

been conducted in the United States. In fact, the Bureau of Justice Statistics in their annual National Crime Victims Survey does not specifically collect data about crimes against persons with developmental disabilities.

Research in foreign countries has found that persons with developmental disabilities are at a 4 to 10 times higher risk of becoming crime victims than those without disabilities. Studies in Canada, Australia and Great Britain consistently show that crime victims with developmental disabilities suffer repeated victimization because so few of the crimes against them are reported. Unfortunately, even when crimes against victims with disabilities are reported, there sometimes is a reluctance by justice officials to rely solely on the testimony of a disabled person, further making these victims a target for criminal predators.

S. 1976 seeks to promote research to, (1) understand the nature and extent of crimes against persons with developmental disabilities; (2) assess how the law enforcement and justice systems currently respond to crimes against the developmentally disabled; and (3) identify programs, policies, or laws that hold promise for making our law enforcement and justice systems more responsive to crimes against persons with developmental disabilities.

I am hopeful that the research in this legislation will have broad positive national policy implications. Greater knowledge about victims with developmental disabilities will help service providers target programs more effectively. Victims and their families will have a better understanding of crime risks. Justice and social service policy makers will have a greater understanding of how to improve investigative and prosecutorial strategies and how to use victims' testimony in conjunction with other case evidence.

Clearly, what this legislation is trying to do is to raise considerably the national profile of this issue among research agencies and the academic community and to continue to define and develop solutions to the problem. It is an important proposal and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise to support this legislation which was introduced by Senator LEAHY and Senator DEWINE and passed by the Senate by unanimous consent.

Interestingly enough, as the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM), my colleague and chairman has indicated, research has already been done on this issue in foreign countries and it has found that persons with developmental disabilities are at a 4 to 10 times higher risk of becoming crime victims than those without disabilities. Interestingly enough, we have not done similar research here in the United States.

The legislation is designed to achieve the three objectives: Increasing public awareness of the plight of crime victims with developmental disabilities; to start collecting data to measure the extent and nature of the problem; and, to develop strategies to address the safety and justice of these victims.

Many times these victims cannot explain or express the circumstances around their victimization. Research in the United States really needs to be done to understand the nature and extent of crimes against persons with developmental disabilities, again, to show how the law enforcement and justice systems currently respond to such crimes and to identify programs and policies or laws that hold promise for making our law enforcement and justice systems more responsive to crimes against persons with developmental disabilities.

Frankly, Madam Speaker, we need to reach out to these individuals, so that they can aggressively be able to protect themselves, we can provide them with comfort and training, and we can stave off those who would victimize these victims because of their disabilities.

The legislation directs the Attorney General to enter into contracts to develop a research agenda to increase the understanding and control of crime against persons with developmental disabilities.

In speaking to one of my colleagues here on the floor, they found this bill particularly interesting in light of the fact that people with disabilities, someone that they are very familiar with, would be subject to attack by those who thought they were easy prey. This is an important issue because there are more and more people with developmental disabilities in this Nation. This because of poor prenatal nutrition and care, serious accidents, and other tragedies that occur throughout one's life.

□ 2310

There are also increases in child abuse, and there is much substance abuse during pregnancy. So we are finding more and more Americans who are capable of surviving and supporting themselves, but they are developmentally disabled and become subject to victimization.

This is a strong bipartisan bill and I urge its adoption.

I rise in support of this legislation introduced by my good friend Mr. TRAFICANT which ensures that Federal funds for the Cops on the Beat program are used in a manner that produces a net gain in the number of law enforcement officers who perform non-administrative safety services.

I was heavily involved in the enactment of the initial cops on the beat program, and I can assure the Members that the overriding goal was to hire and retain as many neighborhood policeman as possible, not to use the money for excessive administrative or overhead costs.

Identical legislation has been enacted in each of the last several Congresses through

the appropriations process, but has become entangled in other issues.

