

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 399, nays 0, not voting 34, as follows:

[Roll No. 588]

YEAS—399

Abercrombie	Deutsch	Johnson, E. B.
Aderholt	Diaz-Balart	Johnson, Sam
Andrews	Dickey	Jones (OH)
Archer	Dicks	Kanjorski
Armey	Dingell	Kaptur
Bachus	Dixon	Kasich
Baird	Doggett	Kelly
Baker	Dooley	Kennedy
Baldacci	Doolittle	Kildee
Baldwin	Doyle	Kilpatrick
Ballenger	Dreier	Kind (WI)
Barr	Duncan	King (NY)
Barrett (NE)	Edwards	Kingston
Barrett (WI)	Ehlers	Kleckza
Bartlett	Emerson	Klink
Barton	Engel	Knollenberg
Bass	English	Kolbe
Bateman	Eshoo	Kucinich
Becerra	Etheridge	Kuykendall
Bentsen	Evans	LaFalce
Bereuter	Everett	Lampson
Berkley	Farr	Lantos
Berry	Fattah	Largent
Biggert	Filner	Larson
Bilbray	Fletcher	Latham
Bilirakis	Foley	LaTourette
Bishop	Forbes	Lazio
Blagojevich	Ford	Leach
Biley	Fowler	Lee
Blumenauer	Frank (MA)	Levin
Blunt	Franks (NJ)	Lewis (CA)
Boehlert	Frelinghuysen	Lewis (GA)
Boehner	Frost	Lewis (KY)
Bonilla	Gallegly	Linder
Bonior	Ganske	Lipinski
Bono	Gejdenson	LoBiondo
Borski	Gekas	Lofgren
Boswell	Gephardt	Lowey
Boucher	Gibbons	Lucas (KY)
Boyd	Gilchrest	Lucas (OK)
Brady (PA)	Gillmor	Luther
Brady (TX)	Gilman	Maloney (NY)
Brown (FL)	Gonzalez	Manzullo
Brown (OH)	Goode	Markey
Bryant	Goodlatte	Martinez
Burr	Goodling	Mascara
Burton	Gordon	Matsui
Buyer	Goss	McCarthy (MO)
Callahan	Graham	McCarthy (NY)
Calvert	Granger	McCollum
Camp	Green (TX)	McDermott
Campbell	Green (WI)	McGovern
Canady	Greenwood	McHugh
Cannon	Gutierrez	McInnis
Capps	Gutknecht	McIntosh
Capuano	Hall (OH)	McKeon
Cardin	Hall (TX)	McKinney
Carson	Hansen	McNulty
Castle	Hastings (FL)	Meek (FL)
Chabot	Hastings (WA)	Meeks (NY)
Chambliss	Hayes	Menendez
Chenoweth-Hage	Hayworth	Mica
Clay	Hefley	Millender-
Clayton	Herger	McDonald
Clement	Hill (IN)	Miller (FL)
Clyburn	Hillenary	Miller, George
Coble	Hinchey	Minge
Coburn	Hinojosa	Mink
Combest	Hobson	Moakley
Condit	Hoefel	Mollohan
Conyers	Hoekstra	Moore
Cook	Holden	Moran (KS)
Cooksey	Holt	Moran (VA)
Costello	Hooley	Morella
Cox	Horn	Murtha
Coyne	Hostettler	Myrick
Cramer	Houghton	Nadler
Crane	Hoyer	Napolitano
Crowley	Hulshof	Neal
Cubin	Hunter	Nethercutt
Cummings	Hutchinson	Ney
Cunningham	Hyde	Northup
Danner	Inslee	Norwood
Davis (FL)	Isakson	Nussle
Davis (IL)	Istook	Oberstar
Deal	Jackson (IL)	Obey
DeFazio	Jackson-Lee	Olver
DeGette	(TX)	Ose
Delahunt	Jefferson	Owens
DeLauro	Jenkins	Packard
DeLay	John	Pallone
DeMint	Johnson (CT)	Pascrell

