

transmission of the HIV/AIDS virus. A successful vaccine will literally save millions of lives in the poorest countries of the world, restore people to their livelihoods, and prevent children around the globe from becoming AIDS orphans.

The resolution before the House brings attention to the intensive work over the past decade to develop a successful HIV/AIDS vaccine. The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative has built bridges between the developed and developing world that did not exist before. It also has conducted vitally important vaccine trials in the developing world that hopefully will lead to a successful vaccine in the near future.

I commend the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for recently awarding \$23.7 million towards financing this network of committed researchers working around the clock to find a cure.

Mr. Speaker, there will be a successful HIV/AIDS vaccine one day, and it is our collective hope that this will occur before millions more of the world's citizens lose their lives. This resolution congratulates the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative for 10 years of significant achievement in the search for an HIV/AIDS vaccine towards this goal.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support for H.R. 844.

AIDS is the greatest worldwide health crisis of our time. Presently, there are more than 40 million people that are either infected with the HIV virus or are living with AIDS. At least 14,000 people are infected each day. Putting an end to AIDS is one of the most pressing humanitarian challenges we must face. For this reason, the development of a preventive vaccine has been a stepping-stone toward achieving this end.

The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative has been working for the past ten years to create a safe and effective HIV/AIDS vaccine. They have worked hard with the public and private sector to garner financial and political support in order to make the vaccine accessible to all those in need, especially in the developing world, where ninety-five percent of those infected with the virus live.

Today, I am honored to congratulate the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative for its advances in scientific progress, which have been instrumental in bringing about a worldwide effort and support for this important cause. It is their research and devotion to finding an HIV/AIDS vaccine that brings hope of ending an epidemic that has already killed more than 25 million people worldwide. However, there is more to be done. We must take this opportunity to commit ourselves to fighting for the dignity and lives of our brothers and sisters around the world by promoting innovative research in finding a cure.

AIDS is presently a formidable adversary—one that cannot be ignored, one that does not only exist in faraway places, but one that is here, in our neighborhoods and homes, infecting 40,000 of our people each year. The efforts of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative have brought us closer to the day when we will live in a world that is free from AIDS.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 844 to congratulate the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative.

As an original co-sponsor of this resolution and a strong supporter of IAVI, I want to thank

my colleagues, Representative ELIOT ENGEL and Representative PETER KING, for working in a bipartisan manner to introduce and shepherd it to the floor.

IAVI was funded 10 years ago as a public-private partnership to help develop a safe and effective vaccine to prevent HIV/AIDS.

Today IAVI operates in over 23 countries with a variety of partners and is in the testing phases for several vaccine candidates.

In addition to working on the hard science, IAVI has also worked to lay the groundwork to ensure that a future vaccine is affordable and accessible to all who need it, especially in the developing world.

This year Representative PALLONE and I spearheaded a \$35 million appropriations request for IAVI in the FY07 Foreign Ops bill, along with the support of many members of this committee. While the House has approved a \$29 million funding level for IAVI this year, the same as FY06, I am hopeful that in conference my colleagues will support the Senate funding level of \$31 million.

While the search for an AIDS vaccine has so far eluded us, the partnership represented by IAVI is in many ways our best hope at finding a cure. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) on their 10 years of hard work in searching for an HIV/AIDS vaccine. HIV/AIDS has taken the lives of over 250,000 people worldwide and poses a serious threat to the economic and political stability of the countries hit hardest by this terrible epidemic. The IAVI was founded 10 years ago as a public-private partnership with a mission to ensure the development of safe, effective, accessible, preventive HIV/AIDS vaccines for use throughout the world. The IAVI had a particular focus on developing countries, since their need is most urgent regarding care.

Unfortunately, 10 years ago insufficient attention and resources were devoted to the need for, and advantages of, a vaccine to bring an end to this disease. Currently, we are armed with increasingly powerful knowledge and treatments, and yet we face an ever steeper climb toward victory. HIV/AIDS is no longer a scary, unknown entity. A diagnosis is no longer the sealing of fate, even if it means the beginning of a battle. We know enough to educate, even if we do not yet know enough to cure.

The groundbreaking research and policy programs of the IAVI have galvanized scientific efforts and substantially increased financial and political support for this vital effort. Today, the majority of newly designed HIV/AIDS vaccine candidates are focused on preventing HIV/AIDS in the developing world, in large part due to the efforts of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative. The IAVI has also received accolades from the G8 as being an important actor in the quest for a vaccine, after they became a founding member of the Global HIV/AIDS Vaccine Enterprise.

Today over 42 million individuals are infected with HIV/AIDS globally and 1 million here in the United States. Fifty percent of these cases in the United States are in young adults between the ages of 15 and 24. Every year, 40,000 new cases are diagnosed. Thankfully, the IAVI has continued to work effortlessly to unite scientists, academics, non-profit organizations, and governments from the

north and south, including communities of faith, communities of color, and many others, in an effort to develop a vaccine to stop global HIV infection rates of 14,000 a day.

We all admire the commitment of the IAVI in discovering a vaccine and I want to again express my support for the continued success of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I also have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 844, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS OF UMMA COMMUNITY CLINIC ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House tonight to celebrate the achievements of the UMMA Community Clinic upon the occasion of its 10th anniversary. The UMMA Community Clinic is a community health facility that serves uninsured and impoverished families in my congressional district.

The UMMA Clinic was established by Muslim medical students at UCLA who wanted to put their faith and their patriotism into action by serving their community and their country. UMMA is an acronym for the University Muslim Medical Association. In Arabic, the word "umma" means "community," an appropriate name for this extraordinary institution.

The students who founded UMMA were inspired by their Islamic faith, a faith which told them to help their neighbor, a faith which told them that if they saw something wrong, they must fix it. And today the UMMA Clinic is fixing people's lives with its healing hands, every day, quietly and tirelessly.