

the chairman of our 10th Congressional district Education Advisory Board, who led much of this work.

Madam Speaker, the Education Assessment Technical Corrections Act represents a strong bipartisan consensus, backed by school management and unions, to make the job of defining success and education achievement more accurate and useful.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Congressional Responsibility and Accountability Act. This bill requires Congress to specifically authorize via legislation any proposed federal regulation that will impose costs on any individual of at least \$5,000, impose costs on a business or other private organization of at least \$25,000, or impose aggregate costs on the American people of at least \$250,000, or cause any American to lose his or her job.

According to some legal experts, at least three-quarters of all federal laws consist of regulations promulgated by federal agencies without the consent, or even the review of, Congress. Allowing unelected, and thus unaccountable, executive agencies to make law undermines democracy. Law-making by executive agencies also violates the intent of the drafters of the Constitution to separate legislative and executive powers. The drafters of the Constitution correctly viewed separation of powers as a cornerstone of republican government and a key to protecting individual liberty from excessive and arbitrary government power.

Congress's delegation of lawmaking authority to unelected bureaucrats has created a system that seems to owe more to the writings of Franz Kafka than to the writings of James Madison. The volume of regulations promulgated by federal agencies and the constant introduction of new rules makes it impossible for most Americans to know with any certainty the federal laws, regulations, and rules they are required to obey. Thus, almost all Americans live with the danger that they may be hauled before a federal agency for an infraction they have no reasonable way of knowing is against the law.

While it is easy for Members of Congress to complain about out of control federal bureaucrats, it was Congress that gave these agencies the ability to create laws. Since Congress created the problem of lawmaking by regulatory agencies, it is up to Congress to fix the problem and make certain that all federal laws are passed by the people's elected representatives. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Congressional Responsibility and Accountability Act.

GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN SHOULD APOLOGIZE

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 121, of which I am a cosponsor, which expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Japan should formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Force's coercion of young women into sexual slavery, known to the world as "comfort women," during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II.

As a co-chair of the Human Trafficking Caucus, I am all too familiar with the terrible problem of sexual slavery. H. Res. 121 reminds us that women throughout history have faced this type of inhumane treatment. According to the resolution, some textbooks used in Japanese schools downplay this tragedy, and public and private officials wish to rescind a 1993 statement by Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono, which expressed the Government of Japan's sincere apologies and remorse for the ordeal faced by the "comfort women." I believe that if we are going to successfully combat this problem worldwide, nations must come to terms with their pasts so that such practices do not happen again in the future.

Human trafficking is a \$10 billion worldwide industry and one of the largest organized crime rings in history. According to the State Department, approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders for labor and commercial sex purposes each year; the number is in the millions when trafficking within borders is counted. While we have a lot of work ahead of us to end human trafficking, I believe that through our collective efforts, we can make a difference.

I want to commend Representative HONDA for sponsoring this legislation and for his tireless efforts to get this bill to the floor today. I am committed to ending modern-day slavery, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

THE U.S.-CHINA LANGUAGE ENGAGEMENT ACT OF 2007

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the U.S.-China Language Engagement Act of 2007—a bill to close the knowledge deficit when it comes to our relationship with China.

It is little news to anyone that China is on the rise. With a population of over 1.3 billion people and the second largest economy in the world when measured by domestic purchasing power parity, China is poised to become a world power, economically, diplomatically, and militarily.

Yet at a time when China's influence on the world stage is increasing, our national under-

standing of the "Middle Kingdom" has not kept pace.

While an estimated 200 million Chinese school children are studying our language and culture, less than 50,000 American elementary and secondary students are studying Chinese.

The goal of the U.S.-China Language Engagement Act is to provide our schools with the resources they need to offer Chinese language instruction and cultural studies classes.

This important legislation would instruct the Department of Education to offer competitive grants to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to develop and implement innovative Chinese language and cultural studies programs.

