

Control and Prevention, one out of every 166 children may be affected by some form of autism spectrum disorder.

While there remains varying viewpoints over the causes of autism, research has shown that early diagnosis and intervention have been the most effective means of addressing pervasive development disabilities. The Combating Autism Act's multifaceted approach to this important issue allows for the funding of research, public education, and early detection efforts. This multi-faceted approach will assist the families and children who are afflicted with autism spectrum disorders today, while striving to continue the progress toward finding comprehensive treatments for autism spectrum disorders.

I commend my colleagues in the House of Representatives and in the Senate for moving this important legislation forward. It is my hope that this legislation will ease the emotional and psychological pressures experienced by families caring for individuals with autism; and that it will eventually bring about greater understanding of and improved treatment for autism spectrum disorders.

I urge my colleagues' support for S. 843.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 843, the Combating Autism Act of 2006.

As a long-time supporter and friend of the autism community, I am pleased that this bipartisan legislation is before the full House today. Autism is a lifelong neurological disorder that usually strikes sometime within the first two years of a child's life. It can cause severe impairment in language, cognition and communication. The statistics on autism are staggering. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in every 166 children is affected by autism. Autism is one of the fastest-growing developmental disabilities in the United States.

There has been significant progress in recent years increasing autism research dollars at the National Institutes of Health, as well as surveillance and public health funding at the CDC. Current research indicates that autism has a strong genetic component and may be triggered by environmental factors. But much more needs to be done. We need to redouble our effort to find a cure and improved intervention techniques. That is why I am proud to be a co-sponsor of the House version of the Combating Autism Act. The legislation before us today would authorize increased funding at the NIH for autism research programs as well as expand screening, intervention and education programs within the Federal Government.

It is important that we promote funding for autism research in order to identify the best methods of early intervention and treatment. That is why I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 843, the Combating Autism Act, which would authorize nearly \$1 billion over the next 5 years to combat autism.

This is an important authorization bill, but one that we must back up with funding during the appropriations process.

Autism is serious and Congress must get serious in addressing it. This bill is a first step on that path.

According to the Department of Education this disease is growing at an alarming rate of 10–17 percent each year. Autism afflicts 1 out

of every 166 births in the country, meaning today, 1.5 million Americans are living with this disease, and these numbers are growing particularly in places like New York City.

Autism has been personalized for me through a number of my constituents, including one father and his little boy who I have had the opportunity to meet with and discuss this illness.

The boy's father, who I have gotten to know, has helped educate me on this issue. It was his discussions with me that helped me become more involved in the issue of autism, spurred me to join the Autism Caucus here in the House and fight for increased funds both at the Defense Department and CDC for more funds for research and care.

Additionally, the Quality Services for the Autism Community, or QSAC, has also continually done outreach and education throughout Queens and all of New York City, including hosting an annual Autism Awareness Day. This year's event was held on April 9 at Shea Stadium, home of the Mets, in my district, and was their fourth consecutive annual event.

These events and their members bring more attention to a disease that affects so many individuals and families and today has helped us craft a good bill from their words and experiences.

This legislation will authorize nearly \$1 billion over the next 5 years to combat autism through research, early intervention, and screening, and will translate into a 50 percent increase in funding to help eliminate this disease.

With this bill many families in my own district, Bronx and Queens, will be able to rest assured that the U.S. Government has not forgotten them and is willing to work to eradicate this problem.

Scientists are finding preventative measures, and cures for many diseases such as cervical cancer. This would not have been possible without the funding giving to researchers to find a cure.

That is why I stand with the autism community not only in my district, Bronx and Queens, but all across the Nation in supporting this legislation. It is non-controversial, and it makes perfect sense to find a cure.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill today so families in the future won't have to suffer with autism.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 843, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### TSUNAMI WARNING AND EDUCATION ACT

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1674) to authorize and strengthen the tsunami detection, forecast, warning, and mitigation program of the Na-

tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to be carried out by the National Weather Service, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1674

*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 "Tsunami Warning and Education Act".

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) The term "Administration" means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

#### SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to improve tsunami detection, forecasting, warnings, notification, outreach, and mitigation to protect life and property in the United States;

(2) to enhance and modernize the existing Pacific Tsunami Warning System to increase coverage, reduce false alarms, and increase the accuracy of forecasts and warnings, and to expand detection and warning systems to include other vulnerable States and United States territories, including the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico areas;

(3) to improve mapping, modeling, research, and assessment efforts to improve tsunami detection, forecasting, warnings, notification, outreach, mitigation, response, and recovery;

(4) to improve and increase education and outreach activities and ensure that those receiving tsunami warnings and the at-risk public know what to do when a tsunami is approaching;

(5) to provide technical and other assistance to speed international efforts to establish regional tsunami warning systems in vulnerable areas worldwide, including the Indian Ocean; and

(6) to improve Federal, State, and international coordination for detection, warnings, and outreach for tsunami and other coastal impacts.

