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**Statement for the Congressional Record on H. Res. 1326  
Congressman Gary G. Miller**

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September 28, 2010

Madame Speaker: I rise in support of House Resolution 1326, a resolution calling on the Government of Japan to immediately address the growing problem of American children abducted to Japan.

Since 1994, the Office of Children's Issues – commonly referred to as OCI – at the United States State Department had opened 194 cases involving 269 U.S. children abducted to or wrongfully retained in Japan. As of March 25, 2010, OCI had 85 open cases involving over 121 American children abducted to Japan. Of these abducted children, Keisuke Collins, is the son of one of my constituents, Randy Collins.

Unfortunately, since the signing of the Treaty of Peace with Japan between the Allied Powers and the Government of Japan in 1951, the Japanese Government has never issued and enforced a legal decision to return a single abducted child to the United States. In addition, Japan has not agreed to the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, which has resulted in the continued absence of an immediate remedy that would enable the expedited return of abducted children to their custodial parent in the United States. Sadly, the Government of Japan is the only G-7 country that has not acceded to the Hague Convention.

This problem is also compounded by Japan's legal system. Because Japan's existing family law system does not recognize joint custody nor actively enforces parental access agreements for both its own citizens and foreigners, there is little hope for children to have contact with the noncustodial parent in violation of internationally recognized and protected rights. What is worse, the Government of Japan has repeatedly claimed to foreign governments that parental child abduction is not considered a crime in Japan despite the fact that Article 3 of the Japanese Penal Code does indeed make it a crime for a Japanese citizen to abduct a child and move the child across national borders.

Although Japan's current Justice Minister said upon her appointment that she is determined to show that Japan "is very proactive" in adopting international protocols and conventions that are the "international standard," child abductions to Japan continue to be a very serious and rampant problem. Consequently, it is critical for the United States and Japan to work together to prevent future incidents of international parental child abduction to Japan.

As such, I call on my colleagues to support House Resolution 1326. This resolution calls on the Government of Japan to immediately address the growing problem of abduction to and retention of American children in Japan. The resolution also calls on Japan to work closely with the United States to return these children to their custodial parent in the United States and to provide left-behind parents immediate access to their children. Lastly, House Resolution 1326 calls on Japan to immediately adopt the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction so that these abducted children can be returned to their custodial parent.

As an original cosponsor of this resolution, it is of utmost importance to not only me, but to my constituents Randy and Keisuke, that it is passed with the overwhelming support of the House of Representatives. These abducted kids – and their families – cannot wait any longer.