

your determination. We wish you continued success, and may God's strength, peace and joy be with you as you begin your reign as Miss North Carolina 2000 and as you compete for the title of Miss America!

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDI-
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2000

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment offered by Representatives LOWEY, MCCARTHY, DELAURO and STABENOW. This amendment would increase by \$150 million the bill's appropriation for the Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) program. The COPS program adds officers to the beat, enhances crime-fighting technology, and supports crime prevention initiatives.

The COPS program is a Clinton/Gore initiative that has been successful in adding cops to the beat and advancing community policing nationwide. To date, the COPS program has funded more than 104,000 officers. Community policing is a crime fighting strategy that encourages law enforcement to work in partnership with the community to solve crime problems. Mr. Chairman, this is a proven crime fighting initiative that has worked in my district and throughout the nation.

COPS is making a difference in our schools. Many communities are discovering that trained, sworn law enforcement officers assigned to schools make a difference. The presence of these officers provides schools with on-site security and a direct link to local enforcement agencies.

Community policing officers typically perform a variety of functions within the school. From teaching crime prevention and substance-abuse classes to monitoring troubled students to building respect for law enforcement among students, School Resource Officers combine the functions of law enforcement and education.

These funds will allow the COPS program to award grants to add up to 7,000 officers to our nation's streets and to provide added safety in our schools. These funds will be used to equip law enforcement with 21st century tools to fight 21st century crime. Grants will be used to invest in interagency information networks, technology centers, ballistics testing, DNA research and backlog reduction, crime lab enhancement, and crime mapping and analysis.

Mr. Chairman, my district is comprised of cities like Watts and Compton which struggle to meet the demands of crime fighting. While the rest of the nation is experiencing unprecedented drops in crime, our nation's urban centers are being left behind. I want to urge my colleagues to support this amendment which provides additional funding for a program that has truly taken a bite out of crime.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDI-
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4690) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, I regret having to oppose this amendment offered by my good friend colleague from Illinois. While I appreciate what the gentleman is trying to do, I cannot support a reduction of \$15 million dollars in the National Weather Service budget.

This bill does not provide sufficient funding for many valuable programs, and it fails to provide any funding for many others. The funding level provided in the bill for NOAA, which administers the National Weather Service is already \$500 million below the Administration's request and the gentleman's amendment would essentially level fund the weather service at last year's level. That is simply unacceptable.

Every American in this country relies upon the weather service—at times to provide information that is vital to save lives and property. Weather Service programs cost each taxpayer a few dollars per year—a modest price to pay for the protection of life and property.

We have entered hurricane season. The gentleman's amendment would cut funding from the operations budget of the Hurricane Center in Miami and from other critical weather prediction centers around the country. Base operations at the 121 weather forecast offices around the country also would be impaired by this cut. This is simply too high a price to pay.

As the gentleman knows, the Administration included \$15 million for The PRIME Technical Assistance Grants in its budget request. I am certain there are many Members who share the gentleman's desire to see this program funded, however it should not be funded by cutting funds from corps programs of the National Weather Service.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDI-
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4690) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment to the FY 2001 Com-

merce-Justice-State Appropriations bill to help address the area code crisis that we are facing in America. Since 1995, we have added 95 new area codes in the United States. At our current pace, some estimate that we will run out of area codes entirely as early as 2007. If we run out of available numbers, your constituents will foot the estimated \$150 billion bill.

The problem is not that there aren't enough numbers out there, it's that tens of thousands of numbers are being unused. Unfortunately companies have been forced to take numbers in blocks of 10,000—even if they were only going to use a handful of the numbers. The rest of the numbers just sit unused.

In Massachusetts, the problem has become quite large in the last few years. In 1998, we added two new area codes in the state—781 and 978—for a total of five area codes. At the time, we were assured that these new codes would last for many years and we wouldn't have to go through this disruptive process again. Unfortunately, less than two years later, we were informed that these new codes were running out of numbers already and that we would have to add four new codes in Eastern Massachusetts alone. Now the area code in Western Massachusetts is also in jeopardy. If we add all of these new codes, we'll have ten area codes in a state that had only three codes less than five years ago.

While the FCC has recently moved to reduce the amount of numbers companies can take from 10,000 to 1,000, the same companies will not have to fully comply with the order until 2002. The wireless providers have an even longer time to make this change. My amendment asks the Commission to look at the possibility of shortening the timeline for the implementation of this order. If we wait for two more years, we may have added dozens of new area codes that are not needed.

The amendment also offers several other suggestions that I believe the FCC should consider as they produce this study. These include encouraging states and telecommunications companies to work together on rate center consolidation plans. Some believe that the number of rate centers in certain areas is significantly contributing to the overall area code crisis. While I know this is a complicated issue, and there may be valid concerns about the cost, the Commission should study the issue closely.

In addition, my amendment asks that the FCC address the issue of technology-specific area codes reserved for wireless/paging services or data phone lines. As more and more Americans take advantage of the new technologies available, more and more telephone numbers must be set aside for these services. There may be an opportunity to ease the numbering problem by reserving specific area codes for these new technologies.

If none of these suggestions offer a real solution to the problem, my amendment asks that the Commission study the costs and technological problems of adding an additional digit to existing phone numbers. This should focus on any potential ways to minimize the impact and cost on consumers and the business community.

Mr. Chairman, I believe this is a common-sense amendment to help us deal with the area code crisis. We must act quickly to address this issue. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.