

homes. Under current federal law, only public nursing homes may receive federal disaster assistance. However, hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes do not distinguish between private and public, or for-profit and not-for-profit, nursing homes.

As I have recently seen in my district, all nursing homes face unique challenges coping with natural disasters and their aftermaths. It is not fair to the taxpayers who work in, reside in, or have entrusted the care of their loved ones to, a private nursing home that private nursing homes are denied the same federal aid available to their public counterparts. Madame Speaker, the Nursing Home Emergency Assistance Act ensures all residents of nursing homes can benefit from federal disaster aid. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

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EXTENDING THE AUTHORIZATION  
OF THE NATIONAL FLOOD IN-  
SURANCE PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON KLEIN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program.

To be clear, there are certainly issues that Congress must address in any future consideration of the flood insurance program. But first and foremost, we must ensure that the NFIP continues to protect our communities.

The NFIP was established to provide homeowners with protection from flood, following recognition that the private market was simply not capable of providing the necessary coverage. The program, which has been operating since 1968, is integral to ensuring that homeowners in high-risk areas, such as my South Florida district, are able to receive adequate protection from flood and are able to swiftly recover following a disaster.

In Broward County, we currently have over 400,000 residential NFIP policies in place—which is more policies than any other county in the nation. Palm Beach County is also near the top of the list with over 150,000 NFIP policies.

The stability provided by the NFIP allows homeowners to responsibly insure their property from flood damage, which is especially important given the active nature of this year's hurricane season.

It's important to recognize however that the NFIP is only one piece of the larger puzzle of protecting our homeowners from disaster. With the property insurance crisis growing across the U.S., many people are facing difficulties protecting themselves against windstorms. And it is no longer simply a Florida problem, but is becoming a national issue. Policyholders are being dropped or are facing dramatic rate increases in states that are not traditionally considered high risk, such as Massachusetts and New York. Many insurers are no longer writing at all on the coasts of states like Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia.

That is why Congressman TIM MAHONEY and I introduced and passed the Homeowners' Defense Act last year. This legislation addresses the crisis in availability and afford-

ability of homeowners' insurance. It helps states to manage the risk that has been assumed by their state sponsored insurance funds by allowing them to enter the capital markets to find global investors that would be willing to assume that risk on their behalf. Our plan aims to increase market stabilization, particularly in times following natural disasters when rates traditionally increase dramatically and homeowners are dropped from their insurers.

With this legislation having already passed the House, I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate to pass our comprehensive plan to help homeowners and stabilize the market.

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RECOGNIZING NGO WORK ON  
ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE

SPEECH OF

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2008*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to give a sincere thank you to Representative BARBARA LEE. In this Congress, there is no greater voice for peace than Congresswoman LEE.

I rise today in strong support of this resolution recognizing nongovernmental organizations working to help bring a just and lasting peace to Israelis and Palestinians.

Peace will not be brought about by governments and presidents. Peace will only be achieved when people come together to support a common goal—security and prosperity for all.

More than any conference or summit, the work of local and international NGO's have brought the region closer to a non-violent resolution to the ongoing crisis. Their work is invaluable.

From student exchanges to high level reconciliation programs, NGO's are irreplaceable in the peace process.

I applaud this resolution's commitment to peace and nonviolence and urge my colleagues support today.

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COMPREHENSIVE TUBERCULOSIS  
ELIMINATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1532, the Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Act of 2008.

If you think that TB is a disease that occurs in impoverished nations you are wrong. In 2007, more than 13,000 individuals were diagnosed with TB in the U.S.

This year alone my district had several TB outbreaks and in May, 150 people were exposed to TB in an outbreak and 19 individuals were diagnosed with TB.

Each year approximately 9 million people develop active TB and 1.7 million die of the disease, making it the second deadliest in the world. Right now one third of the world's popu-

lation is infected with TB and TB will claim 30 million lives over the next decade.

With time, the TB germ has changed. It is now airborne and drug resistant strains have been found in 46 countries, including the U.S.

In 2006, 91 cases of multi drug-resistant TB were reported in the United States and MDR-TB has been reported in 49 states. From 1993 to 2007, there were 88 cases of extensively drug resistant TB in the U.S., which is resistant to almost all drugs used to treat TB.

Unfortunately, we have allowed the treatment and diagnostic tools to treat TB go without updating for far too long. In fact, the most common test to diagnose TB is more than 100 years old.

The drugs commonly used to treat TB are more than 40 years old, the TB vaccine we currently have is more than 85 years old and only provides some protections against severe TB in children, but is unreliable in protecting against the most common form of adult TB.

The Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Act addresses the issue of domestic TB by improving and increasing efforts to prevent, detect, and treat individuals in our country with TB.

It would authorize grants within the CDC for research, development, and education. These grants include clinical trials to evaluate new drugs, diagnostics and vaccines; studies of at-risk populations; and projects to control TB along the U.S.-Mexico border.

H.R. 1532 will reauthorize the Advisory Council on the Elimination of TB so the council may coordinate federal TB control and develop a new national plan to eliminate TB in the U.S.

H.R. 1532 also provides for new tools in the fight against domestic TB by providing for CDC research and development for new drugs, diagnostics, and vaccines.

The bill also directs the NIH to expand basic and clinical TB research and develop a TB vaccine.

The Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Act provides the means necessary to wage war against TB in the U.S. and hopefully in the future the eradication of TB in this country.

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SUPPORTING RESTITUTION FOR  
PROPERTY CONFISCATED BY  
NAZI AND COMMUNIST REGIMES

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROBERT WEXLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 371, which supports the fair, comprehensive and immediate restitution of property illegally confiscated during the last century by the Nazis, Nazi-allied governments and Communist regimes.

As many of you know, survivors are in the waning years of their lives, and it is incumbent on Congress and the administration to clearly articulate our unequivocal support, as we have done in previous Congresses, for just and immediate property restitution or compensation.

While there are some nations in Europe that have enacted legislation for the restitution of or compensation for private and communal