

By extending federal election law, as it does, my bill makes sure that persons employed in federal or territorial government offices are barred from using their official authority to interfere with the nomination or election process for any federal office and penalizes those who do.

By extending federal election law, as it does, my bill gives voters assurance that their votes will not be diluted with votes cast by persons using false information to register or identify themselves at the polling place, just as federal law assures voters in the rest of America.

My bill simply adds the Northern Mariana Islands and other U.S. territories to those parts of the law where we are not included, in the Voting Rights Act of 1965, for example, and in the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971.

Each and every Member of Congress from each and every State abides by and is protected by these same laws. I believe that Members of Congress from the non-State areas and their constituents must abide by the same standards and deserve these same safeguards in their elections for federal office.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

HONORING FORMER MONROE COUNTY COMMISSIONER JERRY STEELE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise to note the recent passing of a longtime community leader and public servant, former Monroe County Commissioner Jerry Steele. Commissioner Steele was 85.

A lifelong resident of Beatrice, Alabama, Commissioner Steele graduated from Beatrice High School in 1946. He only left for a few years to attend Auburn University from which he graduated in 1951. Jerry loved Beatrice so much that he often told his friends, “If you need me, you can always find me in Beatrice. I never intended to move until I move to the cemetery.”

Jerry’s love for Monroe County was demonstrated in his many contributions to the community. A supporter of local education, he founded Monroe Academy in 1970, and served as Board Chairman for eight years.

He was a dedicated member of the business community as well. He organized F. S. Steele Timber Company and later Hines, Steele and Steele, Inc. in 1969. He was Vice-President of Peoples Exchange Bank and a former member of the Alabama Cattleman’s Association.

He was first elected to public office in the 1950’s when he served on the Beatrice City Council. In 1964, he was elected to the Monroe County Commission, a position he held for 24 years. While a commissioner, he earned a reputation as an honest and dependable leader and a devoted shepherd of the people’s business. He also had a well-known sense of humor. According to the Monroe Journal, Jerry possessed a wit that seems particularly appropriate in today’s political climate. He once said, “I’m telling you the sorriest administrator of money is a government office, and that includes us.”

Jerry was a Charter member of the Beatrice Community Church and a member of the Beatrice Baptist Church. He taught Sunday School, served as a Deacon, and held many other offices in each church throughout the years.

An avid sportsman, Jerry loved hunting and fishing with his children and grandchildren, who were the joys of his life.

On behalf of the people of south Alabama, I wish to extend my heartfelt condolences to his wife, Patricia; their two sons, David and Harvel; their seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and their many relatives. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

INTRODUCING THE INVASIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE PREVENTION ACT OF 2013

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to introduce the Invasive Fish and Wildlife Prevention Act. This legislation significantly strengthens the ability of federal regulators to make rapid, science-based decisions on whether non-native fish or wildlife species pose a risk to ecosystems within the United States and cause economic damage or threaten public health.

Invasive species are a persistent and costly thorn in the side of the American taxpayer. In Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011, the federal budget allocated approximately \$120 million to control the Asian carp. Meanwhile the U.S. is spending tens of millions more dollars to control other invaders, such as wetland-destroying nutria and two python species established in south Florida.

Yet, federal regulators are frequently slow to respond to emerging threats. Invasive species are currently regulated by the Lacey Act, a 112-year-old law that gives the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) only limited power to declare non-native animals as “injurious” and prohibit their importation and interstate sales. In fact, it takes the FWS an average of four years to officially list a species as injurious and take appropriate action. Experts and interested parties repeatedly describe this regulatory approach as reactive and ineffective.

Alternatively, the Invasive Fish and Wildlife Prevention Act would give the FWS streamlined authority to prevent invasions using modern scientific approaches. The bill also creates a category of “Injurious II” species, which are not suited as private pets or aquarium species, but can be held safely by qualified zoos, aquaria, research facilities and other institutions without any need for a Federal permit. This exemption is broader than current law, which requires a Federal permit for transactions in all listed species, a requirement that is becoming unworkable as more animals are listed.

