

CRIMINAL CODE MODERNIZATION
AND SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2006**HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Criminal Code Modernization and Simplification Act of 2006."

This measure revises the criminal code to update, simplify and consolidate many of the criminal provisions in Title 18 of the United States Code. It has been over 50 years since the criminal code was last revised. The existing criminal code is riddled with provisions that are either outdated or simply inconsistent with more recent modifications to reflect today's modern world.

As my term as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee comes to a close, I am introducing this measure to begin the dialogue and process for rewriting the criminal code. It is my hope that this bill will trigger a dialogue and input from other interested parties to develop a more comprehensive re-write. Further, it is my hope that a careful review of the code will lead to even more of a reduction in the "federalization" of what many consider local crimes. I am well aware that federal prosecutions constitute only 7 percent of the criminal prosecutions nationwide. We need to ensure that the federal role continues to be limited and that the State and local offenses are not subsumed within an ever expanding criminal code.

Through the years, the criminal code has grown with more and more criminal provisions, some of which are antiquated or redundant, some of which poorly drafted, some of which have not been used in the last 30 years, and some of which are unnecessary since the crime is already covered by existing criminal provisions.

This bill cuts over 1/3 of the existing criminal code; reorganizes the criminal code to make it more user-friendly; and consolidates criminal offenses from other titles so that title 18 includes all major criminal provisions (e.g., drug crimes in title 21, aviation offenses and hijacking in title 49).

In redrafting the criminal code, I applied several drafting principles: (1) added a uniform set of definitions for the entire title; (2) revised the intent requirements to apply a consistent definition of intent in response to Supreme Court criticisms of intent requirements for criminal offenses; (3) eliminated excess language that confuses, or potentially complicates, use of a criminal statute; and (4) added new headings to make the code more user friendly.

I attempted to the extent possible to make these changes policy neutral; however, two general policy changes were made: (1) attempts and conspiracies to commit criminal offenses are generally punished in the same manner as the substantive offense unless specifically stated otherwise; and (2) criminal and civil forfeiture and restitution provisions were consolidated unless a more specific policy was adopted for a crime.

I wanted to take a moment to thank the Legislative Counsel's Office and in particular Doug Bellis, the Deputy Counsel of that Office, who devoted substantial efforts to preparing this bill and should be commended for his extraordinary efforts.

I recognize that additional input from outside interested parties will be needed, and look forward to working with other Members, the Justice Department, the Department of Homeland Security, the Treasury Department and other parties on this worthwhile project.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OF THE AMERICAN COUNCIL
OF YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, it is with appreciation that I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL). As a bipartisan, non-profit educational exchange organization, ACYPL serves a critical purpose in helping to ensure strong U.S. public diplomacy around the world.

ACYPL programs enhance understanding of political systems, cultures, and people by fostering relations between young political leaders. These international exchanges are an important strategy in a broader effort to ensure our nation's security and the protection of U.S. interests abroad.

Through these exchanges young political leaders learn from each other and share their experiences. In fact, two of my own staff have participated in ACYPL programs, including a program to Egypt and a program to Tanzania and Uganda. These experiences have provided opportunities for them to share their views on democracy, foreign policy issues, and cultural differences—broadening their world views and building new international relationships.

I am also proud that my Congressional Office has hosted several young political leaders over the years. This September, my office hosted a young political leader from Egypt—Ms. Fatma Zaki-Khalil. Fatma is a staff member with the Badrawi Technical Bureau. Dr. Hossam Badrawi, a former of the People's Assembly and Chairman of the Education Committee, has also hosted young American political leaders, including a staff member from my office, through ACYPL exchange programs in Egypt.

Thank you ACYPL. I look forward to continued partnerships in working to support cultural and political exchanges.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, on September 28, 2006, I was unavoidably detained and failed to cast a recorded vote on rollcall vote No. 495. Had I cast my vote, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on September 7, 2006 I missed rollcall vote No. 433, the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (H.R. 503). Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of this bill that intends to put an end to horse slaughter in this country for good. The practice of this purely export-driven market which involves the cruel treatment and killing of our horses for trade is unacceptable, and therefore I am a proud cosponsor and supporter of this bill that moves to end these practices.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 6014

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, California's Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta provides water for millions of Californians and is a recreational and environmental treasure. In addition, it serves as a home, where generations of us continue to live and work.

The Delta, however, is also one of the most flood-prone areas in the world. Hurricane Katrina reinforced the need to do everything possible to protect the Delta. To do otherwise would risk tempting the same human and environmental disaster that devastated New Orleans. Simply accepting that the Delta will flood catastrophically is unacceptable.

Over the past two years, we have held productive hearings on protecting the Delta and have steered funding towards actual levee construction. Long-term studies are underway, but I worry that our federal and state agencies are studying levee protection to death and do not have a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan. The reality is hearings and long-term studies don't protect Delta Residents and water users from the immediate threats that swollen waterways present.

That's why I introduced H.R. 6014. Experts on the ground who work to keep the levees safe have told me that the most effective levee protection is performed through the California Levees Subvention Program. It's a proven program with tangible results. While we continue to develop long-term strategies for protecting the Delta, funding this existing program will cut through bureaucratic red tape and get needed dirt and rock on the levees in a cost effective manner.

My bill is not a cure-all, but it is a bipartisan step in the right direction. It rightly forces the Bureau of Reclamation to funnel money to a proven program that will benefit the agency and the 22 million California water consumers who depend on reliable levees in the Delta.

The 2004 Jones Tract levee failure demonstrated that what happens in the Delta, does not stay in the Delta. Private levee failures can have a significant impact on federal agencies: The Jones Tract failure forced the Bureau of Reclamation to shut down its export water pumps to those south of the Delta for several days. The funding in my bill helps prevent future levee failures that could have far-