

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3431, the Armored Car Industry Reciprocity Improvement Act. All we need to do is watch the evening news to be aware of the problems faced by the Nation's law enforcement and security personnel. We live in increasingly dangerous times where a badge is a target, and the lives of people wearing those badges are placed in grave danger on a daily basis.

Those who guard armored cars are no exception. During fiscal year 1995, the violent crime section of the FBI investigated 68 robberies or attempted robberies of armored vehicles. My subcommittee received testimony that there were well over 100 such incidents during the 1995 calendar year. Over the past several years, just one of the major armored car companies has had five armored car crewmembers killed in the line of duty, four of whom were slain here in the Washington, DC area.

There is no question that there is a strong need for these individuals to be armed. When this committee reported the Armored Car Industry Reciprocity Act in the 103d Congress, it recognized that fact. However, it also recognized that we need to keep weapons out of the hands of criminals and the untrained. While most States require substantial training in the safe and legal use of their weapons before they issue crewmembers weapons permits, we reiterated that sentiment when we required regular training and criminal background checks before a State's weapons permit would be entitled to reciprocity.

Mr. WHITFIELD's legislation, H.R. 3431, the Armored Car Industry Reciprocity Improvement Act of 1996, simply makes some technical changes in the original statute to better conform its requirements to the procedures in place in the majority of States today. It still requires regular training and criminal background checks for armored car crewmembers, but allows States the necessary flexibility to issue permits according to their own procedures and their own timetable.

It is a little known fact that the single largest interstate customer of the armored car industry is the Federal Government. Private companies annually transport billions of dollars in currency, coin, food stamps, and other negotiable documents. Because we entrust these companies with the Nation's valuables, we have an obligation to ensure that their job in protecting those valuables is as easy as possible. That is why we need to enact H.R. 3431.

Mr. WHITFIELD should be commended for his hard work in seeing this bill through. I would also like to thank my distinguished ranking member for all of his support in bringing this legislation to the floor. I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong sup-

port of this bipartisan legislation that will help solve many problems currently confronting the armored car industry. These vehicles, privately or federally owned, are often subject to violent crime that results in the loss of crewmembers' lives, not to mention untold amounts of valuable property.

Armored cars provide an essential service in this country by transporting millions of dollars in currency and other valuables belonging to both the Federal Government and private entities. Because these vehicles are often the target of crime, it is crucial that we provide armored car guards with the ability to protect themselves and their cargo without risk of criminal liability for simply doing their job.

Mr. Speaker, 5 years ago an armored car crewmember by the name of John Hirdt was shot to death while loading cash into a van outside of Macy's department store in Elmhurst, Queens. Mr. Hirdt was 65 years old and a retired New York City police officer employed by a private armored car service. Such incidents highlight the importance of providing armored car crewmembers with adequate protection.

This bill, ensures that crewmembers can carry their weapons across State lines so long as they have met all the requirements of their primary State and have passed a criminal background check. Without this modification in current law, crewmembers could be in violation of State weapons licensing laws when performing their job and traveling across State lines. This legislation does not in any way change Federal requirements for possession of a weapon or make it easier for anyone to receive a weapons license.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. WHITFIELD, for crafting this legislation. I believe that H.R. 3431 will solve the problems of inconsistent application of license requirements and renewal processes among the States. As the ranking minority member of the Commerce, Trade, and Hazardous Material Subcommittee which originally considered this bill, I urge all of my colleagues to support this commendable legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. WHITFIELD], the author of this important legislation.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that today the House is taking up this legislation, the Armored Car Industry Reciprocity Improvement Act of 1996. This is important legislation for many reasons. As we all know, armored cars and their crews have long been targets of crime, and it is imperative that these highly trained and dedicated men and women be armed to protect their cargo and, more importantly, their own lives.

The Federal Government is the single largest customer of the armored car industry, and we are obligated to ensure

that efforts to protect the taxpayers' cargo and the lives of the armored car crews are as unhindered as possible.

