

House are being asked whether we believe that President Clinton's actions were so egregious that he should be impeached and removed from office. I do not believe that these misdeeds merit impeachment.

Impeachment is a statement by Congress that the President is unable to carry out the responsibilities of his office, or that he cannot be trusted to do so. The Constitution specifies "Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors" as the proper grounds for impeachment. Impeachment, by removing the nation's highest elected official, nullifies a vote made by the American people—in President Clinton's case twice—and I believe that it should only be undertaken in the most dire of circumstances. Impeachment has historically been understood to be an option that should only be exercised when continuation of the President in office presents a clear and serious threat to our nation or our constitutional form of government. I do not believe that the President's offenses reach the threshold for impeachment.

Rather, I believe that censure of the President by the House and Senate is a more appropriate punishment. Censure would reflect for all time Congress and the public's disapproval of the President's behavior, and it would balance the need to punish the President with the public's desire to have him finish out his term.

Some have suggested that censure would allow the president to escape punishment for his misdeeds. That isn't the case. Others argue that censure of President Clinton, like the censure of President Andrew Jackson, could be overturned and would therefore be meaningless. To them, I can only observe that Americans are not fools. I believe that Americans in coming years will judge President Clinton, as well as the Members of the 105th Congress, wisely and with the perspective that only time can bring to this contentious issue. Let us hope that each of us here today will be able to meet history's more objective scrutiny.

Consequently, I will vote today against impeachment. It is unfortunate and unfair that my colleagues and I will not be given the opportunity to vote on a censure motion. I believe that we should have that choice. The Republican leadership is apparently afraid that a number of their Members, if given the opportunity, would vote for censure and against impeachment.

I will vote in favor of any procedural motions to allow a vote on censure, but I have little hope that such efforts will prevail. The majority leadership has made it known that all Republicans must support procedural votes on impeachment and censure, and that they will face serious repercussions if they do not toe the line. That is unfortunate. Every Member should be allowed to freely vote his or her conscience on an important question like this.

History will long remember what we do here today. These may be the most significant votes that we ever cast. They may be the votes by which many of us are remembered, and they will likely define our own individual legacies as well as the President's. I urge my colleagues to bear that in mind when they vote today.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF CHRISTINA
WILLIAMS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart and profound sadness. I am overcome by the emotions I feel as both a father and a Member of Congress.

On June 12, 1998, Christina Williams disappeared from her California neighborhood. Now seven months of waiting and worry have come to a sad end. This weekend we will bury Christina.

Our community knows now that what should have been a perfectly innocent, completely safe activity for a 13-year-old—walking the family dog—turned into something so horrible, so unimaginable, that we tremble to think of the fate that Christina met.

The coming weeks and continuing investigation will provide some answers. But we must ask greater ones.

Each and every one of us must ask what we can do to make this world a safer place for children. As an elected official, I know there are limits to what the law can do and the tragedies it can prevent. But I vow before you today that I will do all I can as a Congressman, a citizen and as a parent.

One of my first tasks is to thank the countless volunteers who have come to the aid of Christina's family during this tremendously painful ordeal. My heart is with the friends, relatives, community members and law enforcement officials who now face this tragedy after such dedication.

Yet our greater responsibility remains. We must join Christina's parents, Alice and Michael, and the Williams family in the great challenge that lies before them. Those who loved Christina have vowed to make her memory a call to action. To turn their anger and pain into a mission to make our country a safe place to raise loved, secure children.

My fellow Members of Congress, you must pledge that our federal government will do everything in its legislative and fiscal powers to bring a halt to crimes against children, especially those whose whereabouts are still unknown. Only then will every parent and every child live in a world made safer by Christina's ordeal.

To all watching us today, I ask for your continued prayers for the Williamses and the extended family that is the Central Coast of California. And I ask you to join us, when it is time to move from the mourning and grief, in the challenge that lies before us.

CRIME STOPPERS RESOLUTIONS

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution recognizing the success of Crime Stoppers worldwide.

Originally beginning in Albuquerque, New Mexico 23 years ago, today there are over

January 20, 1999

1,000 Crime Stoppers chapters throughout the world. Crime Stoppers International was established to support a worldwide network of Crime Stoppers programs. It provides a forum for leadership and training as well as fosters cooperation and information exchange between local Crime Stoppers programs across the globe.

