

Nevada talking with constituents about the Republican tax plan and how it was going to help them and their families.

Now this legislation is based on a very simple idea, the idea that once Government pays its bills and has money left over, it should be returned to those who paid: the taxpayer. Most taxpayers know if their money is left in Washington, politicians will spend it every time.

Mr. Speaker, the average family in Nevada worked until May 14 this year just to pay their tax bill. Simply put: Nevadans spent roughly the first 4 months of each year working for the Federal Government.

We are at a crossroads in our country's history. We balanced the budget, reformed welfare, cut wasteful spending, and created a surplus revenue in Washington, D.C. But a windfall for Washington is not right. Working families should not be working just for Washington, but Washington should be working for taxpayers, and cutting taxes is the best way to tip the scales back to our constituents, the hard-working people.

After all, Mr. Speaker, this debate is about downsizing the power of Government and upscaling the power of the people.

PILLOW TALK AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, after all the buying and spying, the Department of Energy has announced their new security policy. All scientists must now report any and all romantic affairs that they have with foreigners.

Now if that is not enough to centerfold our Playboys, check this out. There is one exception, and I am not kidding: one night stands are still permitted.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. The next time, Congress, we see an ad for a temporary, overnight, meaningful relationship, be careful. It may be from a real rocket launcher at the Department of Energy.

Launch this.

I yield back all the pillow talk at the Department of Energy.

SUPPORT THE PAIN RELIEF PROMOTION ACT

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, is the Netherlands really ready for killing sick children? That is the question currently pending in Holland as they consider a bill that would allow the killing of six children as young as 12 years old if they are terminally ill. A spokeswoman for the Royal Dutch Medical Association said:

"The doctor will do his utmost to try to reach an agreement between patient and parents, but if the parents do not want to cooperate, it is the doctor's duty to respect the wishes of their patient."

So much for the Hippocratic Oath for a civilized medical institution.

This situation in Netherlands gives us all the more reason to work to pass the Pain Relief Promotion Act, which disallows the intentional use of controlled substances to cause or assist in suicide. At the same time it recognizes that using controlled substances to alleviate pain and discomfort in the usual course of professional practice is a legitimate medical purpose and consistent with public health and safety.

Mr. Speaker, we never want to see a day when our young kids or elderly parents legally and intentionally die at the hands of a so-called doctor. Support the Pain Relief Promotion Act.

RURAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE

(Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, over 20 percent of the students in this country attend small rural schools. Many of these schools are in my Nebraska district. These schools offer students excellent educations and many benefits including small classes, excellent educations, personal attention, strong family and community involvement. However, until now federal education programs have not addressed the unique funding needs in these districts. All current federal education formula grants unintentionally ignore small rural schools because these formulas do not produce enough revenue to carry out the program the grant is intended to fund.

To address this problem I have introduced a bill, the Small Rural Schools initiative to provide flexibility for districts with fewer than 600 students to combine funds from federal education formula grants to support local education efforts. The Small Rural Schools initiative is a common sense approach to help these schools to use federal funds for the purpose that Congress intended, to make a meaningful impact in the education of all students.

TIME TO ELIMINATE THE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I have an important question to ask, and that is what is the President going to do about the marriage tax penalty?

Over the last 2 years, dozens of us in this House have asked the important question, is it right, is it fair, that under our Tax Code married working couples with two incomes pay higher

taxes than identical couples with identical incomes living together outside of marriage. We believe it is wrong that 21 million married working couples pay higher taxes just because they are married; and this Congress, this Republican Congress, has passed, the end of July, legislation which will eliminate the marriage tax penalty for a majority of those who suffer it.

The question we have: Is the President going to join with us and make it a bipartisan effort to eliminate the marriage tax penalty by signing into law the tax cut when we send it to him later this week?

Twenty-one million married working couples pay \$1,400 more in higher taxes just because they are married. Is it not time that we eliminate the marriage tax penalty?

