

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
Army	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	Klecza
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
Bliley	Fowler	Lee
Blumenauer	Frank (MA)	Levin
Blunt	Franks (NJ)	Lewis (CA)
Boehlert	Frelinghuysen	Lewis (GA)
Boehner	Frost	Lewis (KY)
Bonilla	Galleghy	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	Hilleary	Miller, George
Coble	Hinchey	Minge
Coburn	Hinojosa	Mink
Combust	Hobson	Moakley
Condit	Hoeffel	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	Ney
Cubin	Hunter	Northup
Cummings	Hutchinson	Norwood
Cunningham	Hyde	Nussle
Danner	Inslee	Oberstar
Davis (FL)	Isakson	Obey
Davis (IL)	Istook	Olver
Deal	Jackson (IL)	Ose
DeFazio	Jackson-Lee	Owens
DeGette	(TX)	Packard
Delahunt	Jefferson	Pallone
DeLauro	Jenkins	Pascarell
DeLay	John	Pastor
DeMint	Johnson (CT)	Pease
		Pelosi

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
Army	Dooley	Kennedy
Bachus	Doolittle	Kildee
Baird	Doyle	Kilpatrick
Baker	Dreier	Kind (WI)
Baldacci	Duncan	King (NY)
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Bateman	Evans	LaFalce
Becerra	Everett	Lampson
Bentsen	Farr	Lantos
Bereuter	Fattah	Largent
Berkley	Filner	Larson
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Biggert	Foley	LaTourette
Bilbray	Forbes	Lazio
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Boehner	Ganske	LoBiondo
Bonilla	Gejdenson	Lofgren
Bono	Gekas	Lowey
Borski	Gephardt	Lucas (KY)
Boswell	Gibbons	Lucas (OK)
Boucher	Gilchrest	Luther
Boyd	Gillmor	Maloney (CT)
Brady (PA)	Gilman	Maloney (NY)
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Bryant	Goodling	Matsui
Burr	Gordon	McCarthy (MO)
Burton	Goss	McCarthy (NY)
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, George
Clyburn	Hilleary	Minge
Coble	Hinchey	Mink
Coburn	Hinojosa	Moakley
Combust	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	Ney
Crowley	Hulshof	Nethercutt
Cubin	Hunter	Northup
Cummings	Hutchinson	Norwood
Cunningham	Hyde	Nussle
Danner	Inslee	Oberstar
Davis (FL)	Isakson	Obey
Davis (IL)	Istook	Olver
Deal	Jackson (IL)	Ose
DeFazio	Jackson-Lee	Owens
DeGette	(TX)	Packard
Delahunt	Jefferson	Pallone
DeLauro	Jenkins	Pascarell
DeLay	John	Pastor
DeMint	Johnson (CT)	Pease
Deutsch	Johnson, E. B.	Pelosi
Diaz-Balart	Johnson, Sam	

NOT VOTING—34

□ 1417

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.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 588, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF CONGRESS 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.

Peterson (MN)	Scarborough	Terry
Peterson (PA)	Schaffer	Thomas
Petri	Schakowsky	Thompson (CA)
Phelps	Scott	Thompson (MS)
Pickering	Sensenbrenner	Thornberry
Pickett	Serrano	Thune
Pitts	Sessions	Thurman
Pombo	Shaw	Tiahrt
Pomeroy	Shays	Tierney
Porter	Sherman	Toomey
Portman	Sherwood	Towns
Price (NC)	Shinkus	Trafficant
Pryce (OH)	Shows	Turner
Quinn	Simpson	Udall (CO)
Rahall	Sisisky	Udall (NM)
Ramstad	Skeen	Upton
Regula	Skelton	Velazquez
Reynolds	Slaughter	Vento
Riley	Smith (NJ)	Visclosky
Rivers	Smith (TX)	Vitter
Rodriguez	Smith (WA)	Walden
Roemer	Snyder	Walsh
Rogan	Souder	Wamp
Rogers	Spence	Watt (NC)
Rohrabacher	Spratt	Watts (OK)
Ros-Lehtinen	Stabenow	Weiner
Rothman	Stark	Weldon (FL)
Roukema	Stearns	Weldon (PA)
Roybal-Allard	Stenholm	Weller
Royce	Strickland	Wexler
Rush	Stump	Weygand
Ryan (WI)	Stupak	Whitfield
Ryun (KS)	Sununu	Wicker
Sabo	Sweeney	Wilson
Salmon	Talent	Wolf
Sanchez	Tancred	Woolsey
Sanders	Tanner	Wu
Sandlin	Tauscher	Wynn
Sanford	Tauzin	Young (AK)
Sawyer	Taylor (MS)	Young (FL)
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	McCrery	Shadegg
Davis (VA)	McIntyre	Shuster
Dunn	Meehan	Smith (MI)
Ehrlich	Metcalfe	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. SENSENBRENNER. 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, multiforum 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. SENSENBRENNER) 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 SENSENBRENNER 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 *Lexecon v. Milberg Weiss*, which held that a transferee court assigned to hear pretrial matters must remand all cases back for 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 *Lexecon* 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. SENSENBRENNER. 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. SENSENBRENNER).

The motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees: Messrs. HYDE, SENSENBRENNER, 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