#### SEC. 4. TSUNAMI FORECASTING AND WARNING PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, through the National Weather Service and in consultation with other relevant Administration offices, shall operate a program to provide tsunami detection, forecasting, and warnings for the Pacific and Arctic Ocean regions and for the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico ocean.

(b) COMPONENTS.—The program under this section shall—

(1) include the tsunami warning centers established under subsection (d);

(2) utilize and maintain an array of robust tsunami detection technologies;

(3) maintain detection equipment in operational condition to fulfill the detection, forecasting, and warning requirements of this Act;

(4) provide tsunami forecasting capability based on models and measurements, including tsunami inundation models and maps for use in increasing the preparedness of communities, including through the Tsunami-Ready program;

(5) maintain data quality and management systems to support the requirements of the program;

(6) include a cooperative effort among the Administration, the United States Geological Survey, and the National Science Foundation under which the Geological Survey

and the National Science Foundation shall provide rapid and reliable seismic information to the Administration from international and domestic seismic networks;

(7) provide a capability for the dissemination of warnings to at-risk States and tsunami communities through rapid and reliable notification to government officials and the public, including utilization of and coordination with existing Federal warning systems, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio All Hazards Program;

(8) allow, as practicable, for integration of tsunami detection technologies with other environmental observing technologies; and

(9) include any technology the Administrator considers appropriate to fulfill the objectives of the program under this section.

(c) **SYSTEM AREAS.**—The program under this section shall operate—

(1) a Pacific tsunami warning system capable of forecasting tsunami anywhere in the Pacific and Arctic Ocean regions and providing adequate warnings; and

(2) an Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico tsunami warning system capable of forecasting tsunami and providing adequate warnings in areas of the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico that are determined—

(A) to be geologically active, or to have significant potential for geological activity; and

(B) to pose significant risks of tsunami for States along the coastal areas of the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, or Gulf of Mexico.

(d) **TSUNAMI WARNING CENTERS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator, through the National Weather Service, shall maintain or establish—

(A) a Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii;

(B) a West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center in Alaska; and

(C) any additional forecast and warning centers determined by the National Weather Service to be necessary.

(2) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The responsibilities of each tsunami warning center shall include—

(A) continuously monitoring data from seismological, deep ocean, and tidal monitoring stations;

(B) evaluating earthquakes that have the potential to generate tsunami;

(C) evaluating deep ocean buoy data and tidal monitoring stations for indications of tsunami resulting from earthquakes and other sources;

(D) disseminating forecasts and tsunami warning bulletins to Federal, State, and local government officials and the public;

(E) coordinating with the tsunami hazard mitigation program described in section 5 to ensure ongoing sharing of information between forecasters and emergency management officials; and

(F) making data gathered under this Act and post-warning analyses conducted by the National Weather Service or other relevant Administration offices available to researchers.

(e) **TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY; MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In carrying out this section, the National Weather Service, in consultation with other relevant Administration offices, shall—

(A) develop requirements for the equipment used to forecast tsunami, which shall include provisions for multipurpose detection platforms, reliability and performance metrics, and to the maximum extent practicable how the equipment will be integrated with other United States and global ocean and coastal observation systems, the global earth observing system of systems, global

seismic networks, and the Advanced National Seismic System;

(B) develop and execute a plan for the transfer of technology from ongoing research described in section 6 into the program under this section; and

(C) ensure that maintaining operational tsunami detection equipment is the highest priority within the program carried out under this Act.

(2) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—

(A) Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Weather Service, in consultation with other relevant Administration offices, shall transmit to Congress a report on how the tsunami forecast system under this section will be integrated with other United States and global ocean and coastal observation systems, the global earth observing system of systems, global seismic networks, and the Advanced National Seismic System.

(B) Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment to this Act, the National Weather Service, in consultation with other relevant Administration offices, shall transmit a report to Congress on how technology developed under section 6 is being transferred into the program under this section.

(f) **FEDERAL COOPERATION.**—When deploying and maintaining tsunami detection technologies, the Administrator shall seek the assistance and assets of other appropriate Federal agencies.