Pastor	Sawyer	Taylor (NC)
Paul	Saxton	Terry
Pease	Scarborough	Thomas
Pelosi	Schaffer	Thompson (CA)
Peterson (MN)	Schakowsky	Thompson (MS)
Peterson (PA)	Scott	Thornberry
Petri	Sensenbrenner	Thune
Phelps	Serrano	Thurman
Pickering	Sessions	Tiahrt
Pickett	Shaw	Tierney
Pitts	Shays	Toomey
Pombo	Sherman	Towns
Pomeroy	Sherwood	Traficant
Porter	Shimkus	Turner
Portman	Shows	Udall (CO)
Price (NC)	Simpson	Udall (NM)
Pryce (OH)	Sisisky	Upton
Quinn	Skeen	Velazquez
Rahall	Skelton	Vento
Ramstad	Slaughter	Visclosky
Rangel	Smith (NJ)	Vitter
Regula	Smith (TX)	Walden
Reynolds	Smith (WA)	Walsh
Riley	Snyder	Wamp
Rivers	Souder	Watt (NC)
Rodriguez	Spence	Watts (OK)
Roemer	Spratt	Weiner
Rogan	Stabenow	Weldon (FL)
Rogers	Stark	Weldon (PA)
Rohrabacher	Stearns	Weller
Ros-Lehtinen	Stenholm	Wexler
Rothman	Strickland	Weygand
Roukema	Stump	Whitfield
Royal-Allard	Stupak	Wicker
Royce	Sununu	Wilson
Ryan (WI)	Sweeney	Wolf
Ryun (KS)	Talent	Woolsey
Sabo	Tancredo	Wu
Sanchez	Tanner	Wynn
Sanders	Tauscher	Young (AK)
Sandlin	Tauzin	Young (FL)
Sanford	Taylor (MS)	

NOT VOTING—34

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF CON-
GRESS FOR RECENT ELECTIONS
IN REPUBLIC OF INDIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BALLENGER). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 211.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 211, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 396, nays 4, not voting 33, as follows:

[Roll No. 589]

YEAS—396

Abercrombie	Dickey	Jones (OH)
Aderholt	Dicks	Kanjorski
Allen	Dingell	Kaptur
Andrews	Dixon	Kasich
Archer	Doggett	Kelly
Armey	Doolley	Kennedy
Bachus	Doolittle	Kildee
Baird	Doyle	Kilpatrick
Baker	Dreier	Kind (WI)
Baldacci	Duncan	King (NY)
Baldwin	Edwards	Kingston
Ballenger	Ehlers	Kleckzka
Barr	Emerson	Klink
Barrett (NE)	Engel	Krollenberg
Barrett (WI)	English	Kolbe
Bartlett	Eshoo	Kucinich
Barton	Etheridge	Kuykendall
Bateman	Evans	LaFalce
Becerra	Everett	Lampson
Bentsen	Farr	Lantos
Bereuter	Fattah	Largent
Berkley	Filner	Larson
Berry	Fletcher	Latham
Biggert	Foley	LaTourette
Bilbray	Forbes	Lazio
Bilirakis	Ford	Leach
Bishop	Fowler	Levin
Blagojevich	Frank (MA)	Lewis (CA)
Biley	Franks (NJ)	Lewis (GA)
Blumenauer	Frelinghuysen	Lewis (KY)
Blunt	Frost	Linder
Boehlert	Gallegly	Lipinski
Boehner	Ganske	LoBiondo
Bonilla	Gejdenson	Lofgren
Bono	Gekas	Lowey
Borski	Gephhardt	Lucas (KY)
Boswell	Gibbons	Lucas (OK)
Boucher	Gilchrest	Luther
Boyd	Gillmor	Maloney (CT)
Brady (PA)	Gilman	Maloney (NY)
Brady (TX)	Gonzalez	Manzullo
Brown (FL)	Goode	Martinez
Brown (OH)	Goodlatte	Mascara
Bryant	Goodling	Matsui
Burr	Gordon	McCarthy (M)
Burton	Goss	McCarthy (N)
Buyer	Graham	McCollum
Callahan	Granger	McDermott
Calvert	Green (TX)	McGovern
Camp	Green (WI)	McHugh
Campbell	Greenwood	McInnis
Canady	Gutierrez	McIntosh
Cannon	Gutknecht	McKeon
Capps	Hall (OH)	McKinney
Capuano	Hall (TX)	McNulty
Cardin	Hansen	Meek (FL)
Carson	Hastings (FL)	Meeks (NY)
Castle	Hastings (WA)	Menendez
Chabot	Hayes	Mica
Chambliss	Hayworth	Millender
Clay	Hefley	McDonald
Clayton	Herger	Miller (FL)
Clement	Hill (IN)	Miller, Georg
Clyburn	Hillery	Minge
Coble	Hinchey	Mink
Coburn	Hinojosa	Moakley
Combest	Hobson	Mollohan
Condit	Hoeffel	Moore
Conyers	Hoekstra	Moran (KS)
Cook	Holden	Moran (VA)
Cooksey	Holt	Morella
Costello	Hooley	Murtha
Cox	Horn	Myrick
Coyne	Hostettler	Nadler
Cramer	Houghton	Napolitano
Crane	Hoyer	Neal
Crowley	Hulshof	Nethercutt
Cubin	Hunter	Ney
Cummings	Hutchinson	Northup
Cunningham	Hyde	Norwood
Danner	Inslee	Nussle
Davis (FL)	Isakson	Oberstar
Davis (IL)	Istook	Obe
Deal	Jackson (IL)	Olver
DeFazio	Jackson-Lee	Ose
DeGette	(TX)	Owens
Delahunt	Jefferson	Packard
DeLauro	Jenkins	Pallone
DeLay	John	Pascrall
DeMint	Johnson (CT)	Pastor
Deutsch	Johnson, E. B.	Pease
Diaz-Balart	Johnson, Sam	Pelosi

