INTRODUCTION OF ''JAKE'S LAW''—THE JUSTICE THROUGH ASSURED KNOWLEDGE AND ENFORCEMENT (JAKE) ACT OF 2000

HON. KAREN McCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a little boy who, five months ago this Saturday, was tragically lost to his family. On February 22nd of this year, in Independence, Missouri, six year old Jake Robel was sitting in his mother's car when it was stolen. Jake got caught in the seat belt attempting to flee the car and was dragged to his death at speeds up to 80 miles per hour. The man accused of this horrific act had been released from jail that day, even though he had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. This senseless tragedy could have been avoided had a background check been made prior to the suspect's release from jail. In Jake's memory, I will introduce the Justice through Assured Knowledge and Enforcement Act of 2000, or ''Jake's Law'', which will require a comprehensive warrant check prior to release of prisoners.

The Greater Kansas City community has rallied around this effort. Concerned parents and citizens have joined together to urge that Jake's Law become a reality. In addition to the over one million signatures they have collected on petitions, they have also held town meetings, which my staff and I have attended, to make their concerns known. I am introducing this legislation today in order to make sure their voices are heard, and Jake is remembered.

Jake's Law will establish a nationwide prerelease records check system so that local law enforcement agencies will have immediate access to prisoners' records in jurisdictions throughout the United States. All law enforcement agencies will be required to integrate this mandatory warrant check into their standard prerelease procedure. Jake's Law does not federalize any crime or infringe upon state's rights. It simply ensures the cooperation and communication needed to safeguard people from individuals who should remain imprisoned.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to support this common sense legislation, and prevent another tragedy like Jake Robel.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote number 421 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

During rollcall vote number 422 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

During rollcall vote number 423 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted no.

During rollcall vote number 424 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

During rollcall vote number 425 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

During rollcall vote number 426 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

During rollcall vote number 427 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted no.

During rollcall vote number 428 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted no.

SAN DIEGO'S NO. 1 PICK IN BASEBALL DRAFT: ADRIAN GONZALES

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a young man who last month graduated from Eastlake High School in my congressional district and who has attained the highest success in his field—the baseball field. Adrian Gonzales led his league with 37 RBIs and finished the season just shy of a .600 batting average. But for Adrian, it gets even better. Earlier this month, he was selected as the Number One pick in the nation for the Major League Amateur Draft.

It is important to acknowledge that the Florida Marlins rewarded Adrian's drive, consistency, and talent, as well as his willingness to dedicate himself through practice and hard work, which led to his second-to-none selection.

Congratulations, Adrian!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, because of illness in the family, I was necessarily absent on the following votes yesterday. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall No. 410—''yea'' on the Neal (MA) amendment;

Rollcall No. 411—''yea'' on the motion to recommit;

Rollcall No. 412—''yea'' on final passage of H.R. 1102;

Rollcall No. 413—''yea'' on adoption of the conference report accompanying H.R. 4576;

Rollcall No. 414—''yea'' on final passage of H.R. 4118;

Rollcall No. 415—''yea'' on motion to instruct conferees to the bill H.R. 4577;

Rollcall No. 416—''yea'' on final passage of H.R. 2634.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4811) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, today, I cosponsored an amendment to withdraw the global ''gag'' language from the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. The language denies U.S. family planning funding to any overseas organization that uses its own non-U.S. funds to provide abortion services. The family planning dollars appropriated in this bill are critically important to the prevention maternal and child deaths and the continued spread of STDs. Congress should not make the allocation of this life saving funding contingent on how a foreign organization chooses to spend its own dollars.

CONTRACT OR REGULATIONS

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, this is the time of year when millions of homeowners take the plunge and hire a contractor to fix the roof or add a deck or make any one of dozens of important—but costly—home improvements.

Now, if you're like most people, before hiring a contractor you want to make sure that you're dealing with a reputable firm.

For instance, you wouldn't want to hire a company with a record for leaving trash in people's yards. You wouldn't want to hire a company known for breaking the law. That's just common sense.

Well, that's what the President's proposed contractor regulations are, too: common sense.

The regulations say that, before the federal government awards a contract, we ought to consider a company's record. It says we ought to look at how responsible a firm has been before they get one nickel in taxpayer money. It says America's government ought to be as careful spending money as America's families are.

Now, I call that being a smart consumer.

That's different from the way things are now.

As it stands today, if the government has to sue a contractor, taxpayers can be forced to pay the company's lawyer bill—even if the company loses.

And it doesn't stop there.

Under current law, it's okay for a contractor to charge Uncle Sam for the costs of fighting to keep their workers from organizing a union.

As incredible as it seems, that's something that actually happens today.