(g) **ANNUAL EQUIPMENT CERTIFICATION.**—At the same time Congress receives the budget justification documents in support of the President's annual budget request for each fiscal year, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives a certification that—

(1) identifies the tsunami detection equipment deployed pursuant to this Act, as of December 31 of the preceding calendar year;

(2) certifies which equipment is operational as of December 31 of the preceding calendar year;

(3) in the case of any piece of such equipment that is not operational as of such date, identifies that equipment and describes the mitigation strategy that is in place—

(A) to repair or replace that piece of equipment within a reasonable period of time; or

(B) to otherwise ensure adequate tsunami detection coverage;

(4) identifies any equipment that is being developed or constructed to carry out this Act but which has not yet been deployed, if the Administration has entered into a contract for that equipment prior to December 31 of the preceding calendar year, and provides a schedule for the deployment of that equipment; and

(5) certifies that the Administrator expects the equipment described in paragraph (4) to meet the requirements, cost, and schedule provided in that contract.

(h) **CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATIONS.**—The Administrator shall notify the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives within 30 days of—

(1) impaired regional forecasting capabilities due to equipment or system failures; and

(2) significant contractor failures or delays in completing work associated with the tsunami forecasting and warning system.

(i) **REPORT.**—Not later than January 31, 2010, the Comptroller General of the United States shall transmit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives that—

(1) evaluates the current status of the tsunami detection, forecasting, and warning system and the tsunami hazard mitigation program established under this Act, including progress toward tsunami inundation mapping of all coastal areas vulnerable to tsunami and whether there has been any degradation of services as a result of the expansion of the program;

(2) evaluates the National Weather Service's ability to achieve continued improvements in the delivery of tsunami detection, forecasting, and warning services by assessing policies and plans for the evolution of modernization systems, models, and computational abilities (including the adoption of new technologies); and

(3) lists the contributions of funding or other resources to the program by other Federal agencies, particularly agencies participating in the program.

(j) **EXTERNAL REVIEW.**—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences to review the tsunami detection, forecast, and warning program established under this Act to assess further modernization and coverage needs, as well as long-term operational reliability issues, taking into account measures implemented under this Act. The review shall also include an assessment of how well the forecast equipment has been integrated into other United States and global ocean and coastal observation systems and the global earth observing system of systems. Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report containing the National Academy of Sciences' recommendations, the Administrator's responses to the recommendations, including those where the Administrator disagrees with the Academy, a timetable to implement the accepted recommendations, and the cost of implementing all the Academy's recommendations, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives.

(k) **REPORT.**—Not later than 3 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall establish a process for monitoring and certifying contractor performance in carrying out the requirements of any contract to construct or deploy tsunami detection equipment, including procedures and penalties to be imposed in cases of significant contractor failure or negligence.

## **SEC. 5. NATIONAL TSUNAMI HAZARD MITIGATION PROGRAM.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator, through the National Weather Service and in consultation with other relevant Administration offices, shall conduct a community-based tsunami hazard mitigation program to improve tsunami preparedness of at-risk areas in the United States and its territories.

(b) **COORDINATING COMMITTEE.**—In conducting the program under this section, the Administrator shall establish a coordinating committee comprising representatives of Federal, State, local, and tribal government officials. The Administrator may establish subcommittees to address region-specific issues. The committee shall—

(1) recommend how funds appropriated for carrying out the program under this section will be allocated;

(2) ensure that areas described in section 4(c) in the United States and its territories can have the opportunity to participate in the program;

(3) provide recommendations to the National Weather Service on how to improve the TsunamiReady program, particularly on ways to make communities more tsunami resilient through the use of inundation maps and other mitigation practices; and

(4) ensure that all components of the program are integrated with ongoing hazard warning and risk management activities, emergency response plans, and mitigation programs in affected areas, including integrating information to assist in tsunami evacuation route planning.

(c) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—The program under this section shall—

(1) use inundation models that meet a standard of accuracy defined by the Administration to improve the quality and extent of inundation mapping, including assessment of vulnerable inner coastal and nearshore areas, in a coordinated and standardized fashion to maximize resources and the utility of data collected;

(2) promote and improve community outreach and education networks and programs to ensure community readiness, including the development of comprehensive coastal risk and vulnerability assessment training and decision support tools, implementation of technical training and public education programs, and providing for certification of prepared communities;

(3) integrate tsunami preparedness and mitigation programs into ongoing hazard warning and risk management activities, emergency response plans, and mitigation programs in affected areas, including integrating information to assist in tsunami evacuation route planning;

(4) promote the adoption of tsunami warning and mitigation measures by Federal, State, tribal, and local governments and nongovernmental entities, including educational programs to discourage development in high-risk areas; and

(5) provide for periodic external review of the program.

