

is threatening rhetoric with respect to Israel. And there is world concerns about its desire to ramp up nuclear production. All these things, in my judgment, make it mandatory the United States seek immediate talks with Iran.

We must reach out to parties in the region to begin to negotiate an end to the violence and the beginning of a peace process leading to a permanent resolution. Now, our leaders haven't taken that approach. They are seeking to isolate Iran, and instead we are starting to isolate ourselves.

These sanctions are indirect. They are not targeted at objectionable behavior. According to Anthony Wayne, the Assistant Secretary For Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State, testifying before the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs on June 28, 2001, talking about the Libya and Iran Sanctions Act, he says that "it focuses on investment in order to limit revenue, rather than focusing directly on actions by Iran to procure weapons of mass destruction and support terrorism." He goes on to say that "it goes against some of the friendly countries whose cooperation we need in working towards nonproliferation and counterterrorism goals."

So these sanctions haven't been effective. There is a question about whether any sanctions are going to be effective here. These sanctions add to the price of gasoline in the United States. We are paying for these failed sanctions every time we fill up our tank.

Iran has the third largest oil reserves after Saudi Arabia and Canada, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, equaling 132.5 billion barrels. Iran has the second largest natural gas reserves after Russia, equaling 16 percent of the world's reserves. The administration hasn't done anything meaningful to break our country of its dependence on petroleum, so the reality is that sanctions against investments in Iran's oil and gas fields will cause U.S. consumers to pay higher prices for gasoline and natural gas.

High prices protect the Iranian government from economic consequences of decreased investment. A military strike against Iran, which this country seems to be nodding towards, could send oil to \$130 per barrel, according to CNN, making the \$3 a gallon currently look like the good old days.

Now, we have to take a new direction. The same geniuses who brought us the war in Iraq, who are standing by while violence overwhelms the Middle East, these same geniuses have this plan to keep sanctions on Iran, which will drive up the price of oil, so Iran can make more money selling their oil to other countries, and the oil industry in the U.S. isn't complaining about it because they are making record profits.

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We need to take a new approach. That approach is to engage Iran di-

rectly and to stop isolating them and to bring them to a peaceful resolution of the issues that are currently inflaming so much of the world. This is a time for us to take a new direction. I don't think that we are headed that way, but I think that when we are looking at renewal of a sanctions regime we ought to be talking about whether or not it is in the best interests of this country to take the direction we are taking.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am attaching an exchange of letters between Chairman HYDE and Chairman THOMAS concerning the bill H.R. 5877. "To amend the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 to extend the authorities provided in such Act until September 29, 2006".

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 26, 2006.

Hon. HENRY J. HYDE,
Chairman, Committee on International Relations,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HYDE: I am writing regarding H.R. 5877, a bill "To amend the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 to extend the authorities provided in such Act until September 29, 2006," which is scheduled for floor consideration on Wednesday, July 26, 2006.

Because H.R. 5877 would amend the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 (ILSA) to have the effect of extending the application of an import ban, it falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. However, in order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action on this bill. This is being done with the understanding that this legislation is being expedited in order to ensure that ILSA does not lapse while the Congress is considering additional changes to ILSA such as those contained in H.R. 282, the Iran Freedom Support Act, which was passed by the House of Representatives on April 26, 2006. This action is also being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on H.R. 5877, H.R. 282, or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,
Chairman.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
Washington, DC, July 26, 2006.

Hon. WILLIAM M. THOMAS,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter concerning H.R. 5877, a bill "To amend the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 to extend the authorities provided in such Act until September 29, 2006," which is scheduled for floor consideration on Wednesday, July 26, 2006.

I concur that the underlying Iran and Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA) contains provisions relating to imports, which fall within the jurisdiction of your Committee, as does H.R. 5877, which would extend the Act. I appreciate your willingness to waive consideration of this legislation by your Committee in order to ensure that ILSA does not lapse while the Congress is considering additional

changes to ILSA such as those contained in H.R. 282, the Iran Freedom Support Act, which was passed by the House of Representatives on April 26, 2006. I also concur that your Committee's willingness to forego consideration does not in any way prejudice it with respect to the appointment of conferees or jurisdictional prerogatives on H.R. 5877, H.R. 282, or similar legislation.

As you have requested, I will place a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration.

