

these areas. The department of Agriculture estimates that Iraq alone represents a \$1 billion market for American farm goods. Given our status as one of the world's largest agricultural producers, why would we ever choose to restrict our exports? The only beneficiaries of our sanctions policies are our foreign competitors.

Still, support for sanctions continues in Congress. The House International Relations committee last week considered legislation that will extend existing economic sanctions against Iran and Libya for another 5 years. While I certainly oppose this legislation, I did agree with the President that we should at least limit the time period to 2 years, so that Congress could reassess the policy sooner. I introduced an amendment to this effect, but the majority of committee members voted to continue "punishing" Iran and Libya for 5 years; presumably some members would agree to maintain sanctions indefinitely. Interestingly, the bill focuses on preventing oil exploration and development in the region, even when new sources of oil are sorely needed to reduce prices at the pump for American consumers.

I certainly understand the emotional feelings many Americans have toward nations such as Iran, Iraq, Libya, and Cuba. Yet we must not let our emotions overwhelm our judgment in foreign policy matters, because ultimately human lives are at stake. For example, 10 years of trade sanctions against Iraq, not to mention aggressive air patrols and even bombings, have not ended Saddam Hussein's rule. If anything, the political situation has worsened, while the threat to Kuwait remains. The sanctions have, however, created suffering due to critical shortages of food and medicine among the mostly poor inhabitants of Iraq. So while the economic benefits of trade are an important argument against sanctions, we must also consider the humanitarian argument. Our sanctions policies undermine America's position as a humane nation, bolstering the common criticism that we are a bully with no respect for people outside our borders. Economic common sense, self-interested foreign policy goals, and humanitarian ideals all point to the same conclusion: Congress should work to end economic sanctions against all nations immediately.

The legislation I introduce today is representative of true free trade in that while it opens trade, it prohibits the U.S. Taxpayer from being compelled to subsidize the United States government, the Cuban government or individuals or entities that choose to trade with Cuban citizens.

I submit for inclusion in the record, a copy of the Sense of Congress Resolution passed in Austin in late June.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 54

Whereas, The relationship between the United States and Cuba has long been marked by tension and confrontation; further heightening this hostility is the 40-year-old United States trade embargo against the island nation that remains the longest-standing embargo in modern history; and

Whereas, Cuba imports nearly a billion dollars' worth of food every year, including approximately 1,100,000 tons of wheat, 420,000 tons of rice, 37,000 tons of poultry, and 60,000 tons of dairy products; these amounts are expected to grow significantly in coming years as Cuba slowly recovers from the severe economic recession it has endured following the withdrawal of subsidies from the former Soviet Union in the last decade; and

Whereas, Agriculture is the second-largest industry in Texas, and this state ranks among the top five states in overall value of agricultural exports at more than \$3 billion annually; thus, Texas is ideally positioned to benefit from the market opportunities that free trade with Cuba would provide; rather than depriving Cuba of agricultural products, the United States embargo succeeds only in driving sales to competitors in other countries that have no such restrictions; and

Whereas, In recent years, Cuba has developed important pharmaceutical products, namely, a new meningitis B vaccine that has virtually eliminated the disease in Cuba; such products have the potential to protect Americans against diseases that continue to threaten large populations around the world; and

Whereas, Cuba's potential oil reserves have attracted the interest of numerous other countries who have been helping Cuba develop its existing wells and search for new reserves; Cuba's oil output has increased more than 400 percent over the last decade; and

Whereas, The United States' trade, financial, and travel restrictions against Cuba hinder Texas' export of agricultural and food products, its ability to import critical energy products, the treatment of illnesses experienced by Texans, and the right of Texans to travel freely; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the 77th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to consider the removal of trade, financial, and travel restrictions relating to Cuba; and, be it further

*Resolved*, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the congress of the United States of America.

#### 45TH ANTIOCHIAN ARCHDIOCESE CONVENTION

**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 26, 2001*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and send my personal greetings to all those gathered for the forty-fifth Archdiocese Convention of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. In welcoming the diverse spiritual leaders of the Church that are gathering together, I want to especially welcome His Excellency, Issam Fares, Deputy Prime Minister of Lebanon.

I would like to commend the Antiochian Archdiocese for using this convention to search for ways to help young people and families struggling with the challenges of our society. This biennial convention is an opportunity to share the history, cultural heritage and religious dedication of the members throughout North America. The work of Antiochian Orthodox Church through such programs as the International Orthodox Christian Charities, the bone marrow testing drive, health fairs and the Jerusalem Project, are the finest examples of the religious freedom that only we share in the United States.

I wish to congratulate the members of the Antiochian Orthodox community on their ef-

forts and wish them many years of success in their work throughout the United States.

#### RENEWAL OF THE IRAN LIBYA SANCTIONS ACT

**HON. MICHAEL FERGUSON**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 26, 2001*

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, it was not too long ago that Pan Am flight 103 left London's Heathrow airport for New York City on December 21, 1988. The plane was transporting 259 passengers, including students returning for the holidays, families eager to reunite with loved ones, tourists attempting to experience this great nation and business people on a routine trip.

Within an hour of takeoff, an explosion ripped through the plane and swiftly broke the aircraft into three pieces. The plane landed on the small Scottish town of Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 11 residents. If the delayed flight had taken off on time, the bomb would have most likely exploded over the Atlantic Ocean and we might not have ever known the cause of the accident.

Consequently, our government enacted the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA) on August 5, 1996, to address the acts of terrorism condoned by these countries. The law rightfully mandates sanctions against foreign investment in the petroleum sectors of Iran and Libya, as well as exports of weapons, oil equipment and aviation equipment to Libya in violation of United Nations Resolutions 748 and 883. ILSA has served to bring justice to the culprits of these acts of terrorism.

Since then, a Libyan terrorist intelligence officer was found guilty of murder for his involvement in the Pan Am 103 explosion. Despite the conviction of this culprit affiliated with the Libyan government and further evidence indicating that regime's involvement, Libya still refuses to acknowledge any connection to the bombing or pay compensation to the families of the victims.

Today, the behavior that led the United States to take such measures against Iran in the first place has not improved, but grown even more severe in the past year. Iran continues to condone terrorism and recklessly fund groups, such as the Hezbollah, HAMAS, and the Palestine Islamic Jihad, who partake in acts of violence against civilians. Most disturbing, Iran continues efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction—including nuclear, chemical, biological—and the missiles to deliver them.

The recent State Department Report on Patterns of Global Terrorism reiterates, "Iran remained the most active state sponsor of terrorism in 2000." The report also notes Iran has provided increasing support to numerous groups responsible for intentional attacks on civilians, while Iranian agencies "continue to be involved in the planning and the execution of terrorist acts." Moreover, Iran continues to provide funding, training and logistical assistance to a variety of radical groups in the Persian Gulf, Africa, Turkey and Central Asia.

For many years, Iran has been able to finance programs to acquire weapons of mass destruction and support terrorist activity through its energy exports, which are where