Crime Stoppers is based on the principle that "someone other than the criminal has information that can solve a crime." Crime Stoppers combats the three major problems faced by law enforcement in generating that information: fear of reprisal, an attitude of apathy, and reluctance to get involved. By offering anonymity to people who provide information and by paying rewards Crime Stoppers combats these problems leading to arrest of the criminal.

This formula has resulted in a commendable record of success. Crime Stoppers programs worldwide have solved over half a million crimes and recovered over 3 billion dollars worth of stolen property and narcotics.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the success of Crime Stoppers and applaud Crime Stoppers International in its work to bring Crime Stoppers chapters worldwide together to fight crime.

THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT OF 1999

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, every year nearly 1.5 million women are the victims of domestic violence. Today I am proud to introduce the Violence Against Women Act of 1999. I am joined by Congresswomen CONSTANCE A. MORELLA and LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, along with 89 other original co-sponsors. Together, we take the first step that will make America safer for women.

Nearly 5 years ago, Congress passed the original Violence Against Women Act. In the original legislation, funding was provided for battered women's shelters and rape crisis centers as well as establishing a domestic violence hotline. Now we must work to continue those commitments.

I am hopeful for passage of this legislation in the 106th Congress. Last year, significant portions of this legislation were unanimously agreed to by the House of Representatives as an amendment to the Child Protection and Sexual Predators Punishment Act of 1998. I feel confident that this Congress can see fit to not only follow that lead, but do even more for victims of sexual abuse, domestic violence and rape.

One of the key titles of this landmark legislation is Violence Against Women and the Workplace. This section establishes a grant for a national clearinghouse and resource center to provide information and assistance to employers and labor organizations in their efforts to develop and implement responses to assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Also found in this section is a tax credit for businesses implementing workplace

safety programs to combat violence against women as well as establishing Victim's Employment Rights which prohibits employers from taking adverse job actions against an employee because they are the victim of violence.

The legislation makes important strides in improving the lives of not only women, but children as well. Title II, Limiting the Effects of Violence on Children, provides grants to create safe havens for children of victims of domestic violence. Children who witness domestic violence are at a high risk of anxiety and depression, and exhibit more aggressive, anti-social, inhibited and fearful behaviors. This title helps to ensure that children are protected from the effects of witnessing acts of domestic violence. Also, this title will provide funds to train child welfare workers to recognize the signs of domestic violence and sexual assault in the home.

Title III of VAWA '99 works to prevent sexual assault against women. It establishes a National Resource Center on Sexual Assault as well as increases funds for rape prevention and education. This title also includes the language of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act which amends federal hate crimes legislation to permit federal prosecution for bias crimes based on gender, sexual orientation, or disability. Furthermore, language concerning the prevention of custodial sexual assault by correctional staff will make sexual conduct between all prison custodial staff and inmates a federal crime and establish measures to ensure that those convicted of such crimes are prevented from becoming correctional staff in the future.

The Violence Against Women Act of 1999 includes other important provisions such as the rescheduling and classification of date-rape drugs; establishing grants for improved legal advocacy and representation of victims of sexual violence; and provisions to protect battered immigrant women.

Nearly one in every three adult women experience at least one physical assault by a partner during adulthood. I urge my colleagues to join me in the fight to protect women from sexual abuse and violence. I encourage all Members to become a co-sponsor of this legislation and work towards passage of the Violence Against Women Act of 1999.

THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT OF 1999

SECTION BY SECTION JANUARY 1999

TITLE I.—Continuing the Commitment of the Violence Against Women Act

Subtitle A. Law Enforcement and Prosecution Grants to Combat Violence Against Women—reauthorizes and amends STOP grants to increase funds and to ensure that domestic violence and sexual assault advocates are involved in planning and implementation of programs; proposes new formula—35% to victim services, 20% each to prosecution and law enforcement, 10% to state courts, and 15% discretionary with language to ensure that there will be no harm to existing programs.

Subtitle B. National Domestic Violence Hotline—reauthorizes funding for the National Domestic Violence Hotline; includes additional oversight and review prior to reauthorization.