(d) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a change in the chair of any existing tsunami hazard mitigation program subcommittee.

#### SEC. 6. TSUNAMI RESEARCH PROGRAM.

The Administrator shall, in consultation with other agencies and academic institutions, and with the coordinating committee established under section 5(b), establish or maintain a tsunami research program to develop detection, forecast, communication, and mitigation science and technology, including advanced sensing techniques, information and communication technology, data collection, analysis, and assessment for tsunami tracking and numerical forecast modeling. Such research program shall—

(1) consider other appropriate research to mitigate the impact of tsunami;

(2) coordinate with the National Weather Service on technology to be transferred to operations;

(3) include social science research to develop and assess community warning, education, and evacuation materials; and

(4) ensure that research and findings are available to the scientific community.

#### SEC. 7. GLOBAL TSUNAMI WARNING AND MITIGATION NETWORK.

(a) INTERNATIONAL TSUNAMI WARNING SYSTEM.—The Administrator, through the National Weather Service and in consultation with other relevant Administration offices, in coordination with other members of the United States Interagency Committee of the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program, shall provide technical assistance and training to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the World Meteorological Organization, and other international entities, as part of international efforts to develop a fully functional global tsunami forecast and warning system comprising regional tsunami warning networks, modeled on the International Tsunami Warning System of the Pacific.

(b) INTERNATIONAL TSUNAMI INFORMATION CENTER.—The Administrator, through the National Weather Service and in consultation with other relevant Administration offices, in cooperation with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, shall operate an International Tsunami Information Center to improve tsunami preparedness for all Pacific Ocean nations participating in the International Tsunami Warning System of the Pacific, and may also provide such assistance to other nations participating in a global tsunami warning system established through the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. As part of its responsibilities around the world, the Center shall—

(1) monitor international tsunami warning activities around the world;

(2) assist member states in establishing national warning systems, and make information available on current technologies for tsunami warning systems;

(3) maintain a library of materials to promulgate knowledge about tsunami in general and for use by the scientific community; and

(4) disseminate information, including educational materials and research reports.

(c) DETECTION EQUIPMENT; TECHNICAL ADVICE AND TRAINING.—In carrying out this section, the National Weather Service—

(1) shall give priority to assisting nations in identifying vulnerable coastal areas, creating inundation maps, obtaining or designing real-time detection and reporting equipment, and establishing communication and warning networks and contact points in each vulnerable nation;

(2) may establish a process for transfer of detection and communication technology to affected nations for the purposes of establishing the international tsunami warning system; and

(3) shall provide technical and other assistance to support international tsunami programs.

(d) DATA-SHARING REQUIREMENT.—The National Weather Service, when deciding to provide assistance under this section, may take into consideration the data sharing policies and practices of nations proposed to receive such assistance, with a goal to encourage all nations to support full and open exchange of data.

#### SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this Act—

(1) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, of which—

(A) not less than 27 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami hazard mitigation program under section 5; and

(B) not less than 8 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami research program under section 6;

(2) \$26,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, of which—

(A) not less than 27 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami hazard mitigation program under section 5; and

(B) not less than 8 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami research program under section 6;

(3) \$27,000,000 for fiscal year 2010, of which—

(A) not less than 27 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami hazard mitigation program under section 5; and

(B) not less than 8 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami research program under section 6;

(4) \$28,000,000 for fiscal year 2011, of which—

(A) not less than 27 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami hazard mitigation program under section 5; and

(B) not less than 8 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami research program under section 6; and

(5) \$29,000,000 for fiscal year 2012, of which—

(A) not less than 27 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami hazard mitigation program under section 5; and

(B) not less than 8 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami research program under section 6.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to yield the time to Mr. BOEHLERT.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New York will control the time.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in just about 2 weeks, we will reach the second anniversary of the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami that began off the coast of Indonesia and resulted in the deaths of at least 150,000 people and injuring and dislocation of millions more. It was an event that stunned the entire world and eventually prompted an enormous outpouring of international aid. Among other things, the event was a reminder of the often forgotten but awesome power of nature, which we ignore at our own peril.

But an acknowledgement of nature's power does not mean that we are powerless. Quite the contrary, we needlessly seal our own doom if we fail to take steps that can reduce the significant impact of natural disasters at home and abroad. And in the case of tsunamis, which by definition travel across the seas paying no mind to international borders, the approach has to be global to be effective.

