

other diseases. Together, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and related diseases are undermining agriculture production throughout Africa—aggravating disease with hunger.

This bill will address these global problems by authorizing \$15 billion to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, through a comprehensive five-year integrated strategy. This legislation will use these funds effectively by promoting inter-agency coordination, supporting the expansions of public/private partnerships, and using targeted programs that will especially benefit children and families affected by HIV/AIDS.

Of course we must continue to work aggressively to combat the spread of this disease here in the United States and to continue our efforts to research a cure and to aid our own countrymen afflicted with this terrible illness.

I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this vital legislation to attack one of the most significant threats to global health. I am pleased with the bill that the International Relations Committee passed, and I urge my colleagues to support his bill.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chairman, as a physician I am particularly concerned about terrible diseases like AIDS. I have great sympathy for those—in increasing numbers—who suffer and die around the world. The question is not whether each and every one of us is concerned or would like to do something about this terrible problem. The question is whether yet another massive government foreign aid program will actually do anything at all to solve the problem. The United States has been sending billions and billions of dollars overseas for decades to do fine-sounding things like “build democracy” and “fight drugs” and “end poverty.” Yet decades later we are told that in every category these things have actually gotten worse rather than better. Our money has disappeared into bank accounts of dictators and salaries for extremely well-paid consultants and U.S. Government employees. Yet we refuse to learn from these mistakes; we are about to make another multi-billion dollar mistake with this bill.

Though I have not been in favor of Federal Government funding of healthcare, if this money is going to be spent why shouldn't it be spent in this country, on American citizens? One legitimate function of government is to protect its citizens and taxpayers. Yet thousands of Americans who have contracted this terrible disease find themselves without any healthcare at all. Thousands of these Americans, as they become ill, are no longer able to work and therefore lose their insurance coverage. Drugs to treat the disease become impossible to afford; those with disease end up along and in misery. I seriously wonder whether negative perceptions of those at risk in this country do not drive this push to send billions abroad rather than address the disease here at home. I believe that if this money is to be spent it should be spent on Americans, regardless of what some may think about those high-risk groups.

Bills like the one we are considering today also force Americans to fund programs and organizations that many find morally objectionable, such as those that distribute condoms and perform abortion. While some amendments we are voting on today admirably seek to address some of these concerns, the fact remains that this bill even if amended unconstitutionally sends U.S. taxpayer money over-

seas and inappropriately engages in social engineering abroad. None of the amendments address the immorality of forcing Americans to fund organizations engaged in family planning, performing abortions, and distributing condoms. As Thomas Jefferson famously said, “To compel a man to furnish funds for the propagation of ideas he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical.” That is why I have introduced H.R. 1548, a bill to prohibit any Federal official from expending any Federal funds for any population control or population planning program or any family planning activity. What we are seeing today on the floor just underscores the need to pass H.R. 1548—to end this tyrannical and sinful practice of forcing Americans to pay for programs they believe to be immoral and evil.

Mr. Chairman, at a time when the government is running record deficits, is engaged in an enormously expensive war in Iraq and Afghanistan and elsewhere, and is even cutting veterans benefits, I find it extremely irresponsible that we are discussing sending additional billions overseas in yet another dubious program. Additionally, I am greatly concerned that the billions we are contributing to the “Global Fund” will be going to organizations that support and perform abortions, prostitution, infanticide and other horrors. There is nothing in this bill to prevent this, only faith that the Coordinator will exercise good judgment in these matters. That is simply not sufficient. I strongly oppose this bill and urge my colleagues to do likewise.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 1298, the “United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003.” I also rise to applaud the efforts of Mr. HYDE, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. WELDON, Ms. LEE, and Mr. LEACH to get this bill on the floor so that the members of the House of Representatives can do our part to fight the spread of infectious diseases.

I support H.R. 1298, because HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria are killing men, women, and children in countries across the globe. And the United States, a country blessed with expert physicians, scientists, corporations, and governmental agencies should take the lead in worldwide efforts to combat the effects of these infectious diseases.

H.R. 1298 contains many provisions that help in the battle to contain the spread of these diseases and to provide assistance to those suffering from HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria. Among other provisions, H.R. 1298 establishes a five-year global strategy to combat HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria. It also supports voluntary contributions to the international vaccine funds, establishes pilot programs to place health care professionals in overseas areas and provide assistance for children and families affected by HIV/AIDS.

I, along with several other members of the House of Representatives, have also proposed amendments to supplement the provisions already written into the bill. These provisions will also help combat the spread of HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria.

As the Chair of the Children's Caucus, I am particularly troubled by the pandemic of HIV/AIDS and the devastating impact this disease has had on children in Africa and worldwide. It has been over 20 years since AIDS was first diagnosed. Since then over 57 million people have been infected, 25 million people have perished, 4 million of which were children.

According to a study by UNAIDS, if the AIDS epidemic in Africa is not controlled, AIDS related deaths will make 40 million children orphaned by the year 2010. Presently, there are more children orphaned in Africa due to parental AIDS deaths than there are children in America's public school system. In Botswana, there are more deaths annually from AIDS than there are childbirths.

I have had the opportunity to see for myself the devastating effect of HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria on the citizens of African countries. I was a member of one of the first presidential missions to Africa. I have visited Zambia, Uganda, and South Africa and seen the physical and emotional damage caused by infectious diseases. I have supported programs to change personal behaviors like the ABC Program which encourages youths to practice Abstinence, Be faithful, and use Condoms.

Congressional trips to Africa and support of initiatives are positive steps in the fight against aids. However, we can do much more to provide funding, actively participate in developing programs, conduct studies, and disburse medicines to the victims of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria in sub-Saharan Africa.

I reiterate my unwavering support for H.R. 1298. I encourage every member of the House of Representatives to also support H.R. 1298, as well as give serious consideration to the various amendments that have been offered to the bill. We must take swift and decisive action to prevent the further spread of infectious diseases. Each day that we delay the passage of H.R. 1298, thousands of people worldwide will die or be infected with HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria. I commend Mr. HYDE, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. WELDON, Ms. LEE, and Mr. LEACH's efforts to prevent further infectious disease deaths. I support H.R. 1298, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to urge for the passage of H.R. 1298, and I want to commend my colleagues BARBARA LEE and TOM LANTOS, as well as Chairman HYDE and the entire CBC for getting us to where we are today.

The White House has also come a long way.

And so I am pleased to support this bill, which now provides \$1 billion for the global Fund where it can be leveraged to greater levels of funding through contributions from other sources.

Hopefully as we see its success, the U.S. will increase its contribution to the global Fund where I am convinced we can do the most good.

This bill wisely builds on the program in Uganda, where the three pronged approach of abstinence, being faithful to one partner, and condom use has seen much success.

This is a major victory, not for those of us who have urged this approach but for the people whose lives will be saved.

Lastly, I am very pleased that the Caribbean is included, specifically Haiti and Guyana, but here too, I hope that we can see this funding expanded to other countries in the region, which also bear a heavy burden of HIV and AIDS.

We have come a long way in these two years, and even since the announcement of the \$15 billion in the President's State of the Union Address this year.

Although we can still improve upon this effort, passage of H.R. 1298 will mark a great