

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take an opportunity during this 1-minute to again congratulate my good friend and colleague, Representative PATRICK KENNEDY, and to pay tribute to the late Senator Paul Wellstone.

Any of us who represent people know that there are millions who are languishing in the darkness of mental health and mental health disease. And for once now we are moving a bill that deals with the idea that no one can be discriminated against in any health policy, whether it is increased financial cost, whether it is that they deny you the equal treatment that you would get if you had a broken leg, or whether or not it is a discrimination in the diagnosis.

This bill, H.R. 1424, gives you a new lease on life. It is the civil rights of mental health. And so, Mr. Speaker, I am hoping that we will eliminate from this bill the dastardly provision that does not allow our hospitals that may be owned by physicians in urban and rural areas serving the poorest of people to be eliminated through this bill.

Let us go forth with the Paul Wellstone bill and eliminate the distraction that undermines good health in America.

#### WE NEED AMERICAN TANKERS

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I am outraged tonight that we are outsourcing our national security.

Today, in the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, we heard testimony that the Department of Defense has modified the Buy American Act with a memorandum of understanding that exempts our allies in Europe from the same requirements we demand of U.S. manufacturers.

The results are that in the last three major contracts, we've lost them all to European manufacturers. Marine One, the replacement of the President's helicopter, went to a foreign manufacturer. The Light Utility Helicopter went to a foreign manufacturer. Last Friday, the Air Force announced that we are going to send the air refueling tanker to a foreign manufacturer.

Today, in testimony on the other side of the Capitol, Air Force Secretary Michael Wynne said in a subcommittee that, according to the news, the European-made A330 airframe selected for the new refueling airplane could be used to replace a fleet of air control surveillance and other special mission aircraft. That would mean 200 more aircraft and 40,000 more jobs going to Europe overseas.

Mr. Speaker, we've got to stop this today. Rebid the tanker contract because we need American tankers made by American companies with American workers.

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#### SUPPORT THE COLOMBIA TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT

(Mr. BRADY of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, U.S. relations with Latin America stand at a critical juncture.

Just last weekend after a successful attack by Colombian troops against the terrorist FARC, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez expressed his outrage and ordered his troops to the Colombian border. He convinced Ecuador to do the same. There is evidence that Chavez has colluded with these terrorists and seeks to destroy the democratic government of Colombia.

The U.S. must support our ally at this critical time. And Congress has a unique opportunity to do just that by passing the Colombia Free Trade Agreement.

Colombia is our ally. They are committed to democracy. They are reducing violence in our country. They are fighting the terrorists in our backyard. This is not the time for America to turn our back on Colombia. We need a "yes" or "no" vote this year on this important free trade agreement.

#### RAISING CONCERN OVER THE AIR FORCE'S CONTRACT FOR TANKER AIRCRAFT FROM A FOREIGN MANUFACTURER

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I too want to join my colleague from the State of Kansas to raise concern about the recent announcement by the United States Air Force on the tanker contract.

National security is always a big concern. Having airplanes built by U.S. manufacturers and paid for by U.S. tax dollars is critically important. We want to continue to make sure that as we look at this contracting and bid-letting that everything was done according to our current rule of law and the processes designed by this House in legislation passed over this year. I promise to commit myself to the work of my colleague from Kansas to make sure that that all was done.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WELCH of Vermont). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### THE HOUSE ALSO SHOULD CONDEMN THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN GAZA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, today I voted in favor of House Resolution 951 to condemn rocket attacks from Gaza into Israel and the death and fear those attacks have caused. These rocket attacks must be condemned, and they must be stopped. I've been to Sderot, and I have seen how these rocket attacks cause fear and suffering among the people there, where it is extremely difficult to carry on anything approaching a normal life. The residents of Sderot and now Ashkelon face a daily barrage of rockets, and that is intolerable. Terrorists are bombing citizens, not soldiers. There is nothing in Islam to justify hurting innocent civilians. Bombers cannot use religion to justify what they're doing, and I condemn it.

But this resolution is not enough. If we want to be morally consistent, we must condemn rocket attacks on Israel and also condemn the humanitarian crisis in Gaza too. The 1.4 million inhabitants of the Gaza Strip exist in a state of dreadful isolation, quite literally cut off from the world. Basic supplies and necessities are at a minimum. Ninety percent of the industry has closed down. Unemployment is rampant, and poverty and disease are endemic. Only a few weeks ago, the people of Gaza broke through walls to buy groceries in Egypt. I regret the resolution we voted on today did not devote adequate attention, in my view, to the plight of the people of Gaza.

To suggest that this is the Gazans' just desserts for voting the wrong way in the Palestinian legislative elections in January 2006 does nothing to improve the quality or alleviate the human suffering on either side of the border. We in Congress need to show compassion for the people of Gaza, Sderot, and Ashkelon and the tremendous human suffering they are undergoing. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert says he does not want the humanitarian crisis in Gaza to continue, and the Bush administration should do all it can to help him meet that commitment.

This resolution criticizes one of the leading advocates for stability and peace in the region: Egypt. The Egyptian Government has made it clear that it is doing all it can to close off smuggling. What's needed is a greater degree of cooperation with Egypt. This resolution does nothing to advance that cooperation. We need to engage Egypt, not pass resolutions that publicly offend or diminish our relations with them. Absent strong evidence that Egypt is complicit in allowing weapons smuggling to occur, I am not in favor of Egypt bashing.

I understand Egypt is doing what it can to control the border despite restrictions on its security forces imposed by Egypt's peace treaty with Israel. If Egypt had direct contact or diplomatic channels with all parties involved in the conflict, the United