

employing logistical support vessels (LSVs) to refuel drug laden boats on the high seas.

(3) United States drug interdiction forces currently do not have this at-sea refueling capability.

(4) On June 29, 2005, the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources of the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives held a hearing entitled "Interrupting Narco-Terrorist Threats on the High Seas: Do We Have Enough Wind in Our Sails?"

(5) During the hearing, the acting United States Interdiction Coordinator (USIC), Ralph Utley, spoke of the substantial benefits to be gained if a maritime "oiler" ship were employed to support interdiction activities in the Eastern Pacific maritime transit zone.

(6) The Subcommittee was very interested to see that all witnesses representing the Department of Defense, the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), the United States Coast Guard, Customs and Border Protection, and the Drug Enforcement Administration testified that they believe the employment of a maritime oiler vessel would be an immediate improvement to United States interdiction operations in the transit zone.

(7) On any given day, United States and Allied forces seize an average of 100 kilograms of cocaine per ship when patrolling in the Eastern Pacific maritime transit zone.

(8) Each year, the United States Coast Guard estimates it loses 100 "ship-days" due to lengthy refueling trips to Central and South American countries. The United States Navy also faces similar refueling challenges.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2006 and \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2007 for the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) of the Department of State to purchase or lease a maritime refueling support vessel that is capable of refueling United States and allied warships and vessels employed in support of United States drug interdiction duties in the Eastern Pacific maritime transit zone.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 365, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER).

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I ask my colleagues for their support on this amendment which would authorize new resources for our drug interdiction efforts. I again want to commend the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) for his assistance in getting this much-needed help for drug interdiction throughout the world.

The amendment I propose seeks to build on the efforts of the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) by authorizing the State Department's Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, INL, to acquire a refueling vessel for the benefit of the U.S. and allied drug interdiction activities, such as the U.S. Coast Guard and Navy, operating in the eastern Pacific region. That would be the area on the west side of Mexico and as you come down through Central America.

According to testimony provided by the Coast Guard, Department of De-

fense, Office of National Drug Control Policy, and other agencies to the Government Reform Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources, which I chair, drug traffickers have increasingly pushed their routes into that area further and further west from landfall. U.S. vessels have no refueling capability in that area, often coming from San Diego, and thus cannot operate for any significant length of time.

The traffickers, by contrast, have developed their own sophisticated refueling system and can now simply bypass our interdiction forces. Today we face an almost unique situation in drug interdiction history. We now have more intelligence about drug trafficking than assets to act on it, meaning that we have to watch helplessly while some shipments of poisonous narcotics are brought to the U.S.

The testimony provided to the subcommittee by Federal agencies has indicated that the acquisition of a refueling vessel would be of significant benefit in stopping this gaping hole. By allowing Coast Guard and other ships to carry out longer patrols in the eastern Pacific region, we will no longer be at such major logistical disadvantage vis-a-vis the drug kingpins.

Moreover, although the amendment authorizes up to \$25 million for the refueler, it also authorizes INL to purchase or lease the vessel, thus allowing INL to obtain this vital asset at the lowest cost.

Again, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) for his leadership and support in the fight against drug trafficking, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, although I do not oppose the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment. It is of critical importance that the United States not be outgunned or outmaneuvered by narcotics traffickers either in the streets of our towns or on the high seas.

It is very disturbing to learn that drug traffickers are in fact developing their own navies with at-sea refueling capabilities for their drug cargo vessels, yet our own Coast Guard is not similarly equipped when it hunts and pursues these deep water vessels in the eastern Pacific.

This amendment will authorize \$50 million for the next two fiscal years to the Department of State International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Bureau to purchase or lease a maritime refueling support vessel to refuel U.S. Coast Guard and other drug interdiction vessels in the eastern Pacific. In

the drug war, unilateral disarmament is the worst position to be in. I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume to engage in a colloquy with the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. CHAIRMAN, I would like to seek the support of the chairman in acquiring three cables from the State Department: one cable from the U.S. Embassy in Kabul describing the lack of assistance from the Afghan government on heroin trade, and two cables from the U.S. Embassy in Bogota regarding lack of U.S. support thus far for the demobilization program.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SOUDER. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I want to assure the gentleman that the committee stands ready to work with the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) to ensure that he gets the cables he has requested. It is an important part of the gentleman's work and our Congressional oversight function. We will work very closely with the gentleman on this.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) again, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for their support on these amendments. It is important that we have a bipartisan effort to send a message, whether it is to methamphetamine traffickers, pseudoephedrine, cocaine traffickers around the world, or heroin traffickers in Afghan. The fact is we lose 20,000 to 30,000 Americans every year to drug deaths. Because they do not happen on the same day at the same place, it is not as dramatic as what happened on 9/11, but they are still dead.

I thank the leadership of the committee for their support on these important amendments so we can, in a bipartisan way, make a dent in this terrible scourge, drug use.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. The Committee will rise informally to receive a message.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MANZULLO) assumed the Chair.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 AND 2007

The Committee resumed its sitting.

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 12 printed in part B of House Report 109-175.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 12 offered by Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

Page 191, line 8, insert "repair and rehabilitation" before "activities".

