

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 THROUGH 2009

SPEECH OF  
**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, December 17, 2005*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3402, the Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act which provides for the comprehensive reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA.

The Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, is a truly bipartisan success. Since VAWA was enacted in 1994, we have made great strides toward ending domestic violence and preventing the cycle of abuse in our communities. States have passed more than 660 laws to combat domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, and the National Domestic Violence Hotline has answered over 1 million calls. We have come a long way since the initial passage of VAWA. But there is no doubt we have a long way to go.

All Americans should feel safe in their communities, their workplace and their homes. Yet domestic violence remains a serious problem across the country, and every year thousands of Americans become victims in their own homes. Nearly one in four women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime. And slightly more than half of female victims of intimate violence live in households with children under age 12. Growing up in a violent home may be a terrifying and traumatic experience that can affect every aspect of a child's life, growth, and development. To end the cycle of violence and promote healthy families, we must ensure that communities have resources to prevent abuse and provide victims of domestic violence the support they need. We are on the way to making that a reality.

The Violence Against Women Act provides aid to law enforcement officers and prosecutors and helps to reduce domestic violence and child abuse by establishing training programs for victim advocates and counselors in addition to a host of other areas including tightening criminal penalties against domestic abusers and creating new solutions to other crucial aspects of domestic violence and sexual assault.

In the past, in the present, and in the future, VAWA has been, and will continue to be a critical tool to combat violence.

But even with VAWA's great successes and promising future, we know that our work is not yet done.

There are solutions to preventing the 960,000 incidents of violence that are reported against a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend each year. The country must not tolerate the violence, abuse, and sexual assault that pervades our society. We must continue to fight for measures that will provide better economic security for victims of violence, increase protections for battered immigrants, promote awareness in underserved populations, enhance protection of victims' personal information and develop programs designed to prevent domestic violence before it occurs.

Together, we can eliminate domestic violence from homes across the country and en-

sure that our children grow up in healthy, peaceful communities. Passage of H.R. 3402 marks our continuing effort to do just that.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3199,  
USA PATRIOT IMPROVEMENT  
AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF  
2005

SPEECH OF  
**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 14, 2005*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my opposition to the conference report to the reauthorization of the USA PATRIOT Act.

Mr. Speaker, I stated after the House voted on H.R. 3199 in July, that it was my hope that the conference committee would temper the extremes that are present in this legislation, and that the conferees would keep the American people's respect for privacy and desire for freedom in mind, I do not believe that this conference report reflects those ideals.

National security, homeland security and the collection of intelligence need to be balanced with the fundamental freedoms and civil liberties granted to Americans by our Constitution. Terrorism is a real threat to our security, but so are laws that threaten our liberty by allowing an over-zealous government to infringe on the privacy of individuals, based on vague, undefined, and at times, "classified" evidence. It is possible to be safe, and free, and to protect security while still respecting civil liberties. Unfortunately, this conference report fails to recognize this reality and come to bipartisan agreement in protecting both the security and civil liberties of Americans.

I voted in favor of the motion to recommit, which would have replaced the text of the conference report with the text of the original bill passed by the Senate. The original Senate bill included far more protections for civil liberties than this conference report. That Senate-passed bill would have included a process of judicial review for recipients of a National Security Letter, as well as a standard requiring the Government to show a connection to a suspected terrorist or organization when requesting business or library records. This conference report before me today only requires the Government to demonstrate "relevance" in an investigation.

This conference report makes 14 of 16 controversial PATRIOT Act provisions permanent. In making these provisions permanent, Congress is relinquishing its responsibility to review their use, granting more permanent power to the executive branch. Congressional oversight has been maintained only through the two provisions scheduled to sunset in 4 years, as well as through the inclusion of a "lone wolf" provision, also scheduled to sunset in 4 years. Congress has a responsibility to check the power of the executive branch, not cede that authority, potentially threatening the civil liberties of our citizens. The conference report voted on today unfortunately fails to safeguard individual privacy rights, and allows the Government, with little burden of proof, to scrutinize nearly every aspect of a person's life.

It has been said in this debate that we must sacrifice some of our freedoms in the name of

security. This is the wrong approach, and the American people have the right to expect better from Congress. We cannot allow terrorism to erode either our national security or our civil liberties—both present a danger to this country. I urge my colleagues to vote against this conference report, and support both the rights and security of the American people.

WELCOMING THE NEW SWAZI AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 22, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to welcome the new ambassador of the Kingdom of Swaziland to the United States.

Ambassador Ephraim M. Hlophe presented his credentials to President George W. Bush at the White House on Monday, October 3.

A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, Ambassador Hlophe was principal secretary for his country's Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, and has served as Swaziland's National Contact Point for the Southern African Development Community and as a member of the Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority (SIPA).

Ambassador Hlophe told President Bush that he hopes to see "increased attention in the United States toward trade and investment opportunities in Swaziland. Our country welcomes American firms to explore the many possibilities Swaziland has to offer in mining, tourism, manufacturing, agribusiness, and international services."

Swaziland, Ambassador Hlophe has explained, "is working with the United States in developing an investment code, and the United States is working with the Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority to help attract foreign investment. We appreciate the work USAID is doing to develop an 'investor road map' to identify barriers to foreign investment and to form the basis of a new investment code."

Mr. Speaker, the lively monthly publication, *The Washington Diplomat*, recently published a profile of Ambassador Hlophe in its biweekly "Diplomat Pouch" newsletter. With no objection, I ask that the article by correspondent Anna Gawel be entered into the RECORD as a welcome to Ambassador Ephraim Hlophe.

[From the *Washington Diplomat*, Dec. 1, 2005]

NEW SWAZI AMBASSADOR HITS THE GROUND RUNNING

(By Anna Gawel)

Shortly after presenting his credentials to President Bush, Ephraim M. Hlophe, the new ambassador of Swaziland, got to work promoting his small Southern African kingdom to Washington audiences.

Shortly after his arrival, Hlophe met with Rep. Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.), chairman of the House International Relations Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations. The ambassador also plans to meet with other members of Congress as well as officials from USAID in the next few weeks.

Hlophe, a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, is trying to boost foreign investment in areas such as manufacturing, particularly in sugar and textiles, as well as