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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose any move to initiate further sanctions on Iran. Sanctions are acts of war, and expanding sanctions on Iran serves no purpose other than preparing the American people for an eventual attack on Iran. This is the same pattern we saw in the run up to the war on Iraq: Congress passes legislation calling for regime change, sanctions are imposed, and eventually we are told that only an attack will solve the problem. We should expect the same tragic result if we continue down this path. I urge my colleagues to reconsider.

I oppose economic sanctions for two very simple reasons. First, they don't work as effective foreign policy. Time after time, from Cuba to China to Iraq, we have failed to unseat despotic leaders or change their policies by refusing to trade with the people of those nations. If anything, the anti-American sentiment aroused by sanctions often strengthens the popularity of such leaders, who use America as a convenient scapegoat to divert attention from their own tyranny. History clearly shows that free and open trade does far more to liberalize oppressive governments than trade wars. Economic freedom and political freedom are inextricably linked—when people get a taste of goods and information from abroad, they are less likely to tolerate a closed society at home. So sanctions mostly harm innocent citizens and do nothing to displace the governments we claim as enemies.

Second, sanctions simply hurt American industries, particularly agriculture. Every market we close to our nation's farmers is a market exploited by foreign farmers. China, Russia, the Middle East, North Korea, and Cuba all represent huge markets for our farm products, yet many in Congress favor current or proposed trade restrictions that prevent our farmers from selling to the billions of people in these areas.

We must keep in mind that Iran has still not been found in violation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Furthermore, much of the information regarding Iran's nuclear program is coming to us via thoroughly discredited sources like the MeK, a fanatical cult that is on our State Department's terror list. Additionally, the same discredited neo-conservatives who pushed us into the Iraq war are making similarly exaggerated claims against Iran. How often do these "experts" have to be proven wrong before we start to question their credibility?

It is said that we non-interventionists are somehow "isolationists" because we don't want to interfere in the affairs of foreign nations. But the real isolationists are those who demand that we isolate certain peoples overseas because we disagree with the policies of their leaders. The best way to avoid war, to promote American values, and to spread real freedom and liberty is to engage in trade and contacts with the rest of the world as broadly as possible.

I urge my colleagues to reconsider this counterproductive and dangerous move toward further sanctions on Iran.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2347, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SHERMAN. 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 motion will be postponed.

SHIRLEY A. CHISHOLM UNITED STATES-CARIBBEAN EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE ACT OF 2007

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 176) to authorize assistance to the countries of the Caribbean to fund educational development and exchange programs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 176

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Shirley A. Chisholm United States-Caribbean Educational Exchange Act of 2007".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.
Sec. 3. Findings and statement of purpose.
Sec. 4. Shirley A. Chisholm United States-Caribbean Educational Exchange Program.
Sec. 5. Program to provide educational development assistance for CARICOM countries.
Sec. 6. Administrative provisions.
Sec. 7. Reporting requirements.
Sec. 8. Authorization of appropriations.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—Except as otherwise provided, the term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

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

(3) CARICOM COUNTRY.—The term "CARICOM country"—

(A) means a member country of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM); but

(B) does not include—

(i) a country having observer status in CARICOM; or

(ii) a country the government of which the Secretary of State has determined, for purposes of section 6(j) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act), section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act, section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, or any other provision of law, is a government that has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism.

(4) SECRETARY.—Except as otherwise provided, the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of State.

(5) UNITED STATES COOPERATING AGENCY.—The term "United States cooperating agency" means—

(A) an accredited institution of higher education, including, to the maximum extent practicable, an historically Black college or university that is a part B institution (as such term is defined in section 322(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2))) or an Hispanic-serving institution (as such term is defined in section 502(5) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1101a(5)));

(B) a higher education association;

(C) a nongovernmental organization incorporated in the United States; or

(D) a consortium consisting of two or more such institutions, associations, or nongovernmental organizations.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States and CARICOM countries have enjoyed long-standing friendly relations.

(2) As an important regional partner for trade and democratic values, the Caribbean region constitutes a "Third Border" of the United States.

(3) The decrease in tourism revenue in the aftermath of the tragic terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, had an adverse affect on the Caribbean region.

(4) According to a 2005 World Bank Report on the Caribbean region, high rates of unemployment, particularly youth unemployment, have had severe implications on poverty and income distributions, as well as drug trafficking and addiction.

