

to establish the standards that all nations should observe.

The nations which founded the United Nations at the San Francisco Conference in 1945, the city I have the honor to represent in this body with my friend the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), came to the conclusion that new tools and international mechanisms are needed to protect the basic rights of all human beings. They directly responded to the atrocities of World War II committed by Nazi Germany and others where fundamental rights were violated in an unprecedented and systematic attack which produced inconceivable levels of human suffering.

In 1946, Madam Speaker, the United Nations established the Commission on Human Rights, the principal decision-making body charged with the global defense of human rights. The first Chair of the Human Rights Commission was Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, the widow of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Under her inspired leadership, this Commission took it upon itself to develop a comprehensive and universal catalogue of human rights definitions, which could serve as the basis for future legal codifications in the defense of human rights.

After almost 1,400 rounds of voting on practically every word in the draft declaration, the General Assembly unanimously adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948, in Paris at the Palais de Chaillot. Hence, we annually celebrate December 10 as International Human Rights Day. Subsequently some 60 human rights treaties and declarations were negotiated at the United Nations on the basis of the Universal Declaration.

Unfortunately, Madam Speaker, many of the rights enunciated in the Universal Declaration are under attack across the globe. I urge my colleagues to join me and continue our fight for all human rights for all human beings, even if that means from time to time making some unpopular decisions. As the sole remaining superpower, we have a special global obligation to the poor, to the tortured, to the prosecuted, to the persecuted, to the refugees and the voiceless. Anything less than full commitment to these human rights would be a betrayal of our own convictions and beliefs as a Nation and to our responsibilities spelled out in our Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, first of all I want to thank and congratulate the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for introducing

H. Con. Res. 185 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a magnificent document. I am very proud to be one of the cosponsors of the resolution. I do hope it will get the full support of our colleagues today.

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Madam Speaker, I believe that rights come from God, not from governments, not from international organizations. Nevertheless, it was a great step forward when, without a dissenting vote, the United Nations General Assembly recognized the existence of the rights to life, liberty, freedom of religion and expression, self-government through elections, and other important rights that are inherent in our nature as human beings and children of God.

I am very proud to join my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), and I want to thank him again for bringing this important resolution before the body today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I applaud this measure. It is imperative that we, as Representatives of the United States of America, continue to support the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The vital declaration ensures global preservation of the most basic human liberties.

Nadezhda Mandelstam once wrote that one must scream to the world to assert one's right to live and "send a message to the outside world demanding help and calling for resistance." Silence, in turn, is the "real crime against humanity."

It is clear that we must proclaim loudly that we are still demanding help and calling for resistance against human rights throughout the world. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights represents such a voice because it creates a standard of human rights that all the world's nations must uphold.

As a cornerstone of international customary law, the Declaration paved the way for legally binding treaties such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. Together, these documents form the "International Bill of Rights."

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights also serves as a model for national constitutions, laws, and policies. Since 1948, over 90 national constitutions can be traced to the Declaration.

We must continue to vocally support this Declaration. Our silence would only result in a regression of the work done on behalf of this document. Instead, we must scream to the world that we will not tolerate human rights abuses.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MORELLA). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 185, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

## TORTURE VICTIMS RELIEF ACT OF 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4309) to provide a comprehensive program of support for victims of torture, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4309

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

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998".*

### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

*Congress makes the following findings:*

(1) *The American people abhor torture by any government or person. The existence of torture creates a climate of fear and international insecurity that affects all people.*

(2) *Torture is the deliberate mental and physical damage caused by governments to individuals to destroy individual personality and terrorize society. The effects of torture are long term. Those effects can last a lifetime for the survivors and affect future generations.*

(3) *By eliminating the leadership of their opposition and frightening the general public, repressive governments often use torture as a weapon against democracy.*

(4) *Torture survivors remain under physical and psychological threats, especially in communities where the perpetrators are not brought to justice. In many nations, even those who treat torture survivors are threatened with reprisals, including torture, for carrying out their ethical duty to provide care. Both the survivors of torture and their treatment providers should be accorded protection from further repression.*

(5) *A significant number of refugees and asylees entering the United States have been victims of torture. Those claiming asylum deserve prompt consideration of their applications for political asylum to minimize their insecurity and sense of danger. Many torture survivors now live in the United States. They should be provided with the rehabilitation services which would enable them to become productive members of our communities.*

(6) *The development of a treatment movement for torture survivors has created new opportunities for action by the United States and other nations to oppose state-sponsored and other acts of torture.*