Peterson (MN)	Scarborough
Peterson (PA)	Schaffer
Petri	Schakowsky
Phelps	Scott
Pickering	Sensenbrenner
Pickett	Serrano
Pitts	Sessions
Pombo	Shaw
Pomeroy	Shays
Porter	Sherman
Portman	Sherwood
Price (NC)	Shimkus
Pryce (OH)	Shows
Quinn	Simpson
Rahall	Sisisky
Ramstad	Skeen
Regula	Skelton
Reynolds	Slaughter
Riley	Smith (NJ)
Rivers	Smith (TX)
Rodriguez	Smith (WA)
Roemer	Snyder
Rogan	Souder
Rogers	Spence
Rohrabacher	Spratt
Ros-Lehtinen	Stabenow
Rothman	Stark
Roukema	Stearns
Royal-Allard	Stenholm
Royce	Strickland
Rush	Stump
Ryan (WI)	Stupak
Ryun (KS)	Sununu
Sabo	Sweeney
Salmon	Talent
Sanchez	Tancredo
Sanders	Tanner
Sandlin	Tauscher
Sanford	Tauzin
Sawyer	Taylor (MS)
Saxton	Taylor (NC)

NAYS—4

Bonior	Markey
Chenoweth-Hage	Paul

NOT VOTING—33

Ackerman	Hilliard	Payne
Barcia	Jones (NC)	Radanovich
Bass	LaHood	Rangel
Berman	Lee	Reyes
Collins	McCrary	Shadegg
Davis (VA)	McIntyre	Shuster
Dunn	Meehan	Smith (MI)
Ehrlich	Metcalf	Waters
Ewing	Miller, Gary	Watkins
Fossella	Ortiz	Waxman
Hill (MT)	Oxley	Wise

□ 1426

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2420

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as cosponsor of H.R. 2420.

