

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

TRADE AGENCY AUTHORIZATIONS, DRUG FREE BORDERS, AND PREVENTION OF ON-LINE CHILD PORNOGRAPHY ACT OF 1999

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1833) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 for the United States Customs Service for drug interdiction and other operations, for the Office of the United States Trade Representative, for the United States International Trade Commission, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1833

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Trade Agency Authorizations, Drug Free Borders, and Prevention of On-Line Child Pornography Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE

Subtitle A—Drug Enforcement and Other Noncommercial and Commercial Operations

Sec. 101. Authorization of appropriations for noncommercial operations, commercial operations, and air and marine interdiction.

Sec. 102. Illicit narcotics detection equipment for the United States-Mexico border, United States-Canada border, and Florida and the Gulf Coast seaports.

Sec. 103. Peak hours and investigative resource enhancement for the United States-Mexico and United States-Canada borders.

Sec. 104. Compliance with performance plan requirements.

Subtitle B—Child Cyber-Smuggling Center of the Customs Service

Sec. 111. Authorization of appropriations for program to prevent child pornography/child sexual exploitation.

Subtitle C—Personnel Provisions

CHAPTER 1—OVERTIME AND PREMIUM PAY OF OFFICERS OF THE CUSTOMS SERVICE

Sec. 121. Correction relating to fiscal year cap.

Sec. 122. Correction relating to overtime pay.

Sec. 123. Correction relating to premium pay.

Sec. 124. Use of savings from payment of overtime and premium pay for additional overtime enforcement activities of the Customs Service.

Sec. 125. Effective date.

CHAPTER 2—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 131. Study and report relating to personnel practices of the Customs Service.

TITLE II—OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Sec. 201. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

Sec. 301. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE I—UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE

Subtitle A—Drug Enforcement and Other Noncommercial and Commercial Operations

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR NONCOMMERCIAL OPERATIONS, COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS, AND AIR AND MARINE INTERDICTION.

(a) NONCOMMERCIAL OPERATIONS.—Section 301(b)(1) of the Customs Procedural Reform and Simplification Act of 1978 (19 U.S.C. 2075(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) \$999,563,000 for fiscal year 2000.”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

“(B) \$996,464,000 for fiscal year 2001.”.

(b) COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 301(b)(2)(A) of the Customs Procedural Reform and Simplification Act of 1978 (19 U.S.C. 2075(b)(2)(A)) is amended—

(A) in clause (i) to read as follows:

“(i) \$1,154,359,000 for fiscal year 2000.”; and

(B) in clause (ii) to read as follows:

“(ii) \$1,194,534,000 for fiscal year 2001.”.

(2) REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not later than each subsequent 90-day period, the Commissioner of Customs shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a report demonstrating that the development and establishment of the automated commercial environment computer system is being carried out in a cost-effective manner and meets the modernization requirements of title VI of the North American Free Trade Agreements Implementation Act.

(c) AIR AND MARINE INTERDICTION.—Section 301(b)(3) of the Customs Procedural Reform and Simplification Act of 1978 (19 U.S.C. 2075(b)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) \$109,413,000 for fiscal year 2000.”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

“(B) \$113,789,000 for fiscal year 2001.”.

(d) SUBMISSION OF OUT-YEAR BUDGET PROJECTIONS.—Section 301(a) of the Customs Procedural Reform and Simplification Act of 1978 (19 U.S.C. 2075(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) By not later than the date on which the President submits to the Congress the budget of the United States Government for a fiscal year, the Commissioner of Customs shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate the projected amount of funds for the succeeding fiscal year that will be necessary for the operations of the Customs Service as provided for in subsection (b).”.

SEC. 102. ILLICIT NARCOTICS DETECTION EQUIPMENT FOR THE UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER, UNITED STATES-CANADA BORDER, AND FLORIDA AND THE GULF COAST SEAPORTS.

(a) FISCAL YEAR 2000.—Of the amounts made available for fiscal year 2000 under section 301(b)(1)(A) of the Customs Procedural Reform and Simplification Act of 1978 (19 U.S.C. 2075(b)(1)(A)), as amended by section 101(a) of this Act, \$90,244,000 shall be available until expended for acquisition and other expenses associated with implementation and deployment of illicit narcotics detection equipment along the United States-Mexico border, the United States-Canada border, and Florida and the Gulf Coast seaports, as follows:

(1) UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER.—For the United States-Mexico border, the following:

(A) \$6,000,000 for 8 Vehicle and Container Inspection Systems (VACIS).

(B) \$11,200,000 for 5 mobile truck x-rays with transmission and backscatter imaging.

(C) \$13,000,000 for the upgrade of 8 fixed-site truck x-rays from the present energy level of 450,000 electron volts to 1,000,000 electron volts (1-MeV).

(D) \$7,200,000 for 8 1-MeV pallet x-rays.

(E) \$1,000,000 for 200 portable contraband detectors (busters) to be distributed among ports where the current allocations are inadequate.

(F) \$600,000 for 50 contraband detection kits to be distributed among all southwest border ports based on traffic volume.

(G) \$500,000 for 25 ultrasonic container inspection units to be distributed among all ports receiving liquid-filled cargo and to ports with a hazardous material inspection facility.

(H) \$2,450,000 for 7 automated targeting systems.

(I) \$360,000 for 30 rapid tire deflator systems to be distributed to those ports where port runners are a threat.

(J) \$480,000 for 20 portable Treasury Enforcement Communications Systems (TECS) terminals to be moved among ports as needed.

(K) \$1,000,000 for 20 remote watch surveillance camera systems at ports where there are suspicious activities at loading docks, vehicle queues, secondary inspection lanes, or areas where visual surveillance or observation is obscured.

(L) \$1,254,000 for 57 weigh-in-motion sensors to be distributed among the ports with the greatest volume of outbound traffic.

(M) \$180,000 for 36 AM traffic information radio stations, with 1 station to be located at each border crossing.

(N) \$1,040,000 for 260 inbound vehicle counters to be installed at every inbound vehicle lane.

(O) \$950,000 for 38 spotter camera systems to counter the surveillance of customs inspection activities by persons outside the boundaries of ports where such surveillance activities are occurring.

(P) \$390,000 for 60 inbound commercial truck transponders to be distributed to all ports of entry.

(Q) \$1,600,000 for 40 narcotics vapor and particle detectors to be distributed to each border crossing.

(R) \$400,000 for license plate reader automatic targeting software to be installed at each port to target inbound vehicles.

(2) UNITED STATES-CANADA BORDER.—For the United States-Canada border, the following:

(A) \$3,000,000 for 4 Vehicle and Container Inspection Systems (VACIS).

(B) \$8,800,000 for 4 mobile truck x-rays with transmission and backscatter imaging.

(C) \$3,600,000 for 4 1-MeV pallet x-rays.

(D) \$250,000 for 50 portable contraband detectors (busters) to be distributed among ports where the current allocations are inadequate.

(E) \$300,000 for 25 contraband detection kits to be distributed among ports based on traffic volume.

(F) \$240,000 for 10 portable Treasury Enforcement Communications Systems (TECS) terminals to be moved among ports as needed.

(G) \$400,000 for 10 narcotics vapor and particle detectors to be distributed to each border crossing based on traffic volume.

(3) FLORIDA AND GULF COAST SEAPORTS.—For Florida and the Gulf Coast seaports, the following:

(A) \$4,500,000 for 6 Vehicle and Container Inspection Systems (VACIS).