With best wishes,
Sincerely,

HENRY J. HYDE,
Chairman.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MACK). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5877.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING THE INTERNATIONAL AIDS VACCINE INITIATIVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 844) congratulating the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative on ten years of significant achievement in the search for an HIV/AIDS vaccine, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 844

Whereas HIV/AIDS has killed over 25,000,000 people worldwide and poses a serious threat to the economic and political stability of the countries hit hardest by this terrible epidemic;

Whereas the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) was founded in 1996 as a public-private partnership with a mission to ensure the development of safe, effective, accessible, preventive HIV/AIDS vaccines for use throughout the world, with a particular focus on developing countries, where the need is most urgent;

Whereas the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative's research and policy programs have galvanized scientific efforts and substantially increased financial and political support for this vital effort;

Whereas since its founding, the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative has advanced six vaccine candidates from concept to clinical trials, targeting the subtypes of HIV circulating in the developing world—a record matched only by one large pharmaceutical company;

Whereas ten years ago only a few developing countries had participated in HIV/AIDS vaccine trials, but today several countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia are actively participating in HIV/AIDS vaccine trials, a reflection of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative's activism and commitment to working collaboratively with developing country partners;

Whereas the model of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, which closely links clinical trial site investigators to product developers, has resulted in the first HIV/AIDS vaccine trials being conducted in Kenya, Rwanda, and India, as well as trials in Uganda and South Africa;

Whereas the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative is a founding member of the Global HIV/AIDS Vaccine Enterprise, recognized by the G-8 as an important actor in the quest for a vaccine; is an affiliated member of the National Institutes of Health's Partnership for AIDS Vaccine Evaluation; and is hosting NIH trials at International AIDS Vaccine Initiative sites in Africa;

Whereas the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative's Core Clinical Immunology Laboratory was the first Good Clinical Laboratory Practices (GCLP) accredited laboratory in the world to assess HIV/AIDS vaccines, and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative's laboratory in Uganda was the first to receive such accreditation in Africa; and

Whereas the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative established a ground-breaking Neutralizing Antibody Consortium to address one of the key scientific challenges to vaccine design: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative on ten years of significant achievement in the search for an HIV/AIDS vaccine;

(2) recognizes the role of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative in raising awareness and increasing financial and political support for this important cause;

(3) admires the commitment of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative to collaborating with developing country researchers, governments, and civil society in the common goal of finding a vaccine;

(4) expresses support for the continued success of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative; and

(5) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise tonight to request the support of my colleagues for House Resolution 844, a resolution congratulating the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative on 10 years of achievement in advancing the search for an HIV/AIDS vaccine.

Since emerging in 1981, HIV/AIDS has viciously spread across the globe, compromising economic and political stability in developing countries and in-

discriminately taking the lives of over 25 million men, women and children. The cost of HIV/AIDS has been staggering.

Thankfully, the global response has accelerated. From the beginning, countless organizations and individuals took up the battle against HIV/AIDS, committing extensive resources and giving deeply of themselves to fight an epidemic which would prove to be a formidable foe. Until 1996, however, insufficient attention and resources were being devoted to the development of a preventive HIV/AIDS vaccine, a development that would have the potential to end a plague that has devastated much of our world for a quarter century. It was this realization, Mr. Speaker, that led to the founding of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative in 1996.

Founded as a public-private partnership, the Initiative's mission is the development of safe, effective and accessible HIV/AIDS vaccines, especially in developing countries where the need is greatest. With a philosophy that has galvanized scientists, academics, nonprofit organizations, governments and faith communities, the Initiative's progress has been substantial. The Initiative has opened a Core Clinical Immunology Laboratory and a network of field laboratories throughout the countries hit worst by HIV/AIDS, conducting numerous vaccine trials in countries such as Kenya, India and South Africa. As a testament to their vitality, activism and commitment, the majority of new HIV/AIDS vaccine candidates are due in large part to the efforts of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative.