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken today after debate has been concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

CONGRESSIONAL AWARD ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1999

Mr. TANCREDI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 380) to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 380

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

SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL AWARD ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1999.

(a) CHANGE OF ANNUAL REPORTING DATE.—Section 3(e) of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 802(e)) is amended in the first sentence by striking "April 1" and inserting "June 1".

(b) MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS.—Section 4(a)(1) of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 803(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraphs (A) and (D), by striking "member of the Congressional Award Association" and inserting "recipient of the Congressional Award"; and

(2) in subparagraphs (B) and (C), by striking "representative of a local Congressional Award Council" and inserting "a local Congressional Award program volunteer".

(c) EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENTS REGARDING FINANCIAL OPERATIONS OF CONGRESSIONAL AWARD PROGRAM; NONCOMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS.—Section 5(c)(2)(A) of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 804(c)(2)(A)) is amended by striking "and 1998" and inserting "1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004".

(d) TERMINATION.—Section 9 of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 808) is amended by striking "October 1, 1999" and inserting "October 1, 2004".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDI) and the

gentleman from California (Mr. MARTINEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDI).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 380, the Congressional Award Act amendments of 1999. Congress established the Congressional Award in 1979 to recognize initiative, achievement, and service in our young people across the country. Senator Malcolm Wallop, a Republican from Wyoming, and Representative James Howard, a Democrat from New Jersey, authored the original legislation in a bipartisan effort.

The original legislation established the Congressional Award as a private-public partnership which receives funding from the private sector and was originally signed into law by President Jimmy Carter. In addition, Presidents Reagan, Bush, and Clinton have signed legislation to reauthorize the act.

The Congressional Award is presented on a noncompetitive individual basis to young people in the United States between the ages of 14 and 23 to recognize their initiative, achievement, and service. Young people from all walks of life and levels of ability can work to earn the award. Participants range from the academically and physically gifted to those with severe physical, mental and socioeconomic challenges.

To earn a Congressional Award, participants work with advisers to set individual goals and plan activities to meet these goals in four program areas including voluntary public service, personal development, physical fitness, and expedition exploration. Participants strive for either a bronze, silver, or gold award. At each level 50 percent of the required minimum hours to earn the award are in volunteer public service, a minimum of 100 hundred hours for the bronze, 200 for the silver and 400 for the gold. To date, more than 6,500 Congressional Awards have been presented representing more than 1.5 million hours of volunteer service from all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Congress has spent a greater part of the 106th Congress working to ensure that tomorrow is a safer and more positive place for our youth. We now have an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to America's youth for another 5 years. Crime prevention, working with the United Way, aiding the elderly, collecting, sorting and distributing food for the needy and building a handicap-accessible ramp are just a few of the services that individuals perform while working to attain Congressional Awards.

America's youth is crying out for support and encouragement, and this award is helping to give them this today.

Several challenges are currently being implemented to the Congressional Award program to give more young people the opportunity to par-

ticipate and earn awards. These changes include the reduction in the paperwork necessary to enroll, a lower enrollment fee, a shift of authority from national to local control which allows State councils, youth service organizations, and other entities to operate the Congressional Award and an additional track of awards called the Congressional Certificates to recognize individuals in a less demanding manner and help instigate interest in earning the Congressional Award. In addition, the Congressional Award has made a commitment to America's promise, headed by General Colin Powell, to increase the number of youth enrolled in the program over the next 2 years.

S. 380 was introduced in the Senate by Senator LARRY CRAIG on February 4, reported out by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs on March 4. The bill would reauthorize this important initiative for 5 years. It also makes minor changes to current law to better streamline the annual reporting process and changes the membership requirements of the board of directors to allow for more participation at the local level enabling communities that do not have a Congressional Award Council to participate on the board of directors.

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The bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent on April 13, 1999.

