

Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY BLOCK GRANTS PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1514) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize the juvenile accountability block grants program through fiscal year 2014.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1514

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 "Juvenile Accountability Block Grants Program Reauthorization Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY BLOCK GRANTS PROGRAM THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2014.

Part R of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796ee et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 1801A(a), by striking "section 1810(b)" and inserting "section 1810(c)";

(2) in section 1810(a), by striking "2009" and inserting "2014"; and

(3) in section 1810(b), by inserting "and each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2014" after "2004".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROONEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative 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 Virginia?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill reauthorizes the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant program for an additional 3 years.

I worked with my Republican colleagues in 1997 to develop and pass the legislation that created this important initiative. This program directs the Department of Justice to make grants to States and units of local government to strengthen their juvenile justice systems.

The program allows funds to be used for a broad range of purposes that help reduce juvenile crime, such as establishing programs to assess the needs of juvenile offenders in order to facilitate provision of comprehensive services; establishing programs to reduce recidivism amongst juveniles; hiring juvenile

court judges, court-appointed defenders and advocates; and developing systems of graduated sanctions for juvenile offenders.

The Juvenile Accountability Block Grant has been an important part of the Federal Government's funding of juvenile justice programs. When we worked together on a bipartisan basis to develop this program, Members recognized that success in preventing juvenile crime and reducing recidivism by juvenile offenders requires something other than tough-sounding slogans and sound bites.

When it comes to dealing with issues of juvenile justice, we're fortunate that there is more and more information available showing that we need to make sure that we approach this problem based on evidence, and we know that that evidence shows what works and what doesn't work.

Those studies show that comprehensive prevention and early intervention programs directed towards youth at risk of involvement, or those already involved in the juvenile justice system, will significantly reduce crime.

For example, we've seen in this program that this program has funded a chemical dependency program in Idaho serving at-risk youth with mental health issues and substance abuse and related offenses.

And in Ohio, the program funded a system of graduated sanctions that provided alternatives to secure detention for pre-adjudicated youth.

These are just two examples of how the program successfully provides juvenile justice professionals with alternatives they need so that there is not a one-size-fits-all system of sanctions, regardless of the needs and situation of each juvenile.

We extend and strengthen grants to ensure more accountability for juvenile crime, and so we need to make sure that these principles are kept in mind, and we do more to help communities prevent juvenile crime from occurring in the first place.

I am pleased that this program continues to have bipartisan support. This bill is cosponsored by the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS); the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH); and the Crime Subcommittee ranking member, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 1514, the Juvenile Accountability Block Grants Program Reauthorization Act of 2009. I am encouraged the Judiciary Committee has devoted its time and resources to such an important piece of legislation.

This bipartisan legislation is sponsored by Crime Subcommittee chairman Mr. BOBBY SCOTT. Other notable

cosponsors include Judiciary Committee chairman and ranking member JOHN CONYERS and LAMAR SMITH, and Crime Subcommittee ranking member LOUIE GOHMERT.

Crimes committed by children strike at the very core of our communities. Our children are the promise of a better and brighter tomorrow and hope for future generations. Reducing juvenile crimes and improving the juvenile justice system is a vital step in preserving and protecting the future of our children.

H.R. 1514 amends the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend through fiscal year 2014 the authorization of appropriations for the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant program.

The goal of the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant program is to equip communities with the financial resources to reduce juvenile delinquency and increase the accountability of juvenile offenders in the justice system. The Juvenile Accountability Block Grant program awards Federal block grants to the 50 States, the District of Columbia and the five U.S. Territories, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Grants from this program have helped provide communities with restorative justice programs, police and probation partnerships, drug and teen courts, and other programs which facilitate the successful re-entry of juvenile offenders from custody back into the community.

In 2009, the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant program provided local communities in my home State of Florida with over \$2 million to assist them in their efforts to make our families and neighborhoods safer. These Federal grants were used to combat gang violence, curb juvenile drug use, and provide mediation services to juvenile offenders and their victims.

Meeting the challenge of reducing juvenile crime extends beyond the traditional punitive criminal justice system. It requires a comprehensive approach to ensuring that juveniles not only receive punishment proportional to their crime, but also receive the support that they need to get back on the right track.

The Juvenile Accountability Block Grant program is an essential tool for the States and communities across the Nation. I support the reauthorization of this program and urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his support. I urge colleagues to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1514.

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. SCOTT of Virginia. 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.

