

vessel and jump overboard—turning a criminal apprehension into a rescue mission.

This legislation removes this dangerous hurdle. By prohibiting the possession of SPSS vessels without nationality, we protect the safety of these Coast Guard teams while ensuring swift prosecution of the cocaine traffickers.

I wish to commend my colleagues, Mr. LUNGREN and Mr. POE, for championing this important issue.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 3296. 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. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PROTECTING COURT OFFICIALS OFF SUPREME COURT GROUNDS

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 3296) to extend the authority of the United States Supreme Court Police to protect court officials off the Supreme Court Grounds and change the title of the Administrative Assistant to the Chief Justice.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 3296

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

SECTION 1. UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT POLICE AND COUNSELOR TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

(a) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT POLICE TO PROTECT COURT OFFICIALS OFF THE SUPREME COURT GROUNDS.—Section 6121(b)(2) of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking “2008” and inserting “2013”.

(b) COUNSELOR TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE.—

(1) OFFICE OF FEDERAL JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION.—Section 133(b)(2) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking “administrative assistant” and inserting “Counselor”.

(2) JUDICIAL OFFICIAL.—Section 376(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)(E), by striking “an administrative assistant” and inserting “a Counselor”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(E), by striking “an administrative assistant” and inserting “a Counselor”.

(3) ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 677 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in the section heading, by striking “Administrative Assistant” and inserting “Counselor”; and

(ii) in subsection (a)—

(I) in the first sentence, by striking “an Administrative Assistant” and inserting “a Counselor”; and

(II) in the second and third sentences, by striking “Administrative Assistant” each place that term appears and inserting “Counselor”; and

(iii) in subsections (b) and (c), by striking “Administrative Assistant” each place that term appears and inserting “Counselor”.

(B) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for chapter 45 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 677 and inserting the following:

“677. Counselor to the Chief Justice.”.

SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON ACCEPTANCE OF HONORARY CLUB MEMBERSHIPS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) GIFT.—The term “gift” has the meaning given under section 109(5) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(2) JUDICIAL OFFICER.—The term “judicial officer” has the meaning given under section 109(10) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(b) PROHIBITION ON ACCEPTANCE OF HONORARY CLUB MEMBERSHIPS.—A judicial officer may not accept a gift of an honorary club membership with a value of more than \$50 in any calendar year.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CONYERS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in this case, the title accurately describes the contents of the bill. It attempts and proposes to extend the authority of the United States Supreme Court Police to protect court officials off the Supreme Court grounds and changes the title of the Administrative Assistant to the Chief Justice.

Congress has given the Supreme Court Police statutory recognition since 1982, with authority to patrol the Supreme Court buildings and grounds, make arrests, carry firearms, and protect the Chief Justice, any Associate Justice, official guests, and employees of the Court while performing official duties.

The Supreme Court Police are also authorized to protect the Justices and employees of the Court while they are away from the Court building, anywhere in the United States. We have extended this authority on several occasions, and this bill does so again, so that it will not expire at the end of this year.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, so that the Supreme Court Police can

continue to perform their critical mission effectively.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is very similar to the legislation we passed in the House a week ago, H.R. 6855.

The bill addresses an issue affecting the safety of the Justices and other officials who work at the United States Supreme Court.

First, the legislation extends the authority of the U.S. Supreme Court Police to protect Court officials off the Supreme Court grounds through 2013. The current authorization expires on December 29, 2008.

This provision is necessary and non-controversial. Congress created the original authority in 1982 and has renewed it regularly. The last authorization was 4 years ago.

Failure to extend the authority places the Justices and other Supreme Court employees and officers at risk. In light of heightened security threats, it is vital that the Supreme Court Police be empowered to carry out this service without interruption. In fact, Justice Souter was attacked off grounds while jogging in May 2004, the same year we last extended the authority.

As with previous authorizations, it is contemplated that the authority extends to the immediate area in the District and surrounding environs. The Marshall Service would provide protection to the Justices when they speak or travel out of the D.C.-Virginia-Maryland metropolitan region.

Finally, the legislation prohibits Federal judges from accepting honorary memberships to clubs that are valued in excess of \$50. The last item is the only distinction between S. 3296 and the House bill.

Mr. Speaker, S. 3296 acknowledges an unfortunate but realistic problem: sometimes the Justices must be protected off Supreme Court grounds. This is a legislative exercise that the Congress has regularly undertaken on behalf of the Court since 1982.

I urge the Members to support the bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3296, a bill to extend the authority of the United States Supreme Court Police to protect court officials of the Supreme Court grounds and change the title of the Administrative Assistant to the Chief Justice. This bill makes sense and it should be supported. I urge my colleagues to support this very important bill.

Four years ago, Supreme Court Justice David Souter was assaulted by two men while jogging near his home. While this attack was deemed only a random assault, this should serve as a wake-up call for us all. The Supreme Court, like the Office of the President, is more important than the person serving in the position. Protecting them, isn't just about protecting the person, it's about protecting the sanctity of the court.