It is important to continue the authorization of the Congressional Award for several reasons. The Congressional Research Service submitted a memorandum to committee staff regarding the potential consequences to the Congressional Award program if it were not reauthorized. CRS concluded that if the board were not reauthorized, questions may arise as to the propriety of its continued use of the Congressional Award program name; an alternative mechanism for appointment of board members would be required because members of the board are currently appointed by Congressional leadership. Alternative means of financing the Congressional Award medals would be required because the U.S. Mint is currently directed to strike the medals used for the Congressional Award; I might add, at no direct expense to the taxpayers, and an in-kind congressional support, primarily office space at the Ford Building, could be terminated because of questions as to the propriety of the use of official resources to support an activity that did not seem to have the support of Congress.

There are currently around 2,000 young people from across the country pursuing the Congressional Award, with more entering the program each day. Each of these young people exemplifies the qualities of commitment to service and citizenship that our country embodies and which we promote through our own service in Congress.

I believe that this program, which is a private-public partnership that re-

ceives nearly all of its funding from the private sector should be supported by each and every Member.

Congress should support our Nation's youth in their efforts and recognize their achievements through the Congressional Award program.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and ask them to encourage the youth of their States to begin a quest to earn the Congressional Award by enrolling on-line at www.congressionalaward.org.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 380, a bill to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act. As has been said by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDI), first passed by Congress and signed into law by President Carter in 1979, the Congressional Award Act recognizes young Americans for their commitment to self-and community-improvement.

Program participants ages 14 to 23 set individual goals in the areas of voluntary community service, personal development, physical fitness, and exploration. Once these goals are achieved, they earn bronze, silver, or gold medals which are presented to them during a special ceremony by their Member of Congress.

Because a Congressional Award is noncompetitive and individuals earn rather than win awards, any young person, regardless of his or her life circumstances or physical or mental abilities, can participate.

The benefits of the Congressional Award program are numerous and lasting. While young people work to earn awards, they develop a sense of self-worth, self-confidence, and responsibility. They also learn important life skills such as initiative, organization, teamwork and problem solving.

In addition, the communities in which these young people reside benefit from their volunteerism and hard work. Since the program's inception in 1979, 8,204 young Americans have received Congressional Awards, and over 2 million hours of volunteer service have been completed.

While programs are administered at the local level by Congressional Award Councils, national activities and program oversight are carried out by the Congressional Award Foundation and the board of directors. Currently serving on the board are Senators MAX BAUCUS and LARRY CRAIG, and the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. CUBIN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ).

Although the Congressional Award program is a private-public partnership that receives no Federal funding, the Congressional Award Act has been reauthorized twice, once during the Reagan administration and once during the Bush administration, and it is once again due for reauthorization.

On April 13, S. 380 passed the Senate by unanimous consent, and I urge my House colleagues to follow that body's example and pass S. 380 today.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of reauthorization of the Congressional Award Program. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the award program and I believe that it is appropriate to consider and review the origins and meaning of the award and our expectations for the board that serves to administer it on our behalf.

I take special pride in the fact that the Congressional Award was started by our late distinguished colleague Representative James J. Howard from central New Jersey. The award was enacted 20 years ago this November by Representative Howard who began laying the groundwork in 1969 for the program with the help of a young and future physician, Frank H. Arlinghaus, Jr., of Rumson, NJ, to fashion this uniquely American program. With the help of former Senator Malcolm Wallop, a bipartisan program was enacted in 1979. At the time of this sponsorship in the Senate, Senator Wallop and Representative Howard noted that Congress recognized a responsibility and opportunity to elevate and encourage the pursuit of excellence and to focus the creative energies of America's young people on positive ends. Congress, they said, wished to offer young people an opportunity and a challenge to new endeavors and achievement.

