried out, by all appropriate Federal departments and agencies to improve affordable and equitable access to safe water and sanitation in all countries that receive assistance from the United States;

(2) specific and measurable goals, benchmarks, and timetables to achieve the objective described in subsection (a);

(3) an assessment of the level of funding and other assistance for United States water and sanitation programs needed each year to achieve the goals, benchmarks, and timetables described in paragraph (2);

(4) methods to coordinate and integrate United States water and sanitation assistance programs with other United States development assistance programs to achieve the objective described in subsection (a);

(5) methods to better coordinate United States water and sanitation assistance programs with programs of other donor countries and entities to achieve the objective described in subsection (a); and

(6) an assessment of the commitment of governments of countries that receive assistance under section 135 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as added by section 5(a) of this Act, to policies or policy reforms that support affordable and equitable access by the people of such countries to safe water and sanitation.

(f) DESIGNATION OF HIGH PRIORITY COUNTRIES.—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall further include the designation of high priority countries for assistance under section 135 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as added by section 5(a) of this Act. This designation shall be made on the basis of—

(1) countries in which the need for increased access to safe water and sanitation is greatest; and

(2) countries in which assistance under such section can be expected to make the greatest difference in promoting good health, economic development, poverty reduction, women’s empowerment, conflict prevention, and environmental sustainability.

(g) REPORTS.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that describes the strategy required by subsection (a).

(2) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not less than once every year after the submission of the initial report under paragraph (1) until 2015, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the status of the implementation of the strategy, progress made in achieving the objective described in subsection (a), and any changes to the strategy since the date of the submission of the last report.

(B) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—Such reports shall include information on the amount of funds expended in each country or program, disaggregated by purpose of assistance, including information on capital investments, and the source of such funds by account.

(3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on International Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 7. MONITORING REQUIREMENT.

The Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall monitor the implementation of assistance under section 135 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as added by section 5(a) of this Act, to ensure that the assistance is reaching its intended targets and meeting the intended purposes of assistance.

SEC. 8. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL CAPACITY.

It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State should expand current programs and develop new programs, as necessary, to train local water and sanitation managers and other officials of countries that receive assistance under section 135 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as added by section 5(a) of this Act.

SEC. 9. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ADDITIONAL WATER AND SANITATION PROGRAMS.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the United States should further support, as appropriate, water and sanitation activities of United Nations agencies, such as the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); and

(2) the Secretary of the Treasury should instruct each United States Executive Director at the multilateral development banks (within the meaning of section 1701(c) of the

International Financial Institutions Act) to encourage the inclusion of water and sanitation programs as a critical element of their development assistance.

SEC. 10. REPORT REGARDING WATER FOR PEACE AND SECURITY.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that United States programs to support and encourage efforts around the world to develop river basin, aquifer, and other watershed-wide mechanisms for governance and cooperation are critical components of long-term United States national security and should be expanded.

(b) REPORT.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on efforts that the United States is making to support and promote programs that develop river basin, aquifer, and other watershed-wide mechanisms for governance and cooperation.

SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2006 and each subsequent fiscal year such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(b) OTHER AMOUNTS.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (a) shall be in addition to the amounts otherwise available to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(c) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under section (a) are authorized to remain available until expended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1973.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, water-related illnesses claim the life of one child approximately every 8 to 15 seconds, killing an average of 3,000 to 5,000 children a day, and up to 5 million people annually. Mr. Speaker, the statistics are staggering. Approximately 1.1 billion people do not have access to safe water and 2.6 billion people lack access to basic sanitation.

According to the United Nations Task Force on Water and Sanitation, more than half the people in the developing world are suffering from one or more of the main diseases associated with inadequate provision of water supply and sanitation. These numbers, Mr. Speaker, indicate a humanitarian catastrophe that places global development and human security in peril.

Acknowledging the linkages between access to safe water and sanitation and

other development sectors, the administration has taken some noteworthy actions in response to these challenges.

