

This is literally a matter of life and death for tens of thousands of Americans each year. Given the enormity of these issues, we have an obligation to work together to address these concerns on a bipartisan basis. I was pleased to join my Florida colleague, Mrs. THURMAN, as a cosponsor of this resolution, and I applaud her commitment to this cause.

Clearly, the solution to this complicated problem is not entirely legislative. By working to increase public awareness about the need for organ donations, we can all save lives. The resolution before us represents an important step toward achieving that goal, and I wholeheartedly support its passage.

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I see no other Member asking for time. I just would like again to encourage all of my colleagues to vote for and support this bill. It does save lives. We all know so many different personal tales. I urge that we adopt it quickly.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MORELLA). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 247.

The question was taken.

Mr. UPTON. Madam 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.

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RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF SOCIAL PROBLEM OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Mr. SALMON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 76) recognizing the social problem of child abuse and neglect, and supporting efforts to enhance public awareness of it.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 76

Whereas more than 3,000,000 American children are reported as suspected victims of child abuse and neglect annually;

Whereas more than 500,000 American children are unable to live safely with their families and are placed in foster homes and institutions;

Whereas it is estimated that more than 1,000 children, 78 percent under the age of 5 and 38 percent under the age of 1, lose their lives as a direct result of abuse and neglect every year in America;

Whereas this tragic social problem results in human and economic costs due to its relationship to crime and delinquency, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, and welfare dependency; and

Whereas Childhelp USA has initiated a "Day of Hope" to be observed on the first Wednesday in April, during Child Abuse Prevention Month, to focus public awareness on this social ill: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) it is the sense of the Congress that—

(A) all Americans should keep these victimized children in their thoughts and prayers;

(B) all Americans should seek to break this cycle of abuse and neglect, and give our children hope for the future; and

(C) the faith community, nonprofit organizations, and volunteers across America should recommit themselves and mobilize their resources to assist these children; and

(2) the Congress—

(A) supports the goals and ideas of the "Day of Hope"; and

(B) commends Childhelp USA for its efforts on behalf of abused and neglected children everywhere.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON).

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 76, a Sense of Congress recognizing the problem of child abuse and neglect.

Specifically, my resolution expresses the sense of Congress that, number one, all Americans should keep abused and victimized children in their thoughts and prayers. Number two, all Americans should seek to break the cycle of abuse and neglect. And number three, that the faith community, nonprofit organizations, and volunteers across America should recommit themselves and mobilize their resources to assist abused and neglected children.

In addition, the resolution states that Congress supports the goals and ideas with a Day of Hope to be observed on the first Wednesday in April and commence Child Help, USA, for its efforts on behalf of abused and neglected children everywhere.

The need for this resolution is clear. It is estimated that more than 3 million American children are reported as suspected victims of child abuse and neglect annually. More than 500,000 children, American children, are unable to live safely within their families and are placed in foster care or other institutions. Furthermore, it is estimated that more than 1,000 children, 78 percent under the age of 5 and 38 percent under the age of 1, die as a direct result of abuse and neglect every year in America.

At times, the statistics can be overwhelming, even desensitizing. But all one has to do is look into the eyes of a victim of child abuse to see the misery that they have endured. Their suffering is a painful reminder of our failure as a society to provide them with the loving care that they need and deserve. It also reminds us of the heavy price that we pay for abuse and neglected children that occurs in our midst every day. Countless studies have documented the strong correlation that exists between child abuse and crime, delinquency, domestic violence, substance abuse, and welfare dependency.

□ 1430

Of course, we can never put a price on the countless dreams and aspirations of the innocent youth that are extinguished every year at the hands of a child abuser. Since 1959, Childhelp USA has led the charge against child abuse and neglect. Started in Scottsdale, Arizona, Childhelp USA provides critical social, medical, and educational services to abused and neglected children. Over the years, they have helped literally thousands of abused and neglected children escape abusive situations.

Childhelp USA's commitment to children does not end there. When I introduced legislation to keep murderers, rapists, and child molesters locked up in prison, also known as Aimee's Law, I turned to Childhelp USA for support and help. I have to tell the Members that their hard work and dedication were vital to the successful effort to pass Aimee's Law, both in the House and Senate.

Although Aimee's Law has been held up as part of the juvenile justice bill, I am confident that I can rely on Childhelp USA's support as I join with other advocates of victims' rights to enact this legislation.

