

been staunch advocates and compassionate caregivers to the citizens of the Granite State living with mental illness. Working as counselors with The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester, they have provided care to many individuals struggling with a variety of afflictions. After 20 years with the center Peter Janelle took the helm as President and CEO, helping to launch a number of programs focused on not only treatment, but vocational services, supportive living techniques, and illness management. These programs aim to promote wellness and independence for the center's patients, to empower them to manage their mental illness and be productive, contributing members of the community.

Peter has also worked tirelessly with other providers and organizations from across New Hampshire to offer care to those most in need and support the community of mental health professionals in the state. Whether working with patients and staff at NH Hospital, local law enforcement or with local schools he has helped to expand and develop the reach of the services offered by the center to give care to people of all ages from children to seniors, and addressing the need for treatment and care for small behavioral problems and mild depression, to treatment for Alzheimer's, psychosis and schizophrenia. The result of these efforts has enabled the center to provide care to almost 11,000 patients a year.

The work that both Peter and Maureen have done in the field of mental illness is not an easy job, and the success and accomplishments they have been able to achieve in their service to The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester is truly remarkable. I applaud and thank them for devoting their life's work to this worthy and much needed field, and for all they have contributed to New Hampshire and especially the City of Manchester.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this morning, Israelis—whether sitting at their desks, playing on the beach, or driving on a busy highway—came to a complete standstill as sirens rang out across the small country to commemorate the horrors of the Holocaust and the six million Jews systematically murdered by the Nazi regime.

I join the global Jewish community in remembering those we lost and honoring those who survived to carry on the proud traditions of the Jewish people. On this Yom Hashoa, Holocaust Remembrance Day, let us all recommit ourselves to preserving the memory of the past while working to build a better future. As the number of Holocaust survivors continues to diminish it becomes increasingly incumbent upon future generations to never forget.

THE GOLDMAN ACT TO RETURN ABDUCTED AMERICAN CHILDREN: REVIEWING OBAMA ADMINISTRATION IMPLEMENTATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last month I held a hearing to continue and increase attention on international parental child abduction, whose victims include primarily children denied the love and attention of one of their parents, and parents cut off from the children they love.

Every year, approximately 1,000 American children are unlawfully removed from their homes by one of their parents and taken across international borders. Less than half of these children ever come home.

Most of the left-behind parents in the audience at last month's hearing have not seen their children in years and know all too well the financial, legal, cultural, and linguistic obstacles to bringing their children home from a foreign country. Many of them had already been through U.S. judicial proceedings prior to the abduction, and the courts had settled custody and visitation, only to have a kidnapping spouse defy a court order. Other parents were caught completely by surprise when a spouse's vacation turned into an abduction, a phone call in the middle of the night telling them that would never again see their child.

Their suffering is exponentially compounded by knowledge of the pain caused to their child by the separation. Child abduction is child abuse. Parentally-abducted children are at risk of serious emotional and psychological problems, and may experience anxiety, eating problems, nightmares, mood swings, sleep disturbances, aggressive behavior, resentment, guilt, and fearfulness.

These young victims, like their left-behind parents, are American citizens who need the help of their government when normal legal processes are unavailable or have failed.

In 1983, the United States ratified the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction to try to address abduction and access. This convention creates a civil framework for the quick return of abducted children and for rights of access for left-behind parents. Absent extenuating circumstances, the child, or children, are to be returned within 6 weeks to his or her country of habitual residence for the courts there to decide on custody, or to enforce any previous custody determinations.

The Convention has helped return some children but implementation has been unpredictable and spotty at best. Susceptible to abuse by taking parents or judges who either don't understand their obligations under the Convention or are unwilling to abide by them, the Convention has too often been stretched to provide cover for the abduction, rather than recovery of the child.

Some Hague Convention parties are simply not enforcing legitimate return orders. The State Department's 2014 Hague Convention Compliance Report highlights four countries—Brazil, Mexico, Romania, and Ukraine—that habitually fail to enforce return orders. Other countries—Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras,

and the Bahamas—are non-compliant with the Convention.

In other words, abducted American children are not coming home from these countries and so many other countries where the Convention operates weakly, or with which the U.S. has no bilateral agreement of any kind.

To give one more example, Jeffery Morehouse a left behind parent testified that "there have been 400 cases of U.S. children kidnapped to Japan since 1994." We do not know of a single case, however, in which the Government of Japan has issued and enforced an order for the return of an abducted child to the United States.

And, I must emphasize, that since they have signed the Hague, Japan's efforts have been breathtakingly unresponsive especially for abductions that occurred prior to their ratification of the Hague Convention.

Mr. Morehouse testified that, "one year ago next week, at the very moment Japan acceded to the Hague Abduction Convention, parents joined us to hand-deliver 30 Article 21 Access applications (I joined those parents at the Japanese Embassy) . . . none of the BAC Home parents have received access to their kidnapped children. Japan's implementation of the Hague Abduction Convention is an abysmal failure. Sanctions under the Goldman Act will provide some of the necessary public pressures on Japan to create change to this ongoing human and family rights crisis."

The status quo is simply unacceptable.

Over the last 5 years, many of those at the hearing helped me write and pass through the Congress the Sean and David Goldman Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act. Last month's hearing occurs more than seven months after the Goldman Act became law and gave us an opportunity to hear from the State Department and parents whether the bill's key provisions are being implemented according to the law.

A brief refresher on Sean and David: David Goldman spent over 5 agonizing years trying to legally rescue his son, Sean, from an abduction to Brazil, which is a signatory nation, like the United States, to the Hague Abduction Convention.

Despite Mr. Goldman's airtight case that demonstrated an egregious example of both child abduction and wrongful retention, the Hague treaty was unavailing, and the outcomes in the Brazilian courts largely proved infuriating, infirm, and ineffective.

David Goldman waged his case by the book and won judgments in the New Jersey courts. Yet both Sean and David were made to suffer emotional pain for over half a decade as one delaying ploy after another was employed by the abducting party. In the end, because of the father's abiding love for his son and an indomitable will, the Goldmans today are united and happy.

To underscore: the Goldman Act was not intended to simply reform the system, but to bring about a fundamental sea change in U.S. diplomacy so that State Department officials would see themselves as advocates for the return of abducted American children.

Now under the Goldman Act, when a country fails to appropriately address an abduction case pending more than 12 months, the law requires the Secretary of State to take action. When a country has more than 30% of its U.S. cases pending for more than a year, the law requires the Secretary of State to designate the country as "Non-Compliant" in an annual report, and take action.