Page 191, beginning line 14, insert the following new clause (and redesignate subsequent clauses accordingly):

"(i) increased access for women to emergency obstetrical care, including increased access to skilled birth attendants and care facilities."

Page 191, beginning line 21, insert the following new subparagraph (and redesignate the subsequent subparagraphs accordingly):

"(D) Each center established pursuant to subparagraph (A) may carry out the following prevention activities:"

Page 191, line 21, redesignate clause (iii) as clause (i).

Page 192, line 10, strike "(i) and (ii)" and insert "(i), (ii), and (iii)".

Page 192, strike lines 1 through 5, and insert the following new clause:

"(ii) Activities to expand abstinence education, postponement of marriage and child-bearing until after the teenage years, and activities to expand access to family planning services for the prevention of pregnancies among women whose age or health status place them at high risk of prolonged or obstructed childbirth."

Page 192, beginning line 23, strike "\$5,000,000 for each such fiscal year" and insert "\$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2006 and \$7,500,000 for fiscal year 2007".

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 365, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, for several years now I have pushed USAID and the Congress to establish a program to assist women who suffer from obstetric fistula. According to the USAID, an estimated 2 million women suffer needlessly from fistula and from 50,000 to 100,000 new cases are added every year, mostly in Africa.

Fistula occurs during obstetric labor, which sometime damages soft tissues. The destroyed tissues leave a hole or fistula in the pelvic floor area which causes incontinence. Tragically, the constant leaking of urine and feces leads to sickness, desertion by husbands and family, extreme social isolation, and poverty. Who are vulnerable, according to the USAID, very young mothers, women experiencing their first birth, women whose growth has

been stunted due to malnutrition or illness, and poor women who lack access to the most basic of obstetric services.

My amendment and the underlying language in H.R. 2601, section 901, that I put into the bill, establishes 12 centers for the treatment and prevention of obstetric fistula. Funding is authorized at \$5 million in 2006, and the amendment increases the authorization by \$2.5 million to \$7.5 million in fiscal year 2007.

Amazingly, for \$150 to a couple hundred dollars, a woman victimized by fistula can obtain a surgical repair that gives her back her life. No woman should be denied this minimal, life-saving surgical repair. My amendment requires that the centers include increased access for women to emergency obstetrical care, including increased access to skilled birth attendants and care facilities.

My amendment states that the centers may include activities to expand abstinence education, postponement of marriage and child bearing until after the teenage years, and access to family-planning services.

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During markup, an amendment was offered to exclude, and this would be the result of that language, certain faith-based health care providers who, while deeply committed to mitigating the pain of fistula, would be barred from receiving funds. I have been in contact with Dr. Kent Hill, the Acting Assistant Administrator for Global Health at USAID, and he concurs that my amendment is preferable and balanced because it permits inclusion of family planning programs, gives USAID the flexibility to get the job done, and is consistent with the conscience clause we secured through an amendment I inserted in Mr. HYDE's \$15 billion HIV/AIDS law.

Section 901 is a modest \$5 million in 2006, \$7.5 million in 2007, and we need to begin in earnest to give women who suffer the tragedy of fistula the basic care that they need.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. Mr. Chairman, women who develop fistula as a result of childbirth are often abandoned by their husbands, rejected by their communities, and forced to live in an isolated existence. For that reason I am very pleased that the State bill contains \$5 million for treatment of women with obstetric fistula and for fistula prevention services. The fistula prevention section of the bill was added in committee by an amendment that I sponsored that had enjoyed unanimous support, including support of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Because the fistula provision enjoyed strong bipartisan support in committee, I am disappointed that my

friend has chosen to offer this amendment. The Smith amendment establishes two tiers of fistula services to be carried out by clinics supported by the United States. Fistula repair and rehabilitation services are "mandatory," while fistula prevention services, including the provision of contraception, is considered "discretionary." Also, references to "contraceptives" have been removed.

Mr. Chairman, the most effective way to decrease the incidence of fistula is to ensure that 12-year-old girls in rural Africa and other young high-risk women do not get pregnant in the first place. For the life of me, I fail to understand why we would want to downgrade the attention paid in this bill to fistula prevention and remove any discussion of contraceptives. I understand the concerns raised by the gentleman from New Jersey that some faith-based hospitals do not wish, as a matter of conscience, to distribute contraceptives. I have no problem with that exemption.

But in order to deal with the faith-based hospitals, the entire fistula prevention section of the bill, which I authored in committee and, again, had the support of every member of the Committee International Relations, was accepted, including the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), it is a shame, Mr. Chairman, that this amendment is offered, and I therefore oppose this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and for his leadership.

It was absolutely everyone's understanding that this legislation to help prevent fistula would proceed with the language added in committee by the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) to expand access to contraception. It seems that the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) is intentionally eliminating all mention of contraception in this bill. What is going on? Why is he against birth control?

In the same week the House Press Secretary refuses to say, when asked publicly in a press conference, whether the President is opposed to contraception, the gentleman from New Jersey offers an amendment to delete birth control from the list of fistula preventative services. All of this while some pharmacists are denying women their birth control prescription. There is only one answer: Some Members on the other side of the aisle simply oppose access to birth control. And I just would like to ask my colleagues, what do they have against birth control?

This amendment will undermine one of the most effective methods of fistula