Aimee's Law will finally put a stop to the parade of murderers and sex offenders that march out of our prisons every year, only to brutalize innocent people one more time. By doing so, it will protect literally thousands of people every year, many of them children, from being victimized by a repeat offender.

Therefore, as we approach the month of April, which is Child Abuse Prevention Month, it is only fitting that we recognize Childhelp USA for their caring efforts to end child abuse. Hopefully, their shining example will inspire more Americans to fight to end this terrible scourge.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of this resolution and commend my good friend, the gentleman from Arizona, for bringing the resolution to the floor today.

I also commend the group Childhelp USA for initiating a "Day of Hope" to be observed on the first Wednesday of April during Child Abuse Prevention Month. I applaud this effort to focus public awareness on the social ill of child abuse and neglect.

Madam Speaker, on June 1, 1996, more than 300,000 Americans gathered at the Lincoln Memorial to express in advance this country's commitment to our children in a rally called "Stand for Children." Marian Wright Edelman, the President of the Children's Defense Fund and organizer of the rally, gave a moving speech which has been memorialized in this illustrated children's book, also named Stand for Children.

In the book, Ms. Wright Edelman tells the children of our Nation, "We

stood at the Lincoln Memorial as American families and as an American community to commit ourselves to putting you, our children, first, to building a just America that leaves no child behind, and to ensure all of you a healthy and safe passage to adulthood."

She goes on to state, "Everyone agreed on one crucial thing: that no one in America should harm children and that everyone can do more to ensure that you grow up safe, healthy, and educated, in nurturing families and in caring communities."

Madam Speaker, when I as a member of this great institution think and deliberate about the issues that come before us each day, I ask myself one simple question: How will I vote to make this a better society for my two young sons, Johnny, who is 3, and Matthew, who is 1, who are going to grow, live and learn throughout much of the 21st century?

Unfortunately, too many of our Nation's children are not considered when adults make the decisions in their lives. Too often children bear the brunt of poor decisions, poor circumstances, and poor intentions of the adults in their life.

It is important that Members of the House, in our positions and with the influence of this institution, call constant attention to this national problem, and work tirelessly to break the cycle of abuse and neglect in the lives of these children.

Before being elected to the House of Representatives, I was a prosecutor back in my home State in Wisconsin. While I find western Wisconsin to be an ideal place to live and raise a family, we are not immune from the tragedy of child abuse. In Wisconsin alone, over 15,000 cases of child abuse or neglect are substantiated every year.

The most difficult cases I prosecuted were those involving cases of child abuse and child sexual assault. These cases were difficult not just because the victims were vulnerable children, but because all too often the crimes involved a breach of a special trust. Children who are subject to abuse face not only physical torment and scarring, but their very belief in family, in society, and in relationships are altered. These children are frequently victimized by the very people entrusted with their care and upbringing, leaving the children with no one else to turn to.

The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON) and I both sit on the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and the devastating effect of abuse on a child's learning ability cannot go unstated. Studies have shown that language skills are greatly impaired by abuse, both in the child's ability to process information and to express themselves. Academic performance is hampered greatly by abuse, both in language, testing, and mathematics.

Equally important is the effect of abuse on a child's sense of self-worth

and value. Abused children tend to become isolated, and develop few relationships and friendships. As they grow older, they may become more confrontational and even delinquent, ultimately leading to the horrible cycle of becoming abusers themselves.

The need to address this cycle points to the importance of this resolution today, and the importance of ongoing efforts here at the Federal level to address the root causes of abuse.

I have joined 142 other Members of Congress in the Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus, which was founded 3 years ago. I commend my good friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) for showing the initiative and the foresight and recognizing the need to develop that caucus in Congress.

One big step we in Congress can take this year is to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. Not only does the legislation offer Federal protection and assistance to single women and mothers who are victims of domestic violence, but Title II of the Act is focused on limiting the effects of violence on children. Several sections of the bill address the abuse of children, both in providing a safe haven for children, and in addressing the effects of domestic violence situations on children.

If we as legislators want to do more to prevent the abuse of children, we can pass the Violence Against Women's Reauthorization Act this year and support other legislation which actively pursues the safety of children and families.

Ultimately, this problem of child abuse and neglect will not be solved by any one action, but by continued vigilance. As Marian Wright Edelman offers in her book, "It is always the right time to do right for children."