(B) \$11,800,000 for 5 mobile truck x-rays with transmission and backscatter imaging.

(C) \$7,200,000 for 8 1-MeV pallet x-rays.

(D) \$250,000 for 50 portable contraband detectors (bustlers) to be distributed among ports where the current allocations are inadequate.

(E) \$300,000 for 25 contraband detection kits to be distributed among ports based on traffic volume.

(b) FISCAL YEAR 2001.—Of the amounts made available for fiscal year 2001 under section 301(b)(1)(B) of the Customs Procedural Reform and Simplification Act of 1978 (19 U.S.C. 2075(b)(1)(B)), as amended by section 101(a) of this Act, \$8,924,500 shall be available until expended for the maintenance and support of the equipment and training of personnel to maintain and support the equipment described in subsection (a).

(c) ACQUISITION OF TECHNOLOGICALLY SUPERIOR EQUIPMENT; TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of Customs may use amounts made available for fiscal year 2000 under section 301(b)(1)(A) of the Customs Procedural Reform and Simplification Act of 1978 (19 U.S.C. 2075(b)(1)(A)), as amended by section 101(a) of this Act, for the acquisition of equipment other than the equipment described in subsection (a) if such other equipment—

(A)(i) is technologically superior to the equipment described in subsection (a); and

(ii) will achieve at least the same results at a cost that is the same or less than the equipment described in subsection (a); or

(B) can be obtained at a lower cost than the equipment described in subsection (a).

(2) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the Commissioner of Customs may reallocate an amount not to exceed 10 percent of—

(A) the amount specified in any of subparagraphs (A) through (R) of subsection (a)(1) for equipment specified in any other of such subparagraphs (A) through (R);

(B) the amount specified in any of subparagraphs (A) through (G) of subsection (a)(2) for equipment specified in any other of such subparagraphs (A) through (G); and

(C) the amount specified in any of subparagraphs (A) through (E) of subsection (a)(3) for equipment specified in any other of such subparagraphs (A) through (E).

SEC. 103. PEAK HOURS AND INVESTIGATIVE RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT FOR THE UNITED STATES-MEXICO AND UNITED STATES-CANADA BORDERS.

Of the amounts made available for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 301(b)(1) of the Customs Procedural Reform and Simplification Act of 1978 (19 U.S.C. 2075(b)(1)(A) and (B)), as amended by section 101(a) of this Act, \$127,644,584 for fiscal year 2000 and \$184,110,928 for fiscal year 2001 shall be available for the following:

(1) A net increase of 535 inspectors, 120 special agents, and 10 intelligence analysts for the United States-Mexico border and 375 inspectors for the United States-Canada border, in order to open all primary lanes on such borders during peak hours and enhance investigative resources.

(2) A net increase of 285 inspectors and canine enforcement officers to be distributed at large cargo facilities as needed to process and screen cargo (including rail cargo) and reduce commercial waiting times on the United States-Mexico border.

(3) A net increase of 40 inspectors at sea ports in southeast Florida to process and screen cargo.

(4) A net increase of 300 special agents, 30 intelligence analysts, and additional resources to be distributed among offices that have jurisdiction over major metropolitan drug or narcotics distribution and transpor-

tation centers for intensification of efforts against drug smuggling and money-laundering organizations.

(5) A net increase of 50 positions and additional resources to the Office of Internal Affairs to enhance investigative resources for anticorruption efforts.

(6) The costs incurred as a result of the increase in personnel hired pursuant to this section.

SEC. 104. COMPLIANCE WITH PERFORMANCE PLAN REQUIREMENTS.

As part of the annual performance plan for each of the fiscal years 2000 and 2001 covering each program activity set forth in the budget of the United States Customs Service, as required under section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, the Commissioner of the Customs Service shall establish performance goals, performance indicators, and comply with all other requirements contained in paragraphs (1) through (6) of subsection (a) of such section with respect to each of the activities to be carried out pursuant to sections 111 and 112 of this Act.

Subtitle B—Child Cyber-Smuggling Center of the Customs Service

SEC. 111. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR PROGRAM TO PREVENT CHILD PORNOGRAPHY/CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Customs Service \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 to carry out the program to prevent child pornography/child sexual exploitation established by the Child Cyber-Smuggling Center of the Customs Service.

(b) USE OF AMOUNTS FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CYBER TIPLINE.—Of the amount appropriated under subsection (a), the Customs Service shall provide 3.75 percent of such amount to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for the operation of the child pornography cyber tipline of the Center and for increased public awareness of the tipline.

Subtitle C—Personnel Provisions

CHAPTER 1—OVERTIME AND PREMIUM PAY OF OFFICERS OF THE CUSTOMS SERVICE

SEC. 121. CORRECTION RELATING TO FISCAL YEAR CAP.

Section 5(c)(1) of the Act of February 13, 1911 (19 U.S.C. 267(c)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) FISCAL YEAR CAP.—The aggregate of overtime pay under subsection (a) (including commuting compensation under subsection (a)(2)(B)) that a customs officer may be paid in any fiscal year may not exceed \$30,000, except that—

“(A) the Commissioner of Customs or his or her designee may waive this limitation in individual cases in order to prevent excessive costs or to meet emergency requirements of the Customs Service; and

“(B) upon certification by the Commissioner of Customs to the Chairmen of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate that the Customs Service has in operation a system that provides accurate and reliable data on a daily basis on overtime and premium pay that is being paid to customs officers, the Commissioner is authorized to pay any customs officer for one work assignment that would result in the overtime pay of that officer exceeding the \$30,000 limitation imposed by this paragraph, in addition to any overtime pay that may be received pursuant to a waiver under subparagraph (A).”

SEC. 122. CORRECTION RELATING TO OVERTIME PAY.

Section 5(a)(1) of the Act of February 13, 1911 (19 U.S.C. 267(a)(1)), is amended by in-

serting after the first sentence the following new sentences: “Overtime pay provided under this subsection shall not be paid to any customs officer unless such officer actually performed work during the time corresponding to such overtime pay. The preceding sentence shall not apply with respect to the payment of an award or settlement to a customs officer who was unable to perform overtime work as a result of a personnel action in violation of section 5596 of title 5, United States Code, section 6(d) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, or title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.”

SEC. 123. CORRECTION RELATING TO PREMIUM PAY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5(b)(4) of the Act of February 13, 1911 (19 U.S.C. 267(b)(4)), is amended by adding after the first sentence the following new sentences: “Premium pay provided under this subsection shall not be paid to any customs officer unless such officer actually performed work during the time corresponding to such premium pay. The preceding sentence shall not apply with respect to the payment of an award or settlement to a customs officer who was unable to perform work during the time described in the preceding sentence as a result of a personnel action in violation of section 5596 of title 5, United States Code, section 6(d) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, or title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.”

(b) CORRECTIONS RELATING TO NIGHT WORK DIFFERENTIAL PAY.—Section 5(b)(1) of such Act (19 U.S.C. 267(b)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) NIGHT WORK DIFFERENTIAL.—

“(A) 6 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT.—If any hours of regularly scheduled work of a customs officer occur during the hours of 6 p.m. and 12 a.m., the officer is entitled to pay for such hours of work (except for work to which paragraph (2) or (3) applies) at the officer's hourly rate of basic pay plus premium pay amounting to 15 percent of that basic rate.