□ 1430

The Water for the Poor and Clean Water for People are initiatives totaling almost \$1.5 billion combined. However, more needs to be done. Currently, improving access to safe water and sanitation is not a stated priority of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. In addition, the geographical distribution of funding for water programs does not correspond to the level of need for safe water and sanitation in particular countries.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to thank the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for his leadership in confronting global water challenges by introducing H.R. 1973. Specifically, this measure makes access to safe water and sanitation for developing countries a specific policy objective of the United States foreign assistance programs. I am proud of the strong bipartisan cooperation reflected in the amended version of H.R. 1973 that we are discussing here today. I am confident that the changes made to the original text will greatly improve the coordination, quality, and effectiveness of U.S. foreign programs for water and sanitation.

I am also pleased that we have the chance to give recognition to the selfless work of a great public servant through the passage of this act. The late Senator Paul Simon of Illinois played a significant role in drawing the attention of the chairman and that of members of the House International Relations Committee to this issue. The United States Congress recognizes the valuable contributions made by Senator Simon in his book entitled, "Tapped Out: The Coming World Crisis in Water Scarcity and What We Can Do About It."

Senator Simon spent much of his life working to garner political support toward finding solutions to global water challenges. We hope that today his memory will be respectfully and appropriately honored and served through the passage of this act. The Senator Paul Simon Water For the Poor Act of 2005 authorizes assistance to promote increased access to safe water and sanitation for vulnerable populations in developing countries in an affordable and equitable way. H.R. 1973 amends the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 by broadening the areas of development assistance objectives to include improved access to safe water and sanitation.

This act requires the Secretary of State to develop a strategy in consultation with the administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development to carry out this objective. The strategy called for in this important legislation requires the Secretary of State to assess the adequacy of current activities, define measurable objectives as stipulated by this legislation and as-

sess the level of funding needed to meet them, and improve the coordination and integration of water and sanitation programs provided by the United States with the water and sanitation assistance programs of other donor countries and institutions.

Also, this act requires the designation of high-priority countries in which the need for increased access to safe water and sanitation is greatest. This is critical to making sure that assistance is being targeted to reach those who are most in need.

H.R. 1973 recognizes the impact that lack of access to safe water and sanitation can have on peace and security. Over 260 river basins are shared by two or more countries. Water scarcity can sometimes further complicate longstanding conflicts. This is especially true in the Middle East where nations vie for control over water resources. This legislation will contribute to United States national security by supporting programs that foster cooperation over shared water resources, including river basins and aquifers.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1973 is an important step in defining a clear and coherent United States international water policy. This legislation will save lives and improve the quality of living for billions of people throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the passage of H.R. 1973, the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005, and look forward to its immediate passage in the Senate where Senate Majority Leader BILL FRIST has introduced similar legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I appreciate the strong and eloquent statement of my friend from Texas, his support for this legislation and over 100 of our colleagues on bipartisan legislation that seeks to make a difference, as my friend said. I would like to express my deep appreciation for Chairman HYDE's hard work and passion on this item that has helped us get to this point today.

This legislation may be coming up under suspension of the rules, but for over 2 billion people around the world without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, nothing could be more important for us to discuss here today. This is an opportunity for the House of Representatives to exert leadership on this too-often-overlooked, but critical, issue. Headlines today are devoted to the potential for a pandemic dealing with bird flu, and rightly so. But here and now, lack of access to water and sanitation is the number one killer around the world. We may take safe drinking water and sanitation for granted, but such is not the case for these hundreds of millions of people.

As my colleague said a moment ago, every 7 to 15 seconds, a child dies unnecessarily from waterborne disease. In

the course of our brief discussion today, over 100 children will die unnecessarily. As a result of lack of access to safe drinking water, half the people in the world today who are sick, are sick unnecessarily because of this simple problem. This bill is an opportunity, not to create vast new programs and bet on new technology, but to refocus our foreign assistance efforts on a comprehensive, strategic series of investments. There are simple common-sense steps the world fully understands which will make a difference in people's lives, help transform their communities while building real local capacity for sustainable development.

