

In 1959, the Dalai Lama was forced to flee his homeland of Tibet and seek refuge in India. In over 40 years in exile, the Dalai Lama has remained a true leader with integrity, inspiring others with his actions and philosophies. He has promoted compassion, non-violence, and peace as a solution both to the current crisis in Tibet and to other conflicts around the world.

The Dalai Lama has promoted democratic self-government and self-determination for Tibetans in exile as a model for securing freedom for all of Tibet, and he demonstrated his commitment thereto by relinquishing his political positions and turning these authorities over to elected Tibetan representatives. He works now for a peaceful solution for the Tibetan crisis that promises a future of autonomy; however, he has not called for independence and separation from China.

The Dalai Lama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 in recognition of his non-violent methods for resolving conflict and his continuous efforts to create a peaceful resolution in Tibet.

I am proud to say that Congress has consistently supported the people of Tibet, speaking out against the persecution of Tibetans, and opposing the destruction of over 6,000 monasteries. The torture and abuse of Tibetan monks and nuns is unacceptable, and we must do more to bring the world's attention to the impoverishment of Tibetans in their own land.

We must provide support for the refugees who have made the difficult decision to embark upon their journey to leave Tibet and seek refuge from persecution in foreign lands. As Ranking Member of the Immigration and Claims Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee, I have compassion and empathy for their struggle for recognition of basic human rights as well as the adjustment it takes to resettle in a foreign land.

I am proud to join my colleagues today and advocate peaceful solutions to political problems. I believe we should encourage all parties to engage in positive dialogue to effectively reach a conclusion without violence. The Dalai Lama has been a role model and hero to his community, and his noble life should be an example to us all.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 359.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. 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. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative

days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the motion to go to conference on H.R. 2555, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2555, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2555) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

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

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MR. SABO

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. SABO moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill, H.R. 2555, be instructed to insist on inclusion of the highest possible level of funding for each homeland security, preparedness and disaster response program within Titles II, III and IV and on inclusion of House General Provision 521.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 7 of rule XXII, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO).

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

Mr. Speaker, as we meet today on the eve of September 11, I am one Member who remains very concerned about America's safety and the safety of the flying public. We can and must do more. My motion is just one important step in the right direction.

This motion to instruct conferees is very straightforward. It is a motion to instruct the House conferees to insist on the highest possible level of funding for each homeland security, preparedness and disaster response program in the bill and to insist on the amendment adopted on the House floor by a vote of 278 to 146 to require the screening of cargo carried in the belly of passenger aircraft.

As the conference on the fiscal year 2004 homeland security appropriations bill begins, we now have an opportunity to provide additional homeland security resources and help close known security gaps. We should do so. We should correct one of the most glaring

gaps in our aviation security program, the fact that all passengers and their bags are screened for explosives and weapons, but cargo carried in the same place as passenger baggage is not screened at all. The Markey amendment adopted on the floor seeks to eliminate this air security gap. The House conferees should insist on it.

Some have argued that the screening of cargo carried on passenger aircraft is impossible to do immediately and would result in a \$3 billion loss to the airline industry. This is an argument of a pre-9/11 America. We now screen passengers and their baggage. We did not before. We now secure cockpits. We did not before. Where there is a will, there is a way. The Congress either does or does not have that will. I think that the American public would "will" us to have the cargo carried on the airplanes they fly in screened.

I must point out, however, that the Markey amendment addressed only one of the homeland security gaps that exist today. There are many others. The higher levels in some of the funding differences between the House and Senate bills would help address other homeland security and preparedness shortfalls. The first affects the preparedness of our first responders. The House bill provides \$3.5 billion for the Office for Domestic Preparedness, \$625 million more than the Senate. If we were to accept the Senate level, our States and localities would lose \$625 million in funding that helps to better equip and train our Nation's first responders.

Only a few months ago, the Council on Foreign Relations released a report entitled, "First Responders, Drastically Underfunded, Dangerously Unprepared." The report stated that billions of dollars are needed to properly equip first responders. I do not know if their estimate is right, but I do know that a great deal of additional funding is needed. Therefore, our conferees should insist on the highest funding level possible.

The second has to do with our ability to identify and respond to medical emergencies. The House bill provides \$50 million for the Metropolitan Medical Response System. The Senate bill provides no funding. Not to fund this system would widen the homeland security gap that we have been trying to close.

The third deals with the porousness of our northern border, which is well known. The Air and Marine Interdiction office has told us of instances of smugglers and others being caught coming across our northern border.

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Yet today we have no permanent air surveillance of our northern border.

The Senate bill provides a total of \$71 million to permanently monitor air activity along our northern border. The House bill provides no funding for this. I think we all see the need to fund this homeland security improvement.