

Yes, we absolutely need to make sure that there is an efficient process in place to meet the critical energy needs of my constituents in New York City and in other large urban areas. However, that process must also be fair. It must protect the rights of private property owners, take into account environmental and historic preservation concerns, and not unnecessarily usurp States' rights. That's why I will cast my vote in favor of the Hinchey amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, June 21, 2007, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 540. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on agreeing to the Pence of Indiana amendment.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SERGEANT
CORY ENDLICH

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. REGULA. Madam Speaker, with great sorrow I rise to pay tribute and recognize a dedicated soldier and citizen from my district. On Saturday, June 9, 2007, Army Sergeant Cory Endlich lost his life during hostile fire while patrolling an area northwest of Baghdad.

A 2003 graduate of Massillon Washington High School, Sergeant Endlich was a 4-year member of the Massillon Tiger Swing Band as well as a 2-year member of the cross country team. While many of his friends dreamed about becoming professional athletes, he dreamed of becoming a paratrooper for the United States Army. He was also a devoted citizen, helping in missions at home, including the rebuilding of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina before his deployment to Iraq.

This outstanding young man showed courage and a commitment to protect those who could not protect themselves. He had requested in his last letter to his mother for her to send coloring books, crayons and hard candy for Iraqi children he had befriended. Sergeant Endlich is a true hero and a reminder of the dedication evidenced by all the men and women all over the world fighting the war on terror. We must reflect on this great life and all the good that is being done in Iraq.

Army Sergeant Endlich and his family will be forever in our hearts and prayers. May we keep them in mind as they struggle through this difficult period of mourning.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 2641) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, on Wednesday, this body debated the Energy and Water Appropriations bill for the upcoming fiscal year. During debate, I offered an amendment which would have added \$192 million for the purpose of supporting and diversifying the core mission of our Nation's laboratories. Although my amendment did not pass, I remain strongly committed to the idea that a diversification of the mission of our labs is essential and must take place now if we are going to continue to face—and solve—the major national security challenges of the future.

The debate of the amendment brought up several misconceptions and misunderstandings, and I want to take this time to reiterate the purpose and substance of the amendment.

First, some said that my amendment would increase "funding for new nuclear weapon development." This is simply not true. My amendment would return spending approximately to current levels—thereby not providing for the funding of new weapons. As I stated in my previous remarks, my amendment would target funding for three programs, all of which support securing and maintaining our Nation's existing weapons and the core mission of the laboratory. In fact, two of the three programs—the Road Runner Supercomputer and the Science Campaign—help ensure our current weapons supply remains safe, reliable and accurate through computer simulations of weapons in the place of real weapons testing. In the past, I have expressed great concern with the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) program, and I continue to believe that numerous important questions regarding this proposal need to be answered before it proceeds. I doubt our need for a new weapon.

Second, some said that my amendment could "terminate most of the Nation's nonproliferation programs" and that opposing the amendment would "stop terrorists from acquiring nuclear materials." This is also not true. According to the committee report, \$75 million of the Office of the NNSA Administrator is set aside for the Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation program. My amendment would have set total funding for the Office of the NNSA Administrator at \$215 million, more than enough to continue to fund the nonproliferation program. Further, my amendment did not in any way stipulate that the funding would come from the nonproliferation program. It should be noted that current funding for the Office is \$340 million. Clearly the \$415 million provided in this bill is a substantial increase for all programs. Even if my amendment had been adopted, the agency still could have completed these important tasks.

Third, some said that my amendment indicated that "jobs in New Mexico are more important than the overall national management of these sensitive national security programs." Certainly representing the constituency needs of the Third Congressional District of New Mexico is my primary concern. And, yes, those who would lose their jobs under this bill—technical, academic and support jobs in which many have spent decades—are worried. But let me be absolutely clear about this: Neither I nor a single member of the Los Ala-

mos community would for a moment rather protect these jobs than protect the safety and defense of our national security programs. The men and women who work at Los Alamos take great pride in their mission and service to our Nation. They understand the unique undertaking of the lab, and it is my honor to represent them.

Mr. Chairman, on Wednesday night I held a telephone town hall with the community of Los Alamos on this issue. During the town hall an informal poll question asked whether people support a diversification of the lab's mission. Eighty-four percent of the respondents—over half of whom were employees at LANL—supported such a diversification.

I do not believe that we must continue with a status quo mission for our national laboratories. Nor do I believe that creating a national security strategy in a policy vacuum without any regard for the needs of the future is the way to proceed. There is an absolute need, and, in fact, a great opportunity, for our national laboratories to diversify their missions and expand the scientific research being conducted in order to meet the challenges we are facing. From energy independence to health care to climate change modeling, we have the capacity for this diversification. I hope that in the coming months and years I will be joined by others who believe in this cause.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND RE-
LATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 2764, the FY08 Department of State, Foreign Operations, and related appropriations Act.

I am pleased that the bill includes \$75 million in funding for programs that address the needs of Afghan women and girls including the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, the Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs, and women-led nonprofit organizations in Afghanistan. The Committee directs \$15 million of these funds to be made available as grants to support training and equipment to improve the capacity of women-led Afghan NGOs as well as their activities. This funding builds upon funding for Afghan women and girls included in an amendment that I offered to the FY2004 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill and funding included in subsequent appropriations bills.

During the past several years, the United States has invested in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan both because it is the right thing to do and because it is critical to our security. However, I, like many of my colleagues, am troubled by the circumstances facing women in Afghanistan. We have heard from Dr. Sima Samar, head of the Afghan

Independent Human Rights Commission, that Afghan women are losing ground. Many women continue to endure hardships including targeted violence, limited mobility, illiteracy, and a high rate of maternal mortality. I also am very concerned about reports that schools continue to be targeted for violence, including dozens in the past year. Clearly, we have more work to do.