(5) The 2005 World Bank Report also concludes that better synchronization is needed between curricula in CARICOM countries and the skills needed in evolving national and regional job markets and economies.

(6) Caribbean leaders have highlighted the need for increased educational opportunities for Caribbean students in fields that will contribute to and support an increasingly competitive regional economy.

(7) Enhancing United States cultural and educational exchange programs in CARICOM countries will expand human resources, provide opportunities that promote economic growth, and improve regional security.

(8) Many Caribbean leaders studied at the undergraduate or graduate level in the United States before returning to their respective countries to contribute toward the strengthening of democracy, the economy, or the provision of social services.

(9) From 2003 through 2005, 217 Caribbean leaders participated in exchange programs with the United States that focused on good governance, combating drug trafficking, anti-corruption, and other regional issues of concern.

(10) The Department of State currently administers public outreach programs that include cultural, academic, and citizen-exchange initiatives in CARICOM countries through the public affairs sections at United States embassies with support from the Office of Public Diplomacy in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs.

(11) The Caribbean Center for Excellence in Teacher Training (C–CETT), a Presidential Initiative funded by the United States Agency for International Development and implemented by the University of the West Indies, works to improve the quality of reading instruction by training classroom and student teachers in seven countries of the English-speaking Caribbean. Belize, Jamaica, Grenada, St. Lucia, Guyana, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago have participated in the C–

CETT as a means to reducing illiteracy in the most disadvantaged urban and remote rural areas.

(12) In Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the Cayman Islands, the Dominican Republic, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State sponsors educational advisors to promote study in the United States.

(13) In the 2004–2005 academic year, approximately 14,000 Caribbean students were enrolled in United States colleges and universities.

(14) Shirley Anita Chisholm, who served as a member of the United States House of Representatives from 1968 to 1983, had family roots in the Caribbean nation of Barbados, was a staunch advocate for educational opportunity and access, and increased support for historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions in the United States.

(b) STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to establish—

(1) an educational exchange program between the United States and CARICOM countries, to be known as the ''Shirley A. Chisholm United States-Caribbean Educational Exchange Program'', pursuant to section 4 of this Act to assist in educating promising students and scholars from CARICOM countries who will invest the knowledge and experiences they gain in the United States back into the community of CARICOM countries; and

(2) a program to provide educational development assistance for CARICOM countries pursuant to section 5 of this Act.

SEC. 4. SHIRLEY A. CHISHOLM UNITED STATES-CARIBBEAN EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of State is authorized to establish an educational exchange program between the United States and CARICOM countries, to be known as the ''Shirley A. Chisholm United States-Caribbean Educational Exchange Program,'' under which—

(1) secondary school students from CARICOM countries will—

(A) attend a public or private secondary school in the United States;

(B) participate in activities designed to promote a greater understanding of the values and culture of the United States; and

(C) have the option to live with a United States host family and experience life in a United States host community; and

(2) undergraduate students, graduate students, post-graduate students, and scholars from CARICOM countries will—

(A) attend a public or private college or university, including a community college, in the United States;

(B) participate in activities designed to promote a greater understanding of the values and culture of the United States; and

(C) have the option to live with a United States host family and experience life in a United States host community or live in an on-campus housing environment.

(b) ELEMENTS OF PROGRAM.—The program authorized under subsection (a) shall meet the following requirements:

(1) The program will offer scholarships to students and scholars based on merit and need. It is the sense of Congress that scholarships should be offered under the program to students and scholars who evidence merit, achievement, and strong potential for the studies such students and scholars wish to undertake under the program and 40 percent of scholarships offered under the program should be based on financial need.

(2) The program will seek to achieve gender equality in granting scholarships under the program.

(3) The program will limit participation to—

(A) two years of study for secondary school students;

(B) four years of study for undergraduate students;

(C) 30 months of study for graduate students; and

(D) one year of study for post-graduate students and scholars.

(4) For a period of time equal to the period of time of participation in the program, but not to exceed 2 years, the program will require participants who are students and scholars described in subsection (a)(2) to—

(A) agree to return to live in a CARICOM country and maintain residence in such country, within 6 months of completion of academic studies; or

(B) agree to obtain employment that directly benefits the growth, progress, and development of one or more CARICOM countries and the people of such countries.

(5) The Secretary of State shall have the discretion to waive, shorten the duration, or otherwise alter the requirements of paragraph (5) in limited circumstances of hardship, humanitarian needs, for specific educational purposes, or in furtherance of the national interests of the United States.