Water and sanitation is crucial because it is a necessary part of every one of our foreign assistance objectives. Access to water empowers women and girls who in many places are unable to get an education or hold a job because they have to spend hours walking to fetch water for their families. They are at risk in many places of attack as they leave the village in search of safe water, and hours of dangerous toil means school is less likely or even impossible.

Safe water and sanitation makes people healthier and, therefore, more economically productive. Studies show at any given time the fact that half the people in the developing world being sick from water-related diseases, especially chronic diarrhea, saps their capacity to be economically productive.

We find that the economic benefits of investing in safe drinking water and sanitation is dramatic, up to \$34 in increased economic productivity for every dollar invested. Poor countries with access to improved water and sanitation have enjoyed annual growth rates in their gross domestic product of 3.7 percent, while those without adequate investment saw their GDP grow at just one-tenth of 1 percent, almost 40 times greater for those with the adequate investment.

Poor people are already investing vast sums of money on unsafe water and access to water that comes via trucks. Investing in real water delivery systems will actually free up money for poor people to invest in their basic needs. There are even opportunities for microenterprise. In this way, these water investments can work the same as microfinance and debt relief combined.

Increasing access to safe drinking water and sanitation helps protect the environment, and not just for poor people in developing countries. Improving sanitation helps keep raw sewage from flowing into rivers and water sources. Protecting these natural resources helps keep water supplies clean and people healthier all around the world.

Safe water projects can empower communities, supporting them on their way to self-sufficiency. It builds the capacity for communities to design, build and maintain not just their water and sanitation systems; it can provide an inclusive process to bring together

their governments with their citizens, the components of civil society to develop the needs for democracy and good government.

As my friend alluded to, water can help prevent conflict and violence as, across the world, efforts to cooperate over shared water resources can serve as an incentive to limit conflict and a starting point for efforts to resolve conflict.

Finally, the Copenhagen Consensus group of economists, a group that, frankly, is skeptical of much foreign aid, rates the investments in water and sanitation as some of the best and most effective investments in development, growth, and ending poverty. This is not an investment that is going to end up in some thug's Swiss bank account. It puts local people to work while it saves their children's lives.

The scope and immediacy of this crisis in water and sanitation around the world was center stage when I and a number of my colleagues from the House attended the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002. There, while we were debating water and its role in sustainability, we were able to visit some of the desperately poor instant slums that had sprung up around Johannesburg. We saw firsthand the need for water and sanitation being at the forefront of those people's needs and, again, examples of cost-effective mechanisms that made a difference. I think that was one of the reasons why the United States and 185 other countries committed to cutting in half the number of people in the world without access to safe drinking water and sanitation by 2015.

The cost of meeting this goal is not an investment that is beyond our capacity. It is less than Europeans spend on perfume each year or that Americans spend on elective cosmetic surgery. In order to put it in perspective, it is less than the cost of one takeout pizza per American family per year that will enable us to transform people's lives. Unfortunately, despite our good work, despite the consensus in 2002, despite the growing awareness of this problem, the world is not yet on track to meet that goal.

□ 1445

The United States has not yet developed a comprehensive strategy to make that happen. It is not that we are unaware or that we are on the sidelines. We are spending a huge amount of money already, and the House just approved doubling our current investment in aid last week.

We have a wide variety of programs across the whole of the Federal Government. There are programs in the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Defense, Interior, State, the African Development Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Agency For International Development, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, Centers For Disease Control,

the Export-Import Bank, the Inter-American Foundation, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the Peace Corps, EPA, all have pieces of this puzzle. The problem is we have not brought them together in a comprehensive and thoughtful fashion. There is not enough coordination and strategic planning among the various programs.

Our current efforts are focused almost entirely on a very few places, most of the investment to be found in Afghanistan, Iraq, Jordan, the West Bank, and Gaza. I am not going to suggest at all that those investments are not worthwhile and important, but it is time that we refocus our efforts to make sure that we pay attention to areas of greatest need. For example, the lowest percentage of access to water and sanitation is in sub-Saharan Africa, and it gets only \$7 million a year. The largest number of people without this access are in South and East Asia.

