

bill than the original suggestion. So it is a work in progress.

But, Mr. Speaker, this is not the way we ought to be legislating. We can do better than this, and I think we ought to defeat the bill now, bring it up early in the next session, and have a product that everybody can be proud of.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's concerns and would point out if he had more time with the bill, if the staff had gotten it to him earlier today, I suspect he would have seen that many of the suggestions he has made here or suggestions he has read from the Department of Justice document have actually been taken into account. Misleading, for instance, is one of the terms that has been adjusted because it is very difficult to deal with.

The question here is are we going to let the perfect be the enemy of the good. This is a bill that is very important to the American people. If you are a divorcee and your husband is harassing you and he is using a fake phone number to do it, you do not want to wait until next session. You want the bill passed now so that your former husband is going to be more careful and not abuse you and your children and maybe not subject you to injury or harm.

I suggest that those people that are using spoofing need to be told today that this is inappropriate, and I urge passage of this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5304, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those voting have responded in the affirmative.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. 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 question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 4121. An act to provide optional funding rules for employers in applicable multiple employer pension plans.

COMPETE ACT OF 2006

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 3821) to authorize certain athletes to be admitted temporarily into the United States to compete or perform in an athletic league, competition, or performance.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 3821

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 either the "Creating Opportunities for Minor League Professionals, Entertainers, and Teams through Legal Entry Act of 2006" or the "COMPETE Act of 2006".

SEC. 2. NONIMMIGRANT ALIEN STATUS FOR CERTAIN ATHLETES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 214(c)(4)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(4)(A)) is amended by striking clauses (i) and (ii) and inserting the following:

"(i)(I) performs as an athlete, individually or as part of a group or team, at an internationally recognized level of performance;

"(II) is a professional athlete, as defined in section 204(i)(2);

"(III) performs as an athlete, or as a coach, as part of a team or franchise that is located in the United States and a member of a foreign league or association of 15 or more amateur sports teams, if—

"(aa) the foreign league or association is the highest level of amateur performance of that sport in the relevant foreign country;

"(bb) participation in such league or association renders players ineligible, whether on a temporary or permanent basis, to earn a scholarship in, or participate in, that sport at a college or university in the United States under the rules of the National Collegiate Athletic Association; and

"(cc) a significant number of the individuals who play in such league or association are drafted by a major sports league or a minor league affiliate of such a sports league; or

"(IV) is a professional athlete or amateur athlete who performs individually or as part of a group in a theatrical ice skating production; and

"(ii) seeks to enter the United States temporarily and solely for the purpose of performing—

"(I) as such an athlete with respect to a specific athletic competition; or

"(II) in the case of an individual described in clause (i)(IV), in a specific theatrical ice skating production or tour."

(b) LIMITATION.—Section 214(c)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(4)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(F)(i) No nonimmigrant visa under section 101(a)(15)(P)(i)(a) shall be issued to any alien who is a national of a country that is a state sponsor of international terrorism unless the Secretary of State determines, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the heads of other appropriate United States agencies, that such alien does not pose a threat to the safety, national security, or national interest of the United States. In making a determination under this subparagraph, the Secretary of State shall apply standards developed by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the heads of other appropriate United States agencies, that are applicable to the nationals of such states.

"(ii) In this subparagraph, the term 'state sponsor of international terrorism' means

any country the government of which has been determined by the Secretary of State under any of the laws specified in clause (iii) to have repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism.

"(iii) The laws specified in this clause are the following:

"(I) Section 6(j)(1)(A) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2405(j)(1)(A)) (or successor statute).

"(II) Section 40(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)).

"(III) Section 620A(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371(a))."

(c) PETITIONS FOR MULTIPLE ALIENS.—Section 214(c)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(4)), as amended by subsection (b), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(G) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall permit a petition under this subsection to seek classification of more than 1 alien as a nonimmigrant under section 101(a)(15)(P)(i)(a)."

(d) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.—Section 214(c)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(4)), as amended by subsections (b) and (c), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(H) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall permit an athlete, or the employer of an athlete, to seek admission to the United States for such athlete under a provision of this Act other than section 101(a)(15)(P)(i) if the athlete is eligible under such other provision."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 3821, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of Senate 3821, the COMPETE Act of 2006. S. 3821 would allow minor league professional athletes and certain performers to utilize the P-1 visa category.

The P-1 visa category allows internationally recognized performers, including athletes, artists and entertainers, to temporarily enter the U.S. for a specific event, competition or performance. To date, Citizenship and Immigration Services has interpreted the Immigration and Nationality Act in such a way that only allows major league professional athletes to utilize the P-1 visa category.

Minor league baseball and hockey players and some professional performers have been forced to utilize the H-2B visa category, which is capped at 66,000 visas annually and has been oversubscribed in recent years. Many minor league baseball and hockey teams attempt to bring in new players at times

of the year when the numerical cap has already been reached for H-2B visas.

