

It is important to recognize genocide for what it is, but it is even more important that we stop genocide from taking place. The world has said "never again." The world must mean it. In visiting the Holocaust Museum here in Washington, D.C., I was reminded of an earlier genocide.

□ 1945

While there, I saw the Wall of Honor recognizing those who placed their own lives at risk to save the lives of Jews.

May we be courageous enough to deserve such recognition in a wall of honor today in stopping the genocide of today.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives in recognition of the fifth anniversary of the declaration by the United States Congress of genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

On July 22, 2004, members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate united to pay witness to irrefutable evidence that a systematic campaign of ethnic cleansing was underway in Darfur, perpetrated by the Sudanese government and characterized by forced displacements, mass murder, abduction, torture, and rape.

Five years have passed since Congress first declared this tragedy genocide. To date, over 300,000 Darfuris have lost their lives and nearly 3,000,000 have been displaced. And yet, despite the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement in May 2006 and the deployment of a joint African Union-United Nations peace-keeping force, the deadly conflict in Darfur continues.

We therefore unite once again and we will continue doing so, until this tragedy ends; to honor the heroic efforts of dedicated humanitarian workers who put their lives at risk; to recognize the actions of responsible nations who refuse to stand idly by as innocent people suffer; and to shame those who, in the face of unspeakable horrors, choose to do nothing.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 159, recognizing the fifth anniversary of the declaration of genocide in Darfur.

An August 2008 New Republic piece said the following about Darfur: "No genocide has ever been so thoroughly documented while it was taking place . . . in the case of the genocide in Darfur, ignorance has never been possible." Sobering words as we consider this resolution.

I have visited Sudan five times, most recently in July 2004 when I led the first congressional delegation with Senator SAM BROWNBACK to Darfur. I witnessed the nightmare with my own eyes. Over 300,000 Darfuris have died and nearly 3 million have been displaced.

We saw the same scorched earth tactics from Khartoum in the brutal 20-year civil war with the South.

Five years ago this month Congress was the first to call the atrocities in Darfur by their rightful name, genocide.

But this is not a tragedy relegated to the history books—rather Sudan today demands attention and action.

China has been complicit in this tragedy as Sudan's largest foreign investor and yet China has failed to use its influence. According to

the Congressional Research Service, China reportedly imports an estimated 64 percent of Sudan's oil and China's National Petroleum Corporation is the largest shareholder (47 percent) in the two biggest oil consortiums in Sudan, Petrodar and the Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Company (GNPOC).

China also supplies weapons to the Government of Sudan. Some human rights groups accuse the Chinese government of being the principal supplier of weapons in violation of the U.N. weapons embargo on Sudan.

And yet Sudan only earned a passing reference in President Obama's remarks this week at the Strategic Economic Dialogue between the United States and China.

But perhaps most importantly, and most timely, almost six months into the Obama administration, the State Department is still conducting a "comprehensive review" of U.S.-Sudan policy.

Virtually nothing concrete has emerged. The little that has leaked out in press reports reveals an administration that appears divided at the highest levels over whether genocide is still taking place in Darfur. On an issue of this magnitude such confusion sends the wrong message.

On this, the five-year anniversary of the declaration of genocide in Darfur, I ask, what is the Obama administration's policy on Darfur?

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I also yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 159.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 838. An act to provide for the conveyance of a parcel of land held by the Bureau of Prisons of the Department of Justice in Miami Dade County, Florida, to facilitate the construction of a new educational facility that includes a secure parking area for the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment

in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2647. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, to provide special pays and allowances to certain members of the Armed Forces, expand concurrent receipt of military retirement and VA disability benefits to disabled military retirees, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2647) "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, to provide special pays and allowances to certain members of the Armed Forces, expand concurrent receipt of military retirement and VA disability benefits to disabled military retirees, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BYRD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. NELSON, (FL), Mr. NELSON (NE), Mr. BAYH, Mr. WEBB, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. UDALL (CO), Mr. HAGAN, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BURRIS, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BURR, Mr. VITTER, and Ms. COLLINS, be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1390. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans and some Democrats have been highlighting the problems with the proposed Democrat health care bill.

The Rosenberg-Richmond Chamber of Commerce in Fort Bend County, Texas, represents over 800 businesses that have deep concerns with this massive intrusion of government-run health care. Last week they passed a resolution strongly opposing the current health care proposals.

Highlights of the resolution include: "a government plan would be an unfair competitor, with the government acting as both a team owner and the referee."

Another quote: "New taxes and fees for businesses and/or individuals that

cannot afford health insurance would be dramatically counterproductive.”

And one final one: “Taxation of health benefits will lead to a reduction in benefits offered by employers and will lead to higher taxes for many individuals and businesses.”

Local chambers of commerce and small businesses understand better than most the problems with government-run health care. The Rosenberg-Richmond Chamber of Commerce gets it. I wish my colleagues on the other side of the aisle did.

I include in the RECORD a copy of the resolution.

