

whip, who has shown, as has the representative from the District of Columbia, a deep and abiding caring for the children of this Nation and of this community, and to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), whose task and commitment in this process were necessary to see this legislation move forward.

My reason for wanting to add my comments is to say to Brianna Blackmond that we have not forgotten her, and to be able to say that this legislation brings honor to lawyers who practice in family courts and to the discipline of family law and family courts. This system now will develop in the District of Columbia judges who will have long-lasting expertise and commitment to the issues dealing with families, and a D.C. bar that is further enhanced because their focus is on the family court system and families. That will help put a dent in the tragedy of 180 of the District of Columbia's children from 1993 to 2000 that died after the families came to the attention of the District's Child and Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, the important aspect of this is that they came to the attention of that agency, but the connection was lost so those children may have been placed back in homes or back in foster care that was not good for them and resulted in their death.

Obviously we know that abused children result in juvenile delinquents and incarcerated adults. With a family court tracking the system of many of our States, we will have a professional court that deals specifically with these issues. This has been a tumultuous time. We have seen in the last week the trauma on families and the trauma on children across the Nation who may have lost their parents during the tragedies of September 11.

We are making a commitment today to provide another vehicle to nurture our children and protect them, as we will do throughout these days for children who suffered through September 11, 2001.

I applaud the proponents of this legislation. I believe this will make the family court in the District of Columbia a very prominent example of how we can save lives and track families and how we can intervene appropriately in order to provide the most nurturing and supportive system for our children.

Mr. Speaker, I add my applause for those who have supported and will help pass this legislation.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I reiterate this is a terrific bill. It is a gleam of light in a very difficult time. I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) for his leadership and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS). I thank my colleagues who

spoke, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT), and all of the people who will be voting for this bill. Indeed, it could not happen if we did not have great staff.

Mr. Speaker, I reiterate the names of some of the staff: Casie Bevan, Russell Smith, Heea Vazirani-Fales, John Bouker, Victoria Proctor, Melissa Wogciak, and all of the others who have toiled to bring this about. I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 2657, a bill that will be beneficial to the most vulnerable children of the District of Columbia and their families and strengthen our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2657.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2779

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2779.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

#### JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT OF 2001

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1900) to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to provide quality prevention programs and accountability programs relating to juvenile delinquency; and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1900

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2001".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Purpose.
- Sec. 4. Definitions.
- Sec. 5. Concentration of Federal effort.

Sec. 6. Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Sec. 7. Annual report.

Sec. 8. Allocation.

Sec. 9. State plans.

Sec. 10. Juvenile delinquency prevention block grant program.

Sec. 11. Research; evaluation; technical assistance; training.

Sec. 12. Demonstration projects.

Sec. 13. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 14. Administrative authority.

Sec. 15. Use of funds.

Sec. 16. Limitation on use of funds.

Sec. 17. Rules of construction.

Sec. 18. Leasing surplus Federal property.

Sec. 19. Issuance of rules.

Sec. 20. Content of materials.

Sec. 21. Technical and conforming amendments.

Sec. 22. Effective date; application of amendments.

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Section 101 of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5601) is amended to read as follows:

#### "FINDINGS

"SEC. 101. (a) The Congress finds the following:

"(1) Although the juvenile violent crime arrest rate in 1999 was the lowest in the decade, there remains a consensus that the number of crimes and the rate of offending by juveniles nationwide is still too high.

"(2) According to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, allowing 1 youth to leave school for a life of crime and of drug abuse costs society \$1,700,000 to \$2,300,000 annually.

"(3) One in every 6 individuals (16.2 percent) arrested for committing violent crime in 1999 was less than 18 years of age. In 1999, juveniles accounted for 9 percent of murder arrests, 17 percent of forcible rape arrests, 25 percent of robbery arrest, 14 percent of aggravated assault arrests, and 24 percent of weapons arrests.

"(4) More than ½ of juvenile murder victims are killed with firearms. Of the nearly 1,800 murder victims less than 18 years of age, 17 percent of the victims less than 13 years of age were murdered with a firearm, and 81 percent of the victims 13 years of age or older were killed with a firearm.

"(5) Juveniles accounted for 13 percent of all drug abuse violation arrests in 1999. Between 1990 and 1999, juvenile arrests for drug abuse violations rose 132 percent.

"(6) Over the last 3 decades, youth gang problems have increased nationwide. In the 1970's, 19 States reported youth gang problems. By the late 1990's, all 50 States and the District of Columbia reported gang problems. For the same period, the number of cities reporting youth gang problems grew 843 percent, and the number of counties reporting gang problems increased more than 1,000 percent.

"(7) According to a national crime survey of individuals 12 years of age or older during 1999, those 12 to 19 years old are victims of violent crime at higher rates than individuals in all other age groups. Only 30.8 percent of these violent victimizations were reported by youth to police in 1999.

"(8) One-fifth of juveniles 16 years of age who had been arrested were first arrested before attaining 12 years of age. Juveniles who are known to the juvenile justice system before attaining 13 years of age are responsible for a disproportionate share of serious crimes and violence.

"(9) The increase in the arrest rates for girls and young juvenile offenders has changed the composition of violent offenders entering the juvenile justice system.