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SALMON. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BARRETT).

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Madam Speaker, as a cosponsor of this resolution, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 76, to enhance the public awareness of child abuse and neglect.

Child abuse is certainly a non-partisan issue. I know that all of my colleagues are fighting for abused and neglected children by promoting legislation, working with social workers, teachers, and other health care professionals, and educating their constituents about the problem. This is an issue, truly an issue that we can all agree upon.

Despite our efforts, I was very disheartened to learn that in my home State of Nebraska there were 2,482 confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect last year. This number is even more disturbing because we know that many cases go unreported.

The good news is that there are a lot of organizations out there working to help these children. In my district, organizations such as the Grand Island Association for Child Abuse Prevention provide alcohol and drug treatment programs and parenting classes to parents at risk.

But there is a lot more work to be done. We need to continue to work together to make sure that every child is protected. To do that, we need to educate all Americans about how they can help protect our most vulnerable citizens.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Madam Speaker, in reading through Marian Wright Edelman's book "Stand for Children" on the way over here today, she was offering some I think very helpful recommendations for people back home who may be paying attention to the problem of child abuse in their communities. I just want to reference some of those recommendations that she made toward the back of the book.

She said, "Here are some ordinary things you can do to Stand for Children: Hold a yard sale and donate the proceeds to an after-school program; start a bus token drive at your school for students who cannot afford transportation costs to the school; organize a winter coat and shoe drive for children in need, or go through your toybox and donate some toys to another child or to a shelter; collect used children's books from your neighbors and donate them to children's programs or a child health clinic; ask your church, synagogue, temple, or mosque to open the building at night for children in the community who need tutoring; create a neighborhood garden or container garden on your block; write your State legislators and Governor, your representatives in Congress, and the President to tell them to put children's needs first."

Today I am wearing a button that the Children's Defense Fund has been handing out to draw attention to the plight of child abuse in our country, and also in commemoration of the resolution here today. It says, "Pick on someone your own size." I think that pretty well says it all.

In conclusion, I just want to end with a prayer that Marion Wright Edelman has at the conclusion of her book:

"O God, forgive our rich nation where small babies die of cold quite legally.

O God forgive our rich nation, where small children suffer from hunger quite legally.

O God, forgive our rich nation where toddlers and schoolchildren die from guns sold quite legally.

O God, forgive our rich nation that lets children be the poorest group of citizens quite legally.

O God, forgive our rich Nation that lets the rich continue to get more at the expense of the poor quite legally.

O God, forgive our rich nation that thinks security relatives in missiles rather than in mothers, and in bombs rather than in babies.

O God, forgive our rich nation for not giving You sufficient thanks by giving to others their daily bread.

O God, help us never to confuse what is quite legal with what is just and right in Your sight."

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 76, and I commend Congressman SALMON for introducing it. Every year, over 3 million children are reported to be abused in America. Unfortunately, it is estimated that the actual incidence of abuse and neglect may be 3 times greater than the number reported. In fact, we know that more than 3 children die each day as a result of parental mistreatment. Child abuse may take many forms: it can be physical, emotional, sexual or as a result of neglect. I know, because I've been there. Many of you know that I personally experienced the horrors of domestic violence in my youth. Fortunately for me, my mother, and my siblings, we were able to escape that horrible situation and make a better life for ourselves.

Sadly, for millions of children in America that is just not the case. That is why H. Con. Res. 76 is so important. H. Con. Res. 76 expresses the sense of this Congress that all Americans must share in the responsibility of helping fight child abuse. More than that, it emphasizes the need for the faith community, non-profit organizations and volunteers across America to mobilize their resources in combating child abuse. Organizations, such as the Safe Haven Foundation in Indianapolis, are key in developing programs and providing shelters to the victims of domestic violence. That is why I am proud to have helped secure \$500,000 in funds to the Safe Haven Foundation, so that it may continue its important efforts against domestic violence.

Child abusers can come from any socioeconomic, religious, or ethnic background, and since the signs of abuse are varied, we all need to work together in identifying cases of child abuse. Standing shoulder-to-shoulder against child abuse, we can help save the lives of those most vulnerable: our Nation's children.

We need to re-commit ourselves to protecting our children, and this resolution does just that. Let's keep these children in our thoughts and prayers, and let's all give H. Con. Res. 76 our strong support.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MORELLA). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 76.