This is good legislation that will help our communities fight crime, and I urge a yes vote.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. WILSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1976.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ENSURING FEDERAL FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE TO HIRE OR REHIRE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ARE USED IN MANNER THAT PRODUCES NET GAIN OF NUMBER OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHO PERFORM NON-ADMINISTRATIVE PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Madame Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 804) to amend part Q of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to ensure that Federal funds made available to hire or rehire law enforcement officers are used in a manner that produces a net gain of the number of law enforcement officers who perform nonadministrative public safety services.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 804

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

SECTION 1. NET GAIN OF OFFICERS.

Section 1704 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(d) NET GAIN OF OFFICERS.—Notwithstanding any other provision under this part, funding provided under this part for hiring or rehiring a career law enforcement officer shall be used by an entity described in section 1701(a) to ensure that such entity achieves a net gain in the number of law enforcement officers who perform nonadministrative public safety service."

SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendment made by section 1 shall apply to all applications and grant renewal requests made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within

which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 804, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 804 amends the 100,000 "COPS on the Beat" program established in the 1994 Crime Bill to ensure that Federal funds for the COPS program are used in a manner that produces a net gain of the number of law enforcement officers who perform nonadministrative public safety services.

The President's "COPS on the Beat" program authorized \$8.8 billion over 6 years in order to put 100,000 community-oriented police officers on the beat across the country. As of March 1998, the latest month in which a survey was completed, the COPS office claimed to have funded 71,000 COPS. Approximately 40,800 are actually hired and deployed on the streets. About 2400 more are in training.

The remaining 29,000 are officers counted under the COPS M.O.R.E. program, which funds technology and equipment and is believed to produce real-time savings in order to increase policing activities and police presence on the streets. These grants have been counted towards the 100,000 goal not because grants have been used to pay officers' salaries, but because the technology and the equipment purchased have supposedly freed up officers to be on the streets.

I have been a critic of the 100,000 COPS program in the past, not because I am opposed to putting more community police officers on the streets, but because I have been skeptical that the President's program will be able to deliver on what it promises. The subcommittee held hearings on the COPS program in the 104th Congress where we learned that local communities bear the majority of the financial burden of the COPS program, and the COPS grants were not going where they were needed; in most high-crime areas. Since then, we have learned many communities cannot afford to keep police officers they have hired after the 3-year grant runs out.

It was because of these inadequacies of the COPS program that I introduced the Local Government Law Enforcement Block Grants bill in 1996. This program, which is now law, provides communities flexible grants to control crime and improve public safety, including the hiring of police officers, if desired. I am of the view that communities, not Washington, know best how to spend funds to fight crime in local neighborhoods. In fact, just last month I received a letter from the National League of Cities stating that they believe that the block grants program, "has been one of the most influential factors that has led to the reduction of crime rates in our Nation's cities and

towns." I believe this proposal has delivered what it promises to communities across the country.

Today's legislation seeks to ensure that the COPS office delivers what it promises. Recent news accounts indicate that some police agencies have failed to ensure an actual net gain of officers with the COPS grants they have received. Rather than creating new positions, some grants are used to fill existing vacancies, even though the law prohibits replacing officers who retire or who have otherwise left through attrition.

A September 1977 General Accounting Office report noted that the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services' efforts to monitor the COPS grants were "limited" and "information regarding the accomplishments of the police agencies who received the grants were not consistently collected or reviewed." The COPS office has since made an effort to improve grant monitoring by setting up systematic site visits and telephone monitoring of grantees. H.R. 804 is designed to ensure that Federal funds for the COPS program are used to ensure net gains of officers and encourage the COPS office to improve grant monitoring of the program to ensure the goal that is involved in this issue.

I, therefore, support this bill, and I certainly want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) for sponsoring it. I believe it improves the existing COPS program, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of this legislation that was introduced by my very good friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT), who has worked very hard on this legislation.