“(B) MIDNIGHT TO 6 A.M.—If any hours of regularly scheduled work of a customs officer occur during the hours of 12 a.m. and 6 a.m., the officer is entitled to pay for such hours of work (except for work to which paragraph (2) or (3) applies) at the officer's hourly rate of basic pay plus premium pay amounting to 20 percent of that basic rate.

“(C) MIDNIGHT TO 8 A.M.—If the regularly scheduled work of a customs officer is 12 a.m. to 8:00 a.m., the officer is entitled to pay for work during such period (except for work to which paragraph (2) or (3) applies) at the officer's hourly rate of basic pay plus premium pay amounting to 20 percent of that basic rate.”

SEC. 124. USE OF SAVINGS FROM PAYMENT OF OVERTIME AND PREMIUM PAY FOR ADDITIONAL OVERTIME ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES OF THE CUSTOMS SERVICE.

Section 5 of the Act of February 13, 1911 (19 U.S.C. 267), is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

“(e) USE OF SAVINGS FROM PAYMENT OF OVERTIME AND PREMIUM PAY FOR ADDITIONAL OVERTIME ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) USE OF AMOUNTS.—For fiscal year 1999 and each subsequent fiscal year, the Secretary of the Treasury—

“(A) shall determine under paragraph (2) the amount of savings from the payment of overtime and premium pay to customs officers; and

“(B) shall use an amount from the Customs User Fee Account equal to such amount determined under paragraph (2) for additional overtime enforcement activities of the Customs Service.

“(2) DETERMINATION OF SAVINGS AMOUNT.—For each fiscal year, the Secretary shall calculate an amount equal to the difference between—

“(A) the estimated cost for overtime and premium pay that would have been incurred during that fiscal year if this section, as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of sections 122 and 123 of the Trade Agency Authorization, Drug Free Borders, and Prevention of On-Line Child Pornography Act of 1999, had governed such costs; and

“(B) the actual cost for overtime and premium pay that is incurred during that fiscal year under this section, as amended by sections 122 and 123 of the Trade Agency Authorization, Drug Free Borders, and Prevention of On-Line Child Pornography Act of 1999.”

SEC. 125. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This chapter, and the amendments made by this chapter, shall apply with respect to pay periods beginning on or after 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

CHAPTER 2—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 131. STUDY AND REPORT RELATING TO PERSONNEL PRACTICES OF THE CUSTOMS SERVICE.

(a) STUDY.—The Commissioner of Customs shall conduct a study of current personnel practices of the Customs Service, including an overview of performance standards and the effect and impact of the collective bargaining process on drug interdiction efforts of the Customs Service and a comparison of duty rotation policies of the Customs Service and other Federal agencies that employ similarly-situated personnel.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of Customs shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a report containing the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

TITLE II—OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

SEC. 201. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 141(g)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2171(g)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “not to exceed the following” and inserting “as follows”;

(B) in clause (i) to read as follows:

“(i) \$26,501,000 for fiscal year 2000.”; and

(C) in clause (ii) to read as follows:

“(ii) \$26,501,000 for fiscal year 2001.”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in clause (i), by adding “and” at the end;

(B) by striking clause (ii); and

(C) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (ii).

(b) SUBMISSION OF OUT-YEAR BUDGET PROJECTIONS.—Section 141(g) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2171(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) By no later than the date on which the President submits to the Congress the budget of the United States Government for a fiscal year, the United States Trade Representative shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate the projected amount of funds for the succeeding fiscal year that will be necessary for the Office to carry out its functions.”

TITLE III—UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

SEC. 301. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 330(e)(2)(A) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1330(e)(2)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i) to read as follows:

“(i) \$47,200,000 for fiscal year 2000.”; and

(2) in clause (ii) to read as follows:

“(ii) \$49,750,000 for fiscal year 2001.”

(b) SUBMISSION OF OUT-YEAR BUDGET PROJECTIONS.—Section 330(e) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1330(e)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) By no later than the date on which the President submits to the Congress the budget of the United States Government for a fiscal year, the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate the projected amount of funds for the succeeding fiscal year that will be necessary for the Commission to carry out its functions.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1833.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1833, the Trade Agency Authorizations, Drug Free Borders, and Prevention of On-Line Child Pornography Act of 1999 contains budget authorizations for the United States Customs Service, the Office of the United States Trade Representative and the International Trade Commission. H.R. 1833 also reforms Customs inspectors overtime and shift differential pay.

H.R. 1833 passed the committee unanimously by a vote of 36-0.

H.R. 1833 authorizes the President's budget request for USTR and the ITC, but goes beyond the President's request for the Customs Service in order to provide more funding for drug interdiction, child pornography prevention initiatives and Customs automation.

Illegal drugs are killing our youths. Sex predators stalk our children on the Internet. We must protect our children from the scourge of illegal drugs and on-line sex predators. H.R. 1833 aims to do just that.

Today is Missing Child Day. It is tragic that we need to recognize such a day. H.R. 1833 would authorize \$10 million for the Customs Cyber-smuggling Center so that customs can step up protection of our children from on-line predators and pedophiles. Part of this authorization would go to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's cyber tipline that handles calls and on-line reports of sexual exploitation of children.

While I am on this portion of the bill, I would like to pay tribute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) because she was the one that was in the vanguard

of incorporating these provisions dealing with trying to monitor pornography on the Internet. She deserves the overwhelming credit of one and all on a bipartisan basis for her work. She will elaborate more fully later.

H.R. 1833 also includes more than \$400 million over the President's budget request for drug interdiction in fiscal year 2000 and fiscal year 2001. This funding would allow Customs to purchase drug detection equipment and hire additional inspectors to keep illegal drugs from crossing our borders into our children's hands.

Customs must also keep our trade moving smoothly. Customs current Automated Commercial System, ACS, is 16 years old and on the brink of continual brownouts and shutdowns. This costs the American taxpayer millions of dollars. Customs has begun building a new system, Automated Commercial Environment, ACE, but the President did not see fit to request funding for ACE for fiscal year 2000. Instead, the President requested a fee that the administration did not justify. The American public cannot wait for the President, so Congress must take action. H.R. 1833 does just that. It authorizes \$150 million for ACE in fiscal year 2000 and fiscal year 2001.

H.R. 1833 also makes common-sense changes to Customs officers overtime pay and nighttime pay. The legislation maintains, and even increases, some benefits to Customs inspectors in recognition of their hard work and the valuable services they perform.

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The revisions also correct some anomalies in Customs officers' overtime and differential pay. Under H.R. 1833, officers would be paid overtime only for overtime hours worked. Also, officers would be paid shift differential only for night work instead of daytime work under the present system. This saves the American taxpayer money.

In short, this legislation will help prevent illegal drugs from crossing our borders, prevent on-line child pornography, prevent waste of taxpayers' dollars and prevent delays in moving our trade.

Finally, I note that at the request of the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight we had to drop a provision in the bill that would put the Commissioner of Customs at the same pay level as other Treasury Department bureau heads. That provision is the only provision within the jurisdiction of that committee.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this package and pass this legislation.

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

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this suspension procedure that we use in the House is supposed to be reserved for bills that are not controversial. Where there is controversy in the committee or subcommittee, members of the minority

and the majority should have an opportunity to at least discuss those issues and vote on those issues.