(7) *There is a need for a comprehensive strategy to protect and support torture victims and their treatment providers, together with overall efforts to eliminate torture.*

(8) *By acting to heal the survivors of torture and protect their families, the United States can help to heal the effects of torture and prevent its use around the world.*

### SEC. 3. DEFINITION.

*As used in this Act, the term "torture" has the meaning given the term in section 2340(1) of title 18, United States Code, and includes the use of rape and other forms of sexual violence by a person acting under the color of law upon another person under his custody or physical control.*

### SEC. 4. FOREIGN TREATMENT CENTERS.

(a) *AMENDMENTS TO THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.—Part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) is amended by*

adding at the end of chapter 1 the following new section:

**"SEC. 129. ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE.**

**"(a) IN GENERAL.**—The President is authorized to provide assistance for the rehabilitation of victims of torture.

**"(b) ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS.**—Such assistance shall be provided in the form of grants to treatment centers and programs in foreign countries that are carrying out projects or activities specifically designed to treat victims of torture for the physical and psychological effects of the torture.

**"(c) USE OF FUNDS.**—Such assistance shall be available—

**"(1)** for direct services to victims of torture; and

**"(2)** to provide research and training to health care providers outside of treatment centers or programs described in subsection (b), for the purpose of enabling such providers to provide the services described in paragraph (1)."

**(b) FUNDING.**—

**(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years 1999 and 2000 pursuant to chapter 1 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, there are authorized to be appropriated to the President \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 1999 and \$7,500,000 for fiscal year 2000 to carry out section 129 of the Foreign Assistance Act, as added by subsection (a).

**(2) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—Amounts appropriated pursuant to this subsection shall remain available until expended.

**(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect October 1, 1998.

**SEC. 5. DOMESTIC TREATMENT CENTERS.**

**(a) ASSISTANCE FOR TREATMENT OF TORTURE VICTIMS.**—The Secretary of Health and Human Services may provide grants to programs in the United States to cover the cost of the following services:

**(1)** Services for the rehabilitation of victims of torture, including treatment of the physical and psychological effects of torture.

**(2)** Social and legal services for victims of torture.

**(3)** Research and training for health care providers outside of treatment centers, or programs for the purpose of enabling such providers to provide the services described in paragraph (1).

**(b) FUNDING.**—

**(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Health and Human Services for fiscal years 1999 and 2000, there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (a) (relating to assistance for domestic centers and programs for the treatment of victims of torture) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 1999, and \$7,500,000 for fiscal year 2000.

**(2) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—Amounts appropriated pursuant to this subsection shall remain available until expended.

**SEC. 6. MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE.**

**(a) FUNDING.**—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years 1999 and 2000 pursuant to chapter 3 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, there are authorized to be appropriated to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (in this section referred to as the "Fund") the following amounts for the following fiscal years:

**(1) FISCAL YEAR 1999.**—For fiscal year 1999, \$3,000,000.

**(2) FISCAL YEAR 2000.**—For fiscal year 2000, \$3,000,000.

**(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—Amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.

**(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of the Congress that the President, acting through the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, should—

**(1)** request the Fund—

**(A)** to find new ways to support and protect treatment centers and programs that are carrying out rehabilitative services for victims of torture; and

**(B)** to encourage the development of new such centers and programs;

**(2)** use the voice and vote of the United States to support the work of the Special Rapporteur on Torture and the Committee Against Torture established under the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and

**(3)** use the voice and vote of the United States to establish a country rapporteur or similar procedural mechanism to investigate human rights violations in a country if either the Special Rapporteur or the Committee Against Torture indicates that a systematic practice of torture is prevalent in that country.

**SEC. 7. SPECIALIZED TRAINING FOR FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS.**

**(a) IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State shall provide training for foreign service officers with respect to—

**(1)** the identification of torture;

**(2)** the identification of the surrounding circumstances in which torture is most often practiced;

**(3)** the long-term effects of torture upon a victim;

**(4)** the identification of the physical, cognitive, and emotional effects of torture, and the manner in which these effects can affect the interview or hearing process; and

**(5)** the manner of interviewing victims of torture so as not to retraumatize them, eliciting the necessary information to document the torture experience, and understanding the difficulties victims often have in recounting their torture experience.

**(b) GENDER-RELATED CONSIDERATIONS.**—In conducting training under subsection (a) (4) or (5), gender-specific training shall be provided on the subject of interacting with women and men who are victims of torture by rape or any other form of sexual violence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

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

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4309.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker, this important measure addresses a critical area of our efforts to combat human rights abuses and treatment of those individuals who have suffered the effects of torture at the hands of governments as a means of destroying dissent and opposition, and I commend the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for introducing this bill and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his support of this measure.