We are reminded that HIV/AIDS is a global obstacle which continues to challenge our collective goal of a free, prosperous and peaceful world. In the struggle against this disease which infects nearly 14,000 people a day, the Initiative's work is of tremendous importance and its progress has been notable.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution to extend the House's congratulations to the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative on 10 years of achievement.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 844, and I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House of Representatives will honor the 10th anniversary of the founding of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) today. This important nonprofit scientific and advocacy organization, founded in 1996, is working to develop safe, effective and accessible HIV vaccines for use around the world but especially for use in developing countries. IAVI is headquartered in New York, with offices in Nairobi, Johannesburg, New Delhi and Amsterdam, and conducts research and advocacy activities in a total of 23 countries.

As you are well aware, the HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to decimate lives and families worldwide. AIDS has already claimed the lives of 25 million people, and there are currently nearly 40 million people living with HIV/AIDS today.

The United States has demonstrated our commitment to fighting the AIDS crisis by significantly increasing funding for treatment and care for the worst affected countries. Ultimately, however, a vaccine to prevent the spread of this disease will have a greater effect to slow and eventually halt new infections. IAVI's work focuses on four areas: accelerating scientific research on an AIDS vaccine; mobilizing public support through advocacy and education; encouraging industrial involvement in AIDS vaccine development; and assuring rapid global access to a vaccine.

This resolution is timely because in a few weeks an estimated 20,000 scientists, health care providers, community and business leaders, journalists, government, nongovernmental and intergovernmental representatives and people living with HIV/AIDS will meet at the 16th international AIDS conference held this year in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. With over 400 sessions, meetings and workshops dedicated to exploring the latest developments in HIV science, policy and practice, this is sure to provide a meaningful discourse on the global AIDS crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative's 10 years of outstanding work. I urge the adoption of this measure. It is a pleasure to once again sponsor this and speak on this with my good friend and partner, the gentlewoman from Florida, Ms. LEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, with whom I have had the pleasure of working on so much important legislation.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would first like to commend my good friend and colleague from New York, ELIOT ENGEL, for introducing this important resolution. His leadership in Congress on the global battle against HIV/AIDS is greatly appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, over 14,000 people are infected with the deadly HIV/AIDS virus each day. Let me repeat that statistic, Mr. Speaker—14,000 individuals each day are infected with HIV/AIDS.

HIV/AIDS has infected 65 million people and killed nearly 25 million since June 1981 when it was first detected.

For many in the developing world, contracting the HIV/AIDS virus is a death sentence. No drugs. No doctors. No hospitals. No hope.

And for family members left behind—often young children—there is equally little hope. Many will be forced to live with over-burdened and impoverished extended family, in understaffed orphanages or on the streets.

Treatment has brought the promise of life back to many individuals who were on the brink of death. However, palliative care is not a long term solution to relieve the suffering from this deadly disease.

That is why there is an absolute moral imperative to develop a vaccine to stop the

transmission of the HIV/AIDS virus. A successful vaccine will literally save millions of lives in the poorest countries of the world, restore people to their livelihoods, and prevent children around the globe from becoming AIDS orphans.

The resolution before the House brings attention to the intensive work over the past decade to develop a successful HIV/AIDS vaccine. The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative has built bridges between the developed and developing world that did not exist before. It also has conducted vitally important vaccine trials in the developing world that hopefully will lead to a successful vaccine in the near future.

I commend the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for recently awarding \$23.7 million towards financing this network of committed researchers working around the clock to find a cure.

Mr. Speaker, there will be a successful HIV/AIDS vaccine one day, and it is our collective hope that this will occur before millions more of the world's citizens lose their lives. This resolution congratulates the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative for 10 years of significant achievement in the search for an HIV/AIDS vaccine towards this goal.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support for H.R. 844.

AIDS is the greatest worldwide health crisis of our time. Presently, there are more than 40 million people that are either infected with the HIV virus or are living with AIDS. At least 14,000 people are infected each day. Putting an end to AIDS is one of the most pressing humanitarian challenges we must face. For this reason, the development of a preventive vaccine has been a stepping-stone toward achieving this end.

The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative has been working for the past ten years to create a safe and effective HIV/AIDS vaccine. They have worked hard with the public and private sector to garner financial and political support in order to make the vaccine accessible to all those in need, especially in the developing world, where ninety-five percent of those infected with the virus live.

