

## TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 4, 2003*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for H.R. 2620, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003, which would authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

In these modern times, it is hard for Americans to believe that the problem of human slavery still exists. Not only do these crimes against humanity still occur, they are increasing in frequency all across the globe.

To further investigate the topic of human slavery and trafficking in persons, I held a hearing before the House Government Reform Subcommittee on Human Rights & Wellness on October 29, 2003, entitled, "The Ongoing Tragedy of International Slavery and Human Trafficking: An Overview," to examine the worldwide effects of these illicit practices, and to discuss how United States policies and programs are beginning to have a positive effect in combating these crimes against humanity.

Our investigation found that over 27,000,000 people are currently enslaved in some form around the world, and it is estimated that up to 4,000,000 men, women, and children are forced or coerced into slavery every year, which represents the highest concentration of slaves alive at one time ever in world history.

Thankfully, the U.S. Government has been working tirelessly to eliminate the practices of slavery and trafficking in persons around the globe. This is mainly due to the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, authored by my dear friend and our esteemed colleague, Representative CHRIS SMITH. This law has assisted victims by authorizing grants to shelters and rehabilitation programs to help victims of trafficking, and by establishing programs to prevent trafficking through the enhancement of economic opportunities for potential victims. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act promotes public awareness of the dangers of human slavery, and provides stringent penalties for persons who facilitate these crimes.

H.R. 2620 not only reauthorizes, but builds upon the successes of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 by (1) requiring that U.S. Government contracts relating to international affairs contain clauses authorizing termination by the United States if the contractor engages in human trafficking, or procures commercial sexual services while the contract is in force; (2) promoting innovative trafficking prevention initiatives, such as border interdiction programs; and (3) requiring airlines to inform passengers about U.S. laws against sex tourism, among other enhanced protections for current victims of trafficking.

Before the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, victims had no hope that they would be rescued from the horrid conditions into which they had been forced to live. The enactment of this law has not only put forth initiatives to prevent further human abuses, but has also given victims of slavery a real chance for liberty, and we as Members

of Congress should do all that we can to promote their freedom.

Mr. Speaker, reauthorizing H.R. 2620 will continue to protect and liberate people who are currently enslaved against their will in these modern times, and I strongly urge my colleagues to continue to support this most important legislation.

## HONORING WALKER MACHINERY

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 2003*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Walker Machinery of Belle, West Virginia for being awarded a 2003 Export Achievement Certificate in recognition of an increased focus on exporting.

The Export Achievement Certificate was created to recognize small and medium-sized enterprises that have successfully entered the international marketplace for the first time or that have successfully entered a new market.

As our economy continues to become more global, it is important for industries of all types to develop relationships and ties in the international community. As the West Virginia economy diversifies, Walker Machinery has taken major steps forward to promote the Mountain State and all it has to offer to the world economy.

By making strides to expand opportunities, Walker Machinery has in turn brought benefits to the state that will be felt far beyond the business itself. I applaud Walker Machinery for its efforts and look forward to seeing continued success.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of Walker Machinery, and I offer them as an example to small and medium sized enterprises everywhere.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RICHARD W. POMBO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 2003*

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to state for the record how I would have voted on the Veterans Health Care Facilities Capital Improvement Act, H.R. 1720. Regrettably, I was unavoidably detained and absent from the House floor on October 29, 2003.

I take great pride in representing our military personnel and the veterans of our great nation. Theodore Roosevelt once said, "A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards." The United States owes our veterans a debt which can never be fully repaid.

For these reasons, had I been present for rollcall No. 576, I would have voted "aye" for H.R. 1720.

## THE KAY REPORT: RECOGNIZING AN EVER-PRESENT THREAT

**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 2003*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, in recent days, Dr. David Kay, head of the Iraq Survey Group, has visited Washington to provide an interim report detailing what he has thus far uncovered regarding Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. Dr. Kay's initial findings make it clear that Saddam Hussein maintained a large, undeclared WMD infrastructure, much of which has escaped the attention of UN arms inspectors. So far, Dr. Kay's teams have uncovered dozens of WMD-related activity programs, a series of clandestine chemical/biological weapons labs, huge amounts of laboratory equipment suitable for WMD research and productions, and secret UAV production lines tailored for WMD delivery. As a recent editorial in the Omaha World-Herald correctly noted, "the larger picture of these findings shows that Saddam Hussein was a threat to his neighbors, to his own people (just ask the Kurds) and potentially to anyone else on the planet whom he viewed as his enemies."