This resolution rightly recognizes the importance of treating victims of

torture in order to try to combat the long-term devastating effects that torture has had on the physical and psychological well-being of those who have undergone this pernicious form of abuse.

Regrettably, torture has been an extremely effective method to suppress political dissidents, and for those governments which lack the legitimacy of democratic institutions to justify their power, torture has provided a bulwark against popular opposition.

It has been pointed out that for political leaders of undemocratic societies, torture has been useful because it aimed at the destruction of the personality to rob those individuals who would actively involve themselves in opposition to oppression of the self-confidence and other characteristics that produce leadership. And I quote from a recent speech by Dr. Inge Genefke, who is a founder of the International Treatment Movement, who we had an opportunity to meet with not too long ago, and I quote:

Sophisticated torture methods today can destroy the personality and self-respect of human beings. Many victims are threatened with having to do or say things against their ideology or religious convictions with the purpose of attacking fundamental parts of the identity such as self-respect and self-esteem. Torturers today are able to create conditions which effectively break down the victim's personality and identity and his ability to live a fuller life later, with and amongst other human beings.

Fortunately there are now available treatment regimes for the types of disorders a torturer may induce. The resolution before the House today will help ensure that these treatments are more readily available to torture victims throughout the world and for those that are in need of them.

This measure authorizes funding for treatment centers in our Nation and for our President to provide funding for treatment centers in other countries. It also authorizes a State Department to contribute \$3 million in both fiscal years 1999 and the year 2000 to the United Nations voluntary fund for victims of torture.

While this measure is similar to one reported out of the Committee on International Relations, we did make one change in order to accommodate the Committee on Commerce, changing a specific amount authorized for the Department of Health and Human Services to, quote, such sums as may be required, close quote. I ask that correspondence on this matter exchanged between the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Commerce, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) and myself be included in the RECORD following my remarks.

I urge my colleagues to join in approving this legislation, an all important issue, the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998.

The correspondence referred to is as follows:

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMERCE COMMITTEE,  
Washington, DC, September 10, 1998.

Hon. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN,  
Chairman, House Committee on International  
Relations, Washington, DC.

DEAR BEN: On August 6, 1998 the Committee on International Relations ordered reported H.R. 4309, the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998. H.R. 4309, as ordered reported by the Committee on International Relations, provides for the support and treatment of torture victims through a variety of sources. As you know, the Committee on Commerce was granted an additional referral upon the bill's introduction pursuant to the Committee's jurisdiction over health and health facilities under Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Because of the importance of this matter, I recognize your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner. I also understand that you have agreed to address this Committee's concern over the authorization of appropriations in section 5 in a manager's amendment to be offered on the Floor. Therefore, with that understanding, I will waive consideration of the bill by the Commerce Committee. By agreeing to waive its consideration of the bill, the Commerce Committee does not waive its jurisdiction over H.R. 4309. In addition, the Commerce Committee reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provisions of the bill that are within the Commerce Committee's jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Commerce Committee for conferees on H.R. 4309 or related legislation.

I request that you include this letter as a part of the Committee's report on H.R. 4309 and as part of the record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

TOM BILEY,  
Chairman.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,

Washington, DC, September 10, 1998.

Hon. TOM BILEY,  
Chairman, House Committee on Commerce,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR TOM: I am writing to thank the Committee on Commerce for its willingness to waive consideration of H.R. 4309, the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998. As you correctly note, the Committee on International Relations and the sponsors of the bill believe it is important to bring this legislation before the House as expeditiously as possible.

I am writing to confirm our understanding, upon which your agreement to waive Committee consideration of the bill was premised:

First, I will address the Commerce Committee's concern over the authorization of appropriations in section 5 of the bill in a manager's amendment that I will offer on the Floor. I have enclosed a draft of that amendment, which I understand will meet the Committee's concerns.

Second, although I am hopeful that the Senate will pass the bill as passed by the House, I agree to support the appointment of Commerce Committee conferees, should a conference be convened on this legislation.

Finally, I will gladly include your September 10, 1998 letter in the International Relations Committee's report on H.R. 4309 and as part of the record during consideration of the bill by the House.

Thank you again for your prompt attention to this time-sensitive matter. Do not

hesitate to contact me with any additional questions or suggestions you may have.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN,  
Chairman.

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4309 OFFERED BY MR.  
SMITH OF NEW JERSEY

On page 6, line 10 and 11, strike "fiscal years 1999 and 2000," and insert "for each fiscal year";

On page 6, line 14, strike "\$5,000,000" and all that follows through the end of line 15, and insert "such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal year."

