

to her students and her peers. Her continued faith in students has made a tremendous impact on a countless number of lives.

Ms. Bauer began the foundation of her higher education at Elizabethtown College. She later earned her Master's degree from McDaniel College and has since been certified as a cognitive tutor for the countywide algebra curriculum.

She is able to take a complex subject like mathematics and break it down into pieces so students have a better understanding of formulas. She encourages students through a positive learning environment. Ms. Bauer introduces students to creativity in the classroom; students learn the Quadratic formula to the tune of "Pop Goes the Weasel," and practice math problems through group activities.

Ms. Bauer has made it a point to actively participate in school activities. She is a co-advisor to the National Honor Society; a member of the school Improvement Team; the Mariner Varsity Softball Coach; a member of the school Advisory Committee; and she volunteers at various athletic events. In addition to these contributions, she also organized a students vs. faculty basketball game to raise funds for the Johns Hopkins Research Hospital for Kidney Research after sisters, and former Joppatowne students, Amanda and Abby Gilland, died within a year of each other from a rare kidney disease.

Her hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed. Ms. Bauer was named Teacher of the Month twice. She was nominated seven times to the list of "Who's Who Among High School Students," and she was voted as the school's "Most Spirited Teacher" for four years.

Ms. Bauer sets high expectations, but attainable goals for her students. She provides them with academic and social guidance. She is convinced all students can be successful in life if only someone believes in them. This is a woman with one goal in mind: to equip young people with the skills and knowledge they require to be productive, successful members of society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me in thanking Ms. Kerrie Bauer for providing her students with the support, confidence, courage and knowledge they need in today's society.

#### INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

### HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2006*

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, last year, the Intelligence Community made painful decisions about the architecture of our satellite programs. These were hard choices. We have worked carefully to mitigate the damage and retain the capability. The future depends on assuring that our decisions are implemented well. That requires a talented and motivated workforce—both military and civilian.

The legislation being introduced today requires the Air Force to study the impact of proposed personnel cuts on our space programs.

The bill's sponsors believe that the cuts mandated by the Quadrennial Defense Review could have an enormous impact on the space community, particularly the intellectual talent

that gives us the edge over our adversaries and that we have worked so hard to build up over the past decade.

Allowing the Air Force to gut its personnel—both Active Duty and contractor support—without the benefit of an impact statement could undercut the careful measures we took to preserve and protect the industrial base.

The Department of Defense comptroller has directed the Air Force to "aggressively reduce contractor support." This is a very dangerous path. Contractors have formed the core of our rebuilt space capability after we literally dropped billions of dollars of research and hardware into the ocean in the 1990s.

While active duty members often are forced to rotate out of the command due to the pressing needs of the service, the contractor community has provided much of the intellectual capacity, stability, and continuity to keep our programs on track.

Today, the Space and Missiles Command, located in El Segundo, California, in my Congressional district, has a record of which everyone is proud—45 successful launches, including 12 Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicles. We dare not put that record in jeopardy by releasing one-third of our brain trust.

This desire for continuity is also reflected in the Intelligence Committee's report accompanying the FY 2007 Authorization bill, which passed the full House last month. In it, our Committee wrote: "Simply put, complex space systems acquisition requires extraordinary specialized knowledge, skills, and dedicated effort over time."

For that very reason, Congress has a right—and a responsibility—to understand the impact of these cuts and be assured that our capability will not be further eroded in the face of pressing national security challenges.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

#### PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

### HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2006*

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, this week I made a very difficult decision in voting for H.R. 4681, the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006. I have been deeply moved by my constituents from both sides of the issue, including individuals with strong family ties to the Middle East. I want to take this opportunity to share my thoughts behind voting in support of the legislation.

In January 2006, Hamas, a designated terrorist organization that does not recognize the state of Israel and calls for an Islamized Palestinian state, won the legislative election to lead the PA government. Since then, the United States and the European Union have announced a series of measures designed to further isolate and pressure the Hamas-led Palestinian government until it recognizes Israel, renounces violence, and accepts previously signed Israeli-Palestinian peace agreements.

Specifically, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice recently announced that the United States has begun to suspend over \$400 mil-

lion in direct aid to Hamas, while redirecting about \$100 million from canceled projects to humanitarian assistance such as food and medicine distributed by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The canceled aid includes: \$45 million in direct aid to the PA; \$130 million in infrastructure projects; \$20 million in private enterprise development and revitalization, financial markets reform, trade programs and information technology sector support; \$17 million in electoral, political party, local government and legislative support programs; \$13 million in civil society development; \$10 million in rule of law and judicial programs; \$7 million in technical assistance and vocational training; \$4 million in community policing, among others. Similarly, the EU Commission announced that it had halted payments to the Hamas government, freezing all direct aid to the PA and payment of public employees' salaries with EU funds through the World Bank, but not humanitarian aid through international and nongovernmental organizations. In the mean time, the Israeli government has cut off all ties with nearly all branches of the PA government, including its security. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has declared that his government will avoid meetings with visiting representatives or diplomats from PA.

I am in support of certain financial sanctions on Hamas to ensure no U.S. government funding goes directly to support terrorism activities. On February 15, 2006, I voted in favor of, and the House passed, S. Con. Res. 76, which expressed the sense of Congress that no United States assistance should be provided directly to the PA if the majority party in control of the PA parliament maintains a position calling for the destruction of Israel. I believe it was a sensible resolution that called for an end of U.S. financial support of Hamas while allowing other forms of humanitarian aid to flow through NGOs to the Palestinian people.

The impact of cuts in aid is being felt by the PA. Omar Abdel-Razeq, Finance Minister of the PA, recently confirmed that the PA could not pay March and April salaries to about 140,000 government workers. These salaries support about one-third of the Palestinian population. These cuts in aid came on top of the fact that Gaza's economy is in dire straits, with average family income already below the U.N. poverty line. Economic conditions are also precipitously declining in the West Bank. Overall the PA shoulders a total debt of \$1.3 billion, including \$640 million to regional and local banks and making it virtually impossible for the PA to obtain new loans. Furthermore, Israel has decided to withhold \$50 million a month in customs and tax receipts since January, although it continues to pay Israeli companies about \$5.5 million a month from those receipts for the water and electricity used by the Palestinians. The Israeli government has also recently announced that it will buy drugs and medical equipments needed by Palestinian hospitals in Gaza out of the withheld funds.

Yet, despite the dire needs of Palestinians, Hamas has chosen to ignore reality in favor of its extremist commitment to terrorism.

On April 17 of this year, a suicide bomber struck in a Tel Aviv restaurant, killing nine Israelis and injured dozens. The suicide bombing was carried out by Islamic Jihad, an Iranian-backed extremist group that refuses to acknowledge the cease-fire followed by