Today we see a violation, a real violation, of that principle, because here we find a good bill, a bill there that is supposed to support the United States Trade Representative's Office, the International Trade Commission, a bill that the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) worked so hard on to prevent child pornography, which all of us find repugnant to everything that we believe in as Americans, as human beings, and we find a real attack against drug trafficking by providing sophisticated equipment for those men and women who have dedicated themselves to protect our borders against these drugs coming into the United States.

Why in God's name then, Mr. Speaker, do we find on the suspension calendar, incorporated in this bill, that which prevents us from debating, prevents us from voting for it, a provision that nobody wants except one or two people in the majority on the committee? Where did it come from? Where did it start? Where were the hearings? Where was the reports? Where is the evidence that indicated that Customs inspectors were overpaid?

It certainly did not come from hearings which we had on this issue before we voted on this, and even when we were marking up the bill, the only evidence we had was a staff member from the majority giving us information that was not available through any official report. Here we have Customs officials that put their lives on the line each and every day protecting our borders; three were killed in the line of duty. They fight every day, they struggle every day, and the commissioner and the unions were never discussed on this issue, but somebody knew better than them on the committee and revised it because they did not like the wording of it in the regulation.

It is not fair, Mr. Speaker, and it comes almost close to being illegal, to fold something like that, a controversial subject like that, into a bill that no one politically is prepared to vote against on the suspension calendar for fear that we would be supporting child pornography, that we would be supporting drug trafficking, that we would not support the USTR and the ITC.

There is no excuse for this being included in this bill. It divided our committee, it divides our subcommittee, and it is things like this that cause divisions in the House of Representatives.

We knew why these people were paid overtime pay, we know the reasons they were done, and it is because, unlike other federal law enforcement officers, the Customs do not give and we did not provide the same type of benefits that law enforcement officials get. They do not get the 20-year pension retirement, they do not get a whole lot of perks that law enforcement officials get, and this was folded into their pay

in order to compensate for the fact that some do law enforcement work and they do not get paid law enforcement salaries.

Was it controversial? Ask anybody on the majority whether it was controversial. So, why should it be included in this suspension calendar in a bill that certainly is without controversy? I suspect it is because they once again want to deny us the opportunity to reconsider the amendment that was offered in committee and deny us the opportunity to be able to vote on this issue singularly, like it should be.

I know that the Committee on Ways and Means has traditionally enjoyed closed rules when it comes to the House, but this is not a tax issue, and this is not an issue that is coming to the House in regular form. It comes to us as a suspension bill, and I am really disappointed that my committee would see fit to fold a controversial subject into a suspension bill and deny us the opportunity once again to debate it.

I would just like to say Ray Kelly is the Commissioner of Customs; he opposes it. The union opposes it, the Secretary of Treasury opposes it, the administration opposed it, and almost half of the members of the Committee on Ways and Means opposed it, but we will not get an opportunity to vote on that issue.

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

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and in response to some of the concerns registered, and I can certainly sympathize with our distinguished colleague, but I do think that we have put together here a good bill, and it is one that in committee the total package enjoyed the support of both sides of the aisle overwhelmingly. But we are, I think, making some common sense changes, and at the same time we are maintaining and even increasing some benefits as Customs inspectors or to Customs inspectors in recognition of their hard work and the valuable services they perform. These revisions are identical to those that this committee and the full House passed overwhelmingly last year.

The night pay reform still keeps Customs officers in a better position than other federal employees, and the bill does not change some of the other special benefits that Customs officers receive. For example, Customs officers receive twice the hourly rate for overtime while FEPA employees receive only one and a half times the hourly rate. The night pay reform is not meant to penalize our hard-working Customs officers. Instead, it is designed to advance common sense.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER), our colleague who serves on the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important legislation today, and first, let me begin by com-

mending my friend and colleague from Illinois (Mr. CRANE), chairman of the Subcommittee on Trade, putting forward a good bill, a bill which was endorsed by unanimous bipartisan vote, the Committee on Ways and Means just this past week. I rise in support of this legislation, the Trade Agency Authorizations, Drug-free Borders, Prevention of On-line Pornography Act of 1999. It is important legislation designed to protect children from drugs and child pornographers. Amongst the most important provisions of H.R. 1833, the bill authorizes \$10 million for the Child Cyber Smuggling Center to provide the U.S. Customs Service with the necessary tools to prevent child pornography and child sexual exploitation initiated over the Internet. I also want to commend my friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) for her leadership on this issue as she authored the original legislation that was included in this bill today.

Protecting children from Internet predators is an issue that is important to the folks back home in the south suburbs of Chicago. This last year I received a phone call from a mother asking for help in responding to a situation affecting her 9-year-old daughter. An Internet predator posted her child's name on several pornographic Internet sites and in chat rooms and advertised for certain favors. To protect their daughter, their family was forced to move from their home and to hide from those they feared would contact them as a result of this Internet advertising. When they sought the help of local police, they were told there is no law preventing predators from doing this to young children. I am proud that legislation I authored, which became law last year, the Protecting Children From Internet Predators Act which made it illegal to use the Internet to target an individual under the age of 16 for sexually explicit messages or contacts, is now law, and I want to thank this House for the bipartisan support.

Let me explain very clearly with some startling facts and statistics why this legislation is so important and deserves bipartisan support, because we should all care about kids, and we should all care about child pornography and its impact on children. It is estimated that by the year 2002 more than 45 million children will be on-line with access to the Internet. The number of child pornography and pedophilia sites is impossible to determine, but the Center for Missing Children estimates that are 10,000 web sites maintained by pedophiles while the CyberAngles organization estimates 17,000 pedophile web sites available via the Internet. The United States alone law enforcement has confiscated more than 500,000 indecent images, photos of children, some as young as 2 years of age, and since January 1 of 1998 federal law enforcement has arrested over 460 adults for Internet-related child sexual exploitation offenses.

Mr. Speaker, we need to do more to protect kids from child pornography, to protect children from being exploited by those who would prey on them via the Internet. This legislation gives the United States Customs Service the tools they need. It deserves bipartisan support. Let us protect the kids from pornographers.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the objective of H.R. 1833 to provide the U.S. Customs Service with the resource it needs to safeguard our borders and to put a stop to the spread of child pornography on-line. The men and women of the U.S. Customs Service perform vital functions with respect both to law enforcement and preserving the integrity of U.S. trade with foreign nations there on the front line.

Much of this bill is devoted to authorizing the appropriation of funds for the acquisition of sophisticated narcotics detection equipment by the Customs Service. Ironically, however, Section 123 (b) would cut the pay of some of the very people who will be operating that equipment. The current pay structure for Customs inspectors and officers was put into place in 1993. It was designed to reflect the unusual demands of inspectors' and officers' jobs, the odd hours, the unpredictability of schedules, the physical safety risk. Under this system, if a majority of the hours in an inspector officer's shift falls within the window from 3 p.m. to 8 a.m., the inspector officer is paid at a premium rate for the shift. 1833 would change it. Let me just give my colleagues an example.

For example, take the Customs inspector who regularly works the 3 a.m. to 11 a.m. shift. Assuming that that inspector earns \$19.25 per hour as base pay, his or her premium pay under the current system is \$154 per week. Under H.R. 1833, the premium pay would be reduced by \$96.25 per week, and assuming that shift would work throughout the year, it would amount to a reduction in pay of \$5,000 a year.