Mr. Speaker, this Member would ask to place into the RECORD an editorial entitled "An ever-present threat" from the October 11, 2003, edition of the Omaha World-Herald. This Member commends these insightful remarks to his colleagues.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, Oct. 11, 2003]

AN EVER-PRESENT THREAT

WITH OR WITHOUT WMD, IRAQ UNDER SADDAM WAS VIOLATING U.N. SANCTIONS LEFT AND RIGHT

Much attention in recent days has been given—appropriately—to the fact that arms inspector David Kay and his Iraq Survey Group thus far have uncovered no weapons of mass destruction in that country. But that finding shouldn't be allowed to obscure the fact that the team found abundant evidence of obfuscation, concealment and destruction of evidence.

The Kay report (which, it should be remembered, is an interim document) strongly suggests a scenario that transcends the question of present-day existence of the weapons. Perhaps the Saddam Hussein regime didn't have WMD by the time liberation forces fought their way into the country. But there's ample evidence that it was poised and eager to buy or make such weapons, as soon as it felt the international spotlight had turned away.

Finding WMD, if they existed, was by no means the Kay team's sole mission.

It was equally tasked with determining whether the Saddam regime was in violation of U.N. limitations imposed after the Persian Gulf War and more particularly in violation of U.N. Resolution 1441, passed last November. (That was Saddam's supposed last chance to comply with inspection demands.)

Here, the answer is an emphatic "yes."

The report unambiguously shows that Iraq was trying to extend the range of its ballistic missiles beyond limits set by the United Nations; was trying to hide evidence of past and potential weapons programs (burned files, destroyed computer disk drives, meticulously scrubbed lab equipment); had organisms hidden in a scientist's home. And more: Kay's congressional statement about the report may be found on the Internet at [www.cia.gov/](http://www.cia.gov/).

In short, Saddam Hussein was preserving his options. And it makes no sense to believe that his intentions were any less malevolent than they had been throughout his sordid history.

Perhaps inspection teams will not find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. First, as we have noted before, it's a big and complex place. Second, perhaps there really was nothing there to find. If that's the case, clearly there was an intelligence debacle—so big that President Bush ought to get to the bottom of it and act to forestall a recurrence.

But even in that case, the larger picture of these findings shows that Saddam Hussein was a threat to his neighbors, to his own people (just ask the Kurds) and potentially to anyone on the planet whom he viewed as his enemies. He was a human time bomb, always poised to start ticking again when he believed the time was right.

Even if the effort to rebuild and stabilize Iraq is not proceeding as tidily as had been hoped, the United States and its allies removed a clear and terrible danger from the world scene. About that, the world should have no second thoughts.

MS. SHARON SCHUCHERT

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 2003*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Sharon Schuchert of Stanislaus County who is being awarded the Department of Health and Human Services Adoption Excellence Award. It is truly an honor to recognize all of her achievements as a dedicated social worker in our community.

Ms. Schuchert is the recipient of the 2003 award of Adoption Excellence Award, for her outstanding accomplishments in achieving permanency for America's children waiting in foster care.

In 1969, Ms. Schuchert began her public service career as a social worker for Stanislaus County Community Services Agency and in 2001, in collaboration with other community leaders, she founded Camp A Life With Adoption Yields Success (A.L.W.A.Y.S.). Camp A.L.W.A.Y.S. mission statement is to provide every member of an adoptive family with a supportive environment. At Camp A.L.W.A.Y.S. adoptive families spend time in Pine Crest, California learning about the unique challenges facing adoptive families in a positive family oriented setting. For many families who attend Camp A.L.W.A.Y.S. this is one of the few times they are surrounded by others with similar family structures.

Ms. Schuchert's award is especially relevant as November is National Adoption Month. There are roughly 130,000 children ranging from toddlers to teenagers who are currently in foster care waiting to be placed in a safe, permanent home. Recognizing their plight on a national level is an important first step to permanency. By providing children in need with the opportunity to grow and succeed through adoption, we can help them on their journey to becoming confident and successful members of society.

Mr. Speaker, the county of Stanislaus, and the 18th Congressional District of California have been greatly strengthened by the efforts of Ms. Schuchert and Camp A.L.W.A.Y.S.

