

is another deadly vital threat that has been wreaking havoc domestically and internationally. That threat is the scourge of HIV/AIDS.

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While our Nation and its global neighbors have undertaken a campaign to stave off the threats of terrorism poised by ideological fanatics, millions have died and millions are suffering from HIV/AIDS. Their plight is there. Yet global concerns revolve around potential terrorism. Perhaps that is because the specter of 6,000 lives lost to terrorist acts still looms large. However, the reality is that HIV/AIDS has claimed the lives of over 25 million people including an estimated 4 million children, most of whom live in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The global AIDS crisis in Africa is without question the most vexing humanitarian crisis in recent history. The statistics are shocking and alarming. Eight thousand people died from AIDS every day last year and six people died every minute. Fifty-eight million people have been infected since the virus was first recognized 20 years ago. Recent projections are that the total will exceed 100 million by 2007. These numbers are mind-boggling. As a mother and grandmother, I am struck by the fact that AIDS has orphaned over 10 million children in Africa. By 2010 there would be more than 40 million AIDS orphans. Therefore, proactive measures must be initiated.

I and many of my colleagues in a bipartisan way responded to the challenge put before us. On September 5, I introduced the Peace Corps HIV/AIDS Training Enhancement Act of 2001. This legislation provides an additional \$5 million to the Peace Corps to pay for health volunteers working with HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention efforts, particularly the training of HIV/AIDS trainers. Currently, there are 7,300 Peace Corps volunteers who work in 76 countries worldwide including 25 countries in Africa; 1,431 of these Peace Corps members are health volunteers who serve in Africa.

The volunteers work in rural and urban settings in a variety of health activities, including teaching HIV/AIDS education and prevention methodologies to local people. The Peace Corps would like to increase its capacity in HIV/AIDS education and prevention activities, especially in the area of training HIV/AIDS trainers; but it cannot do so without this additional appropriation.

I believe that Peace Corps volunteers work and perform God's work. They are the vanguards of humanitarian efforts in the struggle to eradicate HIV/AIDS. The volunteers' efforts target training literate peer educators and community health workers who will be training others in the community. Their work is commendable and crit-

ical. Much of their work is targeted in Sub-Saharan Africa where 25 percent of the population may be infected. They have to garner the trust of the people in the community and then work to establish the building blocks necessary to transform the attitudes and behavior of at-risk populations, especially children and women.

Their messages are directed at people living with HIV as well as those who are not currently infected. Children are the focus because they are impressionable and vulnerable. Young African American girls must be educated because they are more likely to contract HIV and AIDS than young boys of the same age, and that goes for African kids too.

Peace Corps volunteers are the front line because reality is that new drugs are expensive and not usually available throughout Africa. Additionally, the infrastructure does not exist for monitoring the immune system of victims overcome by the disease who are undertreated. That is why we must use the human factor, Peace Corps volunteers, to stem the pandemic of HIV/AIDS.

The Peace Corps HIV/AIDS Training Enhancement Act of 2001 can be a useful tool in transforming the plight of many throughout the world. We are all members of a global village that is interdependent. Consequently, global threats in different forms such as terrorism, bioterrorism and the global pandemic of HIV/AIDS must be fought on many fronts simultaneously. We must be vigilant on all fronts.

CARING FOR THE ORPHANS OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PLATTS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on September 11 Americans witnessed carnage and harrowing images that will be imprinted forever in our memory. These acts of terror helped Americans grow stronger. But as we pull together to rebuild our Nation and work toward a heightened sense of security to restore our lives, we must not forget the thousands of children who lost a parent or a guardian in the September 11 attacks. All the money and all the services in the world could never replace the loss of their loved ones, but although money cannot heal their scars, the passage of House Con. Resolution 228 can help begin to bandage their deep wounds.

I am a proud original co-sponsor of H. Con. Res. 228, a resolution which calls for the immediate benefits for children who lost one or both parents or guardians in the multiple tragedies. This legislation, which is being spearheaded by my friend, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), will ensure

the children of September 11 attacks will receive foster care, medical assistance and psychological services, all of which they so desperately need.

As co-chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) and I recently held a briefing to discuss the need to prioritize Federal services and benefits for these children. Ron Houle of the American Red Cross, Dr. Bernard Arons from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and Cindy Friedmutter of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute in New York were among the many speakers who informed us on their ability to deliver services to these children.

But most touching of all was the testimony of Merino Calderon and two of his children, Naomi, 4 years old and Nephtali, who is 20 months old. Their children were with us that day. And Merino, a school bus driver lost his beloved wife. His two children lost obviously their mother at the World Trade Center. Merino shared with us the difficulty of having to answer to his children every day the questions that they pose to him: "When is mommy coming back? When is she taking us to the park again?"

He is emotionally exhausted and his financial situation is increasingly difficult. But, Mr. Speaker, Merino Calderon is one of the fortunate ones because his daughter is receiving counseling, as he is as well. But his loving church and his loving church family have many other church-goers who have not had the ability to get this assistance. Many surviving family members and particularly children of the September 11 attack have yet to receive the benefits they need.

Children who lost a parent or a guardian in this national tragedy need psychological and other services right now. So I ask my colleagues to co-sponsor and work towards passage of H. Con. Res. 228 because, although we will remember September 11, it is for the children for whom we will pass this bill because we will not forget them and we will not forget the sacrifices that their parents have made for our country.

FOOD AID FOR AFGHANS

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

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I know the American people want to help the suffering people of Afghanistan. And I am sorry to say that we already stand condemned by Medecins Sans Frontieres for conducting nothing more than a propaganda campaign regarding our food drops.

Our brave young men and women are risking their lives to deliver this food, and how will we be judged, however, by this latest blunder?