

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 339, PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN FOOD CONSUMPTION ACT

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-435) on the resolution (H. Res. 552) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 339) to prevent frivolous lawsuits against the manufacturers, distributors, or sellers of food or non-alcoholic beverage products that comply with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BONNER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS SHOULD RENEW ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, assault weapons will go back on American streets in 188 days.

We pay a heavy toll at the hands of criminals, gangs, and terrorists. The average cost of a gunshot wound is more than \$16,000 to treat. Treating severe gunshot injuries like wounds to the head or spinal cord can run well over \$1 million. The direct medical costs for firearms or related injuries is \$4 billion a year; \$4 billion a year. Half of that is paid by us as taxpayers.

I know that the police across this Nation want to make sure that we keep assault weapons off the streets. Mr. Speaker, when we see that we are cutting the money for the COPS program and yet allowing assault weapons back on the street, to me it does not make any sense. Since I have been talking about this every Tuesday, we are hearing from people around the Nation. What I am saying to the people of this country is you do have a voice, and you can call Members of Congress and the Senate to make sure that we are allowed to bring the bill up on the floor so we can vote for it.

This is not the time to go backwards. In the last 10 years, we have seen certainly it come down as far as assault weapon killings. We have a report from the FBI. Before the ban went in place, one out of every five cops that were shot were shot with an assault weapon. Why should we go backwards? When we know that there might be a possibility of having terrorists here in this country, when we know that gangs and drug dealers, these are the guns of choice, why would we want assault weapons back on the street?

Mr. Speaker, \$4 billion a year in health costs. I can talk about my own son who was shot. He was shot in the head. His medical care has cost over \$1 million already, and the total keeps going higher and higher. This is going on with so many people. There are things that we can prevent. We cannot prevent every shooting; we cannot. We cannot see to it that every police officer is being protected. But we can do a better job, and that is by renewing the assault weapons ban by September 13.

Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago, before I came to Congress, I was here lobbying the Members of Congress to make sure we had an assault weapons bill passed. There are some that will say the assault weapons bill has not worked. Well, it has worked; but there are loopholes in it, and those loopholes are where the gun manufacturers are allowed to make copycats of the guns that were banned. One of the guns that everyone is watching on CNN and all of the other stations tonight is the Bushmaster, the guns that were used by the snipers in the D.C. area. That is a copycat. That is a gun that was originally banned. Yet the gun manufacturers allow these to have copycats and put back on our streets.

Do we actually want on September 14 for anyone to be able to go into a gun store and buy an assault weapon? Is this what this Nation is coming to?

Mr. Speaker, I am not for taking away the right of someone to own a gun. I happen to believe that if people want to own a gun, they have a right to own a gun. But assault weapons are made for killing machines. Assault weapons are made for our Army. When we see our police officers and they have to wear protective gear, assault weapons can go through that. One of the other things that a lot of people do not understand is, when we did the ban back 10 years ago, we cut back the amount of bullets in a clip, down to 10. On the Long Island Rail Road, the clips that were used by Collin Ferguson to do his killing and shooting of people had 15 bullets in the clip.

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And every one of those bullets made their mark. And he was able to get 30 rounds off and kill six people and injure 19.

Hunters give animals a better chance of survival than we do with these large capacity clips. Our police officers are allowed to have these large capacity clips, our military are allowed to. And that is fine. I do not believe that our hunters need them, I do not believe that our ordinary citizens need those kind of clips.

These are things that we should be doing. Those are good safety laws. Those are good gun safety laws.

I hope that the American people will take up this challenge and demand that we are able to bring this vote up before September 13. It would be a shame to see assault weapons back on the street.

ASSIGNING MEMBERS OF THE ARMED SERVICES TO BORDER PATROL DUTIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BONNER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my gratitude to U.S. Border Control and the thousands of Americans from coast to coast who have taken the time and the trouble to send e-mails, letters, postcards and petitions to Congress urging their Representatives and Senators to support my legislation to authorize the Secretary of Defense to assign members of our Armed Forces to assist the Department of Homeland Security in the performance of border protection duties.

Clearly, the need for such assistance has never been greater. Every year our border crisis worsens. First it was drugs, then disease, then it was illegal aliens crossing by the hundreds, and now by the millions. And now terrorists could be crossing our borders, determined to rain death and destruction upon us.

If there were ever a time for the United States to put troops on the border, this is it. We are fighting enemies who have already brought the battle to our shores and are threatening to do it again. It makes no sense to have thousands of troops guarding borders throughout the world while our own borders are wide open and undefended in a time of war.

According to U.S. Border Control, every recent survey conducted shows the vast majority of Americans support allowing troops on the border. Constituents are beginning to question how we can claim to be serious about combating issues like drug smuggling, people smuggling and terrorism when it was unable to take such a simple and non-intrusive step as putting troops on the border. Last year the House adopted the amendment that would authorize the troops on our borders. Unfortunately, it did not survive conference. I hope this year we will be able to see it survive the entire legislative process.

I urge my colleagues to join in giving the executive branch the authority it needs to assign members of our Armed Forces to assist Homeland Security in securing our borders from these threats to our Nation.

TAX CUTS AND THE LATEST EMPLOYMENT DATA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, on Friday the government announced its latest employment data. Unfortunately, the news for working Americans or Americans trying to find jobs was really bad. 21,000 jobs nationally were created. Now, remember, of course, it was