

failed 9-18

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3541**  
**OFFERED BY MS. CHU OF CALIFORNIA**

On page 2, strike line 18, and all that follows through line 14 on page 9, and insert the following:

1           (C) The United States has an obligation  
2           under the United Nations Universal Declaration  
3           of Human Rights to protect women.

4           (D) Imbalanced sex ratios at birth are in-  
5           dicative of persistent and underlying gender dis-  
6           crimination against girls and women. Such dis-  
7           crimination, and the intense pressure to  
8           produce sons, has serious and profound effects  
9           on the mental and physical health of women.

10          (E) In 2011, the Office of the High Com-  
11          missioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), the  
12          United Nation's Children's Fund (UNICEF),  
13          UN Women and the World Health Organization  
14          (WHO) and the United Nation's Population  
15          Fund (UNFPA) released a joint statement enti-  
16          tled "Preventing Gender-based Sex-Selection".  
17          In the report, the agencies express serious con-  
18          cern over the occurrence of imbalanced sex ra-  
19          tios in some countries and agree that the prob-

1           lem must be addressed at the root cause. The  
2           United States as well as more 180 other na-  
3           tions are obligated to work to address this prob-  
4           lem as signatories to the 1994 Programme of  
5           Action of the International Conference on Pop-  
6           ulation and Development (ICPD). As part of  
7           this undertaking States, including the United  
8           States agreed to: “. . . eliminate all forms of  
9           discrimination against the girl child and the  
10          root causes of son preference, which result in  
11          harmful and unethical practices regarding fe-  
12          male infanticide and prenatal sex selection.”  
13          United Nations (1994); paragraph 4.16.

14                 (F) However, these agencies also agree  
15                 that the root causes of sex-ratio imbalances and  
16                 normalization of the use of sex selection is not  
17                 access to certain technologies but “is caused by  
18                 deeply embedded discrimination against women  
19                 within institutions such as marriage systems,  
20                 family formation and property inheritance  
21                 laws”.

22                 (G) However, international experience indi-  
23                 cates that legal restrictions on technology and  
24                 sex-selection are ineffective and may even det-

1 rimentally impact upon the human and repro-  
2 ductive rights of women.

3 (H) Not only are legal restrictions unsuc-  
4 cessful in reducing sex-selection practices, but  
5 the 1994 ICPD agreement obligates States, in-  
6 cluding the United States, "to ensure that these  
7 injustices are addressed without exposing  
8 women to the risk of death or serious injury by  
9 denying them access to needed services such as  
10 safe abortion to the full extent of the law. Such  
11 an outcome would represent a further violation  
12 of their rights to life and health as guaranteed  
13 in international human rights treaties, and  
14 committed to in international development  
15 agreements."

16 (I) Broader strategies to eliminate gender  
17 discrimination and promote real gender equality  
18 have, however, been an effective means of re-  
19 ducing the occurrence of sex-selection. The Re-  
20 public of Korea, for example, was one country  
21 where sex preference has largely been overcome  
22 through strategies including attention to gender  
23 equality in laws, advocacy, media campaigns  
24 and economic growth. The government success-  
25 fully lowered the male/female ratio from 116 in

1 the 1990s to 107 in 2007 by passing important  
2 and fundamentally significant laws that im-  
3 proved women's legal status, such as allowing  
4 women rights and responsibilities within their  
5 birth family even after marriage, and recog-  
6 nizing women-headed households, as well as by  
7 launching a "Love Your Daughter" media and  
8 public education campaign.

9 (J) If we are serious about addressing son  
10 preference in the United States we must make  
11 similar commitments that promote gender  
12 equality and change social norms which allow  
13 the discrimination of women which is the root  
14 cause of sex-selection. We must empower girls  
15 and women, support advocacy and awareness-  
16 raising activities which stimulate discussion and  
17 debate around the concept of gender equality  
18 and support policies that promote equal pay for  
19 men and women, protecting women from vio-  
20 lence and ensure women can access educational  
21 opportunities.

Page 10, strike line 3, and all that follows through  
line 23.

Page 11, strike line 18, and all that follows through  
line 9 on page 12.