Why this provision? It was introduced without adequate consideration of the adverse impact it would have on actual Customs inspectors and officers. The sponsors of this provision relied on a report by the Inspector General that did nothing more than calculate the absolute increase in night pay differential over a 3-year period since enactment of the current arrangement.

□ 1115

The report did not study the cause of that increase, nor did it purport to find that that increase was unjustified. It was simply an accounting of the size of the increase.

So what happens? The majority decides to bring this bill under suspension, with no ability for us to present an amendment. This is a distortion of the suspension process. The chair of the subcommittee and others have said

this passed unanimously. True, after an amendment was introduced to strike it, it was debated. We lost it on a straight party vote, but we had a chance to raise it.

What the majority is doing here is putting forth a bill that is good in almost all of its provisions and tying in a provision that is not justified and, I think, is not justifiable. They essentially trapped the minority, saying if you want to vote against a bill that is generally good because of one provision and it is a serious one, go ahead and do it.

Mr. Speaker, bipartisanship should have some meaning in this place. There is no excuse whatsoever for this procedure. It was tried last session, the same trick was tried, and what happened? The bill died in the Senate because of provisions that are not related to the important work of the Customs force and had nothing to do with child pornography, which we obviously must be very concerned about.

This is not a tax bill. There is no reason to have this bill brought on suspension or in any other way that prevents an amendment.

Mr. Speaker, we talk about common sense. Common sense and common decency in a legislative body mean giving people a chance to present an amendment and debating it. This is not a defensible procedure.

I suggest that we vote "aye," because the bill, in all but one of its major provisions, is a strong bill that we should pass. But I just want the majority here to understand that we resent this procedure. There is no reason for it. It undermines the bipartisanship that the majority sometimes says it believes in. We will do what happened last time. We will march over to the Senate and ask it to extricate this House from an unfair procedure.

My colleagues may think they are being politically clever, but they are going to pay for it in terms of feelings between the majority and the minority.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Last year in committee we considered identical provisions on reforming pay, and my colleagues across the aisle did not move to strike. I find it difficult now for them to say that we are being unfair today.

The irony of the current system is that one can receive night pay for the entire noon-to-8-p.m. shift, but one would receive no night pay for working a 4-a.m.-to-noon shift, even for those brutal hours between 4 a.m. and 6 a.m., and that makes no sense. This bill would fix this problem.

Our goal is not to penalize Customs officers, but to correct an anomaly in the law.

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

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I do not think there is any controversy about the facts between the

majority and the minority. It was opposed last year by the Democrats; it was opposed by the Commission of Customs, it was opposed by the union, it was opposed by the employees, and it is still being opposed, and it has no place in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN).

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, there is much good in this bill. As the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) has pointed out, there are a lot of provisions in here that are extremely important to the Customs Service. H.R. 1833 provides additional resources needed for the U.S. Customs Service to combat illegal drug activities across our border; it will provide additional equipment with the latest technology for the antidrug enforcement provisions. It provides additional funds for the Child Cyber-Smuggling Center to assist in our efforts to prevent child pornography.

So there is a lot of good in this bill. We are going to support it. I think it is going to get a large vote.

But there is bad in this bill. There are provisions that should not be in here. It amends existing laws concerning the payment of night-shift pay for our Customs officers.

Let me talk a little bit about what this Congress did before, why we put shift pay differential in the law. Congress found that these odd hour shifts that Customs officials are assigned, they do not volunteer, are assigned as part of their work, have an adverse impact on the quality of life of Customs officials who are required to work regularly scheduled shifts at night, on Sundays or holidays. We found, as a body, that the shift differential compensation levels are substantially greater than applied generally to other Federal employees for such regularly scheduled work. So what this legislation is doing is altering the balance that we took in 1993, and that is just wrong.

U.S. Customs Service performs vital functions of both law enforcement and preserving the integrity of U.S. trade laws with foreign nations. The current compensation structure was designed to take account of the unusual stresses of their job, both on-job safety risks and irregular work hours. We should honor that, and I agree with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the process should provide us an opportunity as a body to express our will on the subject. But the process that has been used by the majority will deny that opportunity today.

Yes, we will support the bill because of the important provisions in it, but the provision concerning pay differential is wrong; it should be removed from the bill.

This bill alters the balanced approach crafted in 1993 in two ways. First, the provision restricts the hours that qualify for the night shift differential to hours between 6 p.m.

and 6 a.m. Second, the provision compensates Customs officers at the differential rate only for those hours that occur between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. (with one limited exception), and not the entire shift. Effectively, these changes will mean that a Customs officer who works a shift starting at 3 a.m. and ending at 11 a.m. will receive the shift differential for only 3 hours of that shift.

To offset some of the loss in pay likely to occur, section 121 of the bill adjusts the overtime cap that, under current law, restricts the amount of overtime pay a Customs officer may earn in one year. In effect, this adjustment would allow Customs officers to work more overtime to compensate for lost wages, or put another way, Customs officers will have to work more to get the same pay. Such a result seems unfair, given that no one (including Customs) has alleged that Customs officers are overcompensated. Moreover, only a small percentage of officers currently reach the overtime cap, and therefore would even benefit from the new provision.

A single report, done in 1996 by the Office of Inspector General (OIG), has been offered to support this change to night shift differential pay. That report purportedly reviews the operation of the night pay differential and the overtime cap since COPRA. The report, which concludes that the COPRA resulted in an increase in overall premium night shift differential payments, is, however, seriously flawed.

First, the OIG report merely calculated the absolute increase in night differential pay over a three year period. The report did not investigate the cause of the increase. The OIG's report did not investigate whether the increase was due to an overall increase in the number of hours being worked, whether there was an increase in the number of late shifts being worked due to increased trade, or whether the increase in cost was attributable to an increase in base wages. Rather, the OIG report merely concludes that the increase was due to COPRA without investigating, entertaining or otherwise considering any other possible reasons for the increase.

Second, the OIG report did not assess the impact on Customs employees' salaries. As discussed above, the 1993 changes to the methods of calculating premium night shift differential payments was part of a comprehensive package of reforms intended to ensure that Customs officers would receive pay adequate compensation for the hard and, often dangerous, work they perform. Altering the carefully crafted package Congress created in 1993 without assessing the impact on Customs officers' overall pay is irresponsible, and could result in an unwarranted pay cut for many of these officers. Such a result seems unfair, given that no one, including OIG and Customs, has alleged that Customs employees are overpaid. Third, OIG did not find any evidence of abuse in this system. In fact, to the contrary, the OIG report specifically states that Customs management did not change work schedules to allow employees to earn more shift differential pay. Rather, Customs management continued to schedule shifts to fit customer's demand.

We are not opposed to considering amendments to Customs officers pay, if a credible study evaluates and recommends that legislative changes be made. However, we are opposed to cutting someone's wages based on report that shows nothing. The men and

women of the U.S. Customs Service perform vital functions with respect to both law enforcement—keeping drugs and other contraband from crossing our borders—and preserving the integrity of U.S. trade with foreign nations. Their current compensation structure was designed to take account of the unusual stresses of their job—both the on-the-job safety risks and the irregular hours. We do not believe that there is clear evidence that those aspects of a Customs officer's job have changed in a way that would justify reducing their pay, which is precisely what H.R. 1833 will do.

It's too bad, Mr. Speaker. We have a good bill here. We found a flaw and I believe there would have been a way to address this issue that would have made both sides of this Congress happy and would have been supported by the men and women who will actually be affected by our vote today. I am sorry we missed an opportunity.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA).

