

As a physician, I don't want to see that socialized. I don't think men and women want the government in the examination room standing between the doctor and the patient.

And it sounds like the good Speaker is letting me know that the magic hour has expired. When you are having fun, time flies. Thank you for your indulgence, my colleagues, and we will continue to talk about the Republican second opinion on many issues.

#### CELEBRATING ALL OF THE MOTHERS IN OUR NATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TITUS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Allow me to thank the distinguished gentleman for his kindness.

Madam Speaker, I didn't want to leave and return to my district without acknowledging how humbled America is in honoring the Nation's mothers. I believe it was a great idea to set aside a day to honor our mothers and to honor our fathers. And so this weekend is a nationally declared day to celebrate motherhood.

I rise today to be able to celebrate the mothers all over this Nation who link arms with those around the world who are, in fact, special. For mothers are, in fact, the nurturers and caregivers that prepare our Nation's young for the challenges that life may hold. Their work may be inside or outside of the home or both, and their contributions to this society can never be fully appreciated or valued. Jane Sellman definitely hit the needle on the head when she said, "The phrase 'working mother' is redundant," for obviously a mom, a mommy, a mother works.

In this day and time, we find that mothers come in many shapes and sizes. Today our First Lady spoke eloquently about the challenges of being a working mother. But as we have come to understand, a mom works at home, she works in the workplace, she is a volunteer. She does many things that constitute work but are her daily duties.

Our mothers are our first teachers, and they should be celebrated every day. However, like many things, sometimes we take this whole idea of motherhood for granted. Yes, we sometimes have teenage mothers, or grandmothers as mothers nurturing children of their children. We have ailing mothers. We have mothers who have passed. And there will be many in our Nation who will be celebrating or commemorating Mother's Day without their beloved mom. They will be mourning the loss. Maybe they will be at grave sites. But what I will say to them is that they will have the wonderful memories.

I want the fact that this is Mother's Day to have us remember that being a mom is not easy. Motherhood is not for those who might want to give up. But

many times, it is important that we encircle our moms, give them the strength to be able to carry on, be reminded that in addition to making dinner, they are reading bedtime stories. But maybe there are mothers who don't have the capabilities, don't have the time, are not able to get home before 12 midnight, work the night shift, work around the clock; we should be sympathetic to them.

I'm proud that this Congress has recognized the importance of mothers. One of the first bills that we signed was the equal pay bill. We also provided and signed the SCHIP bill that provided for 11 million more children to have health care. That helps the mothers of America. We also recognize that 47 million Americans are uninsured. Many of them are mothers with young children. Many of them are mothers with ailments who have catastrophic illnesses or chronic illnesses. We want to say to them "thank you" by providing those mothers with full comprehensive health care.

We know that mothers are caring and courageous women who make a difference in the lives they touch. As a Jewish proverb said, "God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers." And so this Mother's Day is a celebration for grandmothers, mothers-in-law, stepmothers, foster mothers, godmothers, mothers who take in children, mothers of all ethnicities, all backgrounds, all economic levels. We are to celebrate them.

Today thousands of mothers in this country have become active and effective participants in public life and public service, promoting change and improving the quality of life for men, women and children throughout the Nation. I cannot find the words to thank all of these mothers who may be legislators, mayors, judges, doctors, lawyers and administrators. And yet I also thank those mothers who are waitresses, as I said, who are nurses aides, who drive buses, who are out on the construction sites, who are poets, who are authors. They are all part of our life.

I want to pay tribute to my own mother, Ivalita Jackson, strong, determined, elderly and frail now; but having raised us, I thank her for the integrity, the determination, the spirit and the love she gave. I'm grateful for my grandmothers, Vany Bennett and Olive Jackson, my Aunt Valrie Bennett and my Aunts Audrey and Vicky. I'm grateful for my Aunt Sarah. I'm grateful for the extended family members. I'm grateful for the future mothers, my daughter Erica Lee.

And so I am thankful today that we know that a mother is the truest friend we have when trials are heavy and sudden and fall upon us, when adversity takes the place of prosperity, when friends who rejoiced with us in our sunshine desert us, when trouble thickens around us, still will she cling to us and endeavor by her precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness and

cause peace to return to our hearts. A mother is the truest friend, and we know that through an American author, Washington Irving.