LEAs, in collaboration with institutions of higher education, may use grant funds to carry out intensive summer Chinese language instruction, link bilingual Chinese and English speakers with students and conduct virtual cultural exchanges with educational institutions in China. This bill is part of a broader legislative package seeking to improve our competitive edge and relationship with China.

Some may view China's resurgence as a threat. But today, Madam Speaker, I ask you to turn China's rise into an opportunity for United States citizens.

Through careful diplomacy, I believe China can become not only a competitor but also a partner. But we cannot have this dialogue if we cannot understand the Chinese people.

This is why I come before you today: to ask for your help in ensuring that the lines of communication between the United States and China stay open. Please support the U.S.-China Language Engagement Act and help bridge the language barrier and cross the cultural gap between future generations of Americans and the Chinese.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM ERNEST "BILL" WALSH

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of William Ernest "Bill" Walsh. Nicknamed "The Genius," Walsh revolutionized professional football and became a legend in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Recognized as one of the greatest football coaches of all time, he earned a host of awards throughout his career, culminating in his enshrinement in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

After moving to the Bay Area as a teen, Walsh started his coaching career at Washington High School in Fremont. He quickly moved up the ranks, doing stints as an assistant coach at both the University of California at Berkeley and Stanford University before beginning his professional career with the Oakland Raiders in 1966. The next ten years saw him move on to the Cincinnati Bengals and the San Diego Chargers, until 1977 when Walsh returned to the Bay Area, this time as head coach at Stanford.

Two years later, Walsh received the appointment that was to place him in the top ranks of American professional football coaches—moving up the Peninsula to become head coach of the San Francisco 49ers.

Madam Speaker, when Bill Walsh joined the 49ers, their prospects seemed grim. Their

record from the previous season was 2–14; a record that was repeated in Walsh's first season. It was only through his calm determination and intelligence for which he became famous that the 49ers returned to greatness.

Two years later, in 1981, the 49ers won their first Super Bowl, and "The Genius" earned his nickname as an innovative strategist, expert motivator and brilliant coach. His revolutionary tactics were soon known throughout the football world as the "West Coast Offense." Walsh's next seven years with the 49ers saw two more Super Bowl victories, and two legendary Hall of Fame quarterbacks—Joe Montana and Steve Young—who thrived under their brilliant coach's tutelage.

Resigning from his position with the 49ers following his Super Bowl win in early 1989, Walsh moved on to become a broadcaster at NBC. Later he assumed various roles with Stanford's football team and the 49ers. Even after being diagnosed with leukemia in 2004, he worked through 2005 as interim athletic director at Stanford. He wrote two bestselling books, was a motivational speaker, and taught classes at Stanford's business school. No matter what he did, Bill Walsh was always known for his exceptional intelligence and professionalism.

Madam Speaker, Bill Walsh earned respect where ever he went through his intelligent approach to the game and his demeanor, both on and off the field. I am honored to pay tribute to this great professional football icon and a proud son of the Bay Area. With his passing earlier this week, he leaves behind a lasting legacy of successful protégés and reverent fans. I invite my colleagues today, to join me in honoring the life and the legacy of Bill Walsh—coach, leader, teacher and an outstanding American.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3161) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the passage of H.R. 3161, The 2008 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration Appropriations bill. Chairwoman ROSA DELAUNO has done excellent work to create fiscally and morally responsible legislation that reinvests in rural America, protects public health, improves nutritional standards for all Americans, all while transforming our future energy and conservation goals.

This legislation represents a new direction in the way we invest in our families and our farmers. It is a direction towards improving the health and well-being of all communities and

to implement policies which put middle and working-class families center-stage. In rural America, H.R. 3161 provides significant increases to grants and loans for critical community facilities, affordable loans for low and moderate-income families in rural areas, with no increase in fees, and substantially increases affordable loans and grants for farm worker housing. There is also a large increase in funding for affordable home loans in rural areas that will ultimately double the number of homeowners from the 2002 level, by 2010.

