

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2010 AND 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2410) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2010 and 2011, to modernize the Foreign Service, and for other purposes.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2410, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, and commend Chairman BERMAN for his leadership on this bill. Diplomacy and international development are cornerstones of U.S. national security, and H.R. 2410 will ensure that these key strategic tools are maximized in our efforts to protect America and rebuild our standing in the world.

H.R. 2410 provides robust authorization for rebuilding civilian capacity by authorizing 1,500 new Foreign Service Officers for the State Department and promotes training to ensure our diplomats have the skills to confront twenty-first century challenges. Additionally, the bill authorizes 700 new Foreign Service Officers for USAID, an important step to rebuild the capacity of our development agency to provide appropriate, effective aid to countries and communities in need around the world.

Improving the livelihoods of vulnerable and oppressed women around the world should be a key component of U.S. foreign policy, and I applaud the inclusion of the authorization of the "Office of Women's Issues" in the base bill. Irrefutable research has shown that incorporating the unique needs of women into development policy is integral to ensure our aid initiatives' effectiveness; by coordinating and advising on gender integration and international women's empowerment, this office will help to increase the efficiency of our foreign assistance. As evidenced by its opposition to this office's authorization, the extreme anti-choice wing of the Republican party continues to put ideology over fact and science. Let me be clear: this bill in no way changes existing statutory prohibitions on abortion. A vote against this bill inhibits our government's ability to advance women's empowerment initiatives aimed at stability, security, and equality around the world.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

CONDEMNING THE MURDER OF DR. GEORGE TILLER

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the resolution Condemning the Murder of Dr. George Tiller (H. Res. 505) and with deepest sympathy for the loved ones of Dr. Tiller.

On May 31, 2009, an assassination took place in Kansas. A physician was murdered in an act of terrorism in his church. This act of anti-abortion vigilantism inspires fear and terror. The murdered doctor had previously been shot and the clinic in which he worked had been previously bombed.

This resolution, of which I am an original co-sponsor, expresses our sympathy for the family and loved ones of Dr. George Tiller and declares that violence should never be recourse for a difference in beliefs. In honor of the memory of Dr. Tiller we must work harder than ever to promote tolerance and non-violence.

Abortion in this nation is a legal health care procedure. I support a woman's right to make her own health care decisions and the work of health care providers to meet women's health care needs. What America witnessed with Dr. Tiller's death was a Taliban-like tactic to prevent abortions by murdering a doctor. It is terrorism and I urge the administration to extend protection to women's clinics all across our country.

I support comprehensive sex education, evidence-based science, full access to family planning and reproductive health care for all women, and counseling to ensure women of all ages have the best information to make good choices about when they decide to have children. This is how we reduce abortions. This is how we empower individuals to prevent the need for abortions.

Safe, comprehensive reproductive and family planning services should be accessible to all Americans and providers, because it is essential for the health and well-being of women and families. I will continue to work with President Obama in the 111th Congress to keep women's health as a priority.

My condolences go out to Dr. Tiller's family and loved ones. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and join me in condemning the murder of Dr. Tiller.

TO HONOR THE 350TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, CONNECTICUT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 350th anniversary of

the incorporation of the city of Norwich, Connecticut. Founded in 1659 and known as the "Rose of Connecticut," Norwich will be celebrating its 350th birthday and rich history throughout the month of June.

During the American Revolution, Norwich supported the cause for independence by supplying soldiers, ships, and munitions. One of the most infamous figures of the Revolution, Benedict Arnold, was born in Norwich. Other well-known Colonial era individuals include Samuel Huntington, Christopher Leffingwell, and Daniel Lathrop. Today, Norwich is a thriving city and a center of commerce and manufacturing, with a wide range of municipal services, a modern industrial park, and a positive outlook for residential and business growth.

As part of the celebration, the city will be presenting several events with participants from across the globe. The city green will host various reenactments of history with period uniforms and equipment as they demonstrate lifestyles of days past. There will be historic talks, as well as tours of historical and present-day landmarks, historic homes, factories, gardens, places of worship, and other areas of preservation. Norwich will offer "museum days" with free access to all of the city museums, and will also sponsor a time capsule to be opened on the 400th anniversary of the city.

The 350th Commemorative Quilt, to be known as a historical work of art, will be on display. Additionally, city citizens will perform in "Rose on the River," a compilation of short plays written by local playwrights. Special musical performances will add to the festivities. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will host a parade and festival to commemorate both Norwich's 350th and the NAACP's 100th anniversaries.

Madam Speaker, I am proud and pleased to honor the City of Norwich. Three hundred fifty years after incorporation, from its colonial origins through its modern evolution, Norwich represents the very best of Connecticut. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in honoring and celebrating Norwich's semiseptcentennial anniversary and welcome many more to come.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN BONE MARROW AWARENESS MONTH ACT

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2009

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Madam Speaker, as I rise today in support of the African American Bone Marrow Awareness Month Act, I am reminded of two things—the thousands of lives that bone marrow donations save each year, and the distance we have to travel to increase the participation of minorities, especially African Americans, in the National Marrow Donor Program. The African

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