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF PROPOSED
HEALTH CARE REFORM

Whereas, The United States has the world's best health care system, but it is being priced out of reach for more and more American citizens and companies. Companies struggle to find health care plans that provide adequate coverage and are still affordable, and worry about what will come next year; and

Whereas, the Rosenberg-Richmond Area Chamber of Commerce, under various names, has been working for and with local businesses to create a positive economic environment in Fort Bend County, Texas for over eighty years and is currently the voice of 800 businesses; and

Whereas, the Rosenberg-Richmond Area Chamber of Commerce recognizes that most health care coverage is provided by employers; to make it easier for employers and their employees to afford the health care coverage they need, we SUPPORT legislative action to:

Retain viable employer-sponsored health care. Employers provide voluntary health insurance to over 177 million. ERISA allows many of them the flexibility to provide uniform benefits and is the backbone of employer-provided coverage and must be preserved.

Reform the delivery system including payment and reimbursement reform to reduce costs while increasing quality and outcomes including: implementation of comprehensive strategies to boost health information technology, wellness, prevention, disease management and care coordination.

Create a more vibrant private health insurance market for individuals and small businesses.

Control soaring health care costs due to the explosive growth in medical liability awards and insurance costs through specialized health courts.

Encourage more Americans to purchase health insurance by enacting refundable tax credits for that purpose.

Encourage more Americans to save for medical expenses tax-free by expanding Health Savings Accounts and allowing those with Flexible Spending Accounts to roll over unused balances to pay for future medical expenses.

Whereas, the Rosenberg-Richmond Area Chamber of Commerce OPPOSES legislative action that will:

Create a Government-run (public) plan: A government-run plan would be an unfair competitor, with the government acting as both a team owner and the referee. Government programs shift costs to the private sector. The Lewin Group estimates 130 million people would move from private sector to public insurance. This could lead to a government-controlled single-payer system.

Create Employer Mandates: Punishing employers who cannot afford to provide health insurance coverage, including requirements

to pay or play, is not the answer. Employer mandates, by their nature limit flexibility and innovation—the cornerstones of American health care.

Create Minimum Required Coverage Level: Proposing a huge Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP)—like minimum coverage package will bankrupt employers and workers. High-end coverage like this will not appeal to the young. The minimum level of coverage should be reflective of a high-deductible health plan with coverage of preventative services.

Impose additional tax burdens individuals or businesses: The implementation of new taxes and fees for businesses and/or individuals that cannot afford health insurance would be dramatically counterproductive. Further, the taxation of health benefits will lead to a reduction in benefits offered by employers and will lead to higher taxes for many individuals and businesses: Now therefore be it *Resolved*, that the Board of Directors of the Rosenberg-Richmond Area Chamber of Commerce OPPOSES the passage of legislation that is currently proposed by the President of the United States and Congress which will create a public insurance plan and employer mandates and major tax increases including imposing an additional “surtax” on high income earners.

Adopted this 21st day of July, 2009.

LYNNE HUMPHRIES,
*Chairman of the
Board*
GAIL PARKER,
President/CEO.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT HELPING RESIDENTS OF NEVADA

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, Nevada has been a boom State for as long as I can remember. My family has been there for 46 years, and with every passing year, more and more people moved in and more and more people flourished in a very strong economy. But when the bust came, it came with a vengeance, and I am afraid that the State of Nevada, like many other States in this country and many other countries in the world, is suffering and is in the midst of an economic crisis.

We have the highest mortgage foreclosure rate in the country in my congressional district and I have one of the highest unemployment rates. And what makes this so startling is perhaps a year ago there was virtually no un-

employment in my district and in the State of Nevada.

There has been a lot of criticism about the stimulus package. It is called the Recovery Act, more commonly known as the stimulus package. People say it is not big enough. People say it is not fast enough and that it is not working. But I have to tell you, the people of Nevada have received extraordinary benefits from this stimulus package.

There was a reason that I voted for it. It provided education funding, unemployment benefits, health care benefits, tax breaks, Social Security money for my seniors, and my disabled veterans received substantial funds as well.

According to the Nevada State Treasurer, \$426 million in stimulus funds have already been paid out to people in Nevada. That doesn't include the tax cuts, the Social Security payments or the payments to our disabled veterans. Money is flowing into Nevada and is keeping many families afloat during this economic crisis, and it is an economic crisis the likes of which none of us have ever seen and none of us ever thought would happen.

But let me tell you in real terms how this stimulus package is benefiting the folks back home.

Tax cuts: The Making Work Pay tax credit. I know you recall, Madam Speaker, there was \$400 for individuals, \$800 for families. Ninety-five percent of American families and individuals are already seeing a decrease in their withholding and their paychecks. One million families in Nevada are seeing more money in their monthly paycheck because of this stimulus package at a time when this money is so desperately needed.

118,000 Nevada families are going to benefit from the Child Tax Credit expansion.

American Opportunity Tax Credit. There is a new \$2,500 tax credit that is going to help 32,000 Nevadans go to college. I know what it is like when you don't have money to go to college and you have to take out loans and grants. This is going to help kids, like me, that went to school and depended on these loans and grants.

Alternative minimum tax. 31,000 people in my district would have been slammed by the alternative minimum tax if the stimulus package had not been passed.

There is tax relief for business as well. Whether you are a large casino or a small business in the State of Nevada, we provided relief for you: cancellation of indebtedness, bonus depreciation, small business expensing. For most of us, we don't understand what that is, but for small business people and businesses in general, this is their very lifeblood, and we have saved thousands of Nevada's small businesses from going under.

Unemployment insurance. With an unemployment rate of over 12.5 percent and going higher—we haven't bottomed