Subtitle C. Battered Women's Shelters and Services—amends Family Violence Preven-

tion and Services Act to authorize \$1 billion to battered women's shelters over the next five years; includes additional oversight and review; caps spending for training and technical assistance by State coalitions with the remaining money going to domestic violence programs; adds new proposals for training and technical assistance; allots money for tribal domestic violence coalitions.

Subtitle D. Grants for Community Initiatives—reauthorizes and increases funding for grants for community initiatives; includes additional oversight.

Subtitle E. Education and Training for Judges and Court Personnel—reauthorizes funding for federal and state judicial training on violence against women; adds a training component on domestic violence and child abuse in custody determinations.

Subtitle F. Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies—reauthorizes funding for implementation of proarrest policies in domestic violence cases; coordinates computer tracking of cases to ensure communication among police, prosecution and courts; strengthens legal advocacy programs for victims; adds set-aside for tribes.

Subtitle G. Rural Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Enforcement—reauthorizes funding for the establishment of cooperative efforts among law enforcement, prosecutors and victim advocacy groups to provide investigation, prosecution, counseling, treatment, and education with respect to domestic violence and child abuse in rural communities; adds set-aside for tribes.

Subtitle H. National Stalker and Domestic Violence Reduction—reauthorizes funding for the improvement of local, State and national crime databases for tracking stalking and domestic violence.

Subtitle I. Federal Victims' Counselors—reauthorizes funding for Victim/Witness Counselors in the prosecution of sex crimes and domestic violence under federal law.

Subtitle J. Education and Prevention Grants to Reduce Sexual Abuse of Runaway, Homeless, and Street Youth—reauthorizes funding for street-based outreach, education, treatment counseling and referral of runaway, homeless, and street youth who have been abused or are at risk of abuse; includes additional oversight mechanisms.

Subtitle K. Victims of Child Abuse Programs—reauthorizes funding for Court-appointed Special Advocates for victims of child abuse, for training programs on child abuse for judicial personnel and attorneys, for closed-circuit televising and video taping of child testimony to protect the child from the trauma of facing the abuser in court; includes additional oversight mechanisms.

TITLE II.—Limiting the Effects of Violence on Children

Subtitle A. Safe Havens for Children—grants to establish and operate supervised visitation centers to facilitate child visitation and visitation exchange.

Subtitle B. Violence Against Women Prevention in Schools—grants to school systems to develop, modify and implement policies and programs in elementary, middle, and secondary schools which address domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

Subtitle C. Family Safety—amends the criminal component of the Parental Kidnaping Prevention Act (PKPA) to provide defenses in domestic violence and child sexual assault cases; amends the civil full faith and credit provisions of PKPA to include domestic violence, child sexual assault and stalking as factors in determining what state has jurisdiction of a custody case.

Subtitle D. Domestic Violence and Children—Sense of Congress calling for reforms

of States laws on domestic violence and child custody.

Subtitle E. Child Welfare Workers Training on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault—provides grants to enable child welfare service agencies to train staff and modify policies, procedures, and programs for the purpose of recognizing domestic violence and sexual assault as serious problems that threaten the safety and well-being of its child and adult victims.

Subtitle F. Child Abuse Accountability—permits private employee pension benefits to be assigned to satisfy a judgment against a person for physically, sexually or emotionally abusing a child.

TITLE III.—Sexual Assault Prevention

Subtitle A. Rape Prevention Education—establishes a National Resource Center on Sexual Assault; increases funds for rape prevention and education; helps States provide technical assistance, information dissemination and educational programs; allots money for the creation of tribal sexual assault coalitions.

Subtitle B. Standards of Practice and Training for Sexual Assault Examinations—directs the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to evaluate existing standards of training, practice and payment of forensic examinations and to recommend a national protocol.

Subtitle C. Violence Against Women Training for Health Professions—amends Title VII and Title VIII of the Public Health Services Act to give priority in funding to medical and training programs that require students to be trained in identifying, treating, and referring patients who are the victims of domestic violence or sexual assault.

Subtitle D. Prevention of Custodial Sexual Assault by Correctional Staff—directs the Attorney General to establish guidelines regarding the prevention of custodial sexual misconduct in prisons; prohibits individuals who have been convicted of or found civilly liable for sexual misconduct from becoming correctional staff; criminalizes sexual conduct between correctional staff and prisoners.

