

## EAST TIMOR'S INDEPENDENCE

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I would like to extend my warmest welcome to the newest democracy to join the family of nations. This week, after a long and arduous struggle, the nation of East Timor officially celebrated its independence from Indonesia.

This has been a long and hard fought process for the people of East Timor. For 300 years, they were a colony of Portugal. Then upon the end of colonial rule in 1975, and a brief period of independence, East Timor was annexed to Indonesia.

In August of 1999, the people of East Timor voted in favor of independence from Indonesia. This historic moment regrettably set off a tragic wave of violence that left much of the country in devastation. While the people of East Timor have come a great distance since that moment, there is still much rebuilding and healing to do.

In January of 2000, the United Nations International Commission of Inquiry into East Timor concluded that the terror, destruction and displacement of people that occurred would not have been possible without the involvement of the Indonesian military during August of 2002. During that same period, some 250,000 East Timorese fled to West Timor, while there are still 55,000 refugees who have not been repatriated.

For the people of East Timor to move forward and have positive relations with their Indonesian neighbors, it is vital that these findings be investigated and those who are found guilty of committing crimes against humanity be brought to justice. The Indonesian government has taken an important step in this matter by establishing an ad hoc Human Rights Court for East Timor, however, this court has its own short-comings. By limiting the scope of inquires to atrocities alleged after the August referendum, it has effectively blocked the prosecution of high-level military officials who are believed to have masterminded the violence. Without the ability to investigate and bring to justice those involved in human rights abuses throughout East Timor's time as part of Indonesia, those who have suffered will be unable to move forward in their lives.

While we cannot forget the injustices of the past, this week is also a time to look forward. East Timor has the opportunity to build a vibrant and prosperous nation. The task of developing a thriving democracy is an ongoing process. It requires a respect for the rule of law and the ability to share differing opinions. I am confident that the people of East Timor will meet these challenges as they have the others before them; and they have taken a positive step by voting to sign the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights as their legislature's first act.

While many of these steps the people of East Timor must take for themselves, the United States and our fellow democracies will still play a vital

role in the hopes of East Timorese. Given the level of destruction, it is important that the United States and other nations continue foreign aid in an effort to enable the East Timorese to provide vital services such as education, shelter, and healthcare to their people. Also, the established democracies of the world can provide valuable insight into the running of democratic institutions as the government of East Timor undertakes the responsibilities of full sovereignty. These and other forms of aid will play a vital role in the ability of East Timor to mature as an established nation.

Lastly, this momentous occasion would not have been possible without the perseverance of the people of East Timor and supportive non-governmental organizations such as the East Timor Action Network, and I commend them on their efforts. The people of East Timor have endured much to gain their freedom, and I wish them the best in their newfound independence.

## PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I chaired a hearing on Parkinson's Disease in the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee. I was profoundly touched by the victims of this disease who came to testify and by the many, many victims, families and advocates who came to Washington to put a human face on this horrible disease. As a Congress, we can't take the time to listen to every story but I ask unanimous consent that one little girl's story be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

## LETTER FROM MAYA FIELDER

My name is Maya Fielder and I am 9 years old. I live in Palo Alto, California and I am in the 4th grade at Escondido School.

When I was a little baby my Mom found out she had Parkinson's Disease. I was with my Mom, but I don't really remember when the doctor told her she had a bad disease that gets worse and worse and doesn't have a cure. I know that now there are lots of things I can't do with my Mom and sometimes I feel like I have to take care her instead of her taking care of me.

I learned that Parkinson's Disease is when your brain doesn't produce enough dopamine. Dopamine is important because it tells your body how to move. My Mom's body tremors and she can't write things down or if she does no on can read it, not even her. She gets disabled to walk so she rides my scooter around the house (I'm not allowed to ride in the house though). And sometimes she can't even walk until her medicine starts working so my Dad and I get things for her. She takes tons of pills every day but the medicine or the disease causes more problems for her so my Mom tries new medicines and different things a lot to try to get better.

Our whole family works hard to help find a cure for Parkinson's. My mom talks about Parkinson's to the newspapers or on the news whenever she can and sometimes my name or picture is shown too! We had a charity art show at our house and Uncle Dan's

art raised a lot of money. I even sold a painting and all the money went to Parkinson's research. My mom said that if researchers got enough money from Congress and from regular people that scientists could find a cure in 5 or 10 years. That would be good because I won't be a grown-up yet and my Mom will get better and we could go iceskating together.

But now we have a big problem. I heard President Bush say that all cloning research has to stop. My Mom was really upset because she said the President and some people in Congress want to stop researchers from finding a cure for Parkinson's and lots of other diseases that make millions of people sick. I don't get it.

One part of the Pledge of Allegiance says "Liberty and Justice for all". I don't think the government is giving us much liberty or justice—at all!

People are scared of the kind of cloning that would make new people (reproductive cloning). But what's so scary about finding a cure for my Mom? That kind of cloning is called therapeutic cloning and doesn't make people or kittens or anything like that—it would just help my Mom's brain work again like it is supposed to.

I think that the people who make the laws should make rules so scientists won't do bad things with research. But can't they still be allowed to do the good research? My mom said the Brownback bill that is being voted on Congress soon wouldn't allow scientists to do the good kind of research that would help her. She also said that this law wants to put people like her in jail if they try to get cured. That's just dumb! My Mom isn't doing anything wrong by just trying to get well.

I thought I might want to be a scientist when I grow up but I don't think so any more. I just want to find a cure for my Mom. I guess I'll become the President of the United States so that I can make good laws that help people and cure diseases. I'll let scientists do their work and make all kinds of new discoveries.

I know that this isn't the most important thing for everyone. But I think that if someone in your family was sick and you were worried, that you would do everything you could to help them get better. You wouldn't make laws so that a cure would not be found and you wouldn't put them in jail.

Please help find a cure for my Mom and everyone else that needs one instead of making it harder. I'm doing as much as I can do to help my Mom and other people too (when I'm not in school or doing sports or playing violin, but Mommy says that helps her too). This is really important to a lot of people. Thank you.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## TRIBUTE TO DIANE CALLAWAY

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to note for the record this morning the election of a proven leader in my State to serve in national office.

Diane J. Callaway has worked in the Seaford School District in Delaware for 28 years. In the course of her career, Mrs. Callaway has been active in professional associations at the local, state and national level, serving in virtually every leadership position, both elected and appointed. It came as no surprise to anyone, when Diane Callaway received Delaware's first Educational Office Professional of the Year award.