□ 1500

NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1325) recognizing National Missing Children's Day, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1325

Whereas, May 25, 2010, will be the 28th National Missing Children's Day;

Whereas National Missing Children's Day honors the obligation of the United States to locate and recover missing children by prompting parents, guardians, and other trusted adult role models to make child safety an utmost priority;

Whereas in the United States nearly 800,000 children are reported missing a year, more than 58,000 children are abducted by non-family members, and more than 2,000 children are reported missing every day;

Whereas efforts of Congress to provide resources, training, and technical assistance have increased the capabilities of State and local law enforcement to find children and to return them home safely;

Whereas the 1979 disappearance of 6-year-old Etan Patz served as the impetus for the creation of National Missing Children's Day, first proclaimed in 1983; and

Whereas Etan's photograph was distributed throughout the United States and appeared in media globally, and the powerful image came to represent the anguish of thousands of searching families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes National Missing Children's Day and encourages all people in the United States to join together to plan events in communities across the United States to raise public awareness of law enforcement and the issue of missing children and the need to address the national problem of missing children;

(2) recognizes that one of the most important tools for law enforcement to use in the case of a missing child is an up-to-date, good quality photograph of the child and urges all parents and guardians to follow the important precaution of maintaining such a photograph;

(3) recognizes the vital role of law enforcement and the criminal justice system in preventing kidnappings and abduction of children while also leading efforts to locate missing children; and

(4) acknowledges that National Missing Children's Day should remind people in the United States not to forget the children who are still missing and not to waver in the efforts of law enforcement to reunite such children with their families.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROONEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this resolution recognizes Tuesday, May 25, as National Missing Children's Day. We hope this resolution will continue to raise public awareness about the problem of missing and abducted children. I therefore thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROONEY) and his colleague from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) for introducing this resolution.

May 25, 1979, was the day that 6-year-old Etan Patz disappeared from New York City while he was on his way to school. The media attention and massive search efforts that followed his disappearance focused the Nation's attention on the problem of child abduction.

Two years later, in July 1981, 6-year-old Adam Walsh disappeared from a Florida shopping mall. His parents, John and Reve Walsh, turned to law enforcement to find their son. They quickly realized that there was no coordinated effort between Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies in the search for their son. And to make the situation even more difficult, in 1981, there were no organizations to assist them in their search.

The momentum for a national movement to keep children safe from predators and coordinate efforts by law enforcement to search for missing children began with the disappearance of these two children. As a result of this movement, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children was established in 1984. Over the past 25 years, the National Center has assisted law enforcement with more than 165,000 missing child cases, resulting in the recovery of more than 151,000 children.

Although the National Center has done a remarkable job in helping to find missing children and raising public awareness about the problem of child abduction and exploitation, the Department of Justice reports that far too many children still go missing every year. We hope that on May 25, the National Missing Children's Day, we hope that on that date everyone's thoughts will be with the families who have missing children and that we will rededicate our efforts to protecting our children from predators.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution and reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I support House Resolution 1325, which I sponsored to recognize National Missing Children's Day. This simple but important resolution recognizes May 25, 2010, as the 28th National Missing Children's Day. The Federal Government first recognized this day in 1983, when President Ronald Reagan proclaimed May 25 as National Missing Children's Day.

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children tells us that the proclamation followed a series of high-profile missing children cases that drew newspaper headlines across the country. The first involved the disappearance of Etan Patz from a New York City street on his way to school on May 25, 1979. Etan's father, a professional photographer, disseminated black-and-white photographs of Etan in an effort to find him. The massive search and media attention that followed focused the Nation's attention on the problem of child abduction and the lack of coordinated plans to address it.

The second incident was the missing and murdered child tragedy in Atlanta, Georgia. During this episode, the bodies of 29 young boys and girls were discovered over a 3-year period in the late 1970s and early 1980s. A suspect was identified and convicted in 1981, and now he is serving a life sentence in prison.

Also in 1981, in my home State of Florida, 6-year-old Adam Walsh disappeared from a local shopping mall. His parents, John and Reve Walsh, turned to law enforcement agencies to help find their son. To their disappointment, there was little coordinated effort among law enforcement officials to search for Adam on a State or national level.

These tragedies led to the recognition of the dearth of coordination among Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies, and the lack of a national response system to help our families search for missing children. Since that time, our country has made great strides in this area.

National Missing Children's Day serves as an annual reminder to the Nation to renew efforts to reunite missing children and their families and make child protection a national priority. As the resolution notes, National Missing Children's Day is a reminder to all parents and guardians to take and keep high-quality photographs of their children for use in case of emergency. We should also use this day to remind all Americans of the importance of paying close attention to the posters and photographs of missing children.

The resolution also recognizes the vital role of law enforcement officials in preventing kidnappings and abductions of children, while also leading efforts to locate the missing. This resolution should remind people across the country not to forget the children that are still missing and not to waver in the efforts to reunite these children with their families.