

gun largely because of the lack of any background check by licensed sellers at gun shows. We continue to witness unspeakable horrors every week as children open fire on their classmates. You all read and see them weekly.

The Nation stands ready to require a child safety lock on every gun. I think most Members of Congress are ready as well. But the Congress ignores the cries of the children and their parents.

I know that the National Rifle Association's publicity machines have been spinning in high gear since the election to perpetuate the myth that gun safety is a losing political issue. The facts are, of course, that the NRA targeted countless House and Senate seats and lost nearly every single one. So gather your courage, my colleagues. Bit by bit, the tide is turning.

Governor Pataki of New York has proposed far more ambitious gun safety measures than those that were bottled up by the Republican leadership this year. Senators MCCAIN and LIEBERMAN are attempting to find common ground on this issue as we speak. But regardless of the politics, I and others feel that we cannot back down on this issue because it is the logical and correct position to take, and if we really do not want to leave any child behind, we cannot allow so many children to be killed in senseless and preventable acts of gun violence. Too many families have lived through this unthinkable experience of burying their own children for us not to act.

I would like to continue to work with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) on other solutions to juvenile crime such as the moderate measures passed by the Senate in the last Congress, the gun show background checks, child safety locks, a ban on the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips and a juvenile Brady. Let's all stay tuned for further complimentary support to this excellent measure before us.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 863, Consequences for Juvenile Offenders Act. In particular, I am pleased that funding under the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant program can be used for maintaining juvenile record systems to promote public safety and to establish interagency information-sharing programs. However, I not only support establishing a juvenile record-keeping system, but I encourage States to develop an automated system of records.

Last Congress I offered an amendment to the Juvenile Justice bill to assist States in compiling the records of juvenile and establishing statewide computer systems for their records. States would then have the option of making the information available to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and law enforcement authorities from other States. This amendment was endorsed by the Fraternal Order of Police. My amendment was accepted.

The need for improved recordkeeping systems on violent juveniles is illustrated by a tragic story from my district. A Cleveland police detective, Robert Clark, was killed in July 1998 while attempting to arrest a drug dealer. The individual who shot Detective Clark had accumulated a considerable criminal record between Ohio and Florida. Although he was only 19 years old at the time of the shooting, he had been arrested 150 times since the age of 8. There had been 62 felony charges

against him between 1995 and 1998. He was arrested on yet another offense the night before he killed Detective Clark, but because law enforcement officers in Cleveland were unaware of his extensive criminal record as a juvenile he was released from custody. Had an automated records system been in place when he first appeared before a juvenile court in Ohio, law enforcement officials in Ohio would have had access to his extensive criminal record in Florida and the tragic death of Detective Clark could have been prevented.

I urge the conferees to give attention to this important issue. The information shared through the creation of an automated juvenile recordkeeping system will stop crime and save lives.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support the bill before us today because it allows states and localities to develop programs on juvenile justice, according to the needs of their own communities. It is a credit to Crime Subcommittee Chairman LAMAR SMITH and Ranking Member BOBBY SCOTT that we were able to improve this bill with an amendment I offered in Committee. The amendment requires a strong assessment component to any program funded by this bill.

My amendment requires all applicants to provide information up front detailing how they will evaluate the success of their program. It requires an assessment to be undertaken at appropriate intervals (each year). These assessments will be submitted by the states or localities to the Department of Justice. The Attorney General could waive this requirement if an assessment would not be practical (i.e. building a facility) or if an assessment requirement would prove to be cost prohibitive. From these assessments, the Attorney General would submit a report to Congress on the progress of funded programs. The funding for these assessments comes out of their existing grant money, but I'm sure you would agree that it is important to be able to identify any unsuccessful program.

As a former federal prosecutor, I have seen the successes and failures of programs designed to improve the juvenile justice system. It is critical that we evaluate programs we fund to ensure their effectiveness in achieving their stated goals.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. And I again want to commend the Leadership of both parties for bringing this bill before us today.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 863, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MAKING PERMANENT AUTHORITY TO REDACT FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS OF JUDICIAL EMPLOYEES AND JUDICIAL OFFICERS

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2336) to make permanent the authority to redact financial disclosure statements of judicial employees and judicial officers.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2336

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

SECTION 1. REPEAL OF SUNSET PROVISION.

Section 105(b)(3)(E) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is repealed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Scott) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2336, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2336 and urge the House to adopt the measure. This bill will make permanent the authority of the U.S. Judicial Conference to redact financial disclosure statements of judicial employees and judicial officers.

Under the Ethics in Government Act, judges and other high-level judicial branch officials must file annual financial disclosure reports. However, due to the nature of the judicial function and the increased security risk it entails, section 7 of the Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act of 1998 allows the Judicial Conference to redact statutorily required information in a financial disclosure report where the release of the information could endanger the filer or his or her family. This provision will sunset on December 31, 2001, in the absence of further legislative action.

The Judicial Conference Committee on Financial Disclosure recently submitted a report on section 7. The committee monitors the release of financial disclosure reports to ensure compliance with the statute, reviews redaction requests, and approves or disapproves any request for a redaction of statutorily mandated information where the release of the information could endanger a filer.

In the year 2000, the committee noted, first, 13 financial disclosure reports were wholly redacted because the

judge was under a specific and active security threat and, second, only 140 judges' reports were partially redacted due to specific or general threats.