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for yielding me this time.

There is good news, obviously, and some bad news in regard to H.R. 1833. The good news, as we have heard, is that this bill contains authorizations for funds which are desperately needed for drug interdiction, to combat child pornography, and to help the Customs Department automate its very antiquated computer system.

By the way, with regard to that computer system, which is about 15 years old, it has browned out on several occasions. That means it has come close to actually blacking out completely. The 6-hour lapse of that brown-out caused the Customs caseload to increase not 6 hours, but by 2 weeks. Businesses across the country were thrown off their schedule for months.

We are desperately in need of updating our computer system at the Customs Department because of the constantly growing load of import and export product coming into this country and leaving this country.

Mr. Speaker, there is also bad news with H.R. 1833, and that is that it contains a provision that has nothing to do with Customs running its shop well, nothing to do with treating its employees well; and has no place in this bill, and should not come up through this suspension process for a vote. Unfortunately, this is a heavy-handed approach to try to get something done that was not approved by either the employees of the Customs Department or the Customs Department itself.

Management and labor do not agree with this provision, yet it is in here. That is a heavy-handed approach to try to impose upon both the agency and its employees something that they do not believe in. It is unfortunate that we have to micromanage at this stage a bill that, for the most part, does great good for the Customs Department.

That agency is in need of our support. Its workload is growing constantly with regard to trying to inter-

dict drugs. We know the issue of child pornography and trying to stop it from coming into this country. Why we would clutter a good bill with a bad provision makes no sense. But because of the procedural mess we find ourselves in, unfortunately, we have very little choice. Do we oppose a bill that for the most part is very good, to make a point, or do we vote for a bill, understanding that we are providing for legislation the possibility of enacting a law that would change the rules of the game for employees who have no say as to their work hours?

It is unfortunate that we are there; it is unfortunate that employees at Customs find themselves in this situation, not because management at Customs wants to do this, but because Congress, in its wisdom to micromanage, has decided to include a provision which they do not want.

If we extract this, this bill would fly without any no votes, I would suspect. But with this, unfortunately, there are a number of people who have to pause. Pause because while we want to do good, we do not want to do bad at the same time. Unfortunately for Customs employees, it looks like they are going to have to swallow some bad to politically take the good. That is unfortunate, and it should never happen.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT).

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I know this bill is to reauthorize the Customs Service, and I know the Customs Service has a difficult job. One of the jobs I wanted to just mention to my colleagues as we are debating this bill involves a company in my State that imports lots of items that are under the classification of festive items, Christmas items. Those items have a different tariff duty than other items do, and just so the House is aware, recently one of their items, an item that was an inexpensive music box that played Silent Night, the Customs folks would not classify that a "festive item" because, they said, it was a music box and because, they said, it played Silent Night instead of Jingle Bells, I am not sure which. But the code is specific. It tries to set aside that type of item.

Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if we could not ask the Customs Service to be more reasonable in applying those laws. This is not an expensive thing; it is not a musical instrument. It is a one-time-a-year use that happens to play a religious Christmas-type of song.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to reassure my colleague that we will look into it. This is the first I have heard of it, and it does sound a little bizarre, and I hope it is just a parochial, isolated case and not universal.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CRANE. I yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman being willing to look into it, and I appreciate the time of the Members here today.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

While the distinguished subcommittee chairman is looking into the controversy of Jingle Bells and Silent Night, I hope he might take some time to read the letter from the Commissioner of Customs, Raymond Kelly, who indicated on May 25 that he is opposed to this subtitle C, sections 122, 123 and 124 of the bill that is before us today, and a bill that apparently we are unable to do anything about.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to the subcommittee chairman and ask him whether or not he would consider reconsidering this provision since it is a good bill and a lot of people worked hard on this bill. It helps prevent drugs, it helps prevent the spread of child pornography, it supports the administration for things that they have been waiting for, and we want to be able to go over to the Senate and say it is a good bill and that this provision should be reconsidered.

I hope the majority might consider excluding this provision or reconsidering this provision in conference, because it is a good piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I know how difficult it is for the majority to rule with just six votes in the majority, but I think that is the reason why now more than ever we should try to work together on those things that we agree on, because that is what the American people want.

□ 1130

They do not want to see us coming down here each and every day fighting each other over things that deal with procedure while they are working for substantive issues to be passed.

There is no need for us to have had to discuss this provision today, Mr. Speaker, because it had no place in this bill. If certain Republicans wanted it that badly, they should have brought it to the floor and had debate on it. It is just wrong to fold this into the suspension calendar, which says that it is not a controversial position.

We can hear what we want from the other side, we can examine the RECORD, but no one challenges that the employees did not want this, the union did not want this, the Commissioner of Customs did not want this, the President of the United States and his administration did not want this.

There is not one scintilla of evidence that substantiates the need for changing this except somebody on the other side of the aisle, somebody whose name is not in the record, wanted this change, and waited until the middle of the night on the suspension calendar to fold it into basically a good bill. It is wrong to do this, and I hope it does not happen again.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of the Treasury Inspector General issued a

very rigorous recommendation to end the night pay anomaly back in 1996. The Inspector General went further and asked for a 10 percent pay differential. Our bill does not go so far and preserves a 15 to 20 percent differential, better than any other Federal employee, in recognition of the hard work by our Customs employees.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the recommendation of the Inspector General, since my colleague on the other side of the aisle thinks this came from us.

He said, "The Assistant Secretary (Enforcement) should direct Customs to seek legislation that would lessen the number of hours available for Customs officers to earn night differential and reduce the night work differentials to a 10 percent premium on base pay." As I said, that is in contrast to our 15 to 20 percent.

"The change to the COPRA should create a night differential payment package that would more accurately reimburse Customs officers for hours actually worked at night, as was done previously under the FEPA. We believe guidance similar to the FEPA would accomplish this purpose."

So this is not new. That was 1996 when that recommendation was made.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to quickly recite some other facts of the Customs bill that deals with trying to curb the abuses by pedophiles on the Internet.

In the United States alone, law enforcement has confiscated more than 500,000 indecent images of children, some as young as 2 years old. Since January 1 of last year, Federal law enforcement has arrested over 460 adults for Internet-related child sexual exploitation offenses, and according to some police estimates, as many as 80,000 child pornography files are traded online every week.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON), our distinguished colleague who is responsible for that precious component of this legislation.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation and its many provisions to improve the effectiveness of the Customs Office, but I will focus my comments on the provisions of this bill that strengthen Custom's ability to combat cyber predators.

The Internet has revolutionized the way we learn, communicate, and even shop. It is making a reality of equal opportunity by providing truly equal access to information and the power that knowledge confers. But there is a dark side to the Internet that we must confront. Parents need to know that just as there are dangerous areas in every city, there are dangerous sites on the Internet. We need to do a better job of protecting our children from entering a website or chatroom that could lead them to harm.

The old question of "Do you know where your child is" has a whole new

meaning in the age of cyberspace. Most people are not aware that the Internet is now the number one choice, the number one choice, of predators as a means of preying on children and trafficking in child pornography.

There are an estimated 10,000 websites maintained by pedophiles. Trading in images of child pornography on the Internet takes place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Let us make no mistake about it, these people are out there lurking in cyberspace, and any child on the Internet could fall prey to these pedophiles.