This legislation helps us take these many programs, give them the coordination and direction they need to make a difference.

The Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act establishes improving affordable and equitable access to water and sanitation as a major objective of our foreign policy. It directs the Secretary of State to develop a strategy with specific timetables, benchmarks and goals to bring together this vast array of programs that I mentioned to integrate water and sanitation into our development efforts and to meet our commitment that the United States and over 180 other countries made in Johannesburg.

It will ensure that water and sanitation is focused on the places with the greatest need, including efforts on building developing world capacity so that they do not remain dependent on our assistance over time. And it sets policy to assure that our assistance is as cost effective as it can be. That is one of the elements that came forward in our hearings. In talking to faith-based and other nongovernmental organizations, we learn there are a vast array of cost-effective mechanisms that will make a difference and will do it quickly.

I would also note that this bill would establish one of the Millennium Development Goals in U.S. law for the first time. This would be regarded as a very positive development around the world. Our efforts in this legislation are designed to provide our government, recipient governments and all their private-sector and NGO partners with the necessary tools and flexibility to increase access to safe drinking water and sanitation in an affordable and equitable way. It is the result of a long process that has included input from Members on both sides of the aisle, from NGOs, from faith-based organizations, environmental groups, engineering firms, water-related businesses, from the administration.

I am pleased and proud that our committee has been inclusive and thought-

ful in bringing this together. I think it has the potential not just in healing some of the poorest countries around the world, but I think it is an example of the bipartisan cooperation that Members here are interested in.

As my colleague from Texas pointed out, this is a priority of Senate Majority Leader BILL FRIST. He has introduced legislation, along with the Democratic Leader HARRY REID. There is an opportunity here for the two Chambers to come together quickly to be able to put legislation on the President's desk before we adjourn this year, and it will have an impact that will be felt, as they say, around the world.

I have mentioned the support, leadership, and passion of our chairman, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE). I appreciate ranking Democrat, the gentleman from California's (Mr. LANTOS) advice and counsel to me as I have been developing this legislation and moving it forward.

There are key staff members here: Lara Alameh, who has spent countless hours for the majority working with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), moving this legislation forward, and I appreciate her personal commitment and engagement; Robin Roizman from the gentleman from California's (Mr. Lantos) staff; my friend and colleague, Judah Ariel, who has made this a critical part of his role in our office. I appreciate the people behind the scenes who have worked hard to give us a piece of legislation that we can move forward with confidence and expedition.

Finally, I am pleased that the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) actually had the idea, I am sorry that I did not name this legislation after Senator Paul Simon. Senator Simon gave me a copy of his book "Tapped Out" on his last visit to Oregon, something that I cherish. And he was the type of bipartisan, thoughtful, results-oriented legislator that we all should want to emulate. This legislation will be a fitting memorial to his memory. I appreciate what has brought us to this day.

Mr. Speaker, I will submit in the RECORD an expanded list of the groups and organizations who have made the legislation possible, who have worked with the staff, who have worked to refine it, and who are raising the public awareness.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we have reached this point today. I am pleased that in the last week I think it is safe to say there has been more attention spent on Capitol Hill on providing safe drinking water for the poor than there has probably been in years. I think it is time well spent. This legislation will move us in that direction, and I am pleased that we have it here before us today.

I would also like to thank the following groups for their support and assistance:

Mercy Corps, Water Advocates, Millennium Water Alliance, National Wildlife Federation,

the Environmental Change and Security Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, US Fund for UNICEF, Engineers Without Borders, National Audubon Society, American Council of Engineering Companies, Water Environment Federation, Water for People, American Council of Engineering Companies, Nature Conservancy, Public Citizen, American Refugee Committee, CARE USA, Food for the Hungry, the Institute for Sustainable Communities, Lifewater International, Oxfam America, Population Action International, Sister Cities International, WaterAid America, Waterlines, WaterPartners International, The Nature Conservancy, US-India PAC, Citizens for Global Solutions, and the Institute for MultiTrack Diplomacy.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1973, the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005.

