

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

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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