

Dry cask storage—the method proposed by a private entity that wants to store waste on the Skull Valley site in Utah—is currently being used at 33 nuclear power plants around the country. As approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, dry cask containers can safely store waste for at least 100 years. We should not subject citizens to the dangers posed by transporting it through their communities when it can remain where it is.

The Spent Nuclear Fuel On-Site Storage Security Act of 2005 would require commercial nuclear utilities to transfer nuclear waste from spent nuclear fuel pools into dry storage casks. For spent fuel currently in pools, a contractor licensed to handle spent nuclear fuel would have up to 6 years, to allow sufficient time for cooling and construction, to transfer spent nuclear fuel from pools into dry casks. Any new spent nuclear fuel produced after enactment, also has no more than 6 years to cool, before being transferred into dry casks. Such continuous transfer would mean that the pools are never at capacity, leaving less waste exposed and making the site safer. This bill would also require the Department of Energy to take title of all spent nuclear fuel currently in on-site dry cask storage and would even compensate the utility companies for expenses associated with transferring and storing the waste.

This means that DOE will be responsible for possession, stewardship, maintenance, and monitoring of the spent nuclear fuel on-site, which is entirely appropriate. DOE was supposed to begin taking title to spent nuclear fuel in 1998, but because of the myriad of technical, scientific, legal and political problems surrounding the proposed Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository, this has not happened. Taking title to spent nuclear fuel fulfills the federal government's obligation and commitment to retake control over nuclear materials. I thank my colleagues for their support of this legislation.

NATIONAL CAREGIVER MONTH

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations and thank you to the many grandparents and other relatives in California and across the Nation who are providing loving homes to some of our most fragile citizens. Children who may have suffered from neglect or abuse through the death of a parent, military deployment, poverty or other causes can be raised in warm, stable homes through subsidized guardianship programs.

Dedicated relatives who step forward to offer such care—sometimes at considerable personal sacrifice—guarantee these children the safe and nurturing upbringing that will enable them to be tomorrow's leaders. Today there are more than 6 million children living in relative-headed households, and I am proud to honor their service during National Caregiver Month and throughout the rest of the year.

H. RES. 438 (ON UNFAIR AND DISCRIMINATORY RESOLUTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL IN THE UNITED NATIONS)

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this very important bipartisan resolution calling on member states of the United Nations to stop unfairly criticizing Israel and to promote a more balanced approach to the challenges in the Middle East.

In June of this year, the House overwhelmingly adopted a resolution condemning anti-semitic statements made at U.N. meetings and by U.N. member states. It was proper and appropriate that we publicly and vocally condemn some of the outrageous statements made by U.N. officials and member states.

However, there also is a more subtle form of anti-semitism that has been taking place at the United Nations for far too long—the alarming rate at which the U.N. General Assembly has considered and adopted anti-Israel resolutions.

As noted in the text of Mr. Rothman's measure, 21 of the 71 resolutions adopted by roll-call votes during the 59th session of the General Assembly dealt with Israel, and in recent years, the General Assembly and Security Council have introduced and approved hundreds of measures and resolutions that unfairly criticize and condemn Israel.

At a time when the international community is confronted with crises such as the ongoing terror campaign being waged by Al Qaeda against democracies in every corner of the world, the tragic genocide in Darfur, Sudan, and the continued spread of HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria, the U.N. General Assembly has seen fit to devote nearly a third of its time to castigating the state of Israel.

These unbalanced and discriminatory anti-Israel resolutions have been adopted by overwhelming margins. Meanwhile, there has been a disturbing lack of condemnation of Palestinian terror attacks against Israel.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to not only support this resolution, but also to carry its message to the ambassadors, foreign ministers and heads of state with whom they meet on a daily basis: The mistreatment of Israel at the hands of the United Nations has not gone unnoticed, and it is no longer acceptable.

Furthermore, this obsessive and inappropriate focus on Israel at the United Nations only serves to harm that institution's credibility and to undermine the U.N.'s ability to serve as an honest broker in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

INTRODUCING THE KENDELL
FREDERICK CITIZENSHIP AS-
SISTANCE ACT OF 2005

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Kendell Frederick Citizenship

Assistance Act of 2005, legislation honoring one of America's fallen heroes who was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq. Army Reserve Specialist Kendell Frederick's life may have been spared had he not made a fateful trip to provide his fingerprints for his citizenship application.

This bill would lessen the burden non-citizens serving in the U.S. military encounter while attempting to navigate a naturalization process that is all too often fraught with inefficiency and indifference.

Amidst car bombs and insurgent attacks, Specialist Frederick of Randallstown, Maryland, had a dual struggle of fighting the enemy in Iraq and the requirements for U.S. citizenship. All the while, his mother endured both the stress of having a child in a combat zone and the frustration of trying to assist her son meet the bureaucratic demands of naturalization.

Eventually, only one obstacle remained in Specialist Frederick's path—providing the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services with his fingerprints.

Although the U.S. Military already had a copy, Specialist Frederick was required to travel through the battlefields of Iraq in order to provide a duplicate. Tragically, he did not survive this final journey and was awarded his citizenship posthumously.

Last month, Kendell Frederick achieved in death in a matter of minutes what he had so long fought to obtain in life, his U.S. citizenship. Tragically, he never enjoyed the privileges of U.S. citizenship—he would never cast a vote to determine those who govern, nor would he ever know the comfort of being fully embraced as an American by the very Nation he defended to his last breathe.

Fortunately, today we have an opportunity to honor the ultimate sacrifice of Specialist Frederick by doing what is right for the approximately 40,000 non-citizens who are serving on active duty in the U.S. military, including 3,200 brave men and women who are serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In 2002, President Bush signed an executive order that provides immediate eligibility for naturalization to active-duty members of the U.S. military during a period of military hostility, bypassing the waiting period that otherwise would apply to them. This was an important step—but we owe our brave soldiers more.

In clear and plain terms, those who are prepared to sacrifice and die for this country deserve a more efficient, common sense naturalization process that bestows to them the admiration and benefits of American citizenship befitting their service. For these reasons, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI and I have sponsored the Kendell Frederick Citizenship Assistance Act of 2005.

Our proposed legislation would require that the Secretary of Homeland Security use the fingerprints provided by soldiers at the time they enlist in the Armed Forces to satisfy the fingerprinting requirements associated with their applications for citizenship.

New soldiers would be notified in writing about how to obtain citizenship; and the Secretary of Homeland Security would be required to update the appropriate application, guidebook, and Web site maintained by the Department of Homeland Security within 30 days of a change to law or regulation regarding the naturalization process.