Roughly 12 million children use the Internet every day, spending an average of 8 hours a week in chatrooms where they can come into contact with online pedophiles. The danger of these chatrooms is that they provide sex predators with a forum to prey on unsuspecting kids who cannot see who is behind the screen on the other end of the line.

When I go into fifth grade classrooms, I ask those kids, what does your mom tell you about talking to strangers? And they all know the answer. What do your folks tell you about getting into the cars of strangers? And their little faces just light up, because they know they should not do that and they will not do that, and that I can count on them, that they will not do that.

It is a new world. We have to understand the new rules, and just as our kids will not talk to a stranger or get in the car of a stranger, we have to teach them not to go into the chatrooms, where everyone is a stranger.

These cyber predators use their anonymity to lure our children out of their homes to meet people solely for the purpose of sexual assault. Sexual predators used to lurk around the schoolyard. Now they lurk in our living rooms, they lurk in our children's bedrooms, they lurk wherever we have our computer terminal.

Listen to the Hartford Current of February 18, 1999: "A 31-year-old Enfield man was arrested Wednesday on charges that he sexually assaulted a 12-year-old East Hartford girl he met on America Online chatroom."

She told the police, and I am skipping forward, she told them that she had met Ed in the chatroom on America Online, and that they had graphic sexual discussions over the Internet. She identified herself to him as Veronica, which was not her real name. They would talk for hours at night while the girl's mother was at work and she was babysitting for her young-er sister.

On February 4, they arranged to meet in the parking lot of the East Hartford apartment complex so her mother would not know.

Kids think this is a game, like so many other games they play on television. This did not turn out to be a game for this kid. This turned out to be a terrible experience.

These cyber predators use their anonymity to lure our children out of our homes for the sole purpose of sexual assault. This legislation will help the Customs Service expand their work in combatting cyber predators and purveyors of child pornography.

They have done a phenomenal job. They have gotten a conviction of every single arrest. But they need better funding, they need more people, and they need more authority. This Congress is working on all three of those fronts.

This bill authorizes better funding of the child pornography and child sexual exploitation program that is designed to capture online pedophiles, and it would also better fund the operation of the child pornography cyber tip line run by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children that helps identify and locate online predators.

As more kids go online every day, we need to ensure their safety. It is time to let online pedophiles know that they can no longer hide behind our computer screens. I urge support of this legislation, and full funding of the needed \$10 million in the appropriations process.

I thank the chairman of the subcommittee for his long work on this and for his leadership.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1½ minutes in support of this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). Is there objection to each side being granted an additional 1 minute for debate?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) is recognized to control 1 minute.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise for 2 reasons: First, to applaud the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) for her efforts to help the U.S. Customs Service battle against child exploitation on the Internet, and second, to support the provisions of her legislation included in H.R. 1838.

Child pornography was a worldwide industry that was all but eradicated in the 1980s, but the explosive growth of computer technology via e-mail, chatrooms, and news groups have created a bigger demand for pornographic pictures of our children on the information superhighway.

Congress must step up to the plate and take some action to stem the growing tide of child exploitation on the Internet. In February, I introduced a bill to authorize \$5 million to appropriate each year for the next 4 fiscal years to fund the Cyber Smuggling Center.

Until that bill reaches the floor, I would ask Members' complete support for H.R. 1838, which contains provisions championed by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON), including the addition of \$100,000 for the Cyber Smuggling Center for fiscal year 2000.

I urge all of the Members, on this National Missing Children's Day, to sup-

port the Customs Service's fight against child pornography on the Internet by voting in favor of H.R. 1833.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE) is recognized for 1 minute in closing.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I yield my final 1 minute to my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE).

Mr. NUSSLE. I thank the chairman for yielding time to me, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this commonsense legislation. It is about time that we have the opportunity here today on this floor to move legislation that will, as my colleague, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) said, begin the process of patrolling what is happening with pornography, of being able to work on drugs coming into this country, being able to do what every one of our constituents back in our districts at town meetings across this country have told us, that we need to do a better job at our borders.

We finally have the opportunity to pass this commonsense reform today. Yet, for some strange reason there seems to be some lingering technicality out there with regard to this legislation which is making it very difficult for all of the very positive reasons for maybe some of the Democrats to not support this legislation.

I would implore those who are listening in their offices and getting ready to come over to consider voting for this that it is time that they put their word and deeds where the actions of our constituents have requested us to, and that is to pass this commonsense reform for our Customs Service.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend my colleague from Illinois, Representative CRANE, for his hard work in bringing this important legislation forward early on in this Congress. H.R. 1833 will provide the U.S. Customs Service with additional tools to prevent illegal drugs from entering our nation. This is a vital bill that will go a long way in winning the war on drugs but the most valuable asset of any agency is its workforce.

Unfortunately, H.R. 1833 also contains a provision which I believe will seriously harm the morale of our Customs agents and impede our ability to recruit qualified individuals. H.R. 1833 contains a provision that restricts the hours during which customs agents can earn night shift differential pay to between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. Currently, Customs agents earn night shift differential pay between the hours of 3 p.m. and 8 a.m. The Customs Agency is the only federal agency where employees work a constantly changing shift. For example, employees work days for two weeks, then evenings, then nights. Night shift differential pay is a standard law enforcement benefit and one of the few federal law enforcement benefits extended to Customs agents.

If this bill passes the House, we will reduce the amount of pay at Customs agent earns by an average of \$96.00 a week or \$5000.00 a year. A Customs agent making \$40,000 a year will face a reduction in pay of nearly 12%. Do we really want to tell Customs agents that we are only willing to spend more money on des-

perately needed equipment to fight the war on drugs if they give up a portion of their yearly salary? I think not, this provision sends entirely the wrong message to these brave men and women.

Moreover, I have serious concerns that this provision says to Customs agents that they can make up for the lost night shift differential pay due to enhancements in overtime benefits. But in order to earn back lost pay, an individual would be required to work more than forty hours a week. This is simply wrong. We would be telling these federal workers that they must spend greater and greater amounts of time away from their family just to meet their current needs. Again, this is backwards and contrary to the family values we should be promoting. This provision sends the wrong message to the individuals who play a significant role in protecting our border and our entire nation from shipments of illegal drugs.

During the week of May 10th, a Customs Agent was shot on his way home from work by an individual who had targeted him as a law enforcement official. The Federal Government does not extend most law enforcement officer benefits to Customs Agents. This bill would limit one of the few law enforcement benefits that Customs Agents receive.

I am greatly disappointed that H.R. 1833 is on the Suspension Calendar today, and that we do not have the opportunity to even offer an amendment that would have removed section 123(b), the new night shift differential pay provisions. I think that Members of this House deserve the opportunity to support this important bill while also supporting our U.S. Customs Agents.

Mr. Speaker, again, I would like to thank my colleague, Representative CRANE for all of his work in bringing H.R. 1833 forward and express my profound disappointment in the currently included night shift differential pay provisions. I believe we need to strengthen the Customs Agency if we are going to stop illegal drugs from entering our Country and we must do all that we can to protect our children. However, we must not say to Customs Agents that their tireless efforts are insufficient, and that equipment counts more than the personnel. I firmly hope that we can work our differences out when this bill goes to Conference with the Senate.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. We all oppose child pornography. We all want to fight drugs. But why include provisions to cut our Customs officers' pay in this important bill?

This does not make sense! How can you ask Customs employees—who enforce more laws than any other federal officers—to be more effective when you open the door to cutting some of their pay up to \$96 a week? Giving employees \$5,000 less pay in a year is an incentive to help them do their jobs better?

