

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## PROTECTION FROM PERSONAL INTRUSION ACT

**HON. SONNY BONO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 1997*

Mr. BONO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Protection from Personal Intrusion Act, a measure that is badly needed and long overdue. Recent tragic events have punctuated the danger and bring this problem near to all of us from the forefront of the world's attention. I must, however, assure you that this is a long-standing problem suffered by many of the wonderful people I have known and admired. In truth, this is a victims' rights bill. Allowing someone to suffer at your hand is an outrageous offense. Allowing someone to be violated and not have legal rights or recourse available is a failing on our behalf.

Briefly, I wish to explain the background for this legislation. Congress has a duty to balance a variety of interests, including the first amendment, the public's right-to-know, and the public safety and order. The first amendment is a cherished concept that comes from the genius of our Founding Fathers. Yet it is without doubt that the activities of the bounty-hunting paparazzi go beyond the robust public discourse envisioned by the Founders. No legitimate media need to encourage or utilize these abusive practices that often rise to stalking, harassment, assault and other violent conduct.

In section 1, the short title is listed. In section 2, a new Federal criminal offense prohibiting certain violent conduct is defined by adding to chapter 89 of title 18 United States Code a new section, sec. 1822. In my view, there is a definite need for the Federal Government's role in this area. First, it is important to ensure this protection is uniformly guaranteed throughout the Nation. The States are also free to address this issue concurrently as they deem fit. In addition, I urge the States to continue strenuously enforcing their own laws in this area. Further, I hope that they complement this law in new ways to preserve the public order and safety. I have tried to word this legislation carefully enough to include the situations we can expect and yet broadly enough to be flexible to consider the range of possible behavior the victims may encounter. Under the bill, criminal liability for this type of heinous behavior against any member of the public includes a jail sentence of up to 20 years and a fine depending on the nature of offense.

Further, the bill creates a new corresponding civil cause of action and defines the jurisdiction for such cases of the victims of this intolerable and intrusive behavior against the shameless perpetrators. This civil liability complements the criminal offense section.

Next, three last substantive measures are provided. I am aware that there are legitimate first amendment concerns that such liability may chill the legitimate media. Here, the bill

makes it clear that nothing in this act may be construed to make the sale, transmission, publication, broadcast or use of such recordings that are obtained in an otherwise lawful manner subject to criminal charge or civil liability. Likewise, under my bill, liability is limited to the actual perpetrators who are physically present and commit the offense described but does not extend to the editors, publishers or other related organizations. Of course, such organizations may be liable under the operation of other legal mechanisms. In addition, there is a law enforcement exemption that applies to legitimate law enforcement activities. While certainly the police are not acting as freelance paparazzi, we must make certain that as a practical matter they are not subject to groundless suits while protecting our public safety.

In designing this legislation, I am addressing an intrusive type of conduct that transcends decency and respect. It has no role in a civilized society or as part of legitimate news gathering. While I focus on activity that is wholly outside the protection of the first amendment, I took care to balance the important values behind the freedom of the press and individual safety. There is a very specific problem at hand, and this bill is drafted to be its narrowly-tailored solution. It is my hope that all of my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation, so we can protect our public safety and prevent the further victimization of the innocent.

## HONORING THOMAS E. WALDROP

**HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 1997*

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives my colleagues, Mr. MORAN and Mr. WOLF, and me great pleasure to rise today and pay tribute to Mr. Thomas E. Waldrop, an outstanding member of the Northern Virginia Community. Tom is this year's founders award winner from the Northern Virginia Community Foundation. The founders award is given annually to an individual who has demonstrated civic and humanitarian responsibility, and personal participation and leadership in northern Virginia community civic bodies. In addition, the award is presented to an individual who is contributing to improve the quality of life in northern Virginia through leadership in one or more of the following five areas: the Arts, Education, Health, Youth and Civic Improvement.

Tom is an individual who has made a very strong positive impact on northern Virginia as well as the entire State of Virginia. He is a Virginia native who was born in Montpelier, VA, on April 8, 1937. He received his higher edu-

cation from Virginia schools. Tom received a bachelor's degree in economics from Randolph-Macon College and a master's degree in business from Virginia Commonwealth University. Tom also served his country, and he served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1958 to 1960.

Tom is currently the president and chief executive officer for Media General Cable which is headquartered in northern Virginia. He has served in that position since 1984. Since that time, Tom has directed the development of one of the Nation's largest and most sophisticated cable television systems. Tom's career with Media General Corp. began in 1967 when he started with Richmond Newspapers. He was quickly promoted and appointed the operations manager of Media General Financial Services at the beginning of 1968. Tom went on to serve as their vice president and as assistant general manager. After his success with the financial services division, Tom moved to Media General's Piedmont Publishing Co. where he worked as their business manager, and eventually became the general manager. He left Piedmont when he moved to Media General Cable in northern Virginia.

Tom has shown boundless energy and has made it a priority to work in his community to improve the quality of life for all of us. He works with a wide range of organizations that have made northern Virginia the dynamic, vibrant area it is. Northern Virginia's diverse community has grown dramatically since the early eighties. It has been successful in maintaining a community atmosphere with the work of people like Tom.

Tom works closely with both northern Virginia arts and business communities. He is in his fourth term as chairman of the board of directors of the Arts Council of Fairfax County. He also remains on the board of directors for the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, the Fairfax County Public School's Business Advisory, the Fairfax Symphony, the Northern Virginia Community College Educational Fund, the Northern Virginia Technology Council, the Tower Club, and the Wolf Trap Foundation. In addition to all of these associations, Tom has previously served as the director of the American Heart Association's Fairfax board and has chaired the development committee for "Spotlight on the Arts" in the city of Fairfax. He continues to demonstrate his willingness to lead the Northern Virginia community in a wide range of areas.

Tom is also associated with a number of other activities where he volunteers his time and services to further enhance our community. He continues to work with the Northern Virginia Business Roundtable, the Virginia Advisory Committee, and the Corporate Advisory Committee for the Women's Center of Northern Virginia. Tom also works with national organizations to improve the quality of our cable television nationwide including serving on the board of directors for the National Cable Television Association and C-SPAN [the Cable Satellite Public Affairs Network].

Mr. Speaker, we know our colleagues join us in honoring and thanking Tom Waldrop for

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