I also want to thank the chairman, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. McCOLLUM), for working hard to ensure that Federal funds for the "COPS on the Beat" program are used in a manner that produces a net gain in the number of law enforcement officers who perform nonadministrative safety services.

If I might draw upon my local experience again as a city council member working with a lot of police officers, they are happiest when they are out on the beat enforcing the law, working with people, and it is infrequent that they are satisfied sitting at a desk. This legislation ensures that the police are where they need to be, protecting the people.

Let me also compliment the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), who was heavily involved in ensuring that the "COPS on the Beat" program passed, as well as assuring Members that the overriding goal was to hire and retain as many neighborhood policemen, and police persons, might I add, as possible, and not to use the money for excessive administrative or overhead costs.

Identical legislation has been enacted in each of the last several Congresses through the appropriations process but has become entangled in other issues. Many cities, towns, hamlets and places throughout this Nation have been gratified by officers that have come through the 100,000 police, the "COPS on the Beat" program, and so this legislation now allows those individuals to get away from the headiness of desk work, if they do not have to do it, and get out with the people.

This is good legislation that will help our communities fight crime and I urge a "yes" vote on this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT), the moving force behind this legislation in a steadfast and evenhanded manner. I wish to congratulate the gentleman on his work.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas for her support, and I want to thank the chairman, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. McCOLLUM). Without his help this would not now be law through the appropriations process.

The chairman worked with me and he allowed legislation on appropriations bills for several years to ensure that, in fact, if we are going to be putting Federal dollars in grants to provide COPS on the Beat, then they shall be "COPS on the Beat" and not "COPS Behind Desks" or in public relation jobs.

So that is technically what my bill does here today. It codifies through the authorization process so that we do not continue to, year after year, bring the issue up in the appropriations process to deal with the issue.

As a former sheriff, I want to, in fact, comment on some of the remarks made by the gentleman from Florida, who has broad experience in law enforcement from perhaps a different perspective. One thing that happens in the law enforcement arena is that at times these grants do become available to chiefs and to sheriffs and they promote their friends from within and then put a few on the street. But the end result is the community that had 10 officers on the street before they got the money, and the taxpayers put up the money, the end result is there are still 10 policemen on the street.

What our language does here, and what we have done in the appropriations process is this: If Houston, Texas, gets 10 new officers, there must be at least one of those officers, to say the least, on the street. So if they had 500 on the street, they must have 501.

□ 2320

But it deals more with those little townships and communities who gets that one or two officers. If they had a total of four officers on the street and they get two of these cops through the grant, then they must have five on the street. It is a very straightforward message that does what the intent supposedly of the underlying program was

supposed to do, increase the number of nonadministrative street cops to protect our communities.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from Texas for the outstanding job she has done in the short time she has been here on this committee, and I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM). Without him this would not happen. I appreciate the fact he was able to allow it to get on the appropriation process and hopefully now we can avoid all of that.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Needless to say this is a right direction bill. This is frankly a bill that answers the concerns of our local communities. They want police where they need to be, out enforcing the law.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Florida as well for working with my good friend from Ohio and his leadership for doing what most police would applaud and, that is, let them work with the people, enforce the laws and fight crimes.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and say congratulations for this legislation.

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I again want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) for his work putting this bill together. He, as he said, has put this on appropriations bills for a number of years. We are finally going to get it passed.

Madam Speaker, in closing, tonight is the last night and this is the last bill that Aerin Bryant who is a staff member on the Crime Subcommittee of Judiciary will be employed and bringing a bill out here. She is expecting her first child next month and she will be leaving our employ but not our hearts. We are with you, Aerin. We look forward to it. I want to thank her for many hours and many days and now several years of service to this Congress, to the Subcommittee on Crime and to the Committee on the Judiciary. I thank you particularly for being here tonight. You are deserving of that compliment. We certainly wish you fair seas ahead.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WILSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 804.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IRISH PEACE PROCESS CULTURAL AND TRAINING PROGRAM ACT OF 1998

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4293) to establish a

cultural and training program for disadvantaged individuals from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4293

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 "Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998".