The tsunamis that can cause damage in the U.S. are just as likely to begin overseas as off our own coast. And in addition to humanitarian concerns, the U.S. pays a high price both in aid and in threats to international stability when cataclysmic death results from tsunamis overseas. So we need to take action to improve the understanding of tsunamis by both scientists and the general public, to improve our detection of tsunamis, and to improve our ability to issue warnings about approaching tsunamis, and to ensure populations know how to respond to such warnings.

Happily, we are not starting from scratch in any of these areas. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration already runs research, detection, warning, and outreach programs, and the administration began augmenting those programs in 2005 after the Indian Ocean tsunami. But we need to ensure that the focus on tsunamis continues even as memories of the 2004 tragedy fade, and we need to further strengthen the administration

program along the lines of expert advice we have heard at Science Committee hearings. The experts were particularly concerned that more be done in the area of outreach so that the public understands more about tsunamis and what to do if one is approaching. They also called for more research so we could predict tsunamis and their paths more accurately.

I should add that tsunamis are not a theoretical threat for the U.S. The seismically active west coast is particularly vulnerable and has experienced tsunamis in the past. Even a small tsunami can cause damage. An earthquake off the coast of Japan last month produced a tsunami that hit California with wave surges of only 5 or 6 feet, but it caused an estimated \$700,000 in damage in just one town.

So we need to maintain and strengthen the Nation's tsunami programs. That is exactly what H.R. 1674 would do; it would give specific continuing congressional direction to efforts in tsunami research, prediction, detection, warning, and outreach, the full spectrum of needed activities. The bill would also improve congressional oversight of the program by requiring updates on the condition of tsunami monitoring equipment and several studies of the overall effectiveness of the tsunami program.

This is a good, carefully targeted, economical, bipartisan bill. I wish to thank my cosponsor, JAY INSLEE, for all his hard work and persistence on this bill. He understands well how his constituents in Washington State could be in harm's way for a tsunami. I also want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in the Science Committee who, as usual, contributed to the bill which passed the committee long ago by voice vote. I also want to thank the Transportation and Infrastructure and International Relations Committees for working with us on their jurisdictional claims. And, finally, I want to thank Senator TED STEVENS and Senator DAN INOUE and their staffs for working with us to put together a compromise bill. This bill is ready for Senate action and should go to the President for signature this week.

Mr. Speaker, we ought to act now to prevent future tragedies from tsunamis. We can't prevent tsunamis, but we can greatly limit the loss of life from them. This bill will help us do just that, not just in the U.S., but abroad, and I urge its passage.

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

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

First, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment for an appreciation of Mr. BOEHLERT, the retiring chairman of the Science Committee. He is a consummate legislator; he has talked the talk and walked the walk of promoting the public good over partisanship. He has run the Science Committee in a gentlemanly, bipartisan fashion. And

to me, as an aging junior Member of this body, when I think of who I would like to be when I grow up, one of those people is SHERRY BOEHLERT.

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I rise in support of H.R. 1674, the U.S. Tsunami Warning and Education Act. I am an original cosponsor of this legislation, and I am proud to have worked with Chairman BOEHLERT and Chairman EHLERS on this important bill.

We cannot prevent earthquakes and tsunamis, but we can prepare for them. We can ensure that citizens of our coastal communities take appropriate safety steps when the inevitable occurs.

Detection and forecasting are not sufficient. State and local communities must be prepared to disseminate the warning and direct the public to safety areas. Individual citizens must know where to go when they receive a warning. All this must be done well in advance of a tsunami.

I am fortunate to represent a beautiful expanse of the Oregon coast. However, we are also well aware of the potential danger presented by the Cascadia fault located just offshore of Oregon, Washington and California.

In Oregon, we face the threat of a 9.0 Richter Scale coastal earthquake and resulting tsunami. Scientists warn it is not whether this natural disaster will occur, but when. Unlike hurricanes Katrina and Rita, there will be absolutely no warning of the earthquake. When the 9.0 Cascadia earthquake hits, it will rock the ground for 4 to 5 minutes, perhaps raising and dropping the ground level 4 to 8 feet at each rumble. After the quake, Oregonians will have only 10 to 30 minutes to reach high ground before the tsunami rolls ashore.

Oregon has already done a great deal to keep our coastline beautiful and our citizens safe. Cannon Beach, Oregon, was one of the first coastal communities to be designated tsunami-ready by NOAA. H.R. 1674 builds upon the successful partnership that exists between the Federal, State and local governments on the west coast to ensure that all U.S. coastal communities will be prepared to deal with tsunamis.