(c) ROLE OF UNITED STATES COOPERATING AGENCIES.—The Secretary shall consult with United States cooperating agencies in developing the program authorized under subsection (a) and shall make grants to United States cooperating agencies in carrying out the program authorized under subsection (a).

(d) MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and implement a system to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the program authorized under subsection (a). In carrying out the system, the Secretary shall evaluate the program's positive or negative effects on brain drain from the participating CARICOM countries and suggest ways in which the program may be improved to promote the basic goal of alleviating brain-drain from the participating CARICOM countries.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall review on a regular basis—

(A) financial information relating to the program;

(B) budget plans for the program;

(C) adjustments to plans established for the program;

(D) graduation rates of participants in the program;

(E) the percentage of participants who are students described in subsection (a)(1) who pursue higher education;

(F) the percentage of participants who return to their home country or another CARICOM country;

(G) the types of careers pursued by participants in the program and the extent to which such careers are linked to the political, economic, and social development needs of CARICOM countries; and

(H) the impact of gender, country of origin, financial need of students, and other relevant factors on the data collected under subparagraphs (D) through (G).

(e) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary should seek to work with CARICOM countries to establish an educational exchange program under which—

(1) secondary school students from the United States will attend a public or private equivalent school in CARICOM countries; and

(2) undergraduate students, graduate students, post-graduate students, and scholars from the United States will attend a public or private college or university in CARICOM countries.

SEC. 5. PROGRAM TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR CARICOM COUNTRIES.

(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of State, acting through the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, is authorized to establish a program to provide educational development assistance for CARICOM countries.

(b) PURPOSE OF PROGRAM.—The purpose of the program authorized under subsection (a) is to improve primary and secondary education in CARICOM countries by enhancing teacher training, strengthening curriculum and instructional materials, and assisting improvements in school management and public administration of education.

(c) ELEMENTS OF PROGRAM.—The program authorized under subsection (a) shall extend and expand upon existing primary and secondary school programs in CARICOM countries to provide—

(1) teacher-training methods and training in subject area studies;

(2) classroom and school management;

(3) development and modernization of curriculum and instructional materials;

(4) increased community involvement in school activities; and

(5) local, regional, and national government policy planning on the elements described in paragraphs (1) through (4).

(d) ROLE OF UNITED STATES COOPERATING AGENCIES.—The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Education and United States cooperating agencies in developing the program authorized under subsection (a) and shall make grants to United States cooperating agencies in carrying out the program authorized under subsection (a).

(e) MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish and implement a system to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the program authorized under subsection (a).

(f) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary should seek to work with CARICOM countries to establish an educational development program under which education in the CARICOM countries is improved and access to quality education for children in CARICOM countries is increased.

SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

(a) FUNDING FROM PRIVATE SOURCES AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER APPROPRIATE ENTITIES.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development should implement the programs authorized under sections 4 and 5 of this Act through utilization of funding from private sources to maximize the impact of United States funds under this Act, and through partnerships with appropriate United States organizations, institutions, and corporations.

(b) AVOIDANCE OF DUPLICATION.—The Secretary and the Administrator shall consult with the Secretary of Education to ensure that—

(1) activities under the programs authorized under sections 4 and 5 of this Act are not duplicative of other United States educational programs for CARICOM countries; and

(2) United States cooperating agencies and partner institutions in CARICOM countries are accredited by national or regional accrediting bodies.

(c) REPORTING UNDER SEVIS.—To the extent necessary, the Secretary shall provide support to United States cooperating agencies that are participating in the program authorized under section 4 of this Act in order to fulfill the requirements for student data reporting under the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).

SEC. 7. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,

the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on plans to implement the programs authorized under sections 4 and 5 of this Act.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) with respect to implementation of the program authorized under section 4—

(A) a plan for selecting participants in the program, including an estimate of the number of secondary school students, undergraduate students, graduate students, post-graduate students, and scholars from each country, by educational level, who will be selected as participants in the program for each fiscal year;

(B) a timeline for selecting United States cooperating agencies that will assist in implementing the program;

(C) a financial plan that—

(i) identifies budget plans for each educational level under the program; and

(ii) identifies plans or systems to ensure that the costs to public school, college, and university education under the program and the costs to private school, college, and university education under the program are reasonably allocated; and

(D) a plan to provide outreach to and linkages with schools, colleges and universities, and nongovernmental organizations in both the United States and CARICOM countries for implementation of the program; and

(2) a plan outlining implementation of the program authorized under section 5, identifying the initial countries in which the program will be implemented and a timeline for implementation.