Subtitle E. Hate Crimes Prevention—amends federal hate crimes legislation to permit federal prosecution for bias crimes based on gender, sexual orientation, and disability; funds additional FBI and law enforcement personnel to assist State and local law enforcement.

Subtitle F. Rescheduling and Classification of Date-Rape Drugs—directs the Attorney General to amend the Controlled Substances Act by transferring flunitrazepam to schedule I and by adding Gamma gamma-hydroxybutyrate to schedule I and ketamine hydrochloride to schedule III.

Subtitle G. Access to Safety and Advocacy for Victims of Sexual Assault—makes grants available to enhance safety and justice for victims of sexual violence through access to the justice system and improved legal advocacy and representation.

TITLE IV.—Domestic Violence Prevention

Subtitle A. Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Victims' Housing—amends the McKinney Homeless Assistance Act to make funding available for transitional housing services for domestic violence victims, including rental assistance for battered women seeking to establish permanent housing separate from their abuser.

Subtitle B. Full Faith and Credit for Protection Orders—clarifies VAWA's full faith and credit provisions to ensure meaningful enforcement by States and Tribes; provides

grants to States and Tribes to improve enforcement and record keeping; reduces Byrne grants to law enforcement for failure to comply with the 1994 VAWA's full faith and credit provisions with significant safeguards to allow law enforcement to come into compliance before a penalty is assessed.

Subtitle C. Victims of Abuse Insurance Protection—prohibits discrimination in issuing and administering insurance policies to victims of domestic violence with uniform protection from insurance discrimination.

Subtitle D. National Summit on Sports and Violence—Sense of Congress that a national summit of sports, community, and media leaders with expertise in anti-violence advocacy and youth advocacy should be convened to develop a plan to deter acts of violence.

Subtitle E. Keeping Firearms from Intoxicated Persons—adds intoxication to the list of grounds for prohibiting sale of firearms.

Subtitle F. Access to Safety and Advocacy—issues grants to provide legal assistance, lay advocacy and referral services to victims of domestic violence who have inadequate access to sufficient financial resources for appropriate legal assistance; includes set-aside for tribes.

Subtitle G. Strengthening Enforcement to Reduce Violence Against Women—amends the Interstate Domestic Violence Statute to make it a crime to commit domestic violence or to violate a protection order in the course of travel in interstate commerce; criminalizes stalking in the course of travel in interstate commerce.

Subtitle H. Disclosure Protections—protects victims fleeing domestic violence from disclosure of their whereabouts through the federal child support locator service.

TITLE V.—Violence Against Women in the Military System

Subtitle A. Civilian Jurisdiction for Crimes of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence—makes an employee or dependant of the military who commits an act while outside the United States that would be a punishable domestic violence or sexual assault offense if perpetrated within the United States subject to the same punishment as if it had been committed in the United States.

Subtitle B. Transitional Compensation and Health Care for Abused Dependents of Members of the Armed Forces—allows a resumption of transitional compensation benefits to an abused dependant who temporarily reconciles with the batterer.

Subtitle C. Confidentiality of Records—directs the Secretary of Defense to adopt regulations that provide confidentiality of communications between a military dependent who is a victim of sexual harassment, sexual assault or domestic violence and the victim's therapist, counselor, or advocate.

TITLE VI.—Preventing Violence Against Women in Underserved Communities

Subtitle A. Older Women's Protection from Violence—authorizes law school clinical programs on domestic violence against older women; authorizes training programs for law enforcement offices, social services and health providers on domestic violence against older women; authorizes community initiatives to combat domestic violence against older women; authorizes outreach programs targeted to older women who are victims of domestic violence.

Subtitle B. Protection Against Violence and Abuse for Women with Disabilities—ensures inclusion of women with disabilities in existing domestic violence and sexual assault programs; provides for judicial training

on issues of violence against women with disabilities; authorizes training program for social service and health care providers; authorizes research and technical assistance to service providers.