And today as I finish my remarks, I want to particularly say to those mothers who may be listening, to our colleagues who are likewise mothers, to the Asian Pacific mothers, as we celebrate Asian Pacific Month, wherever they might be, we want to give them a helping hand. And through a mother, I want to be able to say, I want no child to ever go to bed hungry. We want no child to ever not have an education. And we want you to have the fullest opportunity to raise children to be healthy and productive.

I close, Madam Speaker, by saying simply this, in the words of Jackie Kennedy Onassis, "If you bungle raising your children, I don't think whatever else you do well matters very much." We want our mothers not to bungle. God bless them and God bless America.

Madam Speaker, I stand before you today in order to recognize and celebrate all of the mothers in our Nation.

They are the nurturers, and caregivers that prepare our Nation's young for the challenges that life may hold. Their work may be inside or outside of the home, or both, and their contributions to this society can never be fully appreciated or valued. Jane Sellman definitely hit the needle on the head when she said, "The phrase 'working mother' is redundant".

Our mothers are our first teachers and they should be celebrated everyday. However, like many things we can take them for granted. This Mothers Day, take a moment to call your mother or to visit with her if you can.

Remember that being a mom is no easy feat. Motherhood is not for the faint of heart. Motherhood is not for women with weak stomachs or strict routines. A mother must be able to juggle three things at once and still manage to make dinner and read bedtime stories. No doctor can take away all the ailments of a sick child or even an adult for that matter, like a mother can. Mothers are caring and courageous women who make a difference in the lives they touch. As the Jewish proverb says, "God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers."

Mother's Day is also a celebration for grandmothers, mother-in-laws, stepmothers, foster mothers, godmothers, mothers who take in children, mothers who adopt, those who act as mothers, for those women who have no relations by blood but who give the gift of mothering to children.

Mothers bring a unique and valuable perspective to all aspects of American life. Today, thousands of mothers in this country have become active and effective participants in public life and public service, promoting change and improving the quality of life for men, women and children throughout the Nation. They serve with distinction as legislators, mayors, judges, doctors, lawyers, and administrators, and their impact in these areas has proved to be monumental.

I could not find words descriptive enough to fully express the depth of admiration that I feel for women who fill this important role in our society. They are committed to their families and community not for public acclaim, but for

love. As American author Washington Irving put it best, "A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials heavy and sudden, fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine desert us; when trouble thickens around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause ace to return to our hearts."

My heart goes out to those mothers with children who are away at war, I cannot even imagine the fear that they must feel daily. I want to recognize the First Lady, Michelle Obama, who is striking a balance ALL between motherhood and her duties as the First Lady. I want to congratulate and praise all of the mothers in America for all of their hard work. Another former First Lady, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis once said, "If you bungle raising your children, I don't think whatever else you do well matters very much."

I hope that we can all reflect on all the sacrifices our mothers made for us throughout the years. A mother's love is unending and her arms are always open. I wish all mothers a Happy Mothers Day this weekend.

#### HOUSE RESOLUTION 402

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. CHRISTOPHER SMITH, as we have introduced a resolution condemning the transport of certain types of nuclear waste, commonly known as mixed oxide fuel, containing plutonium and uranium, through international waters. And we urge the countries that produce the waste to keep such nuclear waste within their borders.

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Madam Speaker, last month two British-flagged vessels left France with 1.8 tons of plutonium bound for Japan. They are scheduled to arrive in port at some point this month. From what has been made public, the shipment is to travel via the Cape of Good Hope, across the southern Indian Ocean, then through the Tasman Sea between Australia and New Zealand, and then through the southwest Pacific Ocean, and finally to Japan.

The plutonium itself is contained within what is commonly known as MOX fuel, a toxic mixture of plutonium and uranium oxide. The MOX will be used by Japanese electric utilities to power their nuclear energy plants.

Madam Speaker, mixed oxide fuel containing plutonium and uranium is legal. The release of even a small amount of it during transport over thousands of miles of open sea, whether as a result of accidents or malicious intent, would cause serious health and environmental harm to surrounding areas. That has always been made clear.

