

of the programs similar to the success of the Global Fund and other international initiatives. By widening the knowledge base of non-governmental organizations and professionals in Haiti, the U.S. will take advantage of a unique opportunity and obligation towards Haiti's future.

We worked together to get the humanitarian loans, which had been held up by the Inter-American Development Bank officially released on May 9, 2003. It is my hope that we can continue to push for the full release of these loans and the potential for future humanitarian grants through the IDB. I also believe we must move forward on establishing a health infrastructure for efficient delivery of these health and social sector funds.

Today I submit this legislation, and thank all of my original cosponsors: Reps. DONNA CHRISTENSEN, ELIJAH CUMMINGS, BENNIE THOMPSON, AL WYNN, DONALD PAYNE, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, ROBERT WEXLER, JOHN CONYERS, CORRINE BROWN, and MAJOR OWENS.

I look forward to the support of my colleagues and the Administration.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to share with you the attached letter, which I recently received from the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems in support of my and my colleagues' legislative efforts to enable Americans to access prescription drugs from Canada. I would like this letter included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS,
Montpelier, VT, September 29, 2003
The Honorable BERNARD SANDERS,
House of Representatives,
Rayburn Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SANDERS: On behalf of the hospitals in Vermont, I am writing to extend our support for your efforts to allow for the re-importation of prescription drugs from Canada. As you well know, access to safe, affordable medication is an issue for many Americans. In our rural state, patients of all ages travel to Canada to purchase FDA-approved, less expensive medications. That option should be available to all patients seeking more affordable prescription drug coverage.

Our hospitals are committed to ensuring that our patients have access to affordable, quality healthcare. We applaud your efforts and the efforts of your colleagues on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

THOMAS HUEBNER,
Board Chair.
M. BETRICE GRAUSE,
President & CEO.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, on October 28, 2003, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall vote nos. 569–573.

Had I been present I would have voted as follows: On rollcall 569, "yea;" on rollcall 570, "yea;" on rollcall 571, "yea;" on rollcall 572, "nay;" and on rollcall 573, "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, October 21, 2003, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation.

I request that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect that had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: rollcall no. 566: "no" (on H. Res. 407); rollcall no. 567: "yes" (on the Obey motion to instruct conferees); and rollcall no. 568: "yes" (on H.J. Res. 73).

EXTENDING AUTHORITY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF MEMORIAL TO MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank my colleagues for their support of the "Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site Land Exchange Act," H.R. 1616 and the bill to extend the authority for the construction of a memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr., S. 470. These bills extend the authority for and make possible the construction of a national memorial commemorating the achievements of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his commitment to the struggle of civil rights for all Americans.

Dr. King dedicated his life to the realization of full equal and civil rights for all Americans irrespective of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation. He stood on the front lines in the struggle against social injustice, discrimination, and inequality, often at great risk to himself. Despite numerous death threats, Dr. King never wavered in that commitment.

Madam Speaker, the Lewis and Sarbanes bills are a win-win situation for all parties involved. The National Park Service currently owns a vacant lot that does not have any significant historic value. The City of Atlanta would like to acquire this land for the sole purpose of encouraging commercial development within its city limits. In addition, the land on which the National Historic Site Visitor Center and Museum currently sits is land-locked and lacks adequate emergency access. Exchanging this land within the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site for property in

which the National Park Service could establish easy access to the Visitor Center and Museum would be mutually beneficial to both parties. This would simultaneously resolve the National Park Service's access issue and give the City of Atlanta much needed commercial space.

Madam Speaker, once again I am proud to support both bills the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site Land Exchange Act and the bill to extend the authority for construction of the MLK Memorial. I would like to give a special thanks to my colleagues Mr. LEWIS and Senator SARBANES for their leadership in sponsoring these important pieces of legislation and in helping to keep the dream alive.

HONORING BILL AND SUE GROSS

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Orange County Department of Education to thank two outstanding individuals, Bill and Sue Gross, whose unparalleled commitment to teachers in California is an inspiration in the field of education.

Each year more than fifty public, private, and community college teachers from Orange County, California, are recognized for their outstanding contributions and dedicated efforts in the field of education. The Orange County Department of Education, led by Superintendent William M. Habermehl, coordinates the annual selection and recognition of these teachers.

During the last dozen years, the Teachers of the Year program has had the additional support and generosity of two local residents, Bill and Sue Gross. In 1991, the Grosses established the Dr. James Hines Foundation in memory of a teacher who had positively influenced Sue Gross' life. In the ensuing 12 years, through the Foundation, the Grosses have given over \$1 million in cash awards to these exemplary teachers. This year, as an added surprise, Bill and Sue Gross invited all one hundred 2003 and 2004 Teachers of the Year nominees to be their guests on a 10-day cruise to Alaska.

Orange County residents Bill and Sue Gross are champions of teaching excellence, deserving of special commendation and recognition by the Congress of the United States of America. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Bill and Sue Gross for their years of commitment to California's educators.

92ND NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION OF TAIWAN

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 92nd National Day celebration of Taiwan. The Republic of China on Taiwan is a flourishing democracy of 23 million citizens who, like us, cherish their constitutional guarantees of freedom and human rights.

Over the years, Taiwan has transformed itself from a one-party dictatorship to a vibrant