Subtitle C. Battered Immigrant Women—Allows for adjustment of status for VAWA self-petitioners; prevents changes in abuser's status from undermining victim's petitions; provides for numerous waivers and exceptions to inadmissibility for VAWA eligible applicants; improves access to VAWA for battered immigrant women whose spouse is a member of the armed forces, who are married to bigamists, and/or are the victims of elder abuse; allows for discretionary waivers for good moral character determinations; removes public charge for VAWA applicants; gives VAWA applicants access to work authorization; allows VAWA applicants access to food stamps, housing and legal services; trains judges, immigration officials, armed forces supervisors and police on VAWA immigration provisions.

Subtitle D. Conforming Amendments to the Violence Against Women Act—amends the definitions of underserved in the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act and the Omnibus Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act in order to create consistent use of the term.

TITLE VII.—Violence Against Women and the Workplace

Subtitle A. National Clearinghouse on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and the Workplace Grant—establishes a clearinghouse and resource center to give information and assistance to employers and labor organizations in their efforts to develop and implement responses to assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Subtitle B. Victims' Employment Rights—prohibits employers from taking adverse job actions against an employee because they are the victim of violent crime.

Subtitle C. Workplace Violence Against Women Prevention Tax Credit—provides tax credits to businesses implementing workplace safety programs to combat violence against women.

Subtitle D. Battered Women's Employment Protection—ensures eligibility for unemployment compensation to women separated from their jobs due to circumstances directly resulting from domestic violence; requires employers who already provide leave to employees to allow employees to use that leave for the purpose of dealing with domestic violence and its aftermath; allows women to use their family and medical leave or existing leave under State law or a private benefits program to deal with domestic abuse, including going to the doctor for domestic violence injuries, seeking legal remedies, including court appearances, seeking orders of protection or meeting with a lawyer; provides for training of personnel involved in assessing unemployment claims based on domestic violence.

Subtitle E. Education and Training Grants to Promote Responses to Violence Against Women—authorizes grants for developing, testing, presenting and disseminating model programs to provide education and training to individuals who are likely to come in contact with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in the course of their employment, including campus personnel, justice system professionals (including guardians ad litem, probation, parole and others), mental health professionals, clergy, caseworkers, supervisors, administrators and administrative law judges who are involved in federal and state benefit programs.

Subtitle F. Workers' Compensation—Sense of Congress that worker's compensation benefits should be provided to women that have been injured in the workplace, including full compensation for physical and non-physical injuries, and that women who survive crimes such as rape, domestic violence and sexual assault at work should be able to pursue other legal actions, based on the employers role in the workplace violence.

TITLE VIII.—Violence Against Women Intervention, Prevention and Educational Research

Directs the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a multi-agency task force to coordinate research on violence against women; provides grants to support research on causes of violence against women and the effectiveness of education, prevention and intervention programs; provides grants to address gaps in research on violence against women, particularly violence against women in underserved communities and instances where domestic violence is a factor in a divorce/child custody case; mandates a study and report by the U.S. Sentencing Commission on sentences given in crimes of domestic violence; issues grants to conduct research on the experiences of women and girls in the health care, judicial and social services systems who become pregnant as a result of sexual assault; authorizes a study and report on the uniformity of laws among States and their effectiveness in prosecuting rape and sexual assault offenses; directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General to establish three research centers to develop and coordinate research on violence against women.

TRIBUTE TO FLORA WALKER

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Flora Walker, Past President of Michigan's American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 25 on the occasion of her retirement.

Flo Walker has served this organization as President with dedication and devotion for the past six years, and will be honored at a retirement tribute on January 29, 1999. While at the helm she has contributed to building a strong and united statewide Council, and forgoing a renewal of solidarity and unity of purpose.

Under Flo Walker's leadership, numerous programs and initiatives were developed which look toward the 21st century. These include streamlining and updating the Arbitration Department; overhauling the entire Council 25's legal operation; adding more Council servicing staff and new computer equipment, and developing a new Web page.

Flo Walker has led the Council in the purchase of an additional building in Flint, the Organizing Annex, and the former Chamber of Commerce Building in Detroit. The Detroit building includes an auditorium, and a radio/television studio.

And the list goes on with the expansion of Council 25's Education Department, offering seminars and workshops for its members, and instituting an annual charitable golf outing to