

July 8, 2004. This bill establishes a multi agency National Windstorm Hazard Reduction Program which will improve the understanding of windstorms, windstorm impact assessment, and windstorm impact reduction. The bill authorizes much needed funds for research and development projects that will improve the understanding of the behavior of windstorms and their impact on buildings, structures, and lifelines. Through this research, the goal is to ensure the safety of buildings and homes from the destructive effects of hurricanes. Although approving this legislation will reduce the impact of hurricanes and improve the prediction of these storms, this bill will not help the victims of this year's hurricanes. Additional research is needed to protect our citizens in the future.

The road to recovery can not be accomplished without all of the help and outpouring of support that the State of Florida has received in the past few weeks. Thousands of volunteers have come from all over our great Nation to restore our electricity, cook us hot meals, provide temporary shelter and clothing for those who are now homeless, and help us pick up what remains of our communities. I am grateful for all of those volunteers and for all of the government agencies that are quickly and efficiently working to help the citizens of Florida stand up on their feet. We are indebted to your service and will not forget your help during these hard times.

IN SUPPORT OF H. RES. 2038: RE-AUTHORIZATION OF THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

### HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 13, 2004*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 2038, a resolution to reauthorize the assault weapons ban, sponsored by Representative CAROLYN MCCARTHY, member of the committee on Homeland Security. I thank you for your tireless leadership on this issue.

September 13, 2004, marks the day that we take a step back. Today marks the day that some Members will ignore the outcries of millions of Americans to extend this legislation, whose communities have been protected for a decade under the Assault Weapons Ban. On this day, the Republican leadership in Congress and the Administration have failed the citizens of this country by allowing this ban to expire. While some Members of these two chambers and the administration are content to play this game of "cat and mouse," the expiration of this progressive legislation unleashes unimaginable threats upon our society.

Mr. Speaker, we need not look too far in the recent past to know the terrifying effects of military-style weapons on our society. In 2002 John Lee Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo terrorized the Washington Metropolitan area for several weeks. While some Members of this body and the Administration may have forgotten, I can assure you that the D.C. sniper shootings left an indelible mark on the 12 families who suffered at their hands and many Americans. Just last year, in 2003, our society was plagued again by sniper shootings in Ohio. There have been 12 shootings linked to this Ohio sniper, who allegedly used a semi-automatic pistol in his shooting spree. Of course let us not forget Columbine and the more recent Randallstown shooting in Baltimore County—evidence that no one, in no place even our innocent children are safe from gun violence. It is impossible to ignore the impact of gun violence in our society.

Mr. Speaker, today we witness a political conundrum—we have an administration that believes that the War on Terror is a continuous battle, but then seeks to potentially arm the people who threaten our homeland, our security, and our safety in this country. By allowing the ban to expire, it demonstrates a lack of leadership, and undermines the very system we are currently trying to strengthen here in Congress. The administration's failure to push Congress to hear this debate, while at the same time announcing its willingness to sign the ban if extended, sends mixed signals. If the administration will not fight to protect millions of lives in the U.S. who inevitably stand in harm's way when the ban is lifted, how can it propose to effectively lead our country as we combat foreign enemies?

The importance of this ban is evident. Since its enactment, our Nation has witnessed a sharp decline of assault weapons used in crimes. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives notes that since the ban's enactment in 1994 that usage of assault weapons in a crime has declined by 66 percent, and the Bureau has recovered more than 1.4 million guns in our country. These weapons, which were illegally possessed, were either used in a crime or linked to a crime. With staggering statistics such as these, Mr. Speaker, it is hard to ignore the effectiveness of this ban. In my home State of Maryland, there has been an overwhelming decline of assault pistols used in crimes since the Maryland Assault Pistol Ban in 1994. The Baltimore City Police Department concluded that since the ban's enactment that 55 percent fewer assault pistols were used in crimes. Once again Mr. Speaker, with statistics such as these, we cannot ignore that this ban saves lives.

Furthermore, the administration has proposed deep cuts in the Community Oriented Policing Services program (COPS), which provides grants to State and local law enforce-

ment agencies to hire police officers, by cutting funding from 482 million to 97 million dollars. These cuts coupled with the expiration of the ban render our Nation's State and local law enforcement agencies practically unable to defend and protect citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude with these final words—the failure to pass this extension signals to millions of Americans that the leadership in Congress once again has not heard their pleas. This failure to extend the ban is only symptomatic of the failure of this current leadership and administration to hear the voices of this nation pleading for better healthcare, better schools, and safer communities.

How can we let this ban lapse when it has saved so many lives?

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5006) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Chairman, last Thursday, during the House's consideration of H.R. 5006, the Fiscal Year 2005 Appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and related agencies, I inadvertently voted for the Hayworth/Boehner amendment. I would like the record to reflect that I am opposed to the Hayworth/Boehner amendment and should have voted against it.

The Hayworth amendment would have exempted more than 400,000 workers employed by tribally-owned casinos from coverage under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). While I strongly support sovereignty for tribal governments, I do not believe that Native American sovereignty was meant to deny the right to freely associate or collectively bargain to casino employees. A recent NLRB decision held—in fact—that Indian tribal enterprises are subject to the NLRB. In light of that decision, this House took the appropriate action in turning back the Hayworth/Boehner amendment, and passing H.R. 5006 without it.