The question was taken.

Mr. SALMON. Madam 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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SALMON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 76.

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

There was no objection.

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RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:15 p.m.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:15 p.m.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 6 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.

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APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO MEXICO-UNITED STATES INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of 22 U.S.C. 276h, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Mexico-United States Inter-parliamentary Group:

Mr. KOLBE of Arizona, chairman.

There was no objection.

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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

Mrs. BIGGERT. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the order in which the motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

House Concurrent Resolution 247, by the yeas and nays; and

House Concurrent Resolution 76, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for the electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

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NATIONAL DONOR DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 247.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr.

UPTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 247, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 379, nays 0, not voting 55, as follows:

[Roll No. 16]

YEAS—379

Abercrombie	Dickey	Johnson, Sam
Ackerman	Dicks	Jones (NC)
Aderholt	Dingell	Kanjorski
Allen	Dixon	Kaptur
Andrews	Doggett	Kelly
Archer	Dooley	Kildee
Armey	Doollittle	Kind (WI)
Baca	Doyle	King (NY)
Bachus	Dreier	Kingston
Baker	Duncan	Klecza
Baldacci	Dunn	Knollenberg
Baldwin	Ehlers	Kolbe
Ballenger	Engel	Kucinich
Barcia	English	Kuykendall
Barr	Eshoo	LaFalce
Barrett (NE)	Etheridge	LaHood
Barrett (WI)	Everett	Lantos
Bartlett	Ewing	Largent
Barton	Farr	Larson
Bass	Fattah	Latham
Bateman	Filner	LaTourette
Becerra	Fletcher	Lazio
Bentsen	Foley	Leach
Bereuter	Forbes	Lee
Berkley	Ford	Levin
Berman	Fossella	Lewis (CA)
Berry	Fowler	Lewis (GA)
Biggert	Frank (MA)	Lewis (KY)
Bilbray	Franks (NJ)	Lipinski
Bilirakis	Frelinghuysen	LoBiondo
Bishop	Ganske	Lofgren
Bliley	Gejdenson	Lucas (KY)
Blumenauer	Gekas	Lucas (OK)
Blunt	Gephardt	Luther
Boehler	Gilchrest	Maloney (CT)
Boehner	Gillmor	Maloney (NY)
Bono	Gilman	Markey
Borski	Gonzalez	Martinez
Boswell	Goode	Mascara
Boucher	Goodlatte	Matsui
Boyd	Goodling	McCarthy (MO)
Brady (TX)	Gordon	McCarthy (NY)
Bryant	Goss	McCrery
Burr	Green (TX)	McDermott
Burton	Green (WI)	McGovern
Buyer	Greenwood	McHugh
Calvert	Gutierrez	McInnis
Camp	Gutknecht	McIntosh
Canady	Hall (OH)	McIntyre
Cannon	Hall (TX)	McKeon
Capuano	Hansen	McKinney
Cardin	Hastings (FL)	McNulty
Castle	Hastings (WA)	Meehan
Chabot	Hayes	Meek (FL)
Chambliss	Hayworth	Meeks (NY)
Chenoweth-Hage	Hefley	Menendez
Clayton	Hergert	Metcalf
Clement	Hill (IN)	Mica
Clyburn	Hill (MT)	Millender-
Coble	Hilleary	McDonald
Collins	Hilliard	Miller (FL)
Combest	Hinches	Miller, Gary
Condit	Hobson	Minge
Conyers	Hoefel	Mink
Cook	Hoekstra	Mollohan
Cooksey	Holden	Moore
Costello	Holt	Moran (KS)
Cox	Hoolley	Moran (VA)
Coyne	Horn	Morella
Cramer	Hostettler	Murtha
Crane	Houghton	Myrick
Crowley	Hoyer	Nadler
Cubin	Hulshof	Napolitano
Cummings	Hunter	Nethercutt
Cunningham	Hutchinson	Ney
Danner	Hyde	Northup
Davis (FL)	Inslee	Nussle
Davis (IL)	Isakson	Oberstar
Davis (VA)	Istook	Obey
Deal	Jackson (IL)	Olver
DeGette	Jackson-Lee	Ortiz
Delahunt	(TX)	Ose
DeLauro	Jenkins	Packard
DeLay	John	Pallone
DeMint	Johnson (CT)	Pascarell
Deutsch	Johnson, E. B.	Pastor