Edmund Burke said that “Good order is the foundation of all things.” To keep this order, we much protect those who provide that order. As this country becomes more and more partisan, we risk that the more extreme factors in our society will lash out and circumvent the system by focusing their anger at the officers of the court. Already the court is coming under increased attack from both sides of the aisle as being “activist.”

This bill does something fundamental for the American way of life, it protects it. The legacy

of all those who came before us depends on making sure that those who come after can do the job duty requires. Nothing is more fundamentally American than protecting those who protect our rights.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we pass this bill.

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 3296.

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. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

DEBBIE SMITH REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 5057) to reauthorize the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. GENERAL REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 2 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14135) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(3), by—

(A) striking subparagraphs (A) through (D);

(B) redesignating subparagraph (E) and subparagraph (A); and

(C) inserting at the end the following:

"(B) For each of the fiscal years 2010 through 2014, not less than 40 percent of the grant amounts shall be awarded for purposes under subsection (a)(2)."; and

(2) by amending subsection (j) to read as follows:

"(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General for grants under subsection (a) \$151,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2014."

SEC. 3. TRAINING AND EDUCATION.

Section 303(b) of the DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 14136(b)) is amended by striking "2005 through 2009" and inserting "2009 through 2014".

SEC. 4. SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAM GRANTS.

Section 304(c) of the DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 14136a(c)) is amended by striking "2005 through 2009" and inserting "2009 through 2014".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his extraordinary leadership on so many important issues before this body, including the Debbie Smith Act, which I rise today in strong support of, H.R. 5057, the Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act that I introduced to ensure that the nationwide backlog of DNA evidence is processed.

I want to thank the bill's supporters in the Senate, especially Senators BIDEN, LEAHY, KYL and SPECTER, for their assistance in getting this legislation through the Senate and back to the House before we adjourn.

I also want to commend Chairman CONYERS for his leadership, Ranking Member SMITH, Chairman SCOTT and Ranking Member GOHMERT, along with ANTHONY WEINER and so many of my colleagues for their support and commitment to this issue.

Advocates have called the Debbie Smith Act one of the most important anti-crime bills that has ever passed Congress and one of the most important anti-violence against women and anti-rape pieces of legislation ever.

I first introduced the grant program in 2001 after a rape victim whose attacker was later identified through DNA analysis testified before a hearing in Congress. The long, bipartisan effort to pass the original legislation was made into a Lifetime movie entitled "A Life Interrupted: The Debbie Smith Story." I thank Lifetime and Oprah for having championed the passage of this important legislation.

I have been working on this issue since 2001, when I organized a hearing in the Government Reform and Oversight Committee to examine the use of DNA to both convict and to exonerate. We reached out to many victims to testify. Only one would come before Congress, Debbie Smith.

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She told her horrifying story, how an intruder broke into her suburban home in Williamsburg, Virginia, in 1989 and raped her repeatedly in nearby woods while her police officer husband slept upstairs. He rushed her to the police

station. DNA was taken, but in many ways her life was destroyed, as she believed he would come back as he said he would and kill her if she had told anybody what happened.

Six years later, after an assailant was charged with her rape, because DNA processing techniques had produced a cold hit with a State prisoner's DNA sample, that match gave Debbie her first moment of closure and security. Since then, Debbie and her husband, Robert, have lobbied Congress, traveled the country and started a not-for-profit to help victims of rape.

It was unconscionable that hundreds of thousands of rape kits with DNA evidence already collected were gathering dust in police stations and crime labs all over this country, and it is still unconscionable that according to the U.S. Department of Justice, there are over 221,000 untested rape kits on shelves and evidence cabinets in States across our country.

It was for Debbie and rape survivors like her that in 2001 I authored the Debbie Smith Act to provide Federal funding to process the backlog of DNA evidence. The bill helped standardize the evidence collection of kits for sexual assaults, making it easier to enter the information into State and national databases.

It also helped forensic labs process the data evidence and compare the DNA samples with those taken from criminals. It funded the SANE nurse program that taught them how to process and maintain the information and to go into court to help the police with convictions. The law also allows law enforcement greater leeway to indict John Doe or an unnamed individual using their DNA profile.

The Justice for All Act accomplished several critical objectives, including authorizing the necessary funding, \$151 million in each fiscal year from 2005 through 2009, to process the backlog of DNA evidence through the creation of the State grant program.

Since 2004, millions of dollars in funding have been appropriated to States across our country to attack this backlog grant program. Each unprocessed kit represents an innocent life like Debbie Smith, and a rapist who may commit multiple rapes before he is caught.

The FBI has characterized rape as the worst crime, preceded only by murder in terms of the destruction to one's life. They have said that a rapist, a sick person, will attack seven times. So at least, if you process these kits, you can put people in jail and prevent innocent victims from having the horror in their lives that Debbie experienced.

The Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act extends the program through 2014 and also reauthorizes programs for training, education and sexual assault forensic exam grants.

DNA is remarkable evidence. It doesn't forget, it can't be confused, it is not intimidated, and it does not lie.