Representative Howard noted at that time that, although there were many programs for young people throughout the world, the Congressional Award Program was ours, it was unique and was to be independent of any other organization or association. Indeed the senior leadership of Congress gave explicit guidance to the National Director in 1982 that while the mandate of the Congressional Award is to make the program available to all interested young Americans, the autonomy of the Congressional Award as an independent program must be preserved at all times as it bore the imprimatur of Congress. Any relationship with any organization wither domestic or international is subject to that proviso.

My distinguished colleagues on both sides of the aisle from New Jersey take special pride in the fact that the Congressional Award in New Jersey operates under the most successful council in the country. That council has recently surpassed 1,300 awards earned in New Jersey alone and is now embarked on a record setting year of participation. There are hundreds of young people participating in the program, equally as many advisors and validators, and a host of supporting voluntary agencies and corporate supporters. This year alone there may be as many as four ceremonies to recognize these special young Americans.

The Congressional Award is Congress's special message to young people about national aspirations, values and goals. This award is a special message to young people and is a way of our communicating to them and to provide an avenue of communication with the young people who will comprise the leadership of America in the future.

This program is not necessarily easy nor is it difficult, but it takes character, persistence, initiative, service and achievement. At the Bronze Award level 100 hours of public service, 50 hours of personal development and 50 hours of physical fitness endeavors with a one

night expedition is a beginning test for a young person over 14 years old. It requires 7 months but not more than 12 to complete. The Silver Award requires 200 hours of public service, 100 hours of personal development effort, and 100 hours of physical fitness endeavor with a 2-night expedition. This requires over a 12-month commitment but not over 24 months. The Gold Congressional Award requires 400 hours of public service, 200 hours of personal achievement effort, 200 hours of physical fitness with a 4-night expedition. This supreme effort requires a 24-month commitment but not more than 36 months. A young person must be at least 16 to begin and be over 18 to earn and receive the Gold Award which our leaders present in a special ceremony in the Capitol. Each of these awards are earned separately and work done on one level is not counted for work on another level.

Indeed the special and rigorous nature of the award as achieved by those outstanding future leaders was cited by our distinguished Senate colleagues Senator LOTT and Senator DASCHLE as a requisite hallmark of the Congressional Award in their remarks at the Gold Award ceremony on June.

How do young people meet this challenge and earn this distinction? As was provided for in prior legislation, a state council is formed and appointed with consultation among our colleagues. The many adult volunteers and advisors who assist these young people are recruited, educated, and trained to administer the program. Each applicant registers, proposes their program, and it is evaluated and modifications made where appropriate. At the conclusion of that initial process their work begins. At the conclusion of demonstrated commitment, service, and achievement, we in turn through our councils assisted by the National Office salute their work with Congressional Award.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the legislative record my concerns about the direction of the Congressional Award and the changes that have been proposed by the National Office.

From the very beginning, when the Congressional Award was introduced by my predecessor, Representative James J. Howard, and then passed by the Congress in 1979, it was made very clear that the Award should be its own independent award under the sponsorship of the U.S. Congress. Congress did not intend that it be part of an international award under the patronage of Prince Philip of Great Britain. As stated by Congressman Howard "It was never our intention to duplicate in design and purpose the Duke of Edinburgh's Award."

The National Office of the Congressional Award has established new standards that make major changes in the award requirements including creating a second, less demanding track that enable young people to earn Congressional Award certificates. This is intended to bring the program more in line with the International Award. Unfortunately, it would also water down the overall program. Ultimately, I fear, young people would choose the easier route and the more intense medal program would fall by the wayside. This is not what Congress intended in 1979.

In addition the certificate track eliminates the close relationship that develops between adult advisors and young people as they plan their program goals. The certificate is awarded after the fact and there is little if any contact prior to that.

Finally, other changes have been made that affect how the hours spent by young people in voluntary public service, personal development and physical fitness as calculated toward earning gold medals.

I am very proud of the success of our New Jersey Congressional Award Program under the leadership of Dr. Frank Arlinghaus of Rumson, NJ. It was his idea to establish a Congressional Award.