SEC. 2. IRISH PEACE PROCESS CULTURAL AND TRAINING PROGRAM.

(a) PURPOSE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the Attorney General shall establish a program to allow young people from disadvantaged areas of designated counties suffering from sectarian violence and high structural unemployment to enter the United States for the purpose of developing job skills and conflict resolution abilities in a diverse, cooperative, peaceful, and prosperous environment, so that those young people can return to their homes better able to contribute toward economic regeneration and the Irish peace process. The program shall promote cross-community and cross-border initiatives to build grassroots support for long-term peaceful coexistence. The Secretary of State and the Attorney General shall cooperate with nongovernmental organizations to assist those admitted to participate fully in the economic, social, and cultural life of the United States.

(2) SCOPE AND DURATION OF PROGRAM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The program under paragraph (1) shall provide for the admission of not more than 4,000 aliens under section 101(a)(15)(Q)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (including spouses and minor children) in each of 3 consecutive program years.

(B) OFFSET IN NUMBER OF H-2B NON-IMMIGRANT ADMISSIONS ALLOWED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for each alien so admitted in a fiscal year, the numerical limitation specified under section 214(g)(1)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act shall be reduced by 1 for that fiscal year or the subsequent fiscal year.

(3) RECORDS AND REPORT.—The Immigration and Naturalization Service shall maintain records of the nonimmigrant status and place of residence of each alien admitted under the program. Not later than 120 days after the end of the third program year and for the 3 subsequent years, the Immigration and Naturalization Service shall compile and submit to the Congress a report on the number of aliens admitted with nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(Q)(ii) who have overstayed their visas.

(4) DESIGNATED COUNTIES DEFINED.—For the purposes of this Act, the term "designated counties" means the six counties of Northern Ireland and the counties of Louth, Monaghan, Cavan, Leitrim, Sligo, and Donegal within the Republic of Ireland.

(b) TEMPORARY NONIMMIGRANT VISA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(a)(15)(Q) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(Q)) is amended—

(A) by inserting "(i)" after "(Q)"; and

(B) by inserting after the semicolon at the end the following: "or (ii) (1) an alien 35 years of age or younger having a residence in Northern Ireland, or the counties of Louth, Monaghan, Cavan, Leitrim, Sligo, and Donegal within the Republic of Ireland, which the alien has no intention of abandoning who is coming temporarily (for a period not to exceed 36 months) to the United States as a participant in a cultural and training pro-

gram approved by the Secretary of State and the Attorney General under section 2(a) of the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998 for the purpose of providing practical training, employment, and the experience of coexistence and conflict resolution in a diverse society, and (II) the alien spouse and minor children of any such alien if accompanying the alien or following to join the alien;"

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this section. Amounts appropriated pursuant to this subsection are authorized to be available until expended.

(d) SUNSET.—

(1) Effective October 1, 2005, the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998 is repealed.

(2) Effective October 1, 2005, section 101(a)(15)(Q) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(Q)) is amended—

(A) by striking "or" at the end of clause (i);

(B) by striking "(i)" after "(Q)"; and

(C) by striking clause (ii).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 4293, the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998, provides for a new nonimmigrant visa program to assist the Irish peace process.

The author of the bill, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) has tirelessly supported the Irish peace process. In support of the peace process, he has worked with numerous international organizations and visited Northern Ireland three times in the last year. H.R. 4293 is the result of his dedication on behalf of a cause in which he strongly believes. He is to be commended for his diligence and hard work in generating broad bipartisan support for H.R. 4293 and moving it to the House floor.

The bill sets up a 3-year program with 4,000 visas available each year. The visas are reserved for qualified applicants age 35 or under and their spouses and children. The visas are good for 3 years, and the bill requires the INS to monitor and report on any visa overstays so that the purpose of the program is met and the integrity of the United States' immigration system is maintained.

Finally, the new visas are offset against the available number of low-