

their daughter, too, remains missing, the Nerenbergs came to me for help. They were concerned that the Federal Government was not doing enough to make sure that information gathered in central Florida, for example, where they lived, was being shared with the right people in other parts of the country. They also wanted to make sure that the DNA technology be made available to law enforcement agencies throughout our Nation as well as in Florida. Billy's Law will make it happen. It is very similar to the legislation I previously introduced and that was named after Audrey Nerenberg.

Important progress has been made in the past 5 years, but more must be done. Forty thousand missing persons, including Audrey Nerenberg from my district, their families will certainly benefit from this legislation.

I have worked in previous Congresses to improve the Federal Government's ability to locate missing persons, and as a cosponsor, I am very pleased to see Billy's Law come to the floor, and I will be proud to vote in favor of its passage.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the chairman, Chairman SCOTT, for bringing this legislation to the House floor as quickly as he has done, and, of course, Mr. MURPHY from Connecticut, the excellent job he has done to bring this legislation to our attention and make sure that this House creates a system where people can find their loved ones.

As a parent, the worst thing that any parent could hear is the fact that their child has disappeared. That would bring terror and fear into any parent. As a parent of four kids, I know that I think about that constantly.

When Janice Smolinski learned that her son, Billy, had disappeared, she, like every mother would do, was relentless in finding out as much as she could about his disappearance. Unfortunately, she met a lot of stone walls in the criminal justice system. She had put posters up all over her neighborhood. She called everybody she knew. She called the police, and she got on the Internet trying to find out ways she could locate Billy. She was relentless in that pursuit.

And then she came in contact with her Congressman. The old statement "call your Congressman," it worked, and it should have worked in this case and it worked well.

I commend her and other people like her who work to find their loved ones but also to make our system better. So when people that disappear, we are able to find out as much as we can about their disappearance and where they are because we're all in this together.

My grandmother used to say that there is nothing more powerful than a

woman who has made up her mind. This is a perfect example of that. Janice Smolinski, a mother, a lady, has done everything she can to find Billy, and now it's time for Congress to do what it can to make sure that all of these different organizations that have information are connected through the Internet, through sophisticated technology, so that we can keep up with all of these children who turn up missing.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I want to thank the gentleman from Connecticut and the gentleman from Texas for their work on this bill. I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and 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. 3695, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL URBAN CRIMES AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 227) supporting the goals and ideals of National Urban Crimes Awareness Week, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 227

Whereas National Urban Crimes Awareness Week will be celebrated the second week in February 2010;

Whereas 48,430 violent crimes occurred in New York City in 2008, compared to 28,941 in non-New York City counties in the State of New York;

Whereas an estimated 1,382,012 violent crimes occurred nationwide in 2008;

Whereas over 6,000,000 people were victims of crime in 2008;

Whereas according to the 2008 National Crime Victimization Survey, African-Americans experienced higher rates than Whites of every violent crime except simple assault;

Whereas acts of violence and crime cause pain and disruption that can have lasting effects;

Whereas the number of crimes can be reduced if community members are taught crime prevention techniques and become more involved in crime prevention activities;

Whereas neighborhood crime contributes to community neglect and disintegration; and

Whereas numerous studies demonstrate that evidence-based prevention and intervention programs can reduce delinquency and serious juvenile crime: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) it is the sense of Congress that—

(A) National Urban Crimes Awareness Week provides a special opportunity to educate the people of the United States about urban violence and to take steps to encour-

age the prevention of urban violence, provide assistance, and support to crime victims;

(B) it is appropriate to properly acknowledge the more than 209,000 men and women who have been victims of urban violence in the United States each year, and to commend the efforts of survivors, volunteers, and professionals who work to prevent urban violence;

(C) national and community organizations and private sector supporters should be recognized and applauded for their work in promoting awareness about urban violent crimes, providing information and treatment to victims, families, and survivors, and increasing the number of successful prosecutions of its perpetrators;

(D) public safety, law enforcement, and health professionals should be recognized and applauded for their hard work and innovative strategies to increase the percentage of violent urban crime cases that result in the prosecution and incarceration of the offenders; and

(E) victim advocates and criminal justice professionals should be recognized, applauded, and encouraged for their work to establish effective programs as alternatives to incarceration, re-entry interventions for offenders who are completing sentences, and rehabilitation programs for offenders and victims alike; and

(2) Congress strongly recommends that national and community organizations, businesses in the private sector, colleges and universities, and the media—

(A) promote, through education and prevention measures, awareness of violent urban crimes and strategies to decrease the incidence of these crimes; and

(B) support the goals and ideals of National Urban Crimes Awareness Week.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

Madam Speaker, this resolution recognizes the important efforts to reduce crime in our Nation's urban areas and to support crime victims. We observed National Urban Crimes Awareness week during the second week of this month.

This resolution particularly recognizes the critical role of education and prevention programs in decreasing crime. It also highlights the need for redoubling our commitment to finding alternatives for incarceration, to engaging in reentry programs for those completing their programs, and for rehabilitation programs that will help prevent crime from happening in the first place. It is important that we in Congress emphasize our commitment

to reducing crime all across this country and to supporting the victims of crimes.

