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House of Representatives

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA POLICE COORDINATION AMENDMENT ACT OF 2001

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2199) to amend the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 to permit