

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 21, 2006

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice  
Secretary of State  
2201 C St NW Ste 7276  
Washington DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rice:

We are writing to express our deep concern for the lack of progress in funding and implementing the key provisions of the North Korean Human Rights Act (P.L. 108-333). Although the president welcomed the act as "provid[ing] us with useful new tools" when he signed it into law in October 2004, it does not appear that the administration has included any funds for implementing the act in its fiscal year 2007 budget request.

Foremost among our concerns, we note that despite the fact that the act calls for the Department of State to facilitate the submission of North Korean refugee applications, not one North Korean has been offered asylum or refugee status in the 16 months since the unanimous passage of the legislation. Even worse, according to congressional testimony delivered by Helping Hands Korea, some State Department employees at our embassies in China, Vietnam and Thailand have actually refused to assist North Korean refugees who were at terrible risk. We have enclosed a copy of the testimony and would welcome any additional information regarding these claims.

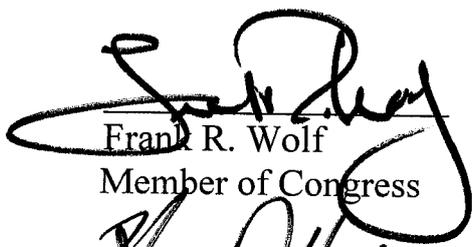
We urge the State Department to play a leadership role in resolving this refugee crisis by working with countries in the region to establish a first asylum policy for North Koreans, as was done in the 1970's for thousands of Vietnamese "boat people." Additionally, we must urge China at the highest levels to end the repatriation of North Korean refugees and jailing of humanitarian workers, in accordance with its obligations as a party to the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. We are hopeful that the president will raise this issue in his upcoming meeting with Chinese President Hu Jintao.

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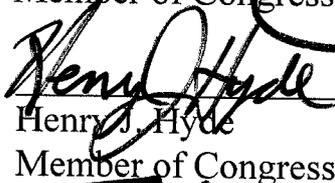
With the deplorable human rights conditions and continuing starvation inside North Korea, we urge you to act as quickly as possible to aid those who have fled and those who will be fleeing, particularly during these winter months, by quickly funding and implementing the North Korean Human Rights Act.

Thank you and best wishes.

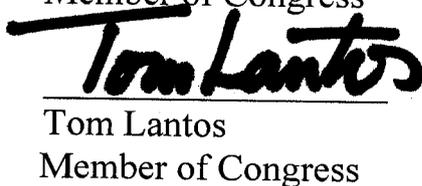
Sincerely,



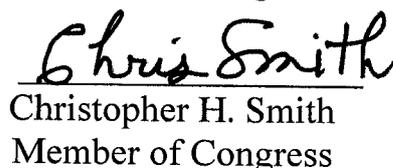
Frank R. Wolf  
Member of Congress



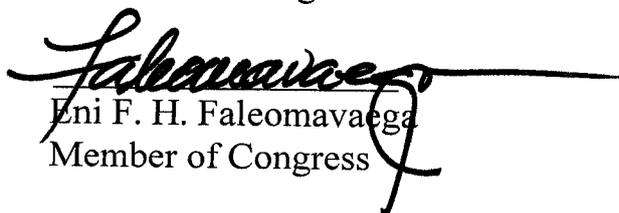
Henry J. Hyde  
Member of Congress



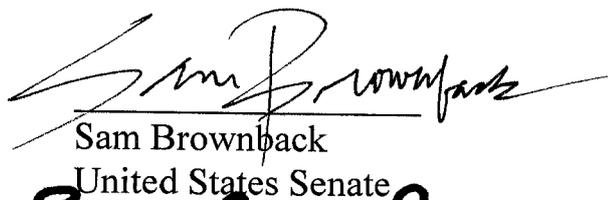
Tom Lantos  
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



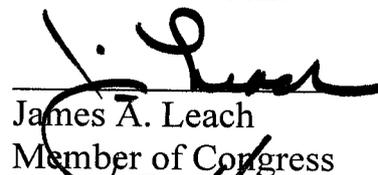
Eni F. H. Faleomavaega  
Member of Congress



Sam Brownback  
United States Senate



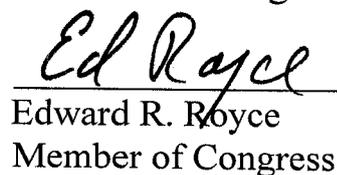
Evan Bayh  
United States Senate



James A. Leach  
Member of Congress



Joseph R. Pitts  
Member of Congress



Edward R. Royce  
Member of Congress

cc: U.S. Ambassadors in China, South Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, Mongolia,  
Cambodia, Laos, Russia  
Honorable John Bolton  
Honorable Paula Dobriansky  
Special Envoy Jay Lefkowitz