

earned his Master of Divinity at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, his BA/MA in Philosophy and Classical Literature at Oxford University, and his Ph.D. at the University of Notre Dame. He took his First Vows in August, 1985, was ordained Deacon in March 1996, Presbyterian in June 1996, and served as House Consulor of the Jesuit Community from 2007 to 2010.

During Father McCarthy's stellar years at Santa Clara he founded the "Thriving Neighbors Initiative", a community based program that serves low income minorities by providing university students to mentor and tutor elementary school children and their parents. He was also Director of the Catholic Studies Program and Associate Professor with a joint appointment in the Religious Studies and Classics Departments. He has published countless articles and book chapters and has made numerous presentations, most of them in his chosen research areas of early Christianity, early Biblical exegesis, St. Augustine, and early asceticism and spirituality.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Father Michael McCarthy for his extraordinary leadership at Santa Clara University and wishing him well in his new position at Fordham University where he will undoubtedly have an exceedingly bright future. Santa Clara's great loss is Fordham's enormous gain. California, and especially Father McCarthy's 95-year-old mother, will miss him greatly, but his star is bright enough to shine on all of us from wherever he is.

AMERICAN SECURITY AGAINST
FOREIGN ENEMIES ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong solidarity with our brothers and sisters in France. I join them in their grief over the tragic events of November 13, I keep them in my thoughts and prayers, and I hope that their healing will soon begin.

In the wake of the heinous attacks in Paris and across the world, I stand here today in strong opposition to H.R. 4038, the so-called American SAFE Act. As the Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, my top priority is to keep the American people safe. Toward that end, our nation's current review system for refugees is extensive and rigorous. Refugees are required to wait overseas for at least 18 to 24 months before they can be admitted into our country, and they enter only if they meet all vetting requirements. The current process checks biographical and biometric data against law enforcement and intelligence databases, and there is no waiver for any part of the process.

H.R. 4038 seeks to exploit the understandable fear that some Americans feel by effectively shutting down the refugee resettlement program for Syrian and Iraqi nationals, possibly for years, until a new vetting process is established. The passage of this bill will effectively close our doors to people seeking refuge from barbaric attacks like those that were committed in Paris.

I support looking for ways to strengthen the screening process our nation currently has in place. However, strengthening our refugee screening process does not mean we must turn our back on some of the globe's most vulnerable people, especially women and children. That would go against our American values and weaken our standing among our allies. This includes France, which, in spite of the horrors it experienced in Paris, has pledged to take in 30,000 refugees.

The United States has been built by people of many nations, races, and faiths, who fled hunger and persecution in search of a better life in America. We have a long history of welcoming the tired, the poor, and the huddled masses yearning to breathe free. For centuries, America has been a beacon of light and hope for those in need. Let us not dim that light in the face of fear. Let us not block the refuge that our nation can provide to the men, women, and children who suffer at the hands of extremist regimes. Let us embrace the maxim that our French brothers and sisters have shared with the world, one that exemplifies three universal values of humanity: Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity.

I urge all Members to oppose this bill.

AMERICAN SECURITY AGAINST
FOREIGN ENEMIES ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, as a lawmaker who has dedicated the last 12 years to working on issues of national security, I have spent thousands of hours in classified briefings on threats both domestic and abroad. I have traveled to dozens of terrorism hotspots around the globe, meeting with foreign dignitaries and our intelligence workers on the front lines. No one more strongly believes that our first and most important responsibility is the protection of all Americans. We must always scrutinize any foreigner who wants to enter our country for any reason.

Today, the highest level of security screening of any category traveler or immigrant belongs to refugees. Those screenings involve health checks, biometric tests to confirm identity and multiple layers of background checks along with in-person interviews by specially trained Department of Homeland Security officers. The process involves not only DHS but the National Counterterrorism Center, the FBI's Terrorist Screening Center, the State Department and the Department of Defense, each of which must certify the refugee's status at every stage. If a refugee's background or identity cannot be confirmed at any point, their application ends.

Syrian refugees receive an additional layer of screening, culminating in a process that usually takes 18 to 24 months before they set foot on U.S. soil, if they are even approved.

As a security expert, I know that most terrorists already live in the U.S. or they come via illegal means. But it would be far easier for terrorists to enter the country legally on a tourist visa or through the visa waiver program if they are citizens of eligible nations, including France and Belgium, which is where the Paris attackers were citizens.

It is important to note that the legislation under consideration in the U.S. House of Representatives applies only to Syrian and Iraqi refugees—but not refugees from other countries with known terror networks including Yemen, Nigeria and Afghanistan.

I am not convinced this bill would protect our country from foreign enemies any more than existing processes and procedures. Since 2001, only about 2,200 Syrian refugees have been admitted to the United States. Half are children and another quarter is over the age of 60. These refugees are victims of the same terrorists we are trying to defeat. Banning them would not only do nothing to strengthen our national security, it would fuel the anti-American sentiment that strengthens ISIS. The best way to address the refugee crisis is by removing the threat.

For these reasons, I oppose the American SAFE Act of 2015 and support the Secure Refugee Process Act of 2015.

IN RECOGNITION OF SUE CURRIN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 30, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sue Currin for her 34 years of exemplary service at San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center, the last six years as Chief Executive Officer. Ms. Currin has dedicated her life and career to providing every member of our community with quality health care.

Thanks to Ms. Currin's innovative and steadfast leadership, San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center today is the sole provider of trauma and emergency psychiatric care for the City and County of San Francisco serving a diverse patient population and offering a wide spectrum of inpatient and outpatient services. The medical center serves about 100,000 patients a year and provides 20 percent of the city's inpatient care.

Ms. Currin secured \$6 million in grant funding for a nursing internship program, a medication error reduction project, patient safety initiatives, and a transportation from hospital to home program. She was also essential in developing the Acute Care for the Elderly unit. That unit improves patient outcomes and satisfaction while shortening hospital stays and reducing nursing home admissions. Additional major achievements were the development of the first Palliative Care Program for San Francisco's underserved and the Lean Management System at the hospital. And most recently, Ms. Currin succeeded in starting construction of an acute care building that is expected to open in the spring of 2016. This new facility will be equipped with the most advanced technology that will give every San Franciscan access to the best available healthcare. It will truly be an example of a state-of-the-art 21st century hospital and an enduring reminder of all the amazing work she has done.

I deeply admire Sue Currin's perseverance, vision and dedication to others. She started at General Hospital as a student nurse in 1975 and rose through the ranks of staff nurse, nurse educator, Director of Staff Development and Quality Management, Chief Nursing Officer/Chief Operating Officer and finally CEO.