This legislation addresses the problems encountered by the States in three ways: First, it grants reciprocity for both weapons licenses and any other permits or licenses required in a particular State so long as the crew member has met all of the requirements in the State he or she is primarily employed.

Second, it makes clear that it is the State which should conduct criminal background checks and permits the States to do so in whatever manner they deem appropriate.

Third, it eliminates the requirement in the original act that renewal permits be reissued annually and permits States to follow their own timetables.

These changes represent a significant step forward in achieving the objectives of the original act. Under the act, as originally signed into law, only Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia met the requirements for reciprocity. With the changes under this bill, 28 other States will qualify, truly easing the flow of these valuable goods in interstate commerce.

This legislation has been supported in the past by the armored car industry and numerous State, national, and local law enforcement associations. Further, neither the NLRA nor Handgun Control had any objections to the original legislation. Since H.R. 3431 does not change the original intent of the legislation at all, I see no reason why this legislation would not enjoy similar support.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the gentleman from Ohio, Chairman OXLEY, the gentleman from Florida, Mr. STEARNS, the gentleman from New York, Mr. MANTON, and the gentlewoman from Illinois, Mrs. COLLINS, for their work on this legislation in years past. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation.

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. OXLEY] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3431.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3431.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING EXPANDED STUDIES AND INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS FOR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 248) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the conduct of expanded studies and the establishment of innovative programs with respect to traumatic brain injury, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 248

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PROGRAMS OF CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION.

Part J of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 393 the following section:

"PREVENTION OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

"SEC. 393A. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, may carry out projects to reduce the incidence of traumatic brain injury. Such projects may be carried out by the Secretary directly or through awards of grants or contracts to public or nonprofit private entities. The Secretary may directly or through such awards provide technical assistance with respect to the planning, development, and operation of such projects.

"(b) CERTAIN ACTIVITIES.—Activities under subsection (a) may include—

"(1) the conduct of research into identifying effective strategies for the prevention of traumatic brain injury; and

"(2) the implementation of public information and education programs for the prevention of such injury and for broadening the awareness of the public concerning the public health consequences of such injury.

"(c) COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall ensure that activities under this section are coordinated as appropriate with other agencies of the Public Health Service that carry out activities regarding traumatic brain injury.

"(d) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term 'traumatic brain injury' means an acquired injury to the brain. Such term does not include brain dysfunction caused by congenital or degenerative disorders, nor birth trauma, but may include brain injuries caused by anoxia due to near drowning. The Secretary may revise the definition of such term as the Secretary determines necessary."

SEC. 2. PROGRAMS OF NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH.

Section 1261 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d-61) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking "and" after the semicolon at the end;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following paragraph:

"(4) the authority to make awards of grants or contracts to public or nonprofit private entities for the conduct of basic and applied research regarding traumatic brain injury, which research may include—

"(A) the development of new methods and modalities for the more effective diagnosis, measurement of degree of injury, post-injury monitoring and prognostic assessment of head injury for acute, subacute and later phases of care;

"(B) the development, modification and evaluation of therapies that retard, prevent or reverse brain damage after acute head injury, that arrest further deterioration following injury and that provide the restitution of function for individuals with long-term injuries;

"(C) the development of research on a continuum of care from acute care through rehabilitation, designed, to the extent practicable, to integrate rehabilitation and long-term outcome evaluation with acute care research; and

"(D) the development of programs that increase the participation of academic centers of excellence in head injury treatment and rehabilitation research and training.";

(2) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the following paragraph:

"(4) The term 'traumatic brain injury' means an acquired injury to the brain. Such term does not include brain dysfunction caused by congenital or degenerative disorders, nor birth trauma, but may include brain injuries caused by anoxia due to near drowning. The Secretary may revise the definition of such term as the Secretary determines necessary."

SEC. 3. PROGRAMS OF HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.

