

The United States should heed the warnings reported by these courageous journalists, that these drug cartels are easily criss-crossing the Texas-Mexico border and bringing more drug violence to America and Mexico.

Homeland Security should seize control of our border before the cartels seize the lives of any more journalists. And that's just the way it is.

NATIONAL GUARD PASSES RECRUITMENT GOALS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, America's National Guard is taking a crucial role in the global war on terrorism. They make up a vital part of our deployed forces, serving our country to stop terrorism overseas, protecting American families. I am proud the National Guard exceeded its recruitment goals for the month of June, which reflects the new greatest generation.

Through the month of May, the National Guard has 351,400 troops. Numbers have not been this high since November 2001. As a 31-year veteran of the Army National Guard, I understand the importance of their mission as explained by Captain James Smith.

I am particularly grateful my former unit, the 218th Brigade, is serving in Afghanistan, where they're actively working to train the Afghani police and army.

As the father of four sons in the military, I am grateful for each and every American who decides to serve. Our all-volunteer Armed Forces are making the ultimate sacrifice, and today democracy is more widespread throughout the world than any time in history protecting American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 16, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 16, 2007, at 9:53 am:

That the Senate passed S. 975.

Appointments: British-American Interparliamentary Group, National Council of the Arts, Vietnam Education Foundation, Senate National Security Working Group.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

APPOINTMENT AS INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE HOUSE FOR THE 110TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule II, and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair announces the joint appointment by the Speaker, the majority leader, and the minority leader of Mr. James J. Cornell of Springfield, Virginia, to the position of Inspector General of the House for the 110th Congress, effective January 4, 2007.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions 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.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

FDIC ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2547) to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to prevent misrepresentation about deposit insurance coverage, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2547

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 "FDIC Enforcement Enhancement Act".

SEC. 2. ENFORCEMENT AGAINST MISREPRESENTATIONS REGARDING FDIC DEPOSIT INSURANCE COVERAGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 18(a) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1828(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) FALSE ADVERTISING, MISUSE OF FDIC NAMES, AND MISREPRESENTATION TO INDICATE INSURED STATUS.—

“(A) PROHIBITION ON FALSE ADVERTISING AND MISUSE OF FDIC NAMES.—No person may—

“(i) use the terms ‘Federal Deposit’, ‘Federal Deposit Insurance’, ‘Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation’, any combination of such terms, or the abbreviation ‘FDIC’ as part of the business name or firm name of any person, including any corporation, partnership, business trust, association, or other business entity; or

“(ii) use such terms or any other sign or symbol as part of an advertisement, solicitation, or other document,

to represent, suggest or imply that any deposit liability, obligation, certificate or share is insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, if such deposit liability, obligation, certificate, or share is not insured or guaranteed by the Corporation.

“(B) PROHIBITION ON MISREPRESENTATIONS OF INSURED STATUS.—No person may knowingly misrepresent—

“(i) that any deposit liability, obligation, certificate, or share is federally insured, if

such deposit liability, obligation, certificate, or share is not insured by the Corporation; or

“(ii) the extent to which or the manner in which any deposit liability, obligation, certificate, or share is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, if such deposit liability, obligation, certificate, or share is not insured by the Corporation to the extent or in the manner represented.

“(C) AUTHORITY OF FDIC.—The Corporation shall have—

“(i) jurisdiction over any person that violates this paragraph, or aids or abets the violation of this paragraph; and

“(ii) for purposes of enforcing the requirements of this paragraph with regard to any person—

“(I) the authority of the Corporation under section 10(c) to conduct investigations; and

“(II) the enforcement authority of the Corporation under subsections (b), (c), (d) and (i) of section 8,

as if such person were a state nonmember insured bank.

“(D) OTHER ACTIONS PRESERVED.—No provision of this paragraph shall be construed as barring any action otherwise available, under the laws of the United States or any State, to any Federal or State law enforcement agency or individual.”.

(b) ENFORCEMENT ORDERS.—Section 8(c) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1818(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) FALSE ADVERTISING OR MISUSE OF NAMES TO INDICATE INSURED STATUS.—

“(A) TEMPORARY ORDER.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—If a notice of charges served under subsection (b)(1) of this section specifies on the basis of particular facts that any person is engaged in conduct described in section 18(a)(4), the Corporation may issue a temporary order requiring—

“(I) the immediate cessation of any activity or practice described, which gave rise to the notice of charges; and

“(II) affirmative action to prevent any further, or to remedy any existing, violation.

“(ii) EFFECT OF ORDER.—Any temporary order issued under this subparagraph shall take effect upon service.

“(B) EFFECTIVE PERIOD OF TEMPORARY ORDER.—A temporary order issued under subparagraph (A) shall remain effective and enforceable, pending the completion of an administrative proceeding pursuant to subsection (b)(1) in connection with the notice of charges—

“(i) until such time as the Corporation shall dismiss the charges specified in such notice; or

“(ii) if a cease-and-desist order is issued against such person, until the effective date of such order.

