

threatening to change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. It is possible that the peace-loving Taiwanese people may seek their own legislation against China's annexation attempt. This will, in turn, inflame Chinese leaders and provoke them to enact even harsher legislation against Taiwan. Consequently tensions will rise and war in the Taiwan Strait will become a possibility.

It is still not too late for the Chinese authorities not to enact the anti-secession law against Taiwan. Taiwanese people and their leaders are all peace-loving people who do not seek to change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. Why must China take upon itself to unilaterally change the status quo?

Friends of Taiwan in the United States must make clear to China that the United States will not stand idly by if China uses force against Taiwan. Taiwan Relations Act assures Taiwan of our concern over any military action against Taiwan. The United States will not allow China to impose its own style of government on the unwilling Taiwan. Taiwanese people must be given their own voice of self-determination regarding their future, and their liberty mustn't be taken away from them by any adversary.

IN MEMORY OF MUFF SINGER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the memory of Muff Singer, my former administrative assistant and dear friend. After a long and bitter fight with ovarian cancer Muff died on January 16, 2005.

Muff was born in Chicago, February 14, 1942, and early in life she became involved with the struggle for progressive social change through the political process. While at the University of Texas in the early 1960s she participated in civil rights picket lines, protesting the racial segregation of the University dormitories and Austin movie theaters. Muff led the way for the racial integration of one of the University's honor societies. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1964 and then attended New York University for a year of graduate work in history. She joined the Peace Corps in 1965 and taught language for two years at the Iwahig Penal Colony on the Island of Palawan, Philippines. She returned to California to work in the presidential campaign of Senator Robert F. Kennedy in 1968 during which time she met her future husband Rick Tuttle.

I was introduced to Muff through Rick Tuttle, my good friend from UCLA. Muff became my campaign coordinator for my first race for the California State Assembly, performing Herculean tasks 18 hours a day, seven days a week, for more than seven months. In an unbelievably chaotic, extremely competitive and often nasty political campaign, she conducted herself with strength, determination, grace and aplomb.

For ten years, she was my Administrative Assistant, running my district office while I served in the State Assembly. I could have done no better. She led, inspired and motivated a remarkable staff and dealt with a plethora of constituent demands—always with dedication, good judgement and tenacity. With Muff at the helm, I was able to concentrate on

my legislative and political goals in Sacramento, confident in the knowledge that she was taking care of the home front, representing me with dignity, loyalty, competence and integrity. Many of my constituents lives were better because of her efforts.

A study in contrasts, Muff was slight of build and soft of voice but had a ferocity and passion for the righteous way that could bowl over those that stood in her way. Her earnest and serious demeanor belied an incredibly droll wit and joyful bemusement for life's whimsical turns. She was immune to the common political affliction of taking herself too seriously. She saw and participated in the defeat and compromises of political life on a regular basis, yet it never diminished her ardor for justice or her commitment for the less fortunate. She was thrust into the flare of public life, but remained a very private person. In a preening and boastful profession, she always maintained the modesty, humility and empathy that attracted so many of us to her in the first place.

Muff left the Assembly in 1981 to become a full time mother and begin a new career—author of children's books. She had already published her first book, the "Mystery Reader's Quiz Book", co-authored with Robert A. Wager and Aneta Corsault. Muff wrote or co-wrote more than 35 books for toddlers and preschoolers. In addition to picture books, she co-wrote with Nancy Lamb a book for older children, "The World's Greatest Toe Show," which received great reviews. She often said her favorite book was one written with her daughter Sarah called "Look Around with Little Fish."

Muff is survived by her husband, former Los Angeles City Controller Rick Tuttle, her daughter Sarah, her parents Bernard and Goldryn Singer, sister Caren and a niece and nephew.

Mr. Speaker, I asked my colleagues to join me to honoring the legacy of Muff Singer who lived an incredible, fulfilling and inspirational life.

HONORING AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the past and present achievements of African Americans as we celebrate African American History Month.

African Americans in arts, business, education, literature, music, politics, science and sports have helped shape the nation. Overcoming enormous obstacles and racial barriers, the African American community has made enormous contributions to our everyday world. Let us remember not only outstanding heroes such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Frederick Douglass, and former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, but also the extraordinary lives of ordinary people who have helped build our great nation.