(c) UPDATES OF REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees updates of the report required by subsection (a) for each fiscal year for which amounts are appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under section 8 of this Act.

(2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—Such updates shall include the following:

(A) Information on United States cooperating agencies that are selected to assist in implementing the programs authorized under sections 4 and 5 of this Act.

(B) An analysis of the positive and negative impacts the program authorized under section 4 will have or is having on brain drain from the participating CARICOM countries.

(C) A description of efforts made by the Secretary of State, acting through the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, to implement the program authorized under section 5.

(D) A description of the programs established in each CARICOM country receiving assistance under the program authorized under section 5 that provides a detailed explanation of the extent to which the program and the assistance provided are contributing to the purpose of the program described in section 5(b) in the CARICOM country.

(E) An evaluation of additional educational development goals in CARICOM countries, identifying those goals that could be maximized or achieved with United States assistance through the program authorized under section 5. In addition to standard or necessary areas of education review, the evaluation should give attention to factors affecting academic achievement, attrition, and graduation rates in CARICOM countries. The evaluation should suggest ways in which United States assistance can maximize success factors and address factors contributing to poor achievement.

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

To carry out this Act, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012. Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under this section are in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

Amend the title so as to read: ''A bill to authorize the establishment of educational exchange and development programs for member countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).''.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. 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 bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution.

I would first like to thank my colleague, the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), for introducing this important legislation and garnering the bipartisanship sponsors that it deserves. And certainly I want to thank the chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), for his tireless efforts in pushing forward this initiative.

Mr. Speaker, nearly four decades ago, history was made in the voting booths of New York City. A young lady by the name of Shirley Chisholm became the first African American woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in the history of our great land. With her election, Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm broke the ground for African Americans, to be sure. Congresswoman Chisholm was also the child of immigrants from the Caribbean area, and today she remains a great heroine for Caribbean Americans throughout our Nation.

During her tenure in Congress, Congresswoman Chisholm was a staunch advocate for educational opportunity and access. She increased support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other institutions in the United States that serve minorities.

It is, therefore, entirely appropriate and fitting that the legislation before the House today is named after the late Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm from the great City of New York. This bill establishes a new and important educational exchange program between the United States and our friends in the Caribbean region.

This effort builds on a priority I have long promoted: fostering better educational and cultural ties between the United States and different regions of the world. Today's bill follows our recent historic passage of the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act of 2007, a bill to vastly expand study abroad programs that overwhelmingly passed this House in a great example of bipartisan cooperation.

The United States and nations of the Caribbean have long enjoyed friendly relations. As an important regional partner for trade and a bastion of democratic values, our friends in the Caribbean region have been called the ''third border'' of the United States.

In talks with Members of Congress, Caribbean leaders have highlighted the need for educational opportunities for Caribbean students in fields that will allow them to contribute to an increasingly competitive regional economy. We aim to deliver on that request today.

Enhancing our cultural and educational exchange programs in the Caribbean will promote economic growth, improve regional security, and expand opportunities for the hardworking citizens of this region. This educational exchange program will enable secondary school, undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate scholars from the Caribbean to attend schools, colleges, and universities in the United States. It will allow them to participate in activities designed to promote a greater understanding of the values and culture of the United States. And it will grant them the option either to live in the United States with a host family, enriching them with community and town life here, or to live in an on-campus housing environment.

Mr. Speaker, the late Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm was a great American leader who has inspired generations of African Americans and Caribbean Americans. With passage of this legislation, we honor her memory and ensure that a new generation of Caribbeans can play an even more constructive role in the political and economic developments not only of this region but to continue our friendly relations with this region.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize my good friend from California, Ms. BARBARA LEE, for her leadership in introducing this bill, which is intended to deepen our educational cooperation with our neighbors in the Caribbean.

H.R. 176 authorizes the creation of the Shirley A. Chisholm U.S.-Caribbean Educational Exchange Program to help provide U.S. educational opportunities to qualified students from the countries of the Caribbean community.

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It also authorizes State and USAID to expand existing primary and secondary school initiatives in the Caribbean to provide programs on teacher training methods, school management,

curriculum development, and increase community involvement in school activities.