As someone who has attended many of the Congressional Award ceremonies in New Jersey and seen many of my young constituents honored for their hard work, I would like to ask that the National Board of the Congressional Award address these questions and respond to the concerns raised by the programs in New Jersey, Arizona and elsewhere.

I believe we have a commitment to those who have earned the awards to date to maintain the high standards of the program. We also have a commitment to future participants and our colleagues to maintain the Award as it was originally intended by Congress.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the Congressional Award program and specifically how this program has worked in New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, many involved in the Congressional Award program know that this program's success is the byproduct of the hard work of my former colleague and a member of the New Jersey delegation, Congressman Jim Howard. Jim worked closely with Dr. Frank H. Arlinghaus, Jr., the Chairman of the New Jersey Congressional Award Council, in drafting the legislation that created this program in 1979. Dr. Arlinghaus, as a member of the national board of directors, as well as the driving force behind the program in New Jersey, has been instrumental in the growth of this program, both in New Jersey, as well as across the country. He has advised other state councils on the best way to educate America's youth as to the intent and benefits of participation in the Congressional Award Program.

As part of the Congressional Award program, my office has worked closely with teenagers in the 4th Congressional District of New Jersey, as they volunteer the hundreds of hours required for the bronze, silver, and gold medals. Many of them have shared with me how their experiences in the areas of public service, physical fitness, and personal growth have broadened their world view and fostered a greater appreciation for personal achievement.

On average, four students per year from the 4th Congressional District have received one of the three medals. Highlights of their community service has included volunteering at a local hospital where the students have assisted with everything from admitting patients and discharging patients, working in the children's clinic, and helping visitors with a variety of requests. Personal growth has included building physical endurance or improving a skill such as piano playing, which has facilitated their abilities on a variety of sports teams and in musical competitions. Students have also traveled overseas to the Philippines, Western Europe, and the Bahamas, experiencing first hand the challenges of cross cultural communication.

Recently, the National Board of Directors has been examining various ways to expand participation through a certificate program. To date, more than 6,500 awards have been presented nationwide. In New Jersey, we are

proud that 1300 of those awards, roughly 20 percent, have been given to young people from our state. Clearly, a program that is working so well in my state could offer a lot of ideas to the rest of the country about ways to attract more and more qualified students into the program.

In light of the recently proposed changes in the program and the shared goal of attracting more young people, I would suggest that a hearing on the Congressional Award program would be appropriate. The future growth of this program requires that Congress examine its development over the last 20 years as well as its future. I hope my good friend and colleague Chairman GOODLING will give full consideration to this request.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Congressional Award Program. This program has an Olympian quality because it encourages young people to stretch to their limits. The difference is that they set the high goals themselves. The experience is that the self-initiated goals are set so high that only 400 of the 1,000 students who start the program complete it.

Too often, we allow the impressive accomplishments of our youth to go unrecognized and unappreciated. We must encourage our young women and young men to strive to do their best in activities which develop themselves or their communities. The Congressional Award Program does just that by challenging students to set high goals for themselves in either personal development, physical fitness, or public service and provides them with recognition when they reach these goals. Last year I was proud to present seven awards representing a total of at least 400 hours of work to D.C. high school students, and this year, I believe that I will be able to award many more. I would like to recognize the 1998 recipients of the Congressional Award:

Leidi Reyes of Bell Multicultural High School, Silver medal; Jehan Carter—Banneker Senior High School, Bronze medal; Christin Chism—Bishop McNamara High School, Bronze medal; Brian Ford—Eastern Senior High School, Bronze medal; Miya Jackson—Eastern Senior High School, Bronze medal; Christiana Hodge—Eastern High School, Bronze medal; and Kate Ottenberg—Maret High School, Bronze medal.