Today, I am honored to congratulate the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative for its advances in scientific progress, which have been instrumental in bringing about a worldwide effort and support for this important cause. It is their research and devotion to finding an HIV/AIDS vaccine that brings hope of ending an epidemic that has already killed more than 25 million people worldwide. However, there is more to be done. We must take this opportunity to commit ourselves to fighting for the dignity and lives of our brothers and sisters around the world by promoting innovative research in finding a cure.

AIDS is presently a formidable adversary—one that cannot be ignored, one that does not only exist in faraway places, but one that is here, in our neighborhoods and homes, infecting 40,000 of our people each year. The efforts of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative have brought us closer to the day when we will live in a world that is free from AIDS.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 844 to congratulate the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative.

As an original co-sponsor of this resolution and a strong supporter of IAVI, I want to thank

my colleagues, Representative ELIOT ENGEL and Representative PETER KING, for working in a bipartisan manner to introduce and shepherd it to the floor.

IAVI was funded 10 years ago as a public-private partnership to help develop a safe and effective vaccine to prevent HIV/AIDS.

Today IAVI operates in over 23 countries with a variety of partners and is in the testing phases for several vaccine candidates.

In addition to working on the hard science, IAVI has also worked to lay the groundwork to ensure that a future vaccine is affordable and accessible to all who need it, especially in the developing world.

This year Representative PALLONE and I spearheaded a \$35 million appropriations request for IAVI in the FY07 Foreign Ops bill, along with the support of many members of this committee. While the House has approved a \$29 million funding level for IAVI this year, the same as FY06, I am hopeful that in conference my colleagues will support the Senate funding level of \$31 million.

While the search for an AIDS vaccine has so far eluded us, the partnership represented by IAVI is in many ways our best hope at finding a cure. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) on their 10 years of hard work in searching for an HIV/AIDS vaccine. HIV/AIDS has taken the lives of over 250,000 people worldwide and poses a serious threat to the economic and political stability of the countries hit hardest by this terrible epidemic. The IAVI was founded 10 years ago as a public-private partnership with a mission to ensure the development of safe, effective, accessible, preventive HIV/AIDS vaccines for use throughout the world. The IAVI had a particular focus on developing countries, since their need is most urgent regarding care.

Unfortunately, 10 years ago insufficient attention and resources were devoted to the need for, and advantages of, a vaccine to bring an end to this disease. Currently, we are armed with increasingly powerful knowledge and treatments, and yet we face an ever steeper climb toward victory. HIV/AIDS is no longer a scary, unknown entity. A diagnosis is no longer the sealing of fate, even if it means the beginning of a battle. We know enough to educate, even if we do not yet know enough to cure.

The groundbreaking research and policy programs of the IAVI have galvanized scientific efforts and substantially increased financial and political support for this vital effort. Today, the majority of newly designed HIV/AIDS vaccine candidates are focused on preventing HIV/AIDS in the developing world, in large part due to the efforts of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative. The IAVI has also received accolades from the G8 as being an important actor in the quest for a vaccine, after they became a founding member of the Global HIV/AIDS Vaccine Enterprise.

Today over 42 million individuals are infected with HIV/AIDS globally and 1 million here in the United States. Fifty percent of these cases in the United States are in young adults between the ages of 15 and 24. Every year, 40,000 new cases are diagnosed. Thankfully, the IAVI has continued to work effortlessly to unite scientists, academics, non-profit organizations, and governments from the

north and south, including communities of faith, communities of color, and many others, in an effort to develop a vaccine to stop global HIV infection rates of 14,000 a day.

We all admire the commitment of the IAVI in discovering a vaccine and I want to again express my support for the continued success of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I also have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 844, 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.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. 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.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS OF UMMA COMMUNITY CLINIC ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House tonight to celebrate the achievements of the UMMA Community Clinic upon the occasion of its 10th anniversary. The UMMA Community Clinic is a community health facility that serves uninsured and impoverished families in my congressional district.

The UMMA Clinic was established by Muslim medical students at UCLA who wanted to put their faith and their patriotism into action by serving their community and their country. UMMA is an acronym for the University Muslim Medical Association. In Arabic, the word "umma" means "community," an appropriate name for this extraordinary institution.

The students who founded UMMA were inspired by their Islamic faith, a faith which told them to help their neighbor, a faith which told them that if they saw something wrong, they must fix it. And today the UMMA Clinic is fixing people's lives with its healing hands, every day, quietly and tirelessly.