Increasing the quality of educational opportunities available to our good neighbors in the Caribbean serves the interests of our entire region, and deepens the goodwill that already exists between the people of our countries.

I want to thank Congresswoman LEE and Chairman LANTOS for working with me at the committee level to incorporate language ensuring that state sponsors of terrorism do not receive the benefits provided under this bill. The committee also amended the text to authorize such sums as may be necessary rather than a sum certain for the new programs. This will help ensure that any new activities under the act will not disrupt those educational and exchange programs already being implemented in the region by the State Department and USAID.

Again, I thank my colleagues for their cooperation in preparing this bill for floor consideration.

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds just to offer my compliments to my dear friend, the senior ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for her support and leadership in bringing this legislation to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor now to give 5 minutes to my good friend and colleague, the prime sponsor of this legislation, the gentlelady from California (Ms. LEE) for her statement.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first let me just say today is a good day. I'm very delighted to be able to rise in support of H.R. 176, the Shirley Chisholm U.S.-Caribbean Educational Exchange Act of 2007.

I would like to thank Congressman FALEOMAVAEGA from the American Samoa, the distinguished chairman of the subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, for yielding to me, for managing this bill on the floor, and for your assistance and for your leadership.

Also, to our ranking member, Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, thank you so much for your diligence and hard work and understanding and clarity of what we wanted to do and making sure that this was done in a bipartisan way. We appreciate so much your leadership.

I am very pleased, as I said, that the House will have an opportunity to discuss this bill today. I want to thank everyone who has helped with this very important piece of legislation. I would also like to thank my good friend, Congressman ELIOT ENGEL, who is the Chair of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, and my colleague, the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Congressman TOM LANTOS.

Also, we couldn't have done with this without our staff, who have put in so many hours to ensure that this bill would have the most impact. Particularly, I would like to thank Jason Steinbaum of Mr. ENGEL's staff and Kristen Wells and Peter Quilter of Mr. LANTOS' staff. And let me acknowledge Miguel Ayala from my office for his very, very excellent work on this bill, and Jamila Thompson, formerly of my staff, who really initially worked on this legislation as well as the designation of June as Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

This legislation is so important because our neighbors in the Caribbean, sometimes called the ''Third Border,'' they're often neglected when we consider matters that affect our hemisphere. My bill creates an educational exchange program whereby students in the Caribbean, including secondary school, undergraduate, graduate, postgraduate students and scholars can come abroad to study at United States institutions of higher education. These important programs will not only encourage diplomacy between our Nation and those in the Caribbean, but it will also prepare these students to return home to the Caribbean with the tools and the education they need to move their nations forward in the 21st century.

This legislation also encourages academic partnerships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic-serving institutions, when possible, and will ensure parity between males and females in the program. Furthermore, both merit and financial need will be considered for those exchange programs which we are authorizing today.

This bill also creates and provides educational development assistance for CARICOM nations. It will address the lack of access and the lack of quality education in some areas of the Caribbean by improving primary and secondary education through teacher training, strengthening curriculum, and improving administration and management of schools.

This bill is named after our former colleague, my dear friend, my mentor, the late Congresswoman Shirley Anita Chisholm, who I dearly loved and learned much from and who I deeply miss. She served in Congress from 1969 to 1983 and was of Caribbean descent. Her mother was from Barbados and her father was from Guyana. She represented the 12th District of New York, which to this day continues to have a significant Caribbean-American population.

Congresswoman Chisholm would have been so proud to know that this program will address the very disparities in education that the leaders of the CARICOM nations raised during the conference last month here in Washington, D.C. They met with the President, the Secretary of State, Speaker PELOSI, and also with our colleagues on the House Ways and Means Committee, the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Congressional Black Caucus. And during those meetings with the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, many Members here in our own body heard about the lack of opportunities for students from the Caribbean to study in the United States.

It is clear to me that we need to do more to help our friends and neighbors in the Caribbean, and I hope this bill is just one step with regard to the many that we're looking at that will come forward to move us forward with closer ties to our regions.

Again, I would like to thank everyone who helped me make this bill come to fruition. It has taken a while. It has taken a long time, actually. I am delighted that we, today, will be sending a very clear message to our friends in the Caribbean that we are truly supportive.

