

INTRODUCTION OF THE FIRE
SAFETY EDUCATION ACT

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 1995

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Fire Services caucus, I am proud to introduce the Fire Safety Education Act.

Every 113 minutes, this Nation incurs a civilian fire death. Every 17 minutes, this Nation incurs a civilian fire death. Every 17 minutes, this Nation incurs a civilian fire injury. On average each year, we lose about 6,000 lives, experience 29,000 civilian injuries and incur several billion dollars in property losses. These are bone-chilling statistics which should concern all of us. I believe, in many instances, these fire-related losses probably could have been avoided had the individuals affected received proper fire safety education. All too often, we all read stories in the paper about innocent children burning to death in a home without a smoke alarm or about the senseless death of fires started by children playing with matches or adults not adequately putting out cigarettes. I have introduced the Fire Safety Education Act to help avoid these types of occurrences in the future.

This legislation will create a grant program through the U.S. Fire Administration for State and local fire prevention efforts. Half of the grant money in the bill is designated for established fire prevention programs which have demonstrated success. The bill will encourage communities to continue their fire prevention programs by offering Federal assistance if they do so.

In addition to encouraging fire prevention grants, the Fire Safety Education Act also seeks to improve our country's collection and analysis of fire data. The bill also sets recording requirements so that we can be sure Federal and local resources are being used efficiently.

It is extremely important that we provide resources to help combat our Nation's fire problem. This bill serves as a preventive measure which will move us a step closer to achieving our goal of preventing senseless loss of life and property.

THE SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE
BUSINESS PRACTICES ACT OF 1995

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 1995

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, we do not have to sacrifice our principles for profit. Corporations can look beyond the bottom line to ensure that decent human and worker rights are guaranteed to their foreign workers.

Some U.S. corporations, like Levi Strauss have articulated socially responsible policies and provided active oversight over these standards. They have shown that their considerable economic and social influence can be a force for positive change.

Yet, many multinationals have not joined the movement to promote corporate responsibility. There are cases in some U.S. affiliated factories abroad, where children as young as five

toil for more than 12 hours and less than 20 cents a day. In other instances, contractors are found to combine warehouse, workplace, and dormitory facilities contributing to dangerous and inhumane working and living conditions. We can and must do better.

Today, 25 of my colleagues are joining me in reintroducing The Socially Responsible Business Practices Act of 1995. This bill calls for a voluntary code of conduct based on internationally recognized principles to ensure that U.S. foreign investment remains competitive while also creating a socially responsible climate for trade and investment.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation to ensure that international trade and investment is a positive force in all countries—not a license to exploit workers.

A JOURNEY FOR PERMANENT
PEACE

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to share with my colleagues an article penned by Camelia Anwar Sadat, the daughter of slain Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. The subject of her writing concerns a program called Givat Haviva, which Ms. Sadat recently became acquainted with in her first trip to Israel.

The Givat Haviva Institute is an educational foundation program whose purpose is bringing Arab and Jewish children together to learn how to live in a united future. Education of the youth is crucial to the future of peace in that troubled region.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I want to commend this article, initially printed in the Boston Globe, to my colleagues, and ask that it be inserted at this point into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Boston Globe, Dec. 30, 1994]

THE KEY TO MIDEAST PEACE

(By Camelia Anwar Sadat)

Middle East peace has been a dream that my father worked for and paid for with his life, and ever since, I have dedicated my life to this cause.

It wasn't until recently, however, that I made my first trip to Israel; the time was finally right for me to follow in my father's historic footsteps. Had I gone earlier I would have created a conflict. Those who did not accept my father or Camp David would not have accepted me. But now treaties are being signed, and the dreams of our forefathers are close to being fulfilled.

However, recent events demonstrate an overriding ambivalence to the benefits of peace—the Israeli Cabinet is debating whether it will withdraw troops from the West Bank as promised; a recent Jerusalem report noted that Jordanians are reticent about welcoming Israelis into their communities.

In order for peace to succeed in the Middle East, there must be a foundation for understanding and acceptance. This can be realized only through education—the vehicle for lasting peace in the region. As the leaders of the peace process have made clear time after time, the people who are living by the treaties must change the way they live and think.

Today's children—the keepers of future peace—must be taught how to nurture the

peace their predecessors began. It is up to today's leaders to ensure that those who will lead in the future receive the tools necessary to strengthen the fraternity between Arabs and Jews. They must learn how to coexist in a solid, integrated society.

War and violence are still fresh in the minds of those of us who have experienced its brutality. Indeed, violence has been a daily occurrence for generations. Now the generations must learn how to tolerate coexistence and different ways to settle disputes.

Although no peace treaty has addressed the fundamental issue of education, successful programs are bringing Arab and Jewish children together to learn how to live in a united future.

One of the most successful programs is the Givat Haviva. Since the Givat Haviva Institute was established in 1949, Jews and Arabs have had the opportunity to participate in programs that advance and protect democratic values and peace.

At Givat Haviva, I watched Arab and Jewish children teach each other and learn how to coexist. I saw young people, their parents and teachers being given survival tolls to move forward toward new and beneficial vistas.

I observed the next generation of Arabs and Jews preparing to come to age during a new time of peace and understanding. It was thrilling to take part in the peace process started 14 years ago by Menachem Begin, Jimmy Carter and my father. I observed harmony between Arab and Jew.

Now, with the dramatic, meaningful and lasting changes that are occurring in the Middle East, I want to help ensure that the message of yesterday's leaders is not forgotten during this great era of opportunity.

When my father went to Israel in 1977, a wall came down for me, a wall that prevented me from seeing many things—most importantly, a wall that blocked me from seeing Jews and Israelis as anything but enemies. Today's leaders must realize that this wall still blocks the vision of many Arabs and Jews. It is only through education that a lasting peace will flourish.

My life has been surrounded by war. My sisters were married to army officers. My uncles served in the army. My cousins marched off to war. My life was not so different from the Israelis. They, too, have been surrounded by war. They, too, watched loved ones march off and die for peace. Many who died in the violence of the Middle East shared a vision—a vision of a peaceful future for us, their children.

My father gave his life for peace. Only through such programs as Givat Haviva, which is educating our children on how to live in peace, can the memories of all who died for this cause be best remembered.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "PUBLIC
HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT OF
1995"

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 1995

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the "Public Health and Safety Act of 1995." This legislation, also introduced last Congress by Senator JOHN CHAFFEE and myself, would prohibit the transfer or possession of handguns and handgun ammunition, except in limited circumstances. It would go a long way toward protecting our citizens from violent crime.