This bill authorizes the type of comprehensive system we must have if we are to avoid the catastrophic loss of life caused by the December 2004 Indonesian earthquake.

Previously, funding for tsunamis focused more heavily on detection and forecasting systems hardware. While this hardware will help protect the Chinese and Japanese across the ocean in the event of a Cascadia earthquake, it is only mitigation programs focusing on educating the public that are key to protecting Oregonians, Washingtonians and Californians from a Cascadia fault quake.

I am particularly pleased that this legislation includes a specific percentage of funding for tsunami hazard education and mitigation. While I would like to see a more aggressive increase

in funding over the lifetime of the bill, I believe these funding levels represent a good start. This program supports vital activities such as inundation mapping, public education and encouraging local communication networks.

Again, I would like to thank Chairman BOEHLERT and Chairman EHLERS for working with me in a bipartisan and collegial manner on this legislation. H.R. 1674 is a good bill, and I urge all Members to support it.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1674, as amended, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, let me say to Mr. WU how much I appreciate his kind remarks. We are partners on the Science Committee in a bipartisan manner to bring forward an agenda from that committee that not only does the committee proud, does this Congress proud, but does this Nation proud.

And one of the privileges of being the chairman of the Science Committee is to work with my fellow chairmen like DON YOUNG, and I happen to be a senior member of that committee. I appreciate his leadership, don't always follow it, but I really do appreciate his leadership. We have had a good, constructive working relationship in so many areas, and particularly on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his kind words. We will miss you. I even tried to get you to run again.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1674, the Tsunami Warning and Education Act. I want to commend Chairman BOEHLERT, and even Mr. INSLEE from Washington, Mr. WU, for working on this legislation in an effort to make America's coastal communities safer.

Alaska, my State, is no stranger to the horrible forces of tsunamis. During the past century, four large tsunamis have devastated our coastline. The worst occurred in 1964, when the State was struck by a magnitude 9.4 earthquake. Many of the communities along Prince William Sound and Kodiak Island were completely wiped out. Tsunami waves killed more than 100 people and caused almost \$400 million worth of damage, and that is not in today's dollars, but 1964 dollars, to Alaska alone.

The inability to properly warn Alaskans of these deadly tsunamis prompted the creation of a tsunami warning

system for Alaska and the rest of the Pacific. H.R. 1674 enhances and modernizes this existing tsunami warning system. It also expands the detection and warning system to include other vulnerable areas of the United States.

It is not enough to have warning systems in place, people need to know where to go when a tsunami is going to hit. The mitigation program in this bill helps develop evacuation plans and improves awareness in vulnerable communities.

This bill will help protect Alaskans and other Americans from the same kind of devastation we suffered in 1964. I support this legislation with all my heart.

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to my friend and colleague from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY).

(Ms. HOOLEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank Chairman BOEHLERT for the kind of job he does every single day on committee, which is working across the aisle and trying to make this world a better place for people, a little safer, and to really look at the future. He cares very much about the future. And I thank the gentleman from Oregon for all of his work on this legislation and for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues not only from the west coast but across the country in support of this legislation.

I know that the impetus for this bill was the horrible destruction and loss of life that occurred in Southeast Asia in December of 2004. But one only has to look at last month's news and the tsunami warnings issued along the west coast after an earthquake in Japan to understand that the threat is very real and very important.

In the last 2 years, I have made a lot of trips to the Oregon coast, and talked with many constituents about the possibility of a tsunami of similar size and destructive force striking somewhere along Oregon, Washington or the northern California coast.

I have spoken with State geologists, tsunami researchers at many universities, and emergency management planners, and they all agree it is not a question of if but when the next big tsunami will strike the west coast.

While this legislation or any legislation will not guarantee total protection, I do think that the funding in this bill for education and mitigation programs will go a long way towards making our Nation's citizens more aware of the dangers posed by tsunamis and more prepared to act and ultimately safer. This is truly a bill that will save lives.

I am also pleased there is money included in the legislation that will improve international coordination for detection and warnings, particularly in vulnerable regions like the Indian Ocean. It is in the best interest of the

United States to assist in detection and monitoring of seismic events and tsunamis around the world because a large tsunami generated in Japan has a potential to do major damage to many places along the western coastline.

