

In 35 states, women's incarceration numbers have been higher than men's, and in a few states, the growth of women's prison populations have counteracted any reductions in men's incarceration numbers.

Further, women in jail are the fastest growing correctional population in the country, increasing 14-fold between 1970 and 2014.

This trend is even greater in small counties, where there has been a 31-fold increase between 1970 and 2014.

Significantly, nearly half of all incarcerated women are held in jails.

Mr. Speaker, somewhere between 3 percent and 6 percent of women entering the prison system are pregnant, with the highest rates of pregnancies being in local jails.

Statistics from the Bureau of Prisons show that there were 171 pregnancies in federal prison in 2018.

While the prison health care system is barely adequate for men, it fails to meet incarcerated women's basic needs.

The situation is even more dire for pregnant women in prison who have additional and unique health needs.

A significant portion of women come into the prison system with a history of poverty, substance abuse, and trauma and abuse.

Women who enter prison are also less likely to have had access to regular health care before their incarceration, especially appropriate prenatal care.

Moreover, women in prison are more likely to suffer from undiagnosed chronic illnesses, such as diabetes and high blood pressure, that can cause a high-risk pregnancy.

Another salutary aspect of H.R. 7718 is that provides education and technical assistance by the National Institute of Corrections to state and local corrections facilities on appropriate medical care for pregnant women and to ensure training of BOP correctional officers at facilities housing women and of deputy U.S. Marshals, on the requirements of the bill.

Finally, the legislation directs GAO to study and report to Congress the services and protections provided for pregnant incarcerated women in local and State correctional settings and in Federal pretrial detention facilities and authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to State, tribal, and local governments, to promote and support the health needs of incarcerated pregnant women.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 7718 complements and expands on the SIMARRA Act I introduced in the 114th and 115th Congress (i.e., H.R. 5130, H.R. 3410) and incorporated in the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, legislation which directs the Bureau of Prisons to establish a pilot program to allow incarcerated women who give birth and children born during such incarceration to reside together in a separate prison housing unit.

I strongly support this legislation and urge all Members to join me in voting to pass H.R. 7718, the "Protecting the Health and Wellness of Babies and Pregnant Women in Custody Act."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7718, 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 561. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the oversight of contracts awarded by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 991. An act to extend certain provisions of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act until September 30, 2030, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3399. An act to amend the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003 to include California in the program, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 910. An act to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1069. An act to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and to support collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes.

S. 3681. An act to require a joint task force on air travel during and after the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, and for other purposes.

S. 4403. An act to amend the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003 to include California in the program, and for other purposes.

FIGHT NOTARIO FRAUD ACT OF 2020

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8225) to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain types of fraud in the provision of immigration services, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8225

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 "Fight Notario Fraud Act of 2020".

SEC. 2. FRAUD PROHIBITED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 47 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 1041. Schemes to defraud persons in any matter arising under immigration laws

"(a) FRAUD.—Any person who knowingly executes a scheme or artifice, in connection with any matter authorized by or arising under the immigration laws, or any matter that such person claims or represents is authorized by or arises under the immigration laws to—

"(1) defraud any other person; or
 "(2) obtain or receive money or anything else of value from any other person by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises,
 shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.

"(b) MISREPRESENTATION.—Any person who knowingly makes a false representation that such person is an attorney or an accredited representative (as such term is defined under section 1292.1(a)(4) of title 8, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation)) in any matter arising under the immigration laws shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.

"(c) THREATS AND RETALIATION.—Any person who violates subsection (a) and knowingly—

"(1) threatens to report another person to Federal authorities or State law enforcement authorities working in conjunction with or pursuant to Federal authority;

"(2) acts to adversely affect another person's immigration status, perceived immigration status, or attempts to secure immigration status that—

"(A) impacts or results in the removal of the person from the United States;

"(B) leads to the loss of immigration status; or

"(C) causes the person seeking to apply for an immigration benefit to lose an opportunity to apply for such an immigration benefit that would have provided immigration status and for which a person was prima facie eligible; or

"(3) demands or retains money or anything else of value for services fraudulently performed or not performed or withholds or threatens to withhold services promised to be performed,

shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.

"(d) GRAVITY OF OFFENSE.—

"(1) CUMULATIVE LOSS.—Any person who violates subsection (a), (b), or (c) such that the cumulative loss to all victims exceeds \$10,000 may be imprisoned not more than 3 years, fined under this title, or both.

"(2) RETALIATION.—Any person who violates subsection (a) or (b) and causes the harm described in subsection (c)(2) may be imprisoned not more than 3 years, fined under this title, or both.

"(e) INFORMATION SHARING AND ENFORCEMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Immigrant and Employee Rights Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice—

"(A) shall have primary enforcement responsibility for this section and shall be consulted prior to a United States Attorney initiating an action under this section;

"(B) shall establish procedures to receive and investigate complaints of fraudulent immigration schemes from the public that are consistent with the procedures for receiving and investigating complaints of unfair immigration-related employment practices; and

"(C) shall maintain and publish on the internet, information aimed at protecting consumers from fraudulent immigration schemes, as well as a list of individuals who have been convicted of unlawful conduct under this section or have been found by a State or Federal agency to have unlawfully provided immigration services.

"(2) SPECIAL UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS.—The Attorney General shall establish no fewer than 15 Special United States Attorney positions in districts the Attorney General determines, after analyzing data following each decennial census, to be most affected by the fraud described in subsections (a), (b), and (c).