We must take critical steps now to prevent the next Asian carp, Burmese python, or red lionfish crisis. These destructive invaders will continue to come into our country via globalized trade until Congress steps in to make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act. This is important legislation to help protect women and families from domestic violence. I have long championed the rights of crime victims, especially women. So I am glad we are passing this legislation today, and that it will soon become law. This will ensure we continue our efforts to address the issue of violence against women from a variety of angles, including prevention, intervention, and prosecution.

Today I want to address specific aspects of Title XII of this Act, entitled “Trafficking Victims Protection.”

Human trafficking is an egregious offense against human dignity that oppresses tens of millions of people around the world, and disproportionately victimizes women and girls. But even those jarring statistics can obscure the depressing reality: the harm of trafficking is probably most clearly seen in the eyes of a girl who is being robbed of her freedom, her youth, and her hope for the unjust benefit of someone else.

As Chairman of the Committee of primary jurisdiction for the original Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) and the three subsequent reauthorization statutes, I am proud of the strong, bipartisan role that the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Congress have played in the global fight against modern-day slavery over the past 13 years.

Title XII of the bill before us today extends and amends those anti-trafficking authorities with language that was not considered under regular order by House committees. I rise to register my concern with certain sections that normally would fall within Foreign Affairs jurisdiction, because I do not want that language to harm the important work already being done by the Department of State, and particularly its Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, known as the “TIP Office.”

While our limited resources must be put to their best uses, I don’t understand why the Senate has slashed funding for the TIP Office, in contrast to the funding increases elsewhere in Title XII. That is a mistake. I just hope it is not a mistake that is fatal to the integrity and vitality of anti-trafficking efforts at the Department of State. Within State, the TIP Office has been the Congressionally-authorized anchor that has kept trafficking advocacy and the annual tier rankings from being subordinated to the usual pressures of bilateral diplomacy. That is, the frequent temptation for the State Department to compromise our human trafficking concerns for interests perceived, and often misperceived, as being more important than pressing another country on this crime against humanity. This bill weakens the hand of the TIP Office.

Section 1201 of the bill directs the regional bureaus at the State Department to develop annual, country-specific anti-trafficking goals and objectives in cooperation with the TIP Office. With its deep expertise in implementing and assessing interventions to combat modern

slavery, the TIP Office has the lead role on such issues within the Department, and should maintain that lead. Section 1201 should not provide the basis for a mechanism that is independent from the work of the TIP Office, or from the recommendations set forth in the annual Trafficking in Persons Report. Rather, it should be used to increase regional bureau support for those priorities at the country level.

Furthermore, the host government consultations contemplated by section 1201 should focus on implementation of Department-set goals and objectives, rather than become a bilateral negotiation on their initial formulation in a way that might subvert the purpose of section 110 of the original TVPA, which mandates actions against governments that fail to meet minimum standards.

Section 1204(5) of the bill would change the TVPA “minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking” to include consideration of whether a foreign government has entered into effective partnerships or agreements with other governments, civil society or nongovernmental groups, or others, “that have resulted in concrete and measurable outcomes.” I regret that the bill is vague about what those outcomes must be. The numbers of traffickers prosecuted and convicted, and the number of trafficking survivors assisted, should be indispensable components of any concrete, measurable outcomes for purposes of this section. At least the language is clear that such outcomes must already have occurred in order to qualify. This section must not be used to allow a government to avoid a Tier 3 designation by signing a new agreement or MOU promising prospective progress, even if that new agreement is with the U.S. Government. Foreign government promises to take action just don’t count.

I appreciate the considerable anti-trafficking work of the TIP Office at the Department of State over the past dozen years, under both Republican and Democrat administrations. During that time, the leadership of the United States has helped to fuel the passage of more than 130 anti-trafficking laws around the world, though much work remains to be done. I hope that the elements of Title XII that I have discussed will not undercut those efforts. The Foreign Affairs Committee will be working to assure that.

DEFENDERS OF THE ALAMO

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the following is the names of the Defenders of the Alamo.