Ice skaters who perform in special events in the United States find themselves in a similar predicament. Ice shows are planned many months in advance, but when ice skaters are recruited for these shows, H-2B visas are not always available. This legislation would also allow ice skaters performing in theatrical ice productions to use the P-1 visa category.

The United States is the pinnacle showground for most athletes and performers. It is where the best athletes and performers come to display their talents and skills. By moving minor league athletes and ice performers to the P-1 category, sports leagues and production teams will be able to recruit the most talented individuals from around the world and thus continue America's tradition of excellence in the professional sports arena.

I urge my colleagues to support Senate 3821.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

(Mr. CONYERS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of S. 3821, which makes professional visas available for certain athletes and entertainers who are needed for work and competition in the United States professional athletic industries.

Historically, minor league athletes enter our country as part of the H-2B seasonal worker program. These visas are capped at 66,000 per year, and they often run out well before the year is out.

So we, through this legislation, will allow sport franchises and companies to bring minor league baseball players, hockey players and ice skating performers into the country to perform or compete when they are needed, without being barred by the visa cap. It shifts these talented people from the H visa category to the P visa category, the same one currently used by highly skilled professional athletes.

With this change, the United States will no longer lose these talented athletes to other nations because visas are not available at the right time.

This is a necessary piece of legislation to fix our visa categories, and I am glad that we are able to get the support of both Chambers in a bipartisan fashion to pass this at the very end of the 109th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, with the admonition to my colleagues to support this bill and pass it, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON)

that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 3821.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROHIBITION ON DISRUPTIONS OF FUNERALS OF MEMBERS OR FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 4042) to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit disruptions of funerals of members or former members of the Armed Services.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 4042

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

SECTION 1. RESPECT FOR THE FUNERALS OF FALLEN HEROES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 67 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 1388. Prohibition on disruptions of funerals of members or former members of the Armed Forces

“(a) PROHIBITION.—For any funeral of a member or former member of the Armed Forces that is not located at a cemetery under the control of the National Cemetery Administration or part of Arlington National Cemetery, it shall be unlawful for any person to engage in an activity during the period beginning 60 minutes before and ending 60 minutes after such funeral, any part of which activity—

“(1)(A) takes place within the boundaries of the location of such funeral or takes place within 150 feet of the point of the intersection between—

“(i) the boundary of the location of such funeral; and

“(ii) a road, pathway, or other route of ingress to or egress from the location of such funeral; and

“(B) includes any individual willfully making or assisting in the making of any noise or diversion that is not part of such funeral and that disturbs or tends to disturb the peace or good order of such funeral with the intent of disturbing the peace or good order of that funeral; or

“(2)(A) is within 300 feet of the boundary of the location of such funeral; and

“(B) includes any individual willfully and without proper authorization impeding the access to or egress from such location with the intent to impede the access to or egress from such location.

“(b) PENALTY.—Any person who violates subsection (a) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘Armed Forces’ has the meaning given the term in section 101 of title 10.

“(2) The term ‘funeral of a member or former member of the Armed Forces’ means any ceremony or memorial service held in connection with the burial or cremation of a member or former member of the Armed Forces.

“(3) The term ‘boundary of the location’, with respect to a funeral of a member or former member of the Armed Forces, means—

“(A) in the case of a funeral of a member or former member of the Armed Forces that

is held at a cemetery, the property line of the cemetery;

“(B) in the case of a funeral of a member or former member of the Armed Forces that is held at a mortuary, the property line of the mortuary;

“(C) in the case of a funeral of a member or former member of the Armed Forces that is held at a house of worship, the property line of the house of worship; and

“(D) in the case of a funeral of a member or former member of the Armed Forces that is held at any other kind of location, the reasonable property line of that location.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 67 of such title is amended by inserting after the item related to section 1387 the following new item:

“1388. Prohibition on disruptions of funerals of members or former members of the Armed Forces.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on S. 4042, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Senate 4042, which expands existing law prohibiting certain demonstrations at military funerals.

The men and women of our Armed Forces risk their lives every day to preserve America's freedom. Military funerals honor our veterans and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Funerals are solemn occasions for family and loved ones to grieve their loss. Military funerals are important ceremonies for Americans to show their respect and gratitude for our fallen heroes.

Yet, these dignified, peaceful ceremonies are being disrupted by political demonstrations. In the last year, a fringe religious group known as Westboro Baptist Church has disrupted more than 100 military funerals across the country, claiming that the deaths of U.S. soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan are God's punishment for America's tolerance of gays and lesbians. Over the past 15 years, Westboro Baptist Church has staged over 22,000 demonstrations nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, as Congress considers this legislation today, the Westboro Baptist Church is again staging protests to disrupt the funerals of Lance Corporal Michael A. Schwarz in New Jersey and Lance Corporal James R. Davenport in South Carolina.

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On behalf of the American people, I want to extend my sincere apologies to