It is for these reasons that I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation and urge my colleagues in the House and the other Chamber to quickly pass this legislation and to begin to provide support for our communities and our citizens.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS), who is a real leader not just on the Science Committee but in this Congress. We benefit greatly from his special experience as a scientist, a physicist, a respected member of his profession, but also a respected colleague. When VERN EHLERS talks, we listen.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his kind words, and also have a good deal of sorrow in my heart because of his departure from this Congress. You have contributed so much, Mr. Chairman, and we deeply appreciate what you have done.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this life-saving bill. H.R. 1674, as amended, will provide the tools our communities need to protect their citizens from the threat of tsunamis.

On December 26, 2004, one of the most devastating tsunamis ever recorded struck the unsuspecting nations of the Indian Ocean Basin. According to the U.N., almost a quarter-million people lost their lives or have never been found, and millions more were displaced. These numbers are impossible to comprehend. It represents more than the number of people killed in the Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear weapons blasts. The effects of this tragedy will be felt for generations.

As we recovered from the shock of the event, we naturally began to ask the question: How can we prevent this from happening again?

H.R. 1674, as amended, the Tsunami Warning and Education Act, is part of the answer. Tsunami warning systems can save lives by giving people the time they need to get out of harm's way. This bill will expand the coverage of our tsunami warning systems to cover both the coasts of the U.S., not just the Pacific coast, giving more of our citizens critical protection.

Of equal importance, this bill will help communities develop efficient evacuation plans as well as effective systems for broadcasting warnings. It will also help educate the public so that they know how to respond to those warnings. In short, this bill will give our coastal communities the tools they need to save lives.

Our Nation has been fortunate not to have experienced a tsunami of the magnitude of the Indian Ocean tsunami—yet. Nor have we escaped all harm. Tsunamis have killed over 300 people in the U.S. in my lifetime, and

the threat remains real, whether in Alaska or Crescent City, California, or any of our other coastal areas.

It is critical that we give our coastal communities the tools and timely information they need to alert their citizens to coming danger, and passing this bill will help make that happen.

It is unfortunate that it often takes a tragic event to bring natural disaster response planning to our attention. This makes it all the more important that we seize on this opportunity to help prevent future tragedies here in the U.S. and around the world. It is of utmost importance that we pass this bill to establish a tsunami forecast and warning system for the United States, aid other countries in doing the same, and educate the public to understand and heed the warnings.

I want to once again emphasize this bill will save lives. I urge my colleagues to join me in strong support of H.R. 1674, as amended.

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to my colleague from Washington (Mr. INSLEE).

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, today we will be taking action so that America's shorelines do not suffer the same fate as Indonesia's on December 26, 2004. I am very pleased that this prolonged effort has arrived today where Congress is going to take measures to give Americans a warning and an ability to avoid damage from a tsunami before that big tsunami hits.

We are in danger and threatened on our coastlines in Washington. First, I will allude to the Pacific. Right off the coastline of Washington and Oregon in the Pacific is what is called the Cascadia subduction zone. This is an evil twin sister of the fault in Indonesia. It is almost identical to the fault off the coastline of Indonesia that caused that quake that cost hundreds of thousands of lives. We have similar subduction zones in the Alaskan-Aleutian zone. We are in the bull's-eye of a potential tsunami. In fact, one happened on February 26, 1700, off the coastline of Washington, and sent what could have been 50-foot waves onto the coastline. We need to do a better job, and this bill is a good start.

The good news is we have some great technology to deal with this issue. We have these detection buoys that use a product developed in Redmond, Washington, in my district, by a company called Paro Scientific. These buoys are anchored off the coastline and they have a little sensor that is on the bottom of the ocean that can measure the difference of depth of one-tenth of an inch over 2-mile deep water. It is an incredible technology. Then it radios changes in the average depth of the ocean to a satellite. In a matter of seconds, we have a system that can generate information along our coastlines. We have six of these buoys, we need at least 20 in the Pacific. For the first

time, this bill will put some buoys in the Atlantic as well.

□ 1315

This will be a first international tsunami warning system using what are called piezometers to measure the depth of the ocean.

The second thing the bill is going to do is the critical link in the chain of warning because buoys aren't enough. We have got to have a way to warn people, to educate people, to have systems in place so that they can evacuate along the coastlines. A little community called LaPush, Washington now has a system where they can move the whole city in about 12 to 15 minutes. We need to have those systems, and this bill is going to do that.

I want to say there is an additional benefit of this bill. False alarms happen as well. And when false alarms happen, we lose millions of dollars when we have false alarms. This whole system will reduce false alarms so that for the first time we can have a credible, meaningful, reliable tsunami detection and warning system in this country. It is overdue. I am glad we are going to have it happen. It is one of the crowning achievements of the great career of Chairman SHERWOOD BOEHLERT, who has done such great work for the environment and for science. We are all going to miss his great leadership.

