

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5210

To provide a monthly allotment of free telephone calling time to members of the United States Armed Forces deployed outside of the United States who are directly supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 5, 2004

Mr. FILNER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To provide a monthly allotment of free telephone calling time to members of the United States Armed Forces deployed outside of the United States who are directly supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Troops Phone Home
5 Free Act of 2004”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The United States Armed Forces are the
2 finest in the world.

3 (2) Members of the Armed Forces are bravely
4 placing their lives in danger in Operation Iraqi Free-
5 dom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

6 (3) Their families and loved ones are making
7 sacrifices at home in support of members of the
8 Armed Forces abroad.

9 (4) Telephone contact with family and friends
10 provides significant emotional and psychological sup-
11 port to members of the Armed Forces abroad and
12 helps to sustain and improve their morale.

13 **SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TELECOMMUNICATIONS**
14 **BENEFIT.**

15 (a) PROVISION OF BENEFIT.—As soon as possible
16 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
17 Defense shall provide, wherever practicable, prepaid phone
18 cards, or an equivalent telecommunications benefit which
19 includes access to telephone service, to members of the
20 Armed Forces deployed outside the United States who are
21 directly supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation
22 Enduring Freedom, as determined by the Secretary, to en-
23 able such members to make telephone calls to family and
24 friends in the United States without cost to the member.

1 (b) MONTHLY AMOUNT.—The value of the benefit
2 provided by subsection (a) shall not exceed \$40 per month
3 per person.

4 (c) END OF PROGRAM.—The program established by
5 subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is 60 days
6 after the date on which the Secretary determines that both
7 Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Free-
8 dom have ended.

9 (d) FUNDING.—

10 (1) USE OF EXISTING RESOURCES.—In car-
11 rying out this section, the Secretary shall maximize
12 the use of existing Department of Defense tele-
13 communications programs and capabilities, private
14 support organizations, private entities offering free
15 or reduced-cost telecommunications services, and
16 programs to enhance morale and welfare.

17 (2) USE OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—In addi-
18 tion to resources described in paragraph (1) and
19 notwithstanding any limitation on the expenditure or
20 obligation of appropriated amounts, the Secretary
21 may use available funds appropriated to or for the
22 use of the Department of Defense that are not oth-
23 erwise obligated or expended to carry out this sec-
24 tion.

1 **SEC. 4. DEPLOYMENT OF ADDITIONAL TELEPHONE EQUIP-**
2 **MENT.**

3 The Secretary of Defense shall work with tele-
4 communications providers to facilitate the deployment of
5 additional telephones for use in calling the United States
6 under this Act as quickly as practicable, consistent with
7 the availability of resources. Consistent with the timely
8 provision of telecommunications benefits under this Act,
9 the Secretary should carry out this section and section 3
10 in a manner that allows for competition in the provision
11 of such benefits.

12 **SEC. 5. NO COMPROMISE OF MILITARY MISSION.**

13 The Secretary of Defense shall not take any action
14 under this Act that would compromise the military objec-
15 tives or mission of the Armed Forces.

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