You know, when you see other countries in the region providing scholarships for students from the Caribbean, such as Cuba, I think it is now up to the United States to step up to the plate and say we, too, can make sure that students from the Caribbean benefit from the wonderful educational opportunities present in the United States.

Thank you, again, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I thank the gentlelady for a most eloquent statement.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''aye'' on this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Let me thank the chairman of the subcommittee and the manager of the bill. And let me thank the Honorable BARBARA LEE for her leadership and the ranking member for theirs.

Very quickly, it is my pleasure to rise and support this legislation, having had the opportunity to be associated with the Honorable Shirley Chisholm in New York and to see her enormous and challenging leadership. But the crux of this bill is an answer in response to our friends in the Caribbean. Through CARICOM and the leaders and heads of State, they represent the third border of the United States. They provide additional security through their homeland security efforts.

This opportunity for their skilled and talented young people to have an exchange program, to then go back to their own countries and provide the friendship, the alliance, and the security that we will need in the future is a key element of this legislation.

I ask my colleagues to support this legislation, and I congratulate all those responsible for it, and again, acknowledge the leadership of Shirley Chisholm.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 176, the Shirley A. Chisholm-U.S. Caribbean Educational Exchange Act of 2007 and urge my colleagues

to support its adoption. As an original cosponsor of this important bill, I want to congratulate my friend and colleague, the Honorable BARBARA LEE for her hard work in getting the bill to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, U.S.-Caribbean educational exchanges have been on the forefront of multilateral discussions in recent years. Many believe that education exchanges are an excellent means to developing and protecting democratic values. And while the U.S. has not particularly focused on educational advancement in the Caribbean, other nations have. Thousands of Caribbean students participate in exchange programs to distant parts of the globe, yet the U.S. has no specific exchange program for Caribbean scholars.

This legislation would establish in the State Department's Office of Public Diplomacy a U.S.-Caribbean educational exchange program for high school, undergraduate and graduate students, as well as scholars.

It would also enable the U.S. Agency for International Development to develop a regional strategy to expand existing early education initiatives. And the legislation would allow both State Department and USAID to use public-private partnerships to implement the program.

The State Department has repeatedly advocated educational exchanges as one of the best means of public diplomacy. For decades, the Caribbean, our ''Third Border,'' has been one of the U.S. staunchest allies with strong democratic traditions. We've seen how critical the adherence to these democratic ideals has been given how quickly the governments of the region were able to maintain order and rebuild in the wake of the recent devastating hurricane seasons. Furthermore, the leadership in these affected countries was cultivated right here in the U.S.

In fact many of today's Caribbean leaders have received post-secondary education in the United States, and have used their different fields of training to strengthen Caribbean democracy and community involvement. From 2003–2005, 217 Caribbean leaders participated in U.S. exchange programs that centered on innovative ways to fight drug trafficking, anticorruption and good governance policies. We should continue these efforts and expand them to include the future leaders of the Caribbean.

As the only member in Congress whose district is in the English speaking Caribbean, I am well aware of the exciting possibilities that H.R. 176 holds.

Mr. Speaker, our Caribbean neighbors are among the most stable democracies in the world and some of our oldest friends. Too often we take them for granted though and don't give to them as much as we demand from them. While it will not solve all of the problems with our relationship of late, H.R. 176 will serve as a meaningful gesture of good faith and friendship going forward. I urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 176.

Mr. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 176; the Shirley A. Chisholm U.S.-Caribbean Educational Exchange Act. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill.

The Shirley A. Chisholm U.S.-Caribbean Educational Exchange Act creates an educational exchange program to enable students from the countries of the Caribbean Community to come to the U.S. and study at an American college or university. The bill requires program participants to return to a Caribbean country or work for the growth, progress and development of the Caribbean Community after they complete their studies. The bill also creates a program to improve primary and secondary education in the Caribbean Community through teacher training, strengthening curriculum, and improving administration and management of schools.

Many Caribbean leaders have received post-secondary education in the U.S. and have used their education to strengthen Caribbean democracy and benefit Caribbean people. For example, from 2003 through 2005, a total of 217 Caribbean leaders participated in U.S. exchange programs dealing with counter-narcotics, anticorruption and good governance policies. The Shirley A. Chisholm U.S.-Caribbean Educational Exchange Act would expand these efforts to include future Caribbean leaders.