I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) for introducing this resolution, I urge my colleague to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to join my colleague, Mr. TOWNS, in supporting House Concurrent Resolution 227.

More than 6 million people were victims of crimes in 2008; and more than 1 million violent crimes were committed in 2008. Violent crimes are especially frequent in cities and among gangs. Neighborhood crime harms persons and families and it degrades communities.

Studies show that crime can be reduced and communities saved if leaders in the communities are taught crime prevention techniques and become active in crime prevention programs. Crime prevention programs also help reduce domestic violence and aid victims and their families in recovery.

National Urban Crime Awareness Week promotes the work of organizations and individuals throughout the country who combat urban crime and treat victims. Law enforcement, victim advocates, health professionals, school teachers, and many others should be recognized and applauded for their work in helping victims and bringing criminals to justice.

Throughout my work on the Victims Rights Caucus, I have had the pleasure of working with some amazing people who advocate for victims of crime every day. They deserve to be commended for their work—such as the National Center for Victims of Crime, the Stalking Resource Center—which celebrates its 10-year anniversary this year—the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, the End Abuse and the National Network to End Domestic Violence—to name just a few. But there are hundreds more across the country, all of these groups working together on behalf of victims of crime.

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I support the goals and ideals of National Urban Crime Awareness Week. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the Chair of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee and sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS).

Mr. TOWNS. I thank Chairman SCOTT, Ranking Member POE, the full committee Chair, and the ranking member as well for moving this legislation forward.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 227, as amended, a concurrent resolution that designates the second week of February as National Urban Crime Awareness Week. This occasion pro-

vides an opportunity to shed light on the volatile issues affecting people within urban communities.

In September 2009, 133 metropolitan areas reported jobless rates above the national average. As a result of the economic downturn, many of our Nation's urban communities are experiencing a substantial growth in crime, which has been directly linked to increased unemployment rates. In other words, there is a definite correlation between unemployment and crime.

Madam Speaker, in 2008, there were an estimated 1,382,000 violent crimes that occurred nationwide. In New York, approximately 48,430 violent crimes took place, compared to 28,941 reported cases in non-New York City counties.

Over 60 percent of the Nation's youth have been exposed to violence in the past year. This exposure adversely affects their physical and mental health and long-term functioning into adulthood, and can force youth into gangs where they are more likely to perpetuate additional acts of violence.

This resolution seeks to properly acknowledge the men, women, and children who have been victims of violence in urban communities. It will also commend the tireless efforts of survivors, volunteers, and professionals who work to prevent urban violence, and will recognize them as well as law enforcement and health professionals for their hard work and innovative preventative strategies.

National Urban Crime Awareness Week is a time for us to advocate for people affected by urban violence. I urge all of my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me in support of this awareness campaign.

Again, I want to thank the ranking member of the committee, Mr. POE, and also thank the Chair of the committee, Mr. SCOTT, for their assistance in moving this legislation forward. I think it is so important that we do everything that we can to recognize and let people become aware of how important it is to come together to fight crime. I think it is just so important to deal with our young people at an early age and let them know that we are concerned about crime, and that we recognize that there is a correlation between unemployment and crime and we have to create jobs and should be working on that. I am hoping that we can pull together as a body here and work on creating jobs.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 227, brought forth by my esteemed colleague, Representative EDOLPHUS TOWNS, New York, which articulates support for the ultimate goal that the National Urban Crimes Awareness Week stands to convey. This message is not for a specific neighborhood, race or ethnicity, but is for all nationalities and communities. Through reaching out to various organizations, businesses, colleges and universities, crime awareness will spread through like “wild fire.”

This resolution states that Congress realizes the importance of National Crime Awareness

Week and acknowledges and welcomes the opportunity to educate the public about urban violence and take steps to prevent violence and provide support to victims.

I cannot stress enough the significance of Congress supporting the concept of the resolution; not only for actual crime prevention, but also for the victims of crime. By joining in a consensus, we are informing Americans that we empathize and sympathize with their issues, concerns and safety. We are also declaring that we support both in theory and implementation any approach necessary to increase support for victims, increase successful and fair prosecutions and applaud the courage of individuals who pick up the shattered pieces of their lives and triumph in the midst of adversity! This resolution also acknowledges more comprehensive rehabilitation programs for offenders.

This is especially important in my city, Houston, TX, where the population is the fourth largest in the United States. It is imperative to spread crime awareness, not only in this month, but every day, to maintain order and a safe living environment for all.

So in conclusion, I immensely support H. Con. Res. 227 and I encourage my colleagues to follow my lead.

Mr. POE of Texas. We have no other speakers. I strongly support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for introducing the resolution and urge my colleagues to support it.

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 agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 227, 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. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam 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.

NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 274) expressing support for designation of March as National Nutrition Month.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 274

Whereas according to the American Dietetic Association good nutrition is vital to a healthy and long life;

Whereas according to the American Dietetic Association the National Nutrition