

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 205

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with regard to Project Exile and the prosecution of Federal firearms offenses.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 10, 1999

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky (for himself, Mr. HOSTETTLER, and Mr. SCHAFER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with regard to Project Exile and the prosecution of Federal firearms offenses.

Whereas Project Exile is a Federal, State and local effort led by the United States Attorney's office to prosecute felons found in the possession of firearms;

Whereas the program, since its establishment in Richmond, Virginia, in 1997, led to the prosecution of 390 individuals in illegal possession of a firearm during the following year and a reduction in the city's homicide rate by one-third;

Whereas Federal prosecution offers the advantage of prompt indictments, less likelihood of bond, a mandatory min-

imum prison sentence of five years, and fines up to \$250,000;

Whereas donations and contributions have enabled advertisement and publicity of the consequences of possessing illegal firearms;

Whereas Richmond officials have found many in possession of illegal firearms to be repeat offenders, and the United States Attorney's Office has stated Project Exile demonstrates that prosecutors can undertake large-scale efforts against gun crimes, even with limited resources;

Whereas Project Exile has been expanded to additional cities in Virginia, and funds have been appropriated to implement the project in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Camden County, New Jersey;

Whereas no prosecutions have been initiated against anyone who falsified information to Federal licensees (a Federal crime punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment), but more than 40,000 individuals have been prevented from purchasing firearms since instant checks went into effect November 30, 1998; and

Whereas the Department of Education reports 6,093 students were expelled for bringing guns to school from 1996 to 1997, but the United States Attorney's Office reports only 17 prosecutions under the Safe and Drug Free Schools Act from 1996 to 1998: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) fully supports Project Exile, as it results in

3 the arrest and punishment of armed criminals

1 through absolute prosecution and imprisonment
2 under existing law; and

3 (2) urges the Department of Justice to pros-
4 ecute all criminal violations of Federal firearms
5 laws.

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