In the areas of public health and nutrition, H.R. 3161 offers more than a billion dollars that will provide Americans with jobs in the food safety and inspection industry, improves food and drug safety regulations, and protects programs that feed women, infants, children, and the elderly. This bill increases funds for such programs as the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable, and Simplified Summer Food programs that provide nutritious foods to children in low-income families, as well as specialty crop grants to encourage more fruit and vegetable consumption. Most importantly, in the Food Stamp Program, this bill not only increases funding to accommodate growing participation, but it excludes special pay for military personnel in eligibility determination, and rejects the administration's proposal to restrict eligibility for food stamps that will exclude needy families who are receiving certain other services.

The Agriculture Committee has also taken into consideration our need for renewable energy and conservation by allocating over \$2 billion in funding for renewable energy loans and grants to businesses to grow our economy, create new jobs, lower energy prices, and reduce global warming. Furthermore, H.R. 3161 provides resources for research, aid to farmers and ranchers, and loans to businesses. The bill also restores many programs the President would have cut or eliminated, including the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, Resource Conservation and Development, and the watershed programs.

Mr. Chairman, I am extremely proud of my colleagues for their efforts in maintaining the lifeline of all Americans—our farms, nutrition, and energy policies.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3161) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 3161, which strengthens our rural communities, while making sure that the American people

have adequate, safe and nutritious food to eat. Let me commend the Chairwoman of the Subcommittee, Ms. DELAUNO, for her exceptional leadership in crafting such extraordinary legislation to combat hunger, obesity and malnutrition in our nation and around the world. That is why I strongly support this bill.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 3161 allows us to reinvest in the often forgotten but most vitally important rural areas of America. H.R. 3161 is designed to sustain the vitality of rural America, as well as protecting public health and food safety, improving nutrition and healthy eating, and promoting renewable energy and conservation in America.

Mr. Chairman, more than 3 million households in the rural America continue to have inadequate or no water or sewer service at all. H.R. 3161 is the solution to this disparity in that it provides \$500 million for rural water and waste disposal grants, a 14 percent increase over 2007, and \$1 billion for water and waste direct loans for the fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, recent food scares—about peanut butter and lettuce—have made Americans nervous about where their food originates. H.R. 3161 tackles these concerns and addresses the importance of food safety. This bill fully funds the Food Safety and Inspection Service at USDA, shifts funds to fill vacancies in federal meat inspector positions, invests in research, and funds a transformation of FDA food safety regulations. It also prohibits imported poultry products from China, and sets a timeline for USDA to implement critical country of origin labeling for our meat supply after 6 years of Republican delays.

In addition, H.R. 3161 provides a special supplemental nutritional program for women, infants, and children other known as (WIC). This provision is so essential because it affords many women, especially women of color in lower income brackets, the opportunity to care for themselves and their newborns after birth. Without programs such as WIC, many mothers would not be able to maintain a healthy lifestyle during pregnancies and after childbirth. Because of WIC, mothers can afford their nutritional foods they need to sustain their pregnancies and avoid miscarriages, stillbirths and defects caused by malnourishment during pregnancy. H.R. 3161 invests \$233.4 million (4 percent) more than the President to feed more than 8 million pregnant women, mothers and children next year.

Mr. Chairman, hunger is not a problem facing not only the international community faces, but it is also a problem in our own country. Many women, children, and the elderly should not wake and go to bed hungry in our great Nation, but tragically this happens all too often in the cities and villages and small towns of our great country.

The commodity supplemental food program provides \$500,000 monthly in the year 2007. H.R. 3161 increases funding in this area to allow people in five additional states to participate in the program and expand those getting food in states already in the program. In addition, under the Food Stamp Benefit provision, H.R. 3161 protects the most vulnerable and helpless; families of soldiers in combat. Like the recently passed Farm bill, the measure ensures that the families of soldiers in combat are not penalized under the Food Stamp program. It also rejects the Administration's proposal to restrict eligibility for food stamps by excluding needy families who are receiving certain other services.