I want to note a fellow who just left the Speaker's chair, Representative CHARLIE BASS, who hopefully will take credit for this as well for his great environmental stewardship. And it is a good day for America's shorelines to protect us from tsunamis.

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

I want to thank Mr. INSLEE for those very kind comments. I want to thank all my colleagues. It has been a great privilege to work with you and for you and for this great institution.

I also want to observe, before we bring this to a close, the great work of the staff on both sides of the aisle who have labored long and hard, almost 2 years on this bill alone. We don't give enough recognition to the staff. Those of us who are more visible, we come before the House and we are recorded on C-SPAN and everybody says they are doing some good deeds. But the real driving force behind so much of what we do is the very able professional staff that we literally are blessed with, both Democrat and Republican.

And this comes from a former staff member, but I came to Capitol Hill 42 years ago as a starry-eyed young staffer. I got 3 years off for good behavior. I was elected county executive back home, and for the past 24 years I have been privileged to serve in my own right as a Member. But in those 42 years, one of the most dramatic changes, and people are asking me this all the time as I am taking leave, what has changed about the House and about Congress, this institution? One of the most dramatic changes that is so often

overlooked is a change for the good, for the positive, the very high degree of professionalism so evident in the staffs of the committees. And I take the Science Committee as a classic example of how it should be done by all. The professionalism, the hard work, dedication on both sides of the aisle.

And we are going into a new chapter. We as Republicans are going from the majority to the minority. The Democrats are going from the minority to the majority. And people are saying, well, what is going to change? Well, I will tell you what is not going to change in the Science Committee. It is the working relationship across that center divide, the professionals who day in and day out prepare us for the debates, the hearings, and for the activities that we are about. That is not going to change. The Democrats will have a few more and the Republicans will have a few less, but I guarantee you this: As the next Congress comes to a close and people are looking back on its performance, I fully expect that the Science Committee once again will be one of the stars in this Chamber.

So with that, let me say to my colleagues on the committee how fortunate I consider myself to have had the privilege of working with and for you over the years, and as I say to all my colleagues in this Chamber, I urge your support for H.R. 1674, as amended. It is a bill that demonstrates that when we work together, we can accomplish so much for so many.

Mr. Speaker, I insert an exchange of letters between the Committees on Science and International Relations in the RECORD.

I want to thank the staff on both sides of the aisle, who have labored for more than 2 years on this bill. That includes Eric Webster, who has since moved on to NOAA, and David Goldston, Sara Gray, Chad English, and especially Amy Carroll, who has worked tirelessly to keep this bill moving forward.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,

Washington, DC, December 6, 2006.

Hon. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT,  
Chairman, Committee on Science,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing regarding the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on International Relations in H.R. 1674, the Tsunami Warning and Education Act, as proposed for consideration under suspension of the Rules of the House.

The Committee on International Relations recognizes the importance of H.R. 1674 and the need for the legislation to move expeditiously. Therefore, I will not stand in the way of floor consideration. This, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that nothing in this legislation or my decision to allow the bill to come to the floor waives, reduces or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Committee on International Relations, and that a copy of this letter and your letter in response will be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD when the bill is considered on the House Floor.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

HENRY J. HYDE,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,  
Washington, DC, December 6, 2006.

Hon. HENRY J. HYDE,  
Chairman, Committee on International Relations,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding floor consideration of H.R. 1674, the Tsunami Warning and Education Act, as proposed for consideration under suspension of the Rules of the House. I appreciate your willingness to work with me so that H.R. 1674 can move expeditiously to the floor.

I agree that your action does not waive, reduce or otherwise affect any jurisdiction your Committee might have over H.R. 1674. As you requested, the exchange of letters between our two committees will be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

Thank you for your cooperation in moving this important legislation.

Sincerely,

SHERWOOD BOEHLERT,  
Chairman.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1674, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4510. An act to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to accept the donation of a bust depicting Sojourner Truth and to display the bust in a suitable location in the Capitol.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 6143. An act to amend title XXVI of the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the program for providing life-saving care for those with HIV/AIDS.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF MILTON FRIEDMAN

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1089) honoring the life of Milton Friedman.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 1089

Whereas Milton Friedman earned a degree in economics from Rutgers University, and later earned a master's degree from the University of Chicago and a doctorate degree from Columbia University;