

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE CITIZEN PROTECTION ACT

HON. ASA HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the "Citizen Protection Act," legislation designed to hold bounty hunters, and the bail bondsmen who employ them, liable for civil rights violations. The bill also requires bounty hunters and bail bondsmen who travel in interstate commerce to recover a defendant to report their intentions to local law enforcement authorities and provide whatever information is required under that state's laws.

I believe this bill accomplishes an important public safety goal, namely keeping innocent citizens safe from the abusive actions of rogue bounty hunters, without creating a new federal bureaucracy or imposing any mandates on the states.

Under current law, bounty hunters do not operate under the same standards required of law enforcement officers, which prohibit excessive force. Bounty hunters are free to break into the homes of people thought to be criminals in order to capture bond-jumpers, without any accountability to innocent citizens who may be injured because of wrongful and abusive conduct.

In September 1997, five men claiming to be bounty hunters forced their way into a private residence, terrorized a mother and her children, and fatally shot a young couple. Despite the fact that the Arizona suspects turned out not to have been bounty hunters, the notoriety of the case brought national attention to flaws in the bail bond system.

While not as publicized as the Arizona case, bounty hunter abuses occur more frequently than we realize. One such case from Houston, Texas illustrates why Congress needs to provide a legal recourse for innocent victims. In the Summer of 1995, Betty Caballero was beaten by a bail bondsman seeking to arrest another woman, Ms. Ruth Garcia. Because of the beating, Betty miscarried her pregnancy the next day. Although she brought suit against the bail company for the violation of her civil rights, the district court found that federal civil rights laws did not apply to the case and exonerated the bond company from any liability for the bounty hunter's behavior.

Just a few weeks ago, rogue bounty hunters in Memphis, Tennessee beat up a high school student they mistakenly targeted as a bond-jumper. Last year, in another case of mistaken identity, an innocent Kansas City man was shot three times by bounty hunters. And in the summer of 1994, an innocent New York woman was abducted by bounty hunters and transported to Alabama. The bounty hunters ignored the woman's protests of innocence. Three and a half days and 910 miles later, the bounty hunters acknowledge their error and paid for a bus ticket to send the woman back home. She also was not allowed to pursue a

case for violation of her civil rights against the bail bond company or the bounty hunters.

The Citizen Protection Act remedies these injustices by allowing abused individuals to seek redress in federal court. The bail bond industry is interstate in nature, and many of these abuses involve the transportation of victims across state lines. It is important to note that this bill does not create a new federal regulatory scheme or impose any mandates on the states. It merely provides remedial relief to those who are now slipping through the cracks of the justice.

Many professional bounty hunters and bail bondsmen support regulation of their industry in order to drive out the rogue bounty hunters who undermine the industry's reputation and credibility. Law enforcement agents have also been supportive of the notification requirement, arguing that they want to be aware of bounty hunter activities in their jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, I believe Congress can and should take this modest step and bring some accountability to the use of bounty hunters. That is why am I proud to be introducing this legislation with my colleagues Congressmen CHARLES CANADY, JOHN CONYERS AND ALCEE HASTINGS.

JOHN HOGAN III, A VERY SPECIAL YOUNG MAN

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, in today's cynical, selfish world, it is rare to find an individual whose pure goodness, compassion and selfless generosity transcend his own personal travails. I would like to bring to your attention just such a person, 11-year old John Hogan III of Hadley, New York.

Diagnosed at birth with cerebral palsy and a seizure disorder, John's doctors did not expect him to survive. However, John beat the odds, earning the opportunity to embark on what has already become a remarkable life. Because of his medical conditions, John was referred to the Make-a-Wish program of Northeastern New York, an organization which arranges for children with life-threatening illnesses to realize their dreams. Unlike many young people, John's dream was not to meet a celebrity or to go to Disney World. John's only wish was to feed the homeless—a desire to which he held firm despite the efforts of volunteers and other adults to convince him to do something special for himself. This incredible young man would not be dissuaded from his goal.

Through Make-a-Wish, John arranged for \$50,000 worth of food to be distributed to food banks in his area, riding along in the cab beside a truck driver to personally deliver the 22 tons of much-needed food donated by a local supermarket chain. Although John's wish initially flabbergasted the Make-a-Wish volunteers, John's mother was not at all surprised.

"He's always been this way," she said, "He shares everything with others." In fact, she remembered, when his parents would give him quarters to play in an arcade, John would instead give them away to his brothers. Feeding the homeless was simply a natural next step for this selfless young man, who hopes one day to become a minister.

Mr. Speaker, John Hogan is an example we should all strive to follow. Faced with adversity from the very beginning of his young life, John has not only coped with his situation, he has triumphed over it through his spirit of kindness and generosity. I ask that all members join me in rising to express our thanks and admiration for this remarkable young man. I only hope we can all achieve at some point in our lives the strength and compassion which he has accomplished already in eleven short years.

TRIBUTE TO DORIAN DAVID ROREX

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, January 15, 1998, tragedy struck Northwest Indiana when Dorian David Rorex, a police officer with the Gary Police Department, was fatally shot by a drug dealer. Dorian made the ultimate sacrifice by giving his life in the effort to protect our community. On the day he was killed, Dorian was working with a team of detectives in an undercover sting operation to put illegal drug dealers behind bars. In the process of making the arrest, however, a drug dealer turned on Dorian and fired his gun repeatedly, putting an abrupt end to the life of a man who had been dedicated to helping protect others.

The black bunting that hung over the police station door in Gary, Indiana, was a reminder of the sadness that hung on the hearts of all the people who have been affected by this terrible incident. It affected all the citizens of Northwest Indiana who suffered loss, knowing that the plague of illegal drugs and the violence they breed had taken the life of a courageous public servant who had been working to protect them. Dorian's colleagues, the officers who knew him and worked with him, are now forced to deal with the pain and anger of a lost partner. Most of all Dorian's family, his mother, father, fiancé, and his young son, David, must face this terrible pain that this tragedy has brought them. They must now struggle to come to terms with their painful loss.

As we all work to move on from this point, we can take solace from the Bible and St. Paul, who said: "Let us not grow weary in doing good. For in due season we shall reap

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