

characteristically contemptuous disregard by the terrorists for the will of the international community.

Contrary to the most basic standards of humanitarian conduct, Hamas and Hezbollah have not even allowed access to the Israeli captives by competent medical personnel and representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Mr. Speaker, this appalling conduct underscores the cruel and sinister nature of the enemies that The United States and Israel face in this troubled region.

The resolution we are considering today expresses this Congress's vision for "a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the creation of a viable and independent Palestinian state living in peace alongside of the State of Israel."

I share this vision, but we all know that this vision cannot be achieved—nor can Israeli confidence be won—by sweeping under the rug the transgressions of terrorists like Hamas and Hezbollah.

Mr. Speaker, these terrorists attacked Israel from land that the Israeli army unilaterally evacuated—evacuated in the expectation of peace. But the borders traversed by Hamas and Hezbollah have been anything but peaceful. As one insightful observer aptly described it, "Israel pursues land-for-peace, while Hamas and Hezbollah pursue land-for-war."

Our own American soldiers are being victimized by terrorists every day in Iraq—terrorism sponsored by the same two nations that sponsored the kidnapping of the Israeli soldiers, Iran and Syria. So we cannot turn a blind eye when citizens of a fellow democracy fall prey to the machinations of savage terrorists.

The Israeli soldiers must be released without delay and without preconditions. That is the Security Council's demand, and it is our demand as well. We will remain committed to the soldiers' freedom—for the sake of the fight against terrorism and for the sake of peace.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution and I urge all my colleagues to do likewise.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, March 14, 2007, I was unable to attend votes due to illness.

Were I present, I would have voted in the following manner: H.R. 1254—Presidential Library Donation Reform Act of 2007—"yea"; H.R. 1255—Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2007—"yea"; H.R.1309—The Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 2007—"yea"; Stupak amendment to H.R. 985—"yea"; Sali amendment to H.R. 985—"no"; On Motion to Recommit H.R. 985 with Instructions—"yea"; H.R. 985—Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2007—"yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Ms. GILLIBRAND. Madam Speaker, I was not present to vote on Monday, March 12,

2007 because my flight from my district was delayed.

Had I been present, I would have voted in the following way:

(1) H.R. 85—Energy Technology Transfer Act—"yea".

(2) H. Res. 136—Commending the Girl Scouts of the United States of America on the occasion of their 95th anniversary, for providing quality age-appropriate experiences that prepare girls to become the leaders of tomorrow and for raising issues important to girls—"yea".

(3) H. Res. 89—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a day should be established as Dutch-American Friendship Day to celebrate the historic ties of the United States and the Netherlands—"yea".

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH FIRST ACT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, we are here because we need to provide affordable healthcare options for children. There are 9 million children uninsured in the United States today. There is no excuse for a country that is spending \$1.9 trillion on health care to have even one uninsured child, especially when it costs a mere \$3.50 a day to cover a child.

Who are these children? Nearly two-thirds are low income children and more than half are children in working families. Moreover, over half are minorities. But most importantly, these are children that are significantly less likely to make it to a doctor when they have an acute earache or even recurrent asthma and even die.

I am introducing the Children's Health First Act with Representatives DIANA DEGETTE, FRANK PALLONE, HENRY WAXMAN, and others, to provide every child in this country access to affordable health insurance. Senator CLINTON is introducing the companion bill in the Senate as well.

This bill builds on successful public programs such as the State Children's Health Insurance Program by offering States financial support to expand coverage to working families making approximately \$70,000 a year.

This bill allows employers and families to access good health insurance by buying into an affordable insurance pool. And the bill even goes further by allowing States to help employers retain coverage they already have through a 50-percent subsidy of the cost the States are spending on coverage for a child.

This bill provides States with new tools to help them find and enroll qualified children and ensure benefits and services are available once the children are enrolled. The tools include things such as allowing States to enroll children in schools and hospitals in public programs, allowing States to simplify their applications and renewal forms, and allowing children to enroll in coverage for a full year, as in most private plans.

The bill also makes numerous other improvements to Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program. This bill allows States to expand coverage to legal immigrants, young adults up to age 25, and offers

incentives for States to cover pregnant women.

Health care is every person's problem. It costs our country to have parents staying home to care for sick children, for the insured to pay higher premiums, for hospitals to provide uncompensated care, and for us to have a unhealthy younger generation.

We cannot continue to ignore a problem as large as 46 million uninsured people and certainly not the 9 million vulnerable uninsured children. To cover all children, it will cost us a fraction of what it cost to provide prescription drugs to seniors. I think it is time we agreed to make that investment for our future.

PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY DONATION REFORM ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker our Nation's Presidential libraries are a priceless resource for researchers, historians, and the public. They serve as legacies to our Presidents, repositories of history, and a source of tremendous pride for local communities. At the same time, they have become elaborate institutions, housing official papers, museums, classrooms, conference facilities, and even gift shops.

With this expansion, however, come additional costs. As the costs increase, so does the pressure to raise private funds. But under current law, those contributions do not need to be disclosed.

The gentleman from Tennessee, Mr. DUNCAN, worked to close this loophole. He has been a leader on this issue, drafting and moving legislation to an overwhelming House vote.

But we should keep politics out of this. The bill before us applies to the current President and future Presidents. I offered an amendment in Committee to make this law effective for the next elected President. I hope we again will resist inserting politics into a bill the House passed by a vote of 392 to 3.

With this legislation we are recognizing the perception of impropriety that contributions to a presidential library can raise. We don't need to re-open old wounds or begin inflicting new ones today. Presidents leave their mark on our rich history, and those giving to presidential libraries should be proud to have their donations publicly disclosed.

Mr. Speaker, our goal should be a unanimous vote on the House floor—anything less is a step back. I know my colleagues will agree: The cost of building presidential libraries: millions. The value of disclosing contributions to those libraries: priceless.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARCUS MOSIAH GARVEY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the record an article by Michael