I want to congratulate my colleague, Mr. BLUMENAUER for bringing this bill to the floor today, and I want to thank Chairman HYDE and the Ranking Member for their support of this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it is a sad fact that here in the United States many of us take clean, plentiful water for granted. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, we use on average about 90 gallons of water per person per day. We expect it to be immediately available for us to drink, to cook with, to shower, to wash our cars, to water our lawns, to fill our swimming pools, and to flush our toilets. Most of this water is needlessly wasted, and we must do more to reduce our usage. But for most people in the developing world, clean water is a precious commodity not to be wasted.

In Sub-Saharan Africa alone, the average person uses 3–5 gallons of water per day. That's why this bill is so important.

As a co-sponsor of H.R. 1973, I am a strong believer in providing clean water and sanitation systems for developing countries to protect public health and reduce the spread of water borne diseases.

According to a recent report by the United Nation's Children's Fund and the World Health Organization, 1.1 billion people worldwide still lack safe water and 2.6 billion have no sanitation. In Africa, only 58 percent of Africans live within 30 minutes walk of an improved water source and only 36 percent have access to a basic toilet.

In rural Africa, 19 percent of women spend more than one hour on each trip to fetch water, a back breaking and exhausting chore that often puts them at risk of abduction or rape, and robs them of other opportunities to work and learn.

Unsafe water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene habits play a major role in Africa's high child mortality rate. Each year, diarrhea kills over 700,000 children throughout the continent, and contributes to the problem of chronic malnutrition. Access to clean water is literally a life or death issue for many Africans.

By passing this bill today, we can take a significant step forward to improve access to clean water throughout Africa and the developing world. I want to again thank Mr. BLUMENAUER for his work on this bill, and for working with me to ensure that we receive appropriate reporting on the balance of funding going to urban, rural, and peri-urban communities.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and send it to the other body for its swift approval.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1973, the Water for the Poor Act of 2005, a much needed statement of Congress' concern for one of the world's most fundamental problems.

Mr. Speaker, according to the World Health Organization, one billion people around the world live without access to clean water, and 2.6 billion—40 percent of the world's population—cannot access basic sanitation. While the front pages of our newspapers recount the horrors of conflict and displacement and the risk of potential influenza pandemic, the silent epidemic of waterborne illness continues to sicken and kill around the world. Most of us here take having an unlimited supply of clean water for granted, but for billions of people the everyday question of water access means the difference between hope and misery, and even life and death.

If we make the commitment to help more people around the world gain access to potable water, we can help societies become more productive by making them healthier. We can ensure the education of more girls who had previously spent hours a day carrying water. And we can save the lives of children who would have died of easily preventable diseases before maturity.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important to point out in this context that some people struggle to access water right here in the United States. In my district of El Paso, Texas and along the entire United States-Mexico border, unincorporated and under-served settlements called colonias regularly lack access to clean and affordable water. As we pass H.R. 1973 today, I want to remind my colleagues that we must continue funding North American Development Bank programs, such as the Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF), that help finance essential services infrastructure on both sides of the border.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in supporting this important legislation.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I commend my good friend and distinguished colleague, Congressman EARL BLUMENAUER, for his leadership on this critically important bill, of which I am proudly an original cosponsor.

I would also like to commend my dear colleague and friend, HENRY HYDE, Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, for his help in bringing the bill to the floor expeditiously.

Mr. Speaker, the entire world has witnessed time and again the unimaginable devastation that humanitarian disasters, such as Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma and the Pakistani earthquake, can wreak. They leave hundreds of thousands homeless and hungry, their lives in danger from water-borne diseases because of unsafe water and sanitation.

Unsafe water and poor sanitation are appallingly common in the developing world. Each year, more than 3 billion people suffer from water-related diseases, from which 3 to 4 million die—and most victims are children under five.

The Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act seeks to address the 1.1 billion people lacking access to safe drinking water and the almost 2½ billion who have no access to basic sanitation. The legislation directs the Administration to make expanding access to safe water and sanitation a major policy objective in U.S. development efforts.

The bill authorizes new programs to make this policy a reality, including expanding af-

fordable and equitable access to safe water and sanitation and improving the capacity of national and local governments and communities to effectively address their water and sanitation needs.

The bill also authorizes the Secretary of State to develop and implement a safe water and sanitation strategy, including the designation of high priority countries with the greatest water and sanitation needs. Finally, it urges the Administration to expand programs that promote trans-boundary cooperation on water issues.

Mr. Speaker, at nearly every meal, we think nothing of lifting a glass of cool drinking water and hardly notice its cooling effects. Unfortunately, our blessings are not shared by billions of our fellow human beings. In the interest of stability worldwide and in keeping with our core humanitarian values, the United States must do all within our power to ensure that people everywhere have access to safe water and sanitation.

I urge all my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE-JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 1973. I want to commend the gentleman from Oregon for introducing this noteworthy piece of legislation, as it addresses one of the earth's most precious resources—water.

Water is essential for life. It is crucial for sustainable development, the preservation of our natural environment, and the alleviation of poverty and hunger. Water is indispensable for human health and well being.

Arguably one of the most underappreciated challenges facing humanity today is: the availability of clean, fresh water and adequate sanitation infrastructure.

It is practical to intertwine sanitation with water supply. In many instances, clean drinking water supplies cannot be secured without adequate attention to sanitation, as waste disposal remains one of the most serious sources of drinking water contamination.

A lack of fresh water and sanitation infrastructure create ideal conditions under which various water-borne diseases thrive. Water and sanitation-related diseases remain among the biggest killers, particularly among children. Across the globe, many millions of children die every year from water-borne diseases.

The poor are more vulnerable to ill-health than are the well-off. They lack adequate supplies of safe water and safe methods of waste disposal. Study after study has shown that when a community improves its water supply, hygiene and/or sanitation then health improves. Yet unfortunately, statistics reflect a terrible story.

According to the World Health Organization, forty percent of the world's 6 billion people have no acceptable means of sanitation, and more than 1 billion people draw their water from unsafe sources.

As an industrialized nation, the United States must be a leader in addressing this challenge. H.R. 1973 makes the provision of safe water and sanitation a stated goal of U.S. foreign assistance policy. It lends a practical hand to human development and dignity. This is a noble effort, and I proudly support it.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1973, the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act. And I want to thank my colleague, the author of this

legislation, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for his leadership on this critical issue and for doing great honor to the name of one of my dear departed friends. The late Senator Paul Simon, my friend from Illinois, was one of our strongest proponents of the need for U.S. leadership in addressing the global water crisis. He considered his book on this topic, *Tapped Out*, one of the most important works of his life. Senator Simon stated: "In our world increasing numbers of people cannot assume they will be nourished and sustained, and within a few years, a water crisis of catastrophic proportions will explode on us—unless aroused citizens in this and other nations demand of their leadership actions reflecting vision, understanding, and courage."

If Senator Simon were with us today he would certainly point out the fact that globally, over 1 billion people lack adequate access to safe drinking water and over 2 billion have no access to proper sanitation. Five million people, mostly children, die unnecessarily from water-related diseases each year. This is not just a problem that affects other countries. Three of our fastest growing states—California, Texas, and Florida—are feeling the squeeze on water supplies and will soon face major difficulties unless we take action now. In Illinois and the other Great Lakes states, we are faced with challenging resource management issues as we seek to preserve and protect our nation's largest fresh water supply and the largest free-flowing supply of fresh water on earth.

Mr. Speaker, it is in Senator Simon's memory and because of the urgency of this issue, that I support the Water for the Poor Act. As Senator Simon wrote, "No other nation has the capabilities and resources to lead." Because water is a finite resource that is essential to all forms of life, U.S. policies should seek to ensure that all people have access to clean water to meet their basic needs. Senator Simon's wife Patty Simon is working hard to carry on his legacy and this critically important mission and each member of this body should join in that critically important effort.