Buchanan, James, Alabama; Fishbaugh, William, Alabama; Fuqua, Galba, Alabama; White, Isaac, Alabama; Baker, Isaac G., Arkansas; Thompson, Jesse G., Arkansas; Warnell, Henry, Arkansas; Jennings, Gordon C., Connecticut; Grimes, Albert (Alfred) Calvin, Georgia; Melton, Eliel, Georgia; Shied, Manson, Georgia; Wells, William, Georgia; Wills, William, Georgia; Lindley, Jonathan L., Illinois.

Bailey, Peter James III, Kentucky; Bowie, James, Kentucky; Cloud, Daniel William, Kentucky; Darst, Jacob C., Kentucky; Davis, John, Kentucky; Fauntleroy, William H.,

Kentucky; Gaston, John E., Kentucky; Harris, John, Kentucky; Jackson, William Daniel, Kentucky; Jameson, Green B., Kentucky; Kellogg, John Benjamin, Kentucky; Kent, Andrew, Kentucky; Rutherford, Joseph, Kentucky; Thomas, B. Archer M., Kentucky; Washington, Joseph G., Kentucky; Despallier, Charles, Louisiana; Kerr, Joseph, Louisiana; Ryan, Isaac, Louisiana; Garrand, James W., Louisiana; Smith, Charles S., Maryland.

Flanders, John, Massachusetts; Howell, William D., Massachusetts; Linn, William, Massachusetts; Pollard, Amos, Massachusetts; Clark, M.B., Mississippi; Millsaps, Isaac, Mississippi; Moore, Willis A., Mississippi; Pagan, George, Mississippi; Parker, Christopher Adams, Mississippi; Baker, William Charles M., Missouri; Butler, George D., Missouri; Clark, Charles Henry, Missouri; Cottle, George Washington, Missouri; Day, Jerry C., Missouri; Tumlinson, George W., Missouri; Cochran, Robert E., New Hampshire; Stockton, Richard Lucius, New Jersey; Cunningham, Robert W., New York; Dewall, Lewis, New York; Evans, Samuel B., New York; Forsyth, John Hubbard, New York; Jones, John, New York; Tylee, James, New York.

Autry, Micajah, North Carolina; Floyd, Dolphin Ward, North Carolina; Parks, William, North Carolina; Scurlock, Mial, North Carolina; Smith, Joshua G., North Carolina; Thomson, John W., North Carolina; Wright, Claiborne, North Carolina; Harrison, William B., Ohio; Holland, Tapely, Ohio; Musselman, Robert, Ohio; Rose, James M., Ohio; Ballentine, John J., Pennsylvania; Brown, James Murry, Pennsylvania; Cain (Cane), John, Pennsylvania; Crossman, Robert, Pennsylvania; Cummings, David P., Pennsylvania; Hannum, James, Pennsylvania; Holloway, Samuel, Pennsylvania; Johnson, William, Pennsylvania; Kimble (Kimbell), George C., Pennsylvania; McDowell, William, Pennsylvania; Reynolds, John Purdy, Pennsylvania; Thurston, John M., Pennsylvania; Williamson, Hiram James, Pennsylvania; Wilson, John, Pennsylvania.

Martin, Albert, Rhode Island; Bonham, James Butler, South Carolina; Crawford, Lemuel, South Carolina; Neggan, George, South Carolina; Nelson, Edward, South Carolina; Nelson, George, South Carolina; Simmons, Cleveland Kinloch, South Carolina; Travis, William Barret, South Carolina; Bayliss, Joseph, Tennessee; Blair, John, Tennessee; Blair, Samuel C., Tennessee; Bowman, Jesse B., Tennessee; Campbell, James (Robert), Tennessee; Crockett, David, Tennessee; Daymon, Squire, Tennessee; Dearduff, William, Tennessee; Dickinson, Almeron, Tennessee; Dillard, John Henry, Tennessee; Ewing, James L., Tennessee; Garrett, James Girard, Tennessee; Harrison, Andrew Jackson, Tennessee; Haskell, Charles M., Tennessee; Hays, John M., Tennessee; Marshall, William, Tennessee; McCoy, Jesse, Tennessee; McKinney, Robert, Tennessee; Miller, Thomas R., Tennessee; Mills, William, Tennessee; Nelson, Andrew M., Tennessee; Robertson, James Waters, Tennessee; Smith, Andrew H., Tennessee; Summerlin, A. Spain, Tennessee; Summers, William E., Tennessee; Taylor, Edward, Tennessee; Taylor, George, Tennessee; Taylor, James, Tennessee; Taylor, William, Tennessee; Walker, Asa, Tennessee; Walker, Jacob, Tennessee.

