

to remove slavery from business operations and products.

The Business Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act doesn't tell businesses what to do, but rather to tell consumers what they are doing to end human slavery.

This bill will help raise awareness for consumers who want to know where and how their goods are being made. While there are good actors, there are businesses operating in parts of the world that rely on enslaved humans to produce their products. We believe American consumers have a right to know who these companies are.

This legislation creates a market-based solution rather than relying on prescriptive action by the federal government. Companies simply have to report to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) what they are doing to rid their supply chains of human slavery and post this information on their company Web sites. Consumers will be able to research a company and determine their purchasing decisions based on the information provided. Very simply, this bill creates competition to improve practices to end slavery by providing the public with information about what companies are doing to address slavery.

Human trafficking is the slavery of the 21st century. It is estimated that nearly 12.3 million people are working in some form of forced labor worldwide. The International Labor Organization estimates that for every person trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation, nine people are forced primarily into labor exploitation. We must use every tool available to help these men, women, and children around the world who are enslaved.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

HONORING THE FAIR HAVEN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to the administrators and staff of Fair Haven Community Health Center as they celebrate their 40th Anniversary. Over the last four decades, the Fair Haven Community Health Center has provided quality, affordable health care to some of our community's most vulnerable families. In doing so, they have become an invaluable resource to hundreds, earning a well-deserved reputation for ensuring that health care is available regardless of ability to pay. This is an outstanding organization and I am proud to join community leaders and residents alike in commemorating this remarkable milestone.

In 1971 a small group of dedicated nurses, doctors, students, and neighborhood volunteers, under the leadership of a community advocacy agency called the Alliance for Latin American Progress, opened the Fair Haven Clinic in a local elementary school. Two nights a week, the Clinic served adults and children on a walk-in basis for minor ailments, immunizations, and family planning services. With a budget of only five thousand dollars, made available through a grant from the Greater

New Haven Community Foundation, they were able to accommodate over five hundred visits in their first year. It was clear that families were not only in need of these basic services, but of expanded health care as well. Over the next decade the Clinic worked to expand the services that they were able to provide to more comprehensive primary health care. Today, the Fair Haven Community Health Center has grown into one of our community's most respected non-profit primary health care organizations, providing comprehensive health care—from prenatal and pediatric to adolescent, adult and geriatric care—to hundreds of residents every year.

The administrators and staff at Fair Haven Community Health Center continue to seek every opportunity that will allow them to provide quality health care to those families who are either uninsured or underinsured. With the growing number of those families who find themselves uninsured or underinsured, the Center has seen demands in the community rise exponentially. I have had many opportunities to visit the Center and am always impressed with the amount of good work that they are able to do with the limited funding that they receive. The Center not only provides health care services, but they have developed and implemented extraordinary outreach and education programs which benefit community residents. Perhaps most importantly, the Center provides the community with the security of knowing that their families will have access to the quality health care they need without the fear of the financial burden of excessive medical bills.

I would be remiss if I did not extend a special note of thanks and congratulations to the Center's Executive Director, Katrina Clark. Katrina has been at the helm of this organization for all but its first two years. It has been under her leadership and because of her vision that the Center has grown so successfully over the last four decades. I have had the privilege to know Katrina for many years. Her commitment to the people of the Fair Haven community is only equaled by her determination to ensure that they have access to quality, affordable health care. She is an extraordinary woman and I consider myself fortunate to benefit from her counsel and friendship.

Over the course of their history, the Fair Haven Community Health Center has developed strong partnerships that have helped them to continue to expand their services to meet the ever-changing needs of the community. I am proud of the work that we have been able to do together and am honored to have this opportunity to extend my warmest congratulations on their 40th Anniversary as well as my very best wishes for many more years of successful work in our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 326 I was unable to cast my vote on the House floor because I was ill. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

THE LONE STAR BATTALION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when called upon by their country to go into service, Texans have always been up to the challenge. And, in fact, today, serving somewhere in the world, one out of 10 people wearing the American uniform is from the state of Texas.

Texans are always on the front lines in the defense of freedom. It goes all the way back to 1836 when the first Texas veteran found himself at a beat-up old Spanish church in Central Texas that we now call the Alamo. The Alamo was more than 100 years old at the time that he and 186 other brave Texans defended freedom. The defenders of the Alamo were determined to seek liberty for the Republic of Texas. These veterans just like all of those who have followed risked their lives in the name of freedom.

To be a member of the United States military is a gift, a sacrifice and it is an honor. Every day our warriors risk their lives, and today I would like to commend a special infantry battalion close to the heart of many Texans.

The 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, or 1/23, also known as "The Lone Star Battalion," is a home-grown group of soldiers headquartered in Houston, containing approximately 800 Marines and Navy/Corpsmen. The Lone Star Battalion has played a most significant and important part of history. I am proud to recognize and honor the service of the men and women of the 1/23 Marines.

The history of this unit is one of many great successes. Activated in 1942 in North Carolina, they were sent to the Pacific to aid in the United States' "island-hopping" campaign against Japan during World War II. They participated in many battles during this time including Roi-Namur, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima.

Post-World War II, the battalion was activated once again, this time out of Houston on July 1, 1962. After the 9/11 attacks, it was mobilized for the first time since World War II in support of Operation Desert Storm.

Because of the ongoing conflicts in Iraq, the battalion continued to support the global war on terrorism by participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom. It is currently deployed in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Ronald Reagan said this about the United States Marines: "Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world, but the Marines, they don't have that problem."

Recently, the Lone Star Battalion worked with coalition and the Afghan National Army troops to build a school in the small village of Abad, Afghanistan. Not only is this the first school the village has ever seen, the civilian enrollment is projected to be around 50 students come the start of the school year.

This is a critical development considering the literacy rate of the total population in Afghanistan is 28.1 percent.

Acknowledging that it was imperative for the ANA to establish trust and accountability for the civilians they defend, the Marines were eager to let the ANA take the lead role in the construction process of the school. It seems