America's children must not be forgotten and through the leadership of individuals like Ms. Schuchert we can continue to fight on their behalf.

I ask my colleagues to help honor Ms. Sharon Schuchert today for her service to this great nation.

COMMENDING JOHN WILLIAMS

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 2003*

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and thank John Williams, Mayor of Bedford, Indiana, for completing 24 years of service to the great people of Indiana. I wish John, Jean and their family well in his retirement.

Public service often brings great satisfaction in the ability to help people. During the last three decades, John has worked hard to better the lives of those in southern Indiana. At the same time, those who serve cannot do so alone. John's wife, Jean, too, has been a valuable member of the community in public service and, has given her support, even as she had her own personal health battles.

Mr. Speaker, Indiana has benefitted from the service of these two fine Hoosiers and I am proud to call both John and Jean Williams my friend.

Tonight, I rise to recognize a unique man who has left a positive mark. By my count, Mayor Williams will have served some 8,760 days in office spanning 24 years. During his unprecedented tenure, the city's landscape has undergone a remarkable change for the better as vacant stores acquired tenants and empty lots sprouted new homes and businesses. City pride has swelled and Bedford's reputation of sound government and livability has spread throughout the State of Indiana.

When Mayor Williams entered office he inherited a city with a decaying downtown business district and an outdated and malfunctioning infrastructure. To be successful, he realized that community action and involvement were needed. He established a citizens' committee to lead efforts to rejuvenate downtown and at the same time worked with state officials to improve transportation and utility services.

Mr. Speaker, today that same "citizens' committee" still operates and has evolved into the present-day Bedford Revitalization, Inc. As with many smaller communities, the courthouse square, once a bastion of activity had slowed. In recent years, the community behind the leadership of Mayor Williams, focused upon the development of the Courthouse Square business district and they succeeded in redeveloping it into the center of the community as it once stood. Moreover, they have succeeded in having the district included in the National Register of Historic Places.

Bedford, Indiana, located approximately 76 miles south of Indianapolis, had many of the same challenges regarding transportation and infrastructure of other cities its size. In the early 1980s, Mayor Williams used his creativity to solve the transportation problem for local residents. He worked with state and federal agencies and created the Transit Authority of the Stone City (TASC). In the 1990s, he

built upon that effort and initiated a point-to-point, or door-to-door, pickup service that streamlined the operation. This success prompted state transportation officials to cite TASC as a model program for other small to medium-sized Hoosier cities to emulate. Today, the buses record about 80,000 passenger trips a year, providing mobility and independence for many of our citizens.

Mayor Williams' transportation successes, and his efforts to expand and develop opportunities for local businesses and individuals to compete in the marketplace, resulted in a four-lane east-west street connecting Indiana State Road 37 and Lincoln Avenue that is now named after the Mayor. Doing so, opened hundreds of acres for industrial and business development. The process took ten years from inception to completion, but, today, John A. Williams Boulevard is a main artery in the city.

Mr. Speaker, furthering recreation has been a continuing program in Mayor Williams' administration. Today, Bedford has seven city parks and an 18-hole golf course, which has been called one of the best municipal courses in Indiana.

Mayor Williams may be retiring but he still has a lot to give to Indiana and Indiana owes a lot to him. I am pleased to join with the citizens of Bedford and salute my friend, Mayor John Williams, on a lifetime of public service and a job well done. God speed!

PATENT AMENDMENT

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 2003*

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this summer I introduced an amendment that provides congressional support for the current federal policy against patenting humans. It was approved by the House of Representatives without objection on July 22, 2003 as Sec. 801 of the Commerce/Justice/State appropriations bill.

Since that time, the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) has launched a lobbying campaign against the amendment, and has now enlisted the political aid of the broader "Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research" (CAMR), an umbrella organization of groups supporting human cloning for research purposes.

BIO and CAMR claim to support the current policy of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) against patenting human beings. However, they oppose this amendment, saying it would have a far broader scope—potentially prohibiting patents on stem cell lines, procedures for creating human embryos, prosthetic devices, and in short almost any drug or product that might be used in or for human beings.

The absurdity of these claims is apparent when one compares the language of the amendment with the language of the current USPTO policy that these groups claim to support.

The House-approved amendment reads:

"None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used to issue patents on claims directed to or encompassing a human organism."

The current USPTO policy is set forth in two internal documents: