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Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (CA-14) voted today to pass H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act, by a vote of 416 to 3. Rep. Eshoo made the following statement in support of the bill from the floor of the House:

"Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act, legislation aimed at stopping the ongoing genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan.

As a longtime cosponsor of this critical legislation, I'm pleased that this bill has been brought before us today for a vote. With as many as 400,000 killed by the orchestrated violence in Darfur, it's imperative that the U.S. act quickly and decisively to put an end to the crisis.

H.R. 3127 goes after the individuals both inside and outside the Sudanese government who are responsible for the ongoing bloodshed by directing the President to seize the assets of and refuse future visas to any individual (or their family members) responsible for acts of genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity in Sudan. It also forbids any U.S. port from accepting any goods or cargo from Sudanese ships should the Sudanese government continue to fail to take steps to resolve the crisis. Furthermore, in order to give military protection for victims on the ground, H.R. 3127 authorizes the President to provide assistance for an expanded peacekeeping force in Sudan (the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS)), and directs the President to seek NATO reinforcement of AMIS, upon the request of the African Union.

Last month I voted for and the House passed the Capuano Amendment to the FY2006 Supplemental Appropriations bill for Iraq and Other International Activities, which added \$50 million in funding to expand the African Union's peacekeeping operations in Darfur. This critical funding will help the African Union forces provide humanitarian relief and protection until further assistance arrives from the U.S. and the international community.

For the past three years I've voted for and cosponsored legislation condemning the atrocities in Darfur and appropriately labeling them 'genocide.' Both Houses of Congress have concurred with this assessment, but little has been effective in stopping the killings and displacement. We need to do more, and we need to come up with new methods to target those perpetuating the violence. The provisions within the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act will give us a fresh set of tools to apply to the situation and deliver assistance to those who need it. I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 3127."