The Water for the Poor Act will help to increase access to safe water and sanitation worldwide in an affordable and equitable way. It expresses the policy that the United States needs to increase the amount of funds available for water and sanitation, supports innovative funding mechanisms, greater international coordination, and better integration of water and sanitation into other development efforts. Finally, it requires the development of a strategy to meet specific goals and benchmarks on the way to halving the percentage of people without access to safe water and sanitation.

At the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, the United States and 185 other countries agreed to the goal of cutting in half the percentage of people without access to safe water and basic sanitation in the world by 2015. The United States should lead in meeting and exceeding that goal. The Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act is the best first step in that direction. I, again, thank and commend my colleague and all of the cosponsors of this important legislation. And I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1973.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Oregon (Mr.

BLUMENAUER) for sponsoring this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1973, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

GYNECOLOGICAL RESOLUTION FOR ADVANCEMENT OF OVARIAN CANCER EDUCATION

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 444) supporting the goals and ideals of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 444

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Gynecological Resolution for Advancement of Ovarian Cancer Education".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

- (1) ovarian cancer is a serious and under-recognized threat to women's health;
- (2) ovarian cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer death among women living in the United States;
- (3) ovarian cancer is very treatable when it is detected early, but the vast majority of cases are not diagnosed until the cancer has spread beyond the ovaries;
- (4) only 19 percent of ovarian cancer cases in the United States are diagnosed in the early stages;
- (5) in cases where ovarian cancer is detected before it has spread beyond the ovaries, more than 94 percent of women will survive longer than five years;
- (6) many people do not know that ovarian cancer often presents with persistent symptoms such as abdominal pressure, bloating, discomfort, nausea, indigestion, constipation, diarrhea, frequent urination, abnormal bleeding, unusual fatigue, unexplained weight loss or gain, and shortness of breath;
- (7) many people do not know that certain women are at higher risk for developing ovarian cancer if they have risk factors, including increasing age, a personal or family history of ovarian, breast, or colon cancer, and not having had children;
- (8) raising public awareness of ovarian cancer by educating doctors and women about the disease will save lives;
- (9) ovarian cancer research is needed to develop early detection tools, prevention methods, enhanced therapies, and a cure;
- (10) there are still large gaps in knowledge on key scientific aspects of the disease;
- (11) there is still no reliable and easy-to-administer screening test for ovarian cancer;

(12) President George W. Bush proclaimed September 2005 as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month; and

(13) during the month of September, the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance and its 46 State and regional groups held hundreds of events across the country to increase public awareness of the disease.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

The House of Representatives supports the goals and ideals of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, and it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) awareness and early recognition of ovarian cancer symptoms are currently the best way to save women's lives; and

(2) ovarian cancer research should be well-funded so that a reliable screening test can be developed and a cure can be found.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 444.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 444, the Gynecological Resolution for Advancement of Ovarian Cancer Education, or "GRACE's Resolution." I would like to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) of the Energy and Commerce Committee, as well as the leadership, for bringing this bill directly to the floor today. I would also like to commend the author of this legislation our friend, Mr. HALL, for his work in Congress to improve health care for all Americans. I know that this is a very personal issue that hits so close to home for him, and I fully support him in his efforts.

It is an unfortunate fact that ovarian cancer affects one out of 57 women. In 2005, it is expected that more than 22,000 women will be diagnosed with the disease and an estimated 16,000 will die from it.

In my own State of Michigan, there are an average of 515 deaths per year from ovarian cancer and an average incidence rate of 760 people per year.

Ovarian cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer death among women in the United States. Fifty percent of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer die from it within 5 years. However, if it is detected early, the disease, in fact, is very treatable. In cases where ovarian cancer is detected before it has spread beyond the ovaries, more than 90 percent of women will survive longer than 5 years. But sadly, only 19 percent of ovarian cancer cases in the United