It is entirely appropriate that this legislation is named after our former colleague, Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm. Congresswoman Chisholm was of Caribbean heritage and was a strong advocate for quality education. She graduated from Brooklyn College in 1946, received a Masters in Elementary Education from the Teachers College at Columbia University in 1952, and went on to work as a teacher. In 1968, she became the first African-American woman elected to Congress, where she served with distinction from 1969 to 1983. In 1972, Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm ran for president in the Democratic primaries. As a Member of Congress, Shirley Chisholm served on the influential Education and Labor Committee and rose to be its third-highest ranking member.

I urge all of my colleagues to honor Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm and support educational exchange opportunities for Caribbean students by voting in favor of the Shirley A. Chisholm U.S.-Caribbean Educational Exchange Act.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Shirley Chisholm U.S.-Caribbean Educational Exchange Act of 2007. I would like to thank Congresswoman BARBARA LEE and her continued commitment to the Caribbean and education. This legislation helps bridge the educational gap in the Caribbean by creating an educational exchange program for Caribbean students to study in the United States.

Caribbean Nations suffer from high poverty rates, high unemployment rates, and low literacy rates. These conditions have left most Caribbean students faced with the hard choice of education or work; and most are forced to choose work in order to provide for themselves and their families. Educational exchange programs allow Caribbean students to provide opportunities to learn necessary skills for leadership and career success, explore cultural issues, and promotes dialogue of community and/or social relevance. Education is the building block that creates a sound foundation for success and develops strong democratic values. These exchange programs allow students to return to their native homes to contribute to the success of their nation.

This bill also creates new programs to improve primary and secondary education through teacher training. Teacher preparedness and education management is vital to any education system. Providing high quality teachers in critical subject areas is the most important components in building a strong educational structure.

Many Caribbean leaders have received education in the United States, and have used their education to strengthen Caribbean democracy and community involvement. This legislation will help to continue strengthen U.S.-Caribbean relations, I strongly urge my colleagues support in passage this bill.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 176, the Shirley A. Chisholm United States-Caribbean Education Exchange Program. I would like to pay tribute to our colleague, BARBARA LEE, for introducing this excellent legislation and for the work of Chairman LANTOS in moving H.R. 176 forward.

Representative LEE and I have traveled to the Caribbean together, and we have seen through our site visits, including to St. George's University in Grenada and an education program at an orphanage in Haiti, the tremendous need for expanded educational cooperation between the United States and the Caribbean. In fact, Prime Minister Keith Mitchell of Grenada listed cooperation on education as among the most important issues for his country's citizens.

As such, H.R. 176 creates an educational exchange program between the United States and CARICOM countries, called the Shirley A. Chisholm United States-Caribbean Educational Exchange Program, and provides educational-related assistance for the nations in the CARICOM region. Education is an area in which the United States has a clear advantage—one which we should use to help our neighbors in the Caribbean.

As chair of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, it has been a priority of mine to help promote good relations between the United States and CARICOM countries. Just last month, the Presidents and Prime Ministers of 14 Caribbean countries met with members of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs as part of the historic Conference on the Caribbean and discussed how we could expand relations. During our meeting, I told the Caribbean leaders that we would pass a U.S.-Caribbean Education Exchange Act soon and hold a hearing on deportees. With today's passage of the Caribbean education legislation and last week's hearing, I am proud to say that we have lived up to our promises.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is aptly named for Shirley Anita Chisholm, a former member of the United States House of Representatives from 1968 to 1983 who had family roots in the Caribbean nation of Barbados. I am glad that we honor her service with this important educational exchange program, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 176.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. 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 American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 176, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. PEARCE. 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 motion will be postponed.

IRAN SANCTIONS ACT OF 1996 AMENDMENTS

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 957) to amend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 to expand and clarify the entities against which sanctions may be imposed, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 957

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CLARIFICATION AND EXPANSION OF DEFINITIONS.

(a) PERSON.—Section 14(13)(B) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended to read as follows:

''(B)(i) a corporation, business association, partnership, society, trust, financial institution, insurer, underwriter, guarantor, and any other business organization;

''(ii) any foreign subsidiary of any entity described in clause (i); and

''(iii) any governmental entity operating as a business enterprise, such as an export credit agency; and''.

(b) PETROLEUM RESOURCES.—Section 14(14) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by inserting after ''petroleum'' the second place it appears the following: '', petroleum refining capacity, liquefied natural gas,''.

(c) CONSTRUCTION.—The amendments made by this section shall not be construed to require the imposition of any measure under section 5 of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 against any natural person or other entity that is not specifically described in section 14(13) of that Act, as amended by this section.