While I hope that all the aid for Afghanistan will help women, I commend the Appropriations Committee for continuing to recognize the needs of Afghan women.

I would also like to commend Chairman LOWEY for her commonsense approach to refining the Global Gag Rule. Though I support a full repeal of this harmful policy, the Lowey provision is a first step toward eliminating the Gag Rule altogether—it will allow organizations to receive contraceptives which are proven to prevent unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. It makes sense and it's the right thing to do.

As a co-chair of the Human Trafficking Caucus and a long-time proponent of increased efforts to combat this global human rights travesty, I am pleased to note the language regarding trafficking in the report that accompanies this bill. Earlier this year, I sent a letter to the Department of State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee expressing my support for these critical initiatives to combat trafficking. The committee report includes a recommendation that the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Office at the Department of State retain control of the monies appropriated for TIP programs and not be subject to decentralized influence of field posts and to enable the TIP Office to disburse the necessary anti-trafficking funding to grantees more quickly. The committee also recommends the addition of six full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to the TIP office so that it can effectively monitor its anti-trafficking grants and can effectively fulfill the vital, congressionally assigned responsibility given to the Senior Policy Operating Group, which it chairs, of monitoring and coordinating the domestic and international anti-trafficking grants and policies of all U.S. agencies.

The committee also has directed \$14,000,000 to the Trafficking in Persons program, which is \$5,300,000 above the President's request, and \$6,000,000 in INCLE (International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement) funding for activities to prevent trafficking in persons. I have worked closely with Ranking Member WOLF on this issue over the past few years, and I thank him for his leadership in the fight against trafficking and human rights abuses worldwide.

Finally, as a co-chair and co-founder of the Hellenic Caucus, I am pleased that the committee has restored funding for the Greek desk at Voice of America. Because Greece is located at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, maintaining this critical program is vital to U.S. interests in this important region of the world.

I commend Chairwoman LOWEY and Ranking Member WOLF for their work in bringing this bill forward, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, June 21, 2007, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 541. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on agreeing to the King of Iowa Amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. WELLER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 449, 500 and 501, I was absent due to flight difficulties.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, during consideration of H.R. 2764 on the Pence Amendment thereto roll No. 540, my vote was mistakenly recorded as no; however, I intended to vote yes. I strongly support restrictions of financial aid to the Palestinian government in the West Bank and Gaza, unless the president certifies that it renounces terrorism, acknowledges the existence of Israel and abides by previous agreements reached between the Palestinians and Israel, with the exception of certain humanitarian aid. I would like the record to reflect my intent to vote yes on roll No. 540 in support of the Pence Amendment. Moreover, I voted multiple times in the 109th Congress in favor of the restrictions contained in the Pence Amendment. Furthermore, I voted in favor of final passage of H.R. 2764, which included the restrictions contained in the Pence Amendment.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY: ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF AFRICAN REFUGEES

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, two days ago, on June 20th, the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health held a hearing on the occasion of World Refugee Day. This day was designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 2001 to be commemorated each year in order to honor the contributions of refugees around the world and to call attention to the plight of those who continue to suffer as refugees. This day also coincides with Africa Refugee Day, which has been commemorated since 1975 and was es-

tablished by the Organization of African Unity Commission of Ten on Refugees as a way to raise funds for assistance for refugees in Africa.

It is shocking to consider that 12 million people in the world are refugees today, and almost a quarter of those, 3.2 million, live in Africa. In addition, Africa has an estimated 12 million Internally Displaced Persons, most of whom are victims of conflicts within their countries. Floods and droughts have also contributed to the dislocation of large numbers of African people. More than half of the world's refugees have lived in camps for several years, with no foreseeable prospects for returning to their homes and a normal lifestyle.

No one can measure the suffering that often comes with being a refugee—being a stranger in a strange land, the inability of children to attend school, the frustration of parents unable to provide the basic necessities for their families, the hardships and fears that come with living in a tent, or having no shelter at all. One might forget that refugees often also are suffering the emotional trauma that results from violence inherent in the conflicts that produce refugees.

For that reason, it was particularly useful to hear the testimony of Neal Porter, the Director of International Services from the Center for Victims of Torture. Legislation that I have sponsored, including the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2007 which passed the House on April 25, 2007 and is now pending in the Senate, provides authorization for programming that helps refugees and others suffering the effects of torture. I would encourage my colleagues in the Senate to act on this bill so that the Center for Victims of Torture and others who provide services to torture survivors can receive the assistance they so desperately need.

The international community accomplished a major milestone when it recognized refugees as having certain rights under international law in the 1951 U.N. Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees plays a major role in ensuring that the promised resources and protection are provided. However, as laudable as international recognition and assistance are for assisting those forced to flee from their homes, far more needs to be done to prevent people from becoming refugees in the first place, and to accommodate the safe return and re-establishment of those already refugees or IDPs. This subcommittee hearing provided an important opportunity to examine what we in the United States and the world community can do in this respect.

Although I and others have devoted significant attention in recent months and years to the tragedy in Darfur, one can never over-publicize the desperate situation of the victims of the Sudanese Government's genocide. When I think of refugees, my mind immediately recalls those who I met in the Mukjar and Kalma camps, only some of the 2 million who have been displaced from their homes in that region. The term "displaced" does not begin to describe the nightmare situation that these people must live in. As we have heard through testimony at recent hearings on Darfur, these people long most of all not for food or shelter, though they have little of either, but for protection. And with good reason—over 450,000 people have died in the violence of Darfur.