INTRODUCING THE CHILD HEALTH CARE AFFORDABILITY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to help working Americans provide for their children's health care needs by introducing the Child Health Care Affordability Act. The Child Health Care Affordability Act provides parents with a tax credit of up to $500 for health care expenses of dependent children. Parents caring for a child with a disability, tenninal disease, cancer, or any other health condition requiring specialized care would receive a tax credit of up to $3,000 to help cover their child's health care expenses.

The tax credit would be available to all citizens, regardless of whether or not they itemize their deductions. The credit applies against both income and payroll tax liability. The tax credits provided in this bill will be especially helpful to those Americans whose employers cannot afford to provide health insurance for their employees. These workers must struggle to meet the medical bills of themselves and their families. This burden is especially heavy on parents whose children have a medical condition; such as cancer or a physical disability that requires long-term or specialized health care.

As an OB–GYN who has had the privilege of delivering more than four thousand babies, I know how important it is that parents have the resources to provide adequate health care for their children. The inability of many working Americans to provide health care for their children is rooted in one of the great inequities of the tax code—Congress' failure to allow individuals the same ability to deduct health care costs that it grants to businesses. As a direct result of Congress' refusal to provide individuals with health care related tax credits, parents whose employers do not provide health insurance have to struggle to provide health care for their children. Many of these parents work in low-income jobs; oftentimes, their only recourse for health care is the local emergency room.

Sometimes parents are forced to delay seeking care for their children until minor health concerns that could have been easily treated become serious problems requiring expensive treatment! If these parents had access to the type of tax credits provided in the Child Health Care Affordability Act, they would be better able to provide care for their children, and our Nation's already overcrowded emergency rooms would be relieved of the burden of having to provide routine care for people who otherwise cannot afford it.

According to research on the effects of this bill done by my staff and legislative counsel, the benefit of these tax credits would begin to be felt by joint filers with incomes slightly above $18,000 dollars per year, or single income filers with incomes slightly above $15,000 dollars per year. Clearly, this bill will be of the most benefit to low-income Americans balancing the demands of taxation with the needs of their children.

Under the Child Health Care Affordability Act, a struggling single mother with an asthmatic child would at last be able to provide for her child's needs, while a working-class family will not have to worry about how they will pay the bills if one of their children requires lengthy hospitalization or some other form of specialized care.

Madam Speaker, this Congress has a moral responsibility to provide tax relief so that loncome parents struggling to care for a sick child can better meet their child's medical expenses. Some may say that we cannot enact the Child Health Care Affordability Act because it would cause the government to lose revenue. But, who is more deserving of this money, Congress or the working parents of a sick child?

The Child Health Care Affordability Act takes a major step toward helping working Americans meet their health care needs by providing them with generous health care related tax cuts and tax credits. I urge my colleagues to support the pro-family, pro-health care tax cuts contained in the Child Health Care Affordability Act.

RECOGNIZING THE CHICAGO 2016 OLYMPIC BID

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize that, on April 14, 2007, the city of Chicago was selected as the United States' candidate for the 2016 Summer Olympics. The Chicago Olympic bid represents a choice by the United States Olympic Committee to share the hometown qualities of this great American city and state with the world's athletes, guests, and over 3.6 billion people who take part in the Olympics via global television broadcast. If Chicago is selected by the International Olympic Committee, the 2016 Games will be the first Summer Olympics held in the Americas since the 1996 Atlanta Games.

Chicago's passion for sports, record of hosting international events, and cultural heritage make it a fitting host for these momentous games. Already a professional sports powerhouse, Chicago is arguably one of the most sport-oriented cities in the United States. Indeed, Chicagoans are famous for their enthusiastic support of their home teams, be it the Chicago Bears, Blackhawks, Cubs, Bulls, or the World Series Champion White Sox. Chicago boasts one of the largest marathon events worldwide as well—the Chicago Marathon.

Chicago also enjoys a long history of hosting historic world gatherings, including the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, the 1933 Century of Progress Exposition, the 1959 Pan American Games, as well as matches for the 1994 FIFA World Cup soccer tournament. Although Chicago was to host the 1904 Summer Olympics, this honor ultimately went to St. Louis to coincide with the St. Louis World's Fair.

In addition, Chicago's world-class architecture, renowned skyline, multi-cultural, historical, and pop-cultural contributions are expected to weigh heavily as positive attractions in the Olympic bid considerations. The international community will be dazzled by Chicago's view from atop the Sears Tower, they will be serenaded by the deep passion of our Blues music, and they will savor our restaurants, which are second to none.

The 2016 Chicago Olympic bid offers America the chance to demonstrate not only the most amazing level of competition the world has to offer, but also to showcase the values that make America and the Olympic movement so significant, such as fair play, friendship, hope, and inspiration. The world will have the opportunity to learn surprising and amazing things about Chicago. By way of the 2016 Summer Olympics, Chicago will become the world's second home.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN SENDS VAISAKHI GREETINGS TO SIKH NATION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, April 13 is a very important day in the Sikh community. It is called Vaisakhi Day, the anniversary of the consecration or the Khalsa Panth in 1699 by Guru Gobind Singh. It is celebrated in Sikh families around the world. There is a parade here in DC and later one in New York. I rise today to offer Vaisakhi Day greetings to the Sikh community.

Recently, the Council of Khalistan issued Vaisakhi greetings to the Sikh Nation. In the letter, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan urges the Sikh nation to work for the liberation of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. The Indian govemment has subjected the Sikhs and other minorities, such as Christians, Muslims, and others, to major atrocities. Over a quarter of a million Sikhs have been murdered by the government since 1984. More than 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, and lens of thousands of other minorities have lost their lives at the hands of the regime and its operatives. The Movement Against State Repression reports that more than 52,000 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners without charge or trial, as well as tens of thousands of other minorities.

Freedom is the birthright of all peoples and nations, and Dr. Aulakh points out that Guru Gobind Singh conferred sovereignty on the Sikh Nation. That birthright has been suppressed.

Dr. Aulakh also pointed out the ongoing activities in support of Khalistan in Punjab and elsewhere. On behalf of the Sikh nation, Dr. Awatar Singh Sekhon recently submitted a memorandum on the oppression of the Sikhs and the need for independence to the United Nations Human rights Commission in Geneva. Former Member of Parliament Atinder Pal Singh ran in the recent Punjab elections on a platform supporting Khalistan. He also organized a seminar on Khalistan. Sikh leaders were arrested on two separate occasions just for making speeches in support of Khalistan and raising the Khalistani flag. Jagjit Singh, President of Dal Khalsa, was quoted in the Deccan Herald as saying that "the Indian goverument can never suppress the movement. Sikh aspirations can only be met when they have a separate state." Yet India prefers to continue its repression, stationing half a million troops in Punjab alone.