The bill undermines the partnership that has flourished between Customs personnel and their managers in the successful drug interdiction efforts. How does cutting Customs employees pay for working their regular night shifts help bolster our War on Drugs?

I support the provisions of H.R. 1833 that would increase the number of Customs Service employees along the border and provide Customs with state-of-the-art drug detection equipment. I support the \$10 million to prevent the imports of on-line child pornography. But I reject the provisions that cut Customs hazardous pay for essential nighttime shifts.

H.R. 1833 gives us tools to fight the War on Drugs, but puts those who will use the tools in straitjackets. We will lose the War on Drugs and waste taxpayers' money if we spend money on expensive, cutting-edge equipment at the same time we undermine employee morale and labor standards.

I support the frontline soldiers in the War on Drugs—our Customs personnel—and urge support for legislation that enhances, rather than detracts, from their good work.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to rise in support of H.R. 1833. This bill reauthorizes the U.S. Trade Representative and Custom offices as well as increase efforts to patrol our borders and protect the Internet from online predators.

H.R. 1833 affects agricultural trade with its authorization of the United States Trade Representative. I support this bill and I believe this bill is an opportunity to urge the Ways and Means Committee to work with me to reform our sugar subsidy problem. I have introduced with Congressman GEORGE MILLER (D-CA) H.R. 1850, the Sugar Program Reform Act. The Miller-Miller bill would phase out the sugar program by the end of 2002.

The sugar program is the "sugar daddy" of corporate welfare. Why? Because most of the benefits of this program go to huge corporate sugar producers, not the typical family farmer.

The sugar program's sole purpose is to prop up the price of sugar in the United States through a complex system of low-interest, nonrecourse loans and tight import restrictions. In fact, the price of sugar in the United States today is roughly four times as high as the price of sugar world wide.

As a result, the sugar program imposes a "sugar tax" on consumers, forcing them to more than \$1 billion in higher prices for food and sugar every year.

It devastates the environment, particularly the fragile Everglades in my home State of Florida. Higher prices for sugar have encouraged more and more sugar production in the Everglades Agricultural Area, leading to high levels of phosphorus-laden agricultural runoff flowing into the Everglades, which has damaged the ecosystem.

It has cost many Americans their jobs because it has restricted the supply of sugar that is available on the American market, resulting in the closure of a dozen sugar refineries across the country.

Finally, it hampers our ability to expand trade opportunities for America's farmers. It is hypocritical for the United States to protect domestic sugar production while urging other countries to open their agricultural markets. America loses leverage in trade negotiations as a result.

I am not here to talk about my bill, but to raise the issues of trade in H.R. 1833. This bill reauthorizes funding for the United States Trade Representative. The USTR is charged with helping to enforce trade laws and to break down barriers around the world. As a matter of fact, there will be important trade talks in Seattle later this year to discuss eliminating trade barriers. However, the USTR will head into Seattle with little credibility as long as the U.S. sugar program is in existence.

At Seattle, our USTR will try to have foreign nations lower their subsidies claiming that subsidies are unfair to consumers, taxpayers and trading nations. At the same time, the U.S. will greatly impair the ability of foreign sugar to

come into this huge market because of our crazy sugar policy. This double standard will greatly affect our ability to argue the benefits of no trade barriers. All countries will try to protect their favorite subsidy or tariff as long as the United States maintains its indefensible defense of the sugar barons. I am hopeful that passage of this legislation will give the USTR the resources necessary to break down foreign barriers while educating all policy makers on the importance of lowering our own barriers on sugar.

The sugar program is an archaic, unnecessary government handout to corporate sugar producers at the expense of consumers, workers, and the environment. It is truly deserving of reform. I hope the USTR will work to eliminate the double standard of the sugar program.

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 1833.

While this bill contains many worthy provisions, there are a number of provisions contained in H.R. 1833 of particular importance to my constituents in South Florida. For example, the bill directs the following additional resources to Florida and Gulf Coast ports: \$4.5 million for 6 vehicle and container inspection systems; \$11.8 million for 5 mobile truck x-rays; \$7.2 million for 8 1-MeV pallet x-rays; \$0.25 million for portable contraband detectors; and \$0.3 million for 25 contraband detection kits.

The bill also authorizes a net increase of 40 inspectors at southeastern Florida seaports (Port of Miami, Port Everglades, and Port of Palm Beach) to process and screen cargo.

In sum, this bill renews Congress' commitment to interdiction drugs in Florida. For too long, Customs resources have been diverted to the southwestern border and Puerto Rico while drugs have poured into Florida. This bill begins to rectify that situation.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 1833 is an excellent bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1833, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CONCERNING TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF TIANANMEN SQUARE MASSACRE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 178) concerning the tenth anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre of June 4, 1989, in the People's Republic of China.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 178

Whereas the United States was founded on the democratic principle that all men and women are created equal and entitled to the exercise of their basic human rights;

Whereas freedom of expression and assembly are fundamental human rights that be-

long to all people and are recognized as such under the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

Whereas the death of the former General Secretary of the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China, Hu Yaobang, on April 15, 1989, gave rise to peaceful protests throughout China calling for the establishment of a dialogue with government and party leaders on democratic reforms, including freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, and the elimination of corruption by government officials;

Whereas after that date thousands of prodemocracy demonstrators continued to protest peacefully in and around Tiananmen Square in Beijing until June 3 and 4, 1989, until Chinese authorities ordered the People's Liberation Army and other security forces to use lethal force to disperse demonstrators in Beijing, especially around Tiananmen Square;

Whereas nonofficial sources, a Chinese Red Cross report from June 7, 1989, and the State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1989, gave various estimates of the numbers of people killed and wounded in 1989 by the People's Liberation Army soldiers and other security forces, but agreed that hundreds, if not thousands, of people were killed and thousands more were wounded;

Whereas 20,000 people nationwide suspected of taking part in the democracy movement were arrested and sentenced without trial to prison or reeducation through labor, and many were reportedly tortured;

Whereas human rights groups such as Human Rights Watch, Human Rights in China, and Amnesty International have documented that hundreds of those arrested remain in prison;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to suppress dissent by imprisoning prodemocracy activists, journalists, labor union leaders, religious believers, and other individuals in China and Tibet who seek to express their political or religious views in a peaceful manner; and

Whereas June 4, 1999, is the tenth anniversary of the date of the Tiananmen Square massacre: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses sympathy to the families of those killed as a result of their participation in the democracy protests of 1989, as well as to the families of those who have been killed and to those who have suffered for their efforts to keep that struggle alive during the past decade;

(2) commends all citizens of the People's Republic of China who are peacefully advocating for democracy and human rights; and

(3) condemns the ongoing and egregious human rights abuses by the Government of the People's Republic of China and calls on that government to—

(A) reevaluate the official verdict on the June 4, 1989, Tiananmen prodemocracy activities and order relevant procuratorial organs to open formal investigations on the June fourth event with the goal of bringing those responsible to justice;

(B) establish a June Fourth Investigation Committee, the proceedings and findings of which should be accessible to the public, to make a just and independent inquiry into all matters related to June 4, 1989;

(C) release all prisoners of conscience, including those still in prison as a result of their participation in the peaceful prodemocracy protests of May and June 1989, provide just compensation to the families of those killed in those protests, and allow those exiled on account of their activities in 1989 to