SEC. 2. APPLICATION TO SUBSIDIARIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), in any case in which an entity engages in an act outside the United States which, if committed in the United States or by a United States person, would violate Executive Order No. 12959 of May 6, 1995, Executive Order No. 13059 of August 19, 1997, or any other prohibition on transactions with respect to Iran that is imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) and if that entity was created or availed of for the purpose of engaging in such an act, the parent company of that entity shall be subject to the penalties for such violation to the same extent as if the parent company had engaged in that act.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to any act carried out under a contract or other obligation of any entity if—

(1) the contract or obligation existed on May 22, 2007, unless such contract or obligation is extended in time in any manner or expanded to cover additional activities beyond the terms of the contract or other obligation as it existed on May 22, 2007; or

(2) the parent company acquired that entity not knowing, and not having reason to know, that such contract or other obligation existed, unless such contract or other obligation is extended in time in any manner or expanded to cover additional activities beyond the terms of such contract or other obligation as it existed at the time of such acquisition.

(c) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting the issuance of regulations, orders, directives, or licenses under the Executive orders described in subsection (a) or as being inconsistent with the authorities under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''entity'' means a partnership, association, trust, joint venture, corporation, or other organization;

(2) an entity is a ''parent company'' of another entity if it controls, directly or indirectly, that other entity and is a United States person; and

(3) the term ''United States person'' means any United States citizen, any alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States, any entity organized under the laws of the United States, or any person in the United States.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days with which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and our distinguished senior ranking member, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for their sponsorship of this bipartisan measure and for their leadership on the issue of Iran.

The dangerous Iranian regime presents us with the overriding long-term issue facing the entire Middle East. The scoundrel, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and his theocratic cohorts are working to destabilize security worldwide with their nuclear weapons program. They are targeting Israel specifically through sponsorship of terror groups. And according to Tehran's own claims, several batteries of missiles.

So the most important foreign policy security aim of the United States Government must be to prevent nuclear weapons from ever falling into the hands of Iran. It would destabilize the entire world. That is why the Foreign Affairs Committee has repeatedly passed bills to choke the regime in Tehran so it never gets to that point.

If there is one long-term lesson of the Iraq war, Mr. Speaker, it is that all other means must be exhausted before military use is employed. This is what we aim to do in the Iran issue, tough sanctions, cooperation with our allies, and diplomacy.

The amendment to the Iran Sanctions Act before the House today restores text that was in the original version of the Iran Sanctions legislation passed overwhelmingly by the House last session. Unfortunately, following White House negotiations with the Republican majority at the time, this provision was removed from a subsequent version of the bill that actually became law.

This amendment plugs critical loopholes, actual and potential, for the current legislation that could allow Iran to conduct an end-around on our sanctions. The legislation is intended to truly and fully deprive Iran of revenue it needs to fuel its nuclear weapons program.

The bill before us would fortify current law and enhance the ability of our government to deter foreign investment in Iran's energy industry. It expands the definition used to apply to businesses so that we may restrict anyone and everyone intending to help fuel Iran's sham of an energy industry.

It is more than lamentable that the administration, in fact, has never once availed itself of the potent tools that the Iran Sanctions Act offers to deter such investment. But the administration can rest assured that we will hold its feet to the fire in this session.

For the sake of U.S. interests and for world peace, both the executive branch and the Congress must do everything in its power to prevent the emergence of a nuclear-armed Iran. Congress cannot do it alone. So it is for these reasons that I again commend my dear friend, the ranking member, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for her cosponsorship of this bipartisan legislation and her leadership in the noble effort to prevent a fanatical regime from acquiring nuclear weapons has been outstanding.

As a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I am proud to be part of that effort. I strongly support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

All of us know, Mr. Speaker, that Iran is a growing threat to the region and to U.S. national security interests.

Iran's record for supporting Islamic extremists is dangerously supplemented by its continued violation of its nonproliferation obligations, its mockery of the International Atomic Energy Agency process, and its continued defiance of the United Nations Security Council's demands to halt its nuclear enrichment and reprocessing program.

Just last week, Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, Ali Larijani, told Britain's newspapers, the Independent and the Guardian, that uranium enrichment was ''like breathing'' for his country, and that Iran would not halt the spinning centrifuges at its main enrichment plant at Natanz, even if the Bush