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

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

Madam Speaker, I would like to begin by paying special tribute to my friend and colleague from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for taking the lead in this body on this most important issue. He has been an indefatigable fighter for many good causes, but this probably is one that deserves the most serious commendation and respect. I am proud to be the principal Democratic cosponsor of this legislation.

According to Amnesty International, Madam Speaker, torture is practiced on a systematic scale in no less than 117 countries across the globe today. Governments frequently target human rights advocates and political opposition members for torture to disable them and instill fear in society in general. Torture is clearly the most popular and effective weapon employed by rogue nations against democracy.

The main purpose of torture in most cases is not to gain any information from the victim. Rather, its purpose is to strip the individual human being of all personal dignity, to destroy all personal self-control and to reduce a human being to a state of sheer panic, fear, terror and pain. In other words, the purpose of torture is the destruction of the character of the victim, not necessarily the intention to kill him. Long after the physical wounds of those lucky enough to survive have healed, the embarrassment and the trauma of their torture persists.

This is why torture renders people silent. This silence, the inability to reach out, many times increased by our inability to listen and to believe, is the real goal of torture.

There are no more than 150 treatment programs for victims of torture in 76 countries. These programs provide invaluable support to the courageous men and women who are fighting for principles upon which our country was founded. They enable the survivors of torture to recover from the effects of torture and to resume their struggle on behalf of democracy and human rights. This is a long, painful and slow process. The centers give victims the important hope that somebody is listening, somebody believes their stories.

Currently there are some 400,000 victims who survive torture in many

countries living in the United States. We need to listen to them and to live up to our responsibilities. In addition to the medical and psychological services torture treatment centers provide, they also document irrefutable evidence that torture is being practiced in many countries, and these centers become effective instruments in pressuring and changing governments to desist from the practice of torture.

It is my hope that my colleagues across the political spectrum will unanimously approve this legislation. I strongly urge support of everyone in this body.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) the chairman of the full committee, for yielding this time to me, and I also want to thank him for being one of the principal cosponsors, as well as my good friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS). We have had literally dozens of hearings in the subcommittee over the last several years when he was chair, and now that I chair the committee and we have heard from a myriad of victims of torture, from Indonesia, from Cuba, from countries in Africa, Central America, and the Eastern Bloc countries, including the former Soviet Union and Russia itself. The issue over and over again is horrific mistreatment designed to destroy the will and the body and the spirit of the individuals involved and to destroy whole communities when it is done systematically to achieve an end.

This legislation, H.R. 4309, the Torture Victims Relief Act has 30 cosponsors. Again, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and I link arm in arm to fight to help those who have been hurt by despotic governments.

In 1996, Madam Speaker, our subcommittee held a hearing on an earlier version of this legislation and we heard testimony on the continued and widespread persistence of torture in the world today, and on what steps the United States and other free countries should take to do something about it. Three of our witnesses at that hearing—and, as has been said, we heard from people from all over the world, and the issue is always the same, the terrible mistreatment—but three of those people who were there that day: a native of Uganda who suffered at the hands of Idi Amin, a Tibetan physician who was tortured by the Chinese Communists, and an American who became a torture victim in Saudi Arabia, our ally, after he had a falling out with his employer, the Saudi government. They told us stories that brought tears to our eyes about how they were mistreated and how they bear the scars long after their ordeal.

Those who suffer horrific cruelty at the hands of despotic governments, military and/or police, do bear those scars; they are physical, they are emotional, they are spiritual, they are psychological, and they carry them for the rest of their lives. For many, if not most, the ordeal of torture certainly does not end when they are released from the gulag or the prison.

These victims, and there are millions of them around the world—there are an estimated 400,000 survivors of torture living right here in the United States—need our help. To date we have done far too little to assist these walking wounded. The Torture Victims Relief Act contains a number of important provisions designed to assist torture victims.

First, it authorizes grants for rehabilitation services for victims of torture and for related purposes in both foreign and domestic centers. The bill authorizes such sums as may be needed, subject to the Department of Health and Human Services, for contributions to centers for treatment of torture victims here in the U.S., and there are currently approximately 15 such centers. The precise amount of any contribution to these centers will be decided each year in the appropriation process. The “such sums” authorization language is contained in an amendment which is part of this bill today. It was suggested by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) of the Committee on Commerce which has jurisdiction over HHS, and I do want to thank Chairman BLILEY for his help on this legislation.