Part E of title XII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d-51 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following section:

"SEC. 1252. STATE GRANTS FOR DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS REGARDING TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, may make grants to States for the purpose of carrying out demonstration projects to improve access to health and other services regarding traumatic brain injury.

"(b) STATE ADVISORY BOARD.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make a grant under subsection (a) only if the State involved agrees to establish an advisory board within the appropriate health department of the State or within another department as designated by the chief executive officer of the State.

"(2) FUNCTIONS.—An advisory board established under paragraph (1) shall advise and make recommendations to the State on ways to improve services coordination regarding traumatic brain injury. Such advisory boards shall encourage citizen participation through the establishment of public hearings and other types of community outreach programs. In developing recommendations under this paragraph, such boards shall consult with Federal, State, and local governmental agencies and with citizens groups and other private entities.

"(3) COMPOSITION.—An advisory board established under paragraph (1) shall be composed of—

"(A) representatives of—

"(i) the corresponding State agencies involved;

"(ii) public and nonprofit private health related organizations;

"(iii) other disability advisory or planning groups within the State;

"(iv) members of an organization or foundation representing traumatic brain injury survivors in that State; and

"(v) injury control programs at the State or local level if such programs exist; and

"(B) a substantial number of individuals who are survivors of traumatic brain injury, or the family members of such individuals.

"(c) MATCHING FUNDS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the costs to be incurred by a State in carrying out the purpose described in subsection (a), the Secretary may make a grant under such subsection only if the State agrees to make available, in cash, non-Federal contributions toward such costs in an amount that is not less than \$1 for each \$2 of Federal funds provided under the grant.

"(2) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT CONTRIBUTED.—In determining the amount of non-Fed-

eral contributions in cash that a State has provided pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary may not include any amounts provided to the State by the Federal Government.

"(d) APPLICATION FOR GRANT.—The Secretary may make a grant under subsection (a) only if an application for the grant is submitted to the Secretary and the application is in such form, is made in such manner, and contains such agreements, assurances, and information as the Secretary determines to be necessary to carry out this section.

"(e) COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall ensure that activities under this section are coordinated as appropriate with other agencies of the Public Health Service that carry out activities regarding traumatic brain injury.

"(f) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives, and to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate, a report describing the findings and results of the programs established under this section, including measures of outcomes and consumer and surrogate satisfaction.

"(g) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term 'traumatic brain injury' means an acquired injury to the brain. Such term does not include brain dysfunction caused by congenital or degenerative disorders, nor birth trauma, but may include brain injuries caused by anoxia due to near drowning. The Secretary may revise the definition of such term as the Secretary determines necessary.

"(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the purpose of carrying out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1997 through 1999."

SEC. 4. STUDY; CONSENSUS CONFERENCE.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this section referred to as the "Secretary"), acting through the appropriate agencies of the Public Health Service, shall conduct a study for the purpose of carrying out the following with respect to traumatic brain injury:

(A) In collaboration with appropriate State and local health-related agencies—

(i) determine the incidence and prevalence of traumatic brain injury; and

(ii) develop a uniform reporting system under which States report incidents of traumatic brain injury, if the Secretary determines that such a system is appropriate.

(B) Identify common therapeutic interventions which are used for the rehabilitation of individuals with such injuries, and shall, subject to the availability of information, include an analysis of—

(i) the effectiveness of each such intervention in improving the functioning of individuals with brain injuries;

(ii) the comparative effectiveness of interventions employed in the course of rehabilitation of individuals with brain injuries to achieve the same or similar clinical outcome; and

(iii) the adequacy of existing measures of outcomes and knowledge of factors influencing differential outcomes.

(C) Develop practice guidelines for the rehabilitation of traumatic brain injury at such time as appropriate scientific research becomes available.

(2) DATES CERTAIN FOR REPORTS.—

(A) Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives, and to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate, a report describing the findings made as a result of carrying out paragraph (1)(A).

(B) Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees specified in subparagraph