Abamillo, Juan, Texas; Badillo, Juan Antonio, Texas; Espalier, Carlos, Texas; Esparza, Gregorio (Jose Maria), Texas; Fuentes, Antonio, Texas; Jimenez, Damacio, Texas; King, William Phillip, Texas; Lewis, William, Texas; Irvine, Texas; Lightfoot, William J., Texas; Losoya, Jose Toribio, Texas; Nava, Andres, Texas; Perry, Richardson, Texas; Andross, Miles Deforest, Vermont; Allen, Robert, Virginia; Baugh, John J., Virginia; Carey, Wil-

liam R., Virginia; Garnett, William, Virginia; Goodrich, John Camp, Virginia; Herndon, Patrick Henry, Virginia; Kenny, James, Virginia; Malone, William T., Virginia; Mitchasson, Edward F., Virginia; Moore, Robert B., Virginia; Northcross, James, Virginia.

Zanco, Charles, Denmark; Blazeby, William, England; Bourne, Daniel, England; Brown, George, England; Dennison, Stephen (or Ireland), England; Dimpkins, James R., England; Gwynne, James C., England; Hersee, William Daniel, England; Nowlan, James, England; Sewell, Marcus L., England; Starr, Richard, England; Stewart, James E., England; Waters, Thomas, England; Wolfe, Anthony (Avram), England; Wolfe, son age 12, England; Wolfe, son age 11, England; Burns, Samuel E., Ireland; Duvall, Andrew, Ireland; Evans, Robert, Ireland; Hawkins, Joseph M., Ireland; Jackson, Thomas, Ireland; McGee, James, Ireland; Rusk, Jackson J., Ireland; Rusk, Jackson J., Ireland; Ward, William B., Ireland; Courtman, Henry, Germany; Thomas, Henry Germany; Ballentine, Richard W., Scotland; McGregor, John, Scotland; Robinson, Isaac, Scotland; Wilson, David L., Scotland; Johnson, Lewis, Wales.

Brown, Robert, Unknown; Day, Freeman H.K., Unknown; Garvin, John E., Unknown; George, James, Unknown; McCafferty, Edward, Unknown; Mitchell, William T., Unknown; Mitchell, Napoleon B., Unknown; Roberts, Thomas H., Unknown; Smith, William H., Unknown; Sutherland, William Depriest, Unknown; White Robert, Unknown; John (Free Black), Unknown; Joe, Travis' slave.

NATIONAL SLEEP AWARENESS WEEK

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the millions of Americans affected by sleep disorders and insufficient sleep in observance of National Sleep Awareness Week, March 3rd–10th. National Sleep Awareness Week is a week-long campaign to celebrate and bring awareness to the health benefits of sleep.

I am proud to represent the nation's foremost organization on sleep research, the Sleep Research Society (SRS), which is based in Darien, Illinois. The Sleep Research Society, established in 1961, is composed of scientists whose research contributions extend to all areas of sleep. The SRS promotes continued research and plays an important role in the National Center on Sleep Disorders Research within the National Institutes of Health's National Heart Lung and Blood Institute.

Sleep disorders affect every age group, from infants to the elderly, and are often an indicator of, or a precursor to, other major diseases and disorders. 50–70 million Americans suffer from chronic sleep disorders, while 5% of the population suffers from sleep apnea. Sleep apnea results in excessive daytime fatigue, increased frequency of road traffic accidents, and arterial hypertension. Prior to diagnosis, patients with sleep apnea also tend to incur higher costs in their overall health care.

I urge my colleagues to reflect on the work that needs to be done to ensure that Americans with sleep disorders or suffering from insufficient sleep can expect to see sustained