The legislation also authorizes \$5 million in fiscal year 1999 and \$7.5 million in fiscal year 2000 for international torture victim centers, and there are currently approximately 175 of those around the world. Regrettably, all of these centers, domestic and international, are seriously underfunded. As a matter of fact, the Denmark-based International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), estimates the worldwide need for assisting victims to be \$28 million, a significant portion of which is totally unmet.

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H.R. 4309 also authorizes a voluntary contribution for the United States to the U.N. Voluntary Fund for victims of torture in the amount of \$3 million in fiscal year 1999 and \$3 million in fiscal year 2000. I am proud to say that our efforts—and it has been bipartisan with the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS)—have already had an effect on the U.S. contributions to the Voluntary Fund. The U.S. contribution to this fund in 1995 was \$1.5 million. At the time when we introduced the bill in the 104th Congress, the administration had proposed to cut the fiscal year 1996 contribution to \$500,000. Eventually, in response to our efforts by the supporters of this bill, the administration restored the full \$1.5 million. The bill would bring it up to \$3 million.

The bill also provides specialized training for foreign service officers in the identification of evidence of torture, techniques for interviewing torture victims, and related subjects.

Finally, the bill contains an expression of the sense of Congress that the U.S. shall use its voice and vote in the United Nations to support the investigation and elimination of these heinous practices which are prohibited by the Convention Against Torture. It is a good bill, it is a bipartisan bill, and I hope it gets unanimous support.

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

Mr. GILMAN. 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 New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4309, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### COMMISSION ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND MINORITIES IN SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. FAWELL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3007) to establish the Commission on the Advancement of Women in Science, Engineering, and Technology Development, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3007

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Commission on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering, and Technology Development Act”.

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) According to the National Science Foundation’s 1996 report, Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering—

(A) women have historically been underrepresented in scientific and engineering occupations, and although progress has been made over the last several decades, there is still room for improvement;

(B) female and minority students take fewer high-level mathematics and science courses in high school;

(C) female students earn fewer bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees in science and engineering;

(D) among recent bachelors of science and bachelors of engineering graduates, women are less likely to be in the labor force, to be employed full-time, and to be employed in their field than are men;

(E) among doctoral scientists and engineers, women are far more likely to be employed at 2-year institutions, are far less likely to be employed in research univer-

sities, and are much more likely to teach part-time;

(F) among university full-time faculty, women are less likely to chair departments or hold high-ranked positions;

(G) a substantial salary gap exists between men and women with doctorates in science and engineering;

(H) Blacks, Hispanics, and Native Americans continue to be seriously underrepresented in graduate science and engineering programs; and

(I) Blacks, Hispanics, and Native Americans as a group are 23 percent of the population of the United States, but only 6 percent are scientists or engineers.

(2) According to the National Research Council’s 1995 report, Women Scientists and Engineers Employed in Industry: Why So Few?—

(A) limited access is the first hurdle faced by women seeking industrial jobs in science and engineering, and while progress has been made in recent years, common recruitment and hiring practices that make extensive use of traditional networks often overlook the available pool of women;

(B) once on the job, many women find paternalism, sexual harassment, allegations of reverse discrimination, different standards for judging the work of men and women, lower salary relative to their male peers, inequitable job assignments, and other aspects of a male-oriented culture that are hostile to women; and

(C) women to a greater extent than men find limited opportunities for advancement, particularly for moving into management positions, and the number of women who have achieved the top levels in corporations is much lower than would be expected, based on the pipeline model.

(3) The establishment of a commission to examine issues raised by the findings of these 2 reports would help—

(A) to focus attention on the importance of eliminating artificial barriers to the recruitment, retention, and advancement of women and minorities in the fields of science, engineering, and technology, and in all employment sectors of the United States;

(B) to promote work force diversity;

(C) to sensitize employers to the need to recruit and retain women and minority scientists, engineers, and computer specialists; and

(D) to encourage the replication of successful recruitment and retention programs by universities, corporations, and Federal agencies having difficulties in employing women or minorities in the fields of science, engineering, and technology.

#### SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.

There is established a commission to be known as the “Commission on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering, and Technology Development” (in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).

#### SEC. 4. DUTY OF THE COMMISSION.

The Commission shall review available research, and, if determined necessary by the Commission, conduct additional research to—

(1) identify the number of women, minorities, and individuals with disabilities in the United States in specific types of occupations in science, engineering, and technology development;

(2) examine the preparedness of women, minorities, and individuals with disabilities to—

(A) pursue careers in science, engineering, and technology development; and

(B) advance to positions of greater responsibility within academia, industry, and government;