This year, I want to acknowledge and thank the thousands of the African Americans serving in the Armed Services. African Americans have fought with distinction in every war since the Revolutionary War. We honor this proud history and all African Americans who risk

their lives defending freedom and democracy. We are grateful for their service.

During this month and throughout the year, I encourage those living in California's 32nd Congressional District and around the country to take the time to learn about the vast accomplishments of African Americans and honor African American history.

REAL ID ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 418) to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence.

Mr. McCAUL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in support of the Real ID Act. I would like to thank Chairman SENSENBRENNER for his leadership and determination to make America safer through reforms proposed in this legislation.

As the former chief of counter-terrorism in the U.S. Department of Justice for the Western District of Texas, I had jurisdiction over the Texas-Mexican border. I dealt firsthand, with the day-to-day threats our nation faced, and asked the question, "Why aren't we doing more to secure our borders?"

The House took an initial step toward answering this question when it passed the historic 9–11 legislation last December. Unfortunately, some key border security and immigration reform provisions were not included in that measure. Today we must change that and give our nation more security.

And today we truly have the opportunity to better our border security and political asylum laws.

In 1993 Ramzi Yousef, soon to become the world's most wanted terrorist, arrived at Kennedy airport carrying a fraudulent Iraqi passport and told the INS he was fleeing the oppressive regime of Saddam Hussein. He asked for political asylum and was given a summons to appear at a hearing. But instead, this expert bomb maker ignored that order and joined his fellow classmates from the Bin Laden academy to form the first Al Qaeda cell in the United States. On February 26, 1993 Ramzi Yousef and his fellow terrorists detonated a bomb in the World Trade Center. Remarkably, the towers remained standing. They were supposed to fall that day, one toppling over the other killing everyone inside. That day would come later.

Many of those of intent on doing our nation harm claim political asylum as their Trojan horse to gain access to our borders. Yet a majority of those given notices fail to show up at those hearings. We cannot afford or allow another Ramzi Yousef to cross our border. Our laws should not protect terrorists like Ramzi Yousef who hide behind the privileges and rights of political asylum.

This bill will make it easier to deport suspected terrorists.

But we have also seen terrorists take advantage of other holes in our laws. The nineteen hijackers on September 11, 2001 had fraudulently obtained dozens of American visas, passports and driver's licenses, documents used to open bank accounts, establish residency, and yes to fly airplanes. This border security legislation provides the safety measure, that to obtain a driver's license, one of the most commonly used forms of identification in the United States, a person must simply prove they have the legal right to remain in our nation.

For the safety and security of this nation, our families, and most of all our freedom, I urge my colleagues to support these common-sense proposals. The 9–11 commission recommended these ideas, and we owe it to the victims of that national tragedy to pass this legislation. If we fail to do so and another terrorist attack occurs on our soil then we will all be held accountable.

INTRODUCING THE KEEPING
FAMILIES TOGETHER ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join Congressmen RAMSTAD and KENNEDY in introducing the bipartisan, bicameral "Keeping Families Together Act." This bill would help parents obtain necessary mental health treatment for their severely emotionally disturbed children without being forced to relinquish them into State custody to get that care. Senators SUSAN COLLINS (R–ME) and MARK PRYOR (D–AK) are introducing the companion legislation in the Senate.

No family should be required to relinquish legal custody of their mentally ill child to a State child welfare agency or the juvenile justice system as their only means of obtaining desperately needed mental health services. Yet as Maryland resident Diana Miller recounted to me last year, State officials gave her this exact ultimatum when she sought potentially life-saving mental health care for her daughter, Erica.

Tragically, Diana and Erica Miller are not alone in their predicament. In April 2003, the GAO reported that parents in 19 States placed over 12,700 children in State child welfare or juvenile justice agencies in 2001 to obtain mental health services for them. We know that the nationwide number is even higher because 31 States did not respond to the survey.

According to GAO, these middle class parents find themselves trapped between not having the resources to pay for private mental health care and making too much money for their children to be eligible for Medicaid. Parents are therefore forced to choose between not treating their child's severe illness and transferring custody to the State, which has the resources to provide the necessary care. Families wind up torn apart at the expense of the taxpayers.

A Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law further elaborated on the situations that cause parents and guardians to give up their seriously emotionally disturbed children to State agencies. These situations include the following:

The family has either exhausted their private health insurance benefits, or their benefits do not cover required mental health services (e.g. Residential Treatment Program).

The family lives in a State or jurisdiction in which Medicaid services do not adequately address mental health needs, and agency placement provides access or priority status for entry into needed care.

The family lives in a State or jurisdiction in which children are deprived of federally mandated mental health services through the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) as a result of an exceedingly restrictive definition of serious emotional illness. That is, these schools often label these children as solely "discipline problems."

The family lives in a State or jurisdiction in which the local child welfare system erroneously interprets Federal law (Title IV–E of the Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Program) as requiring relinquishment of custody even for temporary out-of-home placements.

As all of these reports highlight, families are acting out of desperation to get immediately needed mental health services for their children. The juvenile justice and child welfare systems have become the mental health providers of last resort for far too many families.

Both the child welfare system and juvenile justice systems are ill-equipped to meet these children's needs. Even worse, the psychological bond between parent and child is unnecessarily disrupted. Their children feel abandoned and their parents feel guilty over turning their parental rights and decisionmaking authority to a State agency.

The stigma is real to families themselves and to those around them. Good parents don't have their children taken away. But, in fact, the need to relinquish custody in these instances doesn't have anything to do with parenting skills. It has everything to do with our system being broken and continuing to allow these children with significant mental health needs to fall through the cracks.

We have known about this problem for many years. In fact, I first introduced legislation in 1995 attempting to address this issue. Since then I have been working with my colleagues to educate the public and other members of Congress about this issue and to find a bipartisan solution.

Our legislation, the "Keeping Families Together Act" is the result of this bipartisan and bicameral process. Our bill provides new funding to States that are willing to develop systems that assure these children get the mental health services they need without pulling apart their families.

It provides \$55 million over 6 years in new family support grants to States that are willing to end the practice of child custody relinquishment and cover all these children's mental health services under Medicaid, CHIP or any other health program of their choosing. These monies can then be used to improve access to mental health and family support services that keep families together. They can also be used to create Statewide care coordination programs and to deliver mental health care and family support services for these families.

Additionally, the bill establishes a Federal interagency task force. The task force will monitor the family support grants and work with representatives of affected families to make recommendations to Congress to improve mental health services and to foster

interagency cooperation. The task force is also required to provide biannual reports to Congress on its progress in improving the delivery of mental health services to seriously ill children.

The bill also provides States with the option of moving children out of hospital-based psychiatric care and into home- and community-based care options, which will allow them to remain with their families.

The "Keeping Families Together Act" is an important first step toward eliminating child custody relinquishment. I look forward to working with my colleagues to quickly enact this legislation so States can develop innovative new programs that address these children's mental health needs while keeping their families together. Once we've learned what has effectively worked at the State level to restructure these programs, we will need to return to this issue at the Federal level and enact broad legislation to end the practice of forced child custody relinquishment nationwide.

TRIBUTE TO ADA'S GIVE KIDS A
SMILE PROJECT

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, on Friday, February 4, the American Dental Association marshaled thousands of dentists and other volunteers across the country to provide dental services to hundreds of thousands of children who otherwise would not receive them.

The year 2005 marks the third consecutive year for the ADA's Give Kids A Smile/National Children's Dental Access Day, a project the ADA and its 152,000 member dentists are committed to continuing until the nation's most vulnerable children have access to proper dental care.

In what former Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher called a "silent epidemic," millions of American children suffer with painful, disfiguring and preventable dental disease. They cannot eat or sleep properly, cannot pay attention in school, cannot smile. They deserve better.

ADA, its corporate partners and the thousands of individuals who participate in Give Kids A Smile are determined to wake the nation up to the extent and severity of untreated dental disease among disadvantaged children. I urge every member of this House to join them in that effort. One important way we can do that is to show our support by attending one or more Give Kids A Smile events in our home districts. You may be dismayed by the conditions some of these children live with, but you'll also be inspired by the spirit, energy and generosity of your constituent volunteers.

Please contact your state or local dental association and show your support for Give Kids A Smile. Your doing so will lend momentum to the quest for long-term solutions and be a wonderful inspiration to the volunteers.