These young people's families and community are rightly proud of them. They are members of an elite group of only 400 young people across the country who completed the program. I ask my colleagues to support them by supporting the re-authorization of the Congressional Award Program through 2004.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to support this bill (S. 380) that will re-authorize the Congressional Award Act. The re-authorization of this Act is significant because the program that is supported by this bill is one way in which the Congress provides an opportunity for the youths of the United States to better their own lives.

The Congressional Award has existed since 1979 as a way to encourage and reward American youth who undertake community service to benefit their community and themselves. It teaches our young people about such American values as citizenship, civic responsibility, and the importance of setting and achieving personal goals. Several thousand youths have participated in this program since

its inception and have received recognition for their efforts.

Congressional awards come in different forms: certificates, which are "introductory" level awards; and medals, which are more difficult to achieve. Certificates and medals come in the form of gold, silver and bronze awards. Each award is earned through the accumulation of hours of community service. When an award is earned, those hours can be applied toward the achievement of the next award. The gold medal, which is the highest level of the awards, is extremely prestigious and very difficult to earn, because it requires a minimum of 800 hours of service accumulated over a period of at least 24 months.

I am one of the Members of Congress currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Congressional Award Foundation and I am honored to serve in this position. I have the privilege of working alongside Congresswoman BARBARA CUBIN in this capacity.

In addition to serving on the Board of Directors of the Foundation, I am equally proud that the congressional award will soon be established in Puerto Rico. We hope to publicize the award in schools on the island and I am confident that there will be large numbers of school children who will take up the challenge to earn their own congressional medals.

I would like to encourage other members to publicize the award and ask the young people in their districts to participate in the Congressional Award process. This is an excellent way to motivate young people to make positive contributions in their local communities and to develop important leadership skills for the future. I believe it is the duty for all of us serving in this body to make the Congressional Award more readily available to every young person in our communities. The first step in this process is through the passage and enactment of this Congressional Award reauthorization bill.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 380.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 380, the Senate bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

MULTIDISTRICT, MULTIPARTY, MULTIFORUM TRIAL JURISDICTION ACT OF 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass 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, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2112

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 "Multidistrict, Multiparty, Multiforum Trial Jurisdiction Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION.

Section 1407 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the third sentence of subsection (a), by inserting "or ordered transferred to the transferee or other district under subsection (i)" after "terminated"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(i)(1) Subject to paragraph (2) and except as provided in subsection (j), any action transferred under this section by the panel may be transferred for trial purposes, by the judge or judges of the transferee district to whom the action was assigned, to the transferee or other district in the interest of justice and for the convenience of the parties and witnesses.

"(2) Any action transferred for trial purposes under paragraph (1) shall be remanded by the panel for the determination of compensatory damages to the district court from which it was transferred, unless the court to which the action has been transferred for trial purposes also finds, for the convenience of the parties and witnesses and in the interests of justice, that the action should be retained for the determination of compensatory damages."

SEC. 3. MULTIPARTY, MULTIFORUM JURISDICTION OF DISTRICT COURTS.

(a) BASIS OF JURISDICTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 85 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 1369. Multiparty, multiforum jurisdiction

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The district courts shall have original jurisdiction of any civil action involving minimal diversity between adverse parties that arises from a single accident, where at least 25 natural persons have either died or incurred injury in the accident at a discrete location and, in the case of injury, the injury has resulted in damages which exceed \$75,000 per person, exclusive of interest and costs, if—

"(1) a defendant resides in a State and a substantial part of the accident took place in another State or other location, regardless of whether that defendant is also a resident of the State where a substantial part of the accident took place;

"(2) any two defendants reside in different States, regardless of whether such defendants are also residents of the same State or States; or

"(3) substantial parts of the accident took place in different States.

"(b) SPECIAL RULES AND DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

"(1) minimal diversity exists between adverse parties if any party is a citizen of a State and any adverse party is a citizen of another State, a citizen or subject of a foreign state, or a foreign state as defined in section 1603(a) of this title;