

reauthorization is essential. My legislation would help immigrant victims in my district and across the country escape from violent and abusive households. Battered immigrant women deserve an escape from abuse that protects their rights and keeps them united with their children.

Today this House has a chance to fight against violence against women and protect all immigrant victims of violence. I urge every Member in this House to join this fight.

INTRODUCTION STATEMENT  
PASSENGER SAFETY ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 30, 2005*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, now is not the time to return to private airline screeners, now is the time to continue to focus on passenger safety.

Last November, airports were given the option to start the process to opt-out of having Transportation Security Administration (TSA) screeners in favor of hiring private screeners. Thankfully, no airport has opted out. If this is allowed to happen, it will be a step backwards in airline security.

TSA has only been in existence for a few years and has certainly suffered through some growing pains. Because of this, we should be focused on ensuring the success of TSA rather than adding the new challenge of privatization that could jeopardize their future and potentially endanger the security of airline passengers. That is why I am introducing the Passenger Safety Act which will repeal the opt-out language in the law that created the TSA. I urge my colleagues to support this important initiative to protect passenger safety.

THE IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL  
HIV TESTING DAY

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 30, 2005*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, HIV testing is imperative. There is not much else to be said. This global epidemic has affected communities and families around the world. In Chicago, there are about 40,000 new cases each year. There are thousands of families struggling with this fact.

Nationally, nearly one million people are infected with HIV and nearly 30 percent are not aware of it. The highest rates of new infection are with women, especially the women of the African-American community. Sixty-seven percent of new cases are Black women, although women make up only 23 percent of new cases overall. This is a travesty.

We must also remember that this is a global issue that affects the lives of members of our international village. A recent ad campaign in Russia warns, "Close your eyes on HIV today and you might miss the people closest to you tomorrow." This warning, unfortunately, rings true in the lives of many people today. Globally, nearly 40 million men, women and children are infected with the virus that causes AIDS.

We in Congress have taken great legislative strides to fight this epidemic, but we are only 435 faces. It is up to the citizens of this great Nation and nations around the world to stand up and join the fight. This is why June 27th has been designated as National HIV Testing Day. Take advantage of it.

Some people say they don't have time. The fastest method of determining one's status is through rapid testing. It takes about 20 minutes. There are 1,440 minutes in a day. Clinics tend to be open for 8 hour days. If one person went to get tested every 20 minutes at one clinic on June 27th, then there would be 24 people that know their status. The number of United States registered hospitals totals 5,764. If one person went to get tested every 20 minutes at each of these hospitals, on June 27th, 138,336 people would know their status. Imagine if this were a global initiative. To the people who think that HIV testing is a long and time-consuming process, I say, we don't have time to waste.

Mr. Speaker, we don't have time to lose another life. We don't have time for silence or apathy. Tell a friend or family member. Remind them how urgent it is to grasp this moment. Take advantage of this day. Seize it. Get tested.

INTRODUCING ANSWER AFRICA'S  
CALL ACT

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 30, 2005*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, America has before it a rare opportunity of historic and humanitarian proportion. The opportunity is so great, and the outcome so important, that we cannot, we must not, we will not see this as a Democrat or Republican issue. When it comes to meeting the challenge to end poverty in Africa, there is only America united.

The President can assume command at the upcoming G-8 Summit in Scotland with bold steps to unite nations in this World of One War—defeating the global enemy of poverty—which starves, maims and kills tens of thousands, mercilessly and indiscriminately, in Africa every day.

Leaders of the Group of Eight industrialized countries will meet in Scotland to discuss making a long-term, multilateral commitment to fight poverty in sub Saharan Africa.

Let America today shine brighter than the torch on the Statue of Liberty. Let America unite mankind to save humankind. Let the President stand up and demand—not discuss—action.

Demand action, not because we are arrogant, but because we see the pain in Africa's faces and rush in compelled to act. Demand action, not because we are bullies, but because we are burdened by the grief of a billion people starving on one dollar a day. Demand action, not because we are the mightiest nation on earth but because the rivers of Africa flow with tears of sorrow over the dead and dying. And no amount of weaponry can stop the pain, only people can.

The President can unify the world to fight this just and noble war against disease, malnutrition, and economic injustice in sub Saharan Africa.

The richest nations on earth, which throughout history placed self interest ahead of Africa's interest cannot undo the past, but can make a bold commitment to the future. In one defining moment of courage and conviction, the President can unite the world to commit the financial and humanitarian resources that can begin to wipe out poverty in Africa.

Mr. Chairman, more and more African oil fuels the engines of our global economy. The industrialized nations have a long history of extracting Africa's natural resources to fulfill our desires. From bauxite to diamonds, and from copper to cocoa, the world has fed off the resources of Africa, even as Africans starved before our eyes.

While the world benefits from raw commodities found in Africa, nations, including the United States, have policies that keep Africans from adding value to these commodities that would benefit their continent and people. Rich nations benefit more from African materials than the Africans themselves do.

For far too long our farm and trade regimes have hindered African development and injured the African people in countless ways. We have made progress improving trade laws in recent years; we are negotiating at the World Trade Organization now for ways to reform our farm programs which currently distort trade and deny opportunities to African farmers struggling to compete in a global economy. We have difficult work ahead on farm reforms, and more to do to provide access to our markets for African farm products. Many of Africa's agricultural products still face steep, insurmountable and unacceptable tariffs.

But reducing tariffs and farm subsidies imposed by rich nations cannot begin to help Africa overcome the magnitude of its economic and humanitarian crisis. Investments in health and infrastructure are vitally necessary. We can help with these investments. And we can help in ways that improve outcomes for Africans.

I am talking about the immediate and critical need for money in the form of assistance and financial aid, and let me say something that may shock some of you. I agree with the Heritage Foundation—not exactly a Democratic organization—when it points to the mis-steps and mishaps of the past. But haven't we learned from those mistakes? Weren't many of those mistakes made within the context of Cold War politics with priorities different than those we seek today?

There were times when the best of intentions by nations, including America, ended up creating greed, not combating poverty. America has learned and so has the rest of the world. Today, there are organizations, systems and people above reproach. You need only look to the extraordinary work of the Gates Foundation in my District in Seattle to see what is possible and effective.

Today, the only thing standing in the way of action is inaction, and we can change that. The need has never been greater and the time is now for America to lead the world to Answer Africa's Call.

That is why, on behalf of Democrat Leaders today, introduce the Answer Africa's Call Act. The Act would create a five-year, \$6 billion annual revenue stream that would fund the International Finance Fund, or the IFF. The new money from this legislation would not be subject to annual appropriations and would not increase the national debt. This approach is