But MOX poses a far more ominous threat. With the right technology, it can be reprocessed into weapons-grade material. And according to reputable estimates, enough plutonium is contained in the MOX currently headed towards Japan to produce more than 200 nuclear bombs. Every Member of this Chamber, Madam Speaker, knows that al Qaeda and its networks would like nothing better than to get their hands on enough fissile material to build a nuclear explosive device or a radiological bomb, however crude, and to detonate it where it can do the most harm. We and our allies around the world have committed our best intelligence, military and civilian officials, to work around the clock to eliminate the possibility of that ever happening.

And yet by permitting the transport of MOX over open seas, obviously we are providing terrorists one more avenue of attack for getting access to the nuclear materials they have so long coveted.

Indeed, the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency said that the risk of hijacking a ship carrying nuclear materials, while small, could not be ruled out.

Madam Speaker, piracy has become an obvious problem around the globe. So far this year just in the waters of Somalia alone, pirates have attacked 61 ships. More than a dozen of those vessels remain in the pirates' hands to this very day. One of them, a Ukrainian cargo ship, actually contained military equipment—33 battle tanks.

Madam Speaker, I have no doubt that everyone here remembers the recent hijacking of the Maersk Alabama off the Somali coast, and the heroic actions of Captain Richard Philips and his crew of 21 members. The ship was captured by four Somali pirates on April 8 last month. The captain surrendered himself to ensure the safety of his crew, only to end up in a lifeboat with the pirates for 4 days while the FBI attempted to negotiate his release.

Thankfully, Captain Richard Philips was rescued on April 12, but our Navy SEALs, justifiably, had to kill three of the hostage-takers. In the aftermath of that event, Somali pirates have issued threats to specifically target American interests in this region.

We know that it doesn't cost much to hire a band of Somali pirates and that they are not fussy about their clientele. While the ships in question may not sail over Somali waters, they will likely pass through the Straits of Malacca, the vital link between the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

But make no mistake, those straits are plied by their own bands of pirates. Indeed, according to the International Maritime Bureau, these and nearby waters have been ranked the world's most dangerous sea routes. In the year 2004, 40 percent of all pirate attacks in the world took place in the Straits of Malacca and nearby Indonesian waters.

Of course, terrorists need not hire pirates to do their dirty work. In the year 2002, al Qaeda operatives rammed

a boat rigged with explosives into a French oil tanker off the coast of Yemen.

The two particular vessels transporting the MOX from France to Japan, the Pacific Pintail and the Pacific Heron, are not without protection. They are armed with five 30 millimeter Naval cannons. In addition, a group of armed police officers from the United Kingdom Office of Civil Nuclear Security is on board.

However, a study done by the U.S. Department of Energy concludes that due to the risk of attack on nuclear shipments, there is a need to provide "continuous backup support for the vessel by military security assets."

In 1992, a shipment of 1.7 tons of MOX nuclear material from France to Japan was escorted by a Japanese Coast Guard vessel. This time, the public does not know what sort of a dedicated Naval vessel or vessels are escorting the ships.

The Pentagon concluded in its own assessment of sea shipments of plutonium that "even if the most careful precautions are observed, no one could guarantee the safety of the cargo from a security incident, such as an attack on the vessel by small, fast craft, especially armed with modern anti-ship missiles."

Madam Speaker, thus the transport of this nuclear waste poses not only the environmental hazard we have long been concerned about, but also a non-trivial terrorist or even nuclear danger as well.

I ask my colleagues, is the practice of transporting these lethal nuclear waste materials across international waters worth the risk? I say absolutely not.

It's time for the countries of the world that produce nuclear waste to keep it within their own borders. That will be a first step.

Madam Speaker, make no mistake, transport of nuclear materials even within a country's borders poses serious risks. Nuclear fuel is dangerous stuff. According to the Nuclear Information and Resource Service, "A person standing 3 feet from unshielded irradiated fuel would receive a lethal radiation dose in 10 seconds." Moreover, the shipping containers in which radioactive waste are transported over land typically are designed to withstand, at most, a 30-mile per hour crash into an immovable object.

I am certain that every Member of this Chamber studiously obeys the speed limits, but I am not aware of too many highways with a speed limit of 30 miles an hour. What I find particularly disconcerting is that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has not tested these shipping casks. Instead, the commission depends on the reliability of computer simulations.

A Nuclear Information and Resource Service fact sheet also states, "The more severe an accident, the more likely that radioactive material would be released into the environment." A low-