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

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2112, MULTIDISTRICT, MULTIPARTY, MULTIFORUM TRIAL JURISDICTION ACT OF 1999

Mr. SENENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I move to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2112), to amend title 28, United States Code, to

allow a judge to whom a case is transferred to retain jurisdiction over certain multidistrict litigation cases for trial, and to provide for Federal jurisdiction of certain multiparty, multi-forum civil actions, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENENBRENNER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I support the motion to go to conference on the "Multidistrict, Multiparty, Multiforum Jurisdiction Act of 1999." I would like to begin by expressing thanks to Chairman COBLE and Ranking Member BERMAN as well as Representative SENENBRENNER for their hard work and on this legislation which is being sought by the federal judiciary.

The most important provision of the bill is section 2 which overturns the recent Supreme Court decision in *Lelexon v. Milberg Weiss*, which held that a transferee court assigned to hear pretrial matters must remand all cases back to trial to the districts which they were originally filed, regardless of the views of the parties. This decision conflicts with some 30 years of practice by which transferee courts were able to retain such jurisdiction under Title 28. The Judicial Conference has testified that the previous process has worked well and served the interest of efficiency and judicial expedience.

There was a concern raised at the Subcommittee hearing that as originally drafted this provision would have gone far beyond simply permitting a transferee court to conduct a liability trial, but instead, allowed the court to also determine compensatory and punitive damages. This could be extremely inconvenient for harmed victims who would need to testify at the damages phase of the trial. As a result of discussions between the minority and majority, Rep. BERMAN successfully offered an amendment addressing this concern at the Full Committee markup.

Section 3 of the bill also expands federal court jurisdiction for single accidents involving at least 25 people having damages in excess of \$75,000 per claim and establishes new federal procedures in these limited cases for selection of venue, service of process, issuance of subpoenas and choice of law. The types of cases that would be included under this provision would be plane, train, bus, boat accidents and environmental spills, many of which are already brought in federal court. However, the provision would not apply to mass tort injuries that involve the same injury over and over again such as asbestos and breast implant cases.

While I traditionally oppose having federal courts decide state tort issues, and disfavor the expansion of the jurisdiction of the already-overloaded district courts, I have been willing to support this provision because it would only expand federal court jurisdiction in a very narrow class of actions and is being affirmatively sought for efficiency purposes by the federal courts. This is in stark contrast to the class action bill, which would completely federalize state law and was strongly opposed by the federal and state courts.

Section 3 was not included in the Senate passed bill, so I am hopeful that we can reach an accommodation which satisfies all of the in-

terested parties and allows the more important *Lelexon* provision to proceed. I would also note that the federal judiciary is also seeking to address a number of additional procedural matters, and I would hope that this body would take the time to enact these measures as well.

Mr. SENENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no requests for time. I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the motion.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENENBRENNER).

The motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees: Messrs. HYDE, SENENBRENNER, COBLE, CONYERS, and BERMAN.

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO DEMOCRACY, FREE ELECTIONS, AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 169) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to democracy, free elections, and human rights in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 169

Whereas since the 1975 overthrow of the existing Royal Lao Government, Laos has been under the sole control of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party;

Whereas the present Lao constitution provides for a wide range of freedoms for the Lao people, including freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom of religion, and Laos is a signatory to international conventions on genocide, racial discrimination, discrimination against women, war crimes, and rights of the child;

Whereas since July 1997, Laos has been a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), an organization which has set forth a vision for the year 2020 of a membership consisting of "open societies . . . governed with the consent and greater participation of the people" and "focus(ed) on the welfare and dignity of the human person and the good of the community";

Whereas, despite the Lao constitution and the membership by Laos in ASEAN, the Department of State's Laos Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 1998 states that the Lao Government's human rights record deteriorated and that the Lao Government restricts freedom of speech, assembly, association, and religion;

Whereas Amnesty International reports that serious problems persist in the Lao Government's performance in the area of human rights, including the continued detention of prisoners of conscience in extremely harsh conditions, and that in one case a prisoner of conscience held without trial since 1996 was chained and locked in wooden stocks for a period of 20 days;

Whereas Thongsouk Saysangkhi, a political prisoner sentenced to 14 years imprisonment in November 1992 after a grossly unfair