The purpose of the annual disclosure reports required by the Ethics in Government Act is to increase public confidence in government officials and better enable the public to judge the performance of those officials. However, Federal judges should be allowed to redact certain information from financial disclosures when they or a family member is threatened. Importantly, this practice has never interfered with the release of critical information to the public.

H.R. 2336 will eliminate the sunset in section 7 and permit the Judicial Conference to permanently redact information in financial disclosure reports where that information could endanger the filer or his or her family. This is a good bill. It enjoys bipartisan support. There is no known opposition. I encourage the House to support the measure.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleague, the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, in supporting H.R. 2336. This bill was introduced by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN). It protects judges against certain security threats. The September 11 tragedy only heightens the security concerns that make this legislation necessary. The Committee on the Judiciary reported H.R. 2336 favorably by voice vote on October 3, and I am not aware of any controversy regarding the bill.

H.R. 2336 permanently extends the ability of Federal judges to request redaction from their financial disclosure reports. The current redaction authority sunsets at the end of this year. Thus, it is imperative that we act quickly to get this bill to the Senate where we hope it passes before the end of the year. The redaction authority for judges is appropriately limited and thus does not raise concerns about undue restrictions on public access to financial disclosure reports. The judge's report may be redacted if the Judicial Conference and U.S. Marshals Service find that revealing personal and sensitive information could endanger that judge. Furthermore, the report can only be redacted to the extent necessary to protect the judge and only so long as a danger exists.

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The redaction authority has not been abused to date. Of all of the judges filing reports in the year 2000, only 6 percent had their reports redacted, either wholly or even partially. Typically, the information redacted is limited to such things as the spouse's place of work, the location of a judge's second home, or the name of a law school at which a judge may teach part-time.

The law requires the Judicial Conference, in concert with the Department of Justice, to file an annual report detailing the number and circumstances of redactions. This statutory reporting requirement enables Congress to monitor any abuse of the redaction authority.

In short, I think the enactment of H.R. 2336 is necessary to protect the security of our Nation's judges, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this non-controversial legislation, H.R. 2336, is aimed at protecting judges and judicial employees. H.R. 2336 amends the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 by repealing the sunset provision of authorized redaction of financial disclosure reports filed by certain judicial employees and officers.

The purpose of these financial disclosure reports required by the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 is to increase public confidence in government officials and better enable our public to assess the progress and effectiveness of their public officials. However, section 7 of this Act which allows redaction where such disclosure could endanger the filer or his/her family is set to sunset on December 31, 2001.

In 2000, the Judicial Conference Committee on Financial Disclosure submitted a report, noting that numerous financial disclosure reports had been redacted because the Judge was under a specific, active security threat, and that 140 reports were partially redacted based on threats and various security risks. These threats may be heightened in light of the recent threats to our national security.

This legislation appropriately repeals this sunset and makes permanent the authority to redact such financial disclosure statements of judicial employees or judicial officers.

As a former associate municipal court judge, I understand that the need for such legislation is great. I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2336.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STUART COLLICK—HEATHER
FRENCH HENRY HOMELESS VET-
ERANS ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2716) to amend title 38, United States Code, to revise, improve, and consolidate provisions of law providing benefits and services for homeless veterans, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2716

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS; REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Stuart Collick—Heather French Henry Homeless Veterans Assistance Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents; references to title 38, United States Code.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.
- Sec. 3. National goal to end homelessness among veterans.
- Sec. 4. Sense of the Congress regarding the needs of homeless veterans and the responsibility of Federal agencies.
- Sec. 5. Consolidation and improvement of provisions of law relating to homeless veterans.
- Sec. 6. Evaluation of homeless programs.
- Sec. 7. Study of outcome effectiveness of grant program for homeless veterans with special needs.
- Sec. 8. Additional programmatic expansions.
- Sec. 9. Coordination of employment services.
- Sec. 10. Use of real property.
- Sec. 11. Meetings of Interagency Council on Homeless.
- Sec. 12. Rental assistance vouchers for HUD Veterans Affairs Supported Housing program.

(c) REFERENCES TO TITLE 38 UNITED STATES CODE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act:

(1) The term "homeless veteran" has the meaning given such term in section 2002 of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 5(a)(1).

(2) The term "grant and per diem provider" means an entity in receipt of a grant under section 2011 or 2012 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL GOAL TO END HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS.

(a) NATIONAL GOAL.—Congress hereby declares it to be a national goal to end chronic homelessness among veterans within a decade of the enactment of this Act.

(b) COOPERATIVE EFFORTS ENCOURAGED.—Congress hereby encourages all departments and agencies of Federal, State, and local governments, quasi-governmental organizations, private and public sector entities, including community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and individuals to work cooperatively to end chronic homelessness among veterans within a decade.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING THE NEEDS OF HOMELESS VETERANS AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) homelessness is a significant problem in the veterans community and veterans are disproportionately represented among homeless men;

(2) While many effective programs assist homeless veterans to again become productive and self-sufficient members of society, current resources provided to such programs and other activities that assist homeless veterans are inadequate to provide all needed essential services, assistance, and support to homeless veterans;

(3) the most effective programs for the assistance of homeless veterans should be identified and expanded;