“(C) CIVIL MONEY PENALTIES.—Violations of section 18(a)(4) shall be subject to civil money penalties as set forth in subsection (i) in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 for each day during which the violation occurs or continues.”.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 18(a)(3) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1828(a)) is amended—

(A) by striking “this subsection” the first place such term appears and inserting “paragraph (1)”; and

(B) by striking “this subsection” the second place such term appears and inserting “paragraph (2)”.

(2) The heading for subsection (a) of section 18 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1828(a)) is amended by striking “INSURANCE LOGO.—” and inserting “REPRESENTATIONS OF DEPOSIT INSURANCE.—”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIRES) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

First, I would like to thank Chairman FRANK for moving this legislation through the committee and bringing it to the floor today.

I would also like to thank Congresswoman BIGGERT for sponsoring this legislation with me. I was happy to have such a strong proponent of consumer protection join me in introducing this bill.

We hear all types of stories about trademarks registered to a specific company being used inappropriately. In some cases, multimillion-dollar lawsuits are filed for copyright and patent infringement.

We have the same thing going on with the FDIC. Their trusted logo is being used to deceive consumers, but they have no recourse.

H.R. 2547 will allow the FDIC to levy cease and desist orders against any persons or entity that uses the FDIC's name, logo, abbreviation or any other FDIC-recognized indicator fraudulently and without the FDIC's permission. This legislation will also allow the FDIC to impose fines of up to \$1 million per day against any person or entity engaging in falsely representing the FDIC's backing of a product.

This is important consumer protection legislation that is necessary to preserve the trusted name of one of the most recognized Federal agencies. In fact, the FDIC believes this legislation is necessary to help them to continue to fight financial scams.

I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 2547.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I would like to, first of all, thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIRES) for his work on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2547, the FDIC Enforcement Enhancement Act.

In May I was pleased to join my colleague, Congressman SIRES, in introducing this bill which gives the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation new tools to protect our constituents from financial scam artists.

After the great stock market crash in 1929 and the numerous bank closures during the Great Depression, Congress passed, in 1933, the Glass-Steagall Act, which created the FDIC. Congress created this independent Federal agency and charged it with a most important mission: To instill and maintain "the stability and the public's confidence in the Nation's financial system."

For over 70 years, the FDIC has worked to meet its mission. The FDIC's name, seal, abbreviation, and other indicators are well known, and they are symbols that the public uses to identify a financial institution or a product as being legitimate, federally insured, sound, and supervised. These are easily identifiable FDIC symbols and they can be found in a range of places, from the bank teller's window to a financial institution's Web site.

Unfortunately, over the years, criminals have taken advantage of the public's confidence in the FDIC name and used it for malicious purposes. Criminals have fraudulently used the FDIC's name to deceive consumers, most often the elderly, into saving or investing their money in a criminal's illegitimate product offered by a criminal's illegitimate financial institution.

For example, some of you may have received or known individuals who have received e-mails from these scam artists. The e-mails, that are actually from criminals, claim to be from the FDIC and request that the e-mail recipient provide highly sensitive, online banking information. However, the e-mails are fraudulent and not from the FDIC.

Current law prohibits this criminal activity, but H.R. 2547 strengthens the FDIC's enforcement powers so that it can take immediate action against criminals that are fraudulently hiding behind the good name of the FDIC and to immediately stop such criminal activity so that the consumer's money doesn't disappear.

The act allows the FDIC to enter cease and desist orders against this conduct and impose fines up to \$1 million per day on any person who falsely represents the nature of the product offered or the FDIC's insurance coverage available. In addition, the proposed legislation would clarify the FDIC's authority to seek injunctive relief against such person under the rules of any Federal, State or foreign court of competent jurisdiction.

The language of this act is similar or is identical to the act of 2005, the Financial Service Regulatory Relief, section 615, which the Committee on Financial Services approved by a vote of 67-0 in November of 2005. The House has approved this bill by a voice vote.

So I would urge my colleagues to again support the language and vote for today's bill. This bill gives the FDIC the ability to help prevent our constituents from becoming victims of financial scam artists and, like Glass-Steagall, aims to give our constituents confidence in the Nation's financial system.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIRES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2547, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SIRES. Madam 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.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE COUNCIL
AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1980) to authorize appropriations for the Housing Assistance Council.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1980

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 "Housing Assistance Council Authorization Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE TO HOUSING ASSISTANCE COUNCIL.

(a) USE.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may provide financial assistance to the Housing Assistance Council for use by such Council to develop the ability and capacity of community-based housing development organizations to undertake community development and affordable housing projects and programs in rural areas. Assistance provided by the Secretary under this section may be used by the Housing Assistance Council for—

(1) technical assistance, training, support, and advice to develop the business and administrative capabilities of rural community-based housing development organizations;

(2) loans, grants, or other financial assistance to rural community-based housing development organizations to carry out community development and affordable housing activities for low- and moderate-income families; and

(3) such other activities as may be determined by the Housing Assistance Council.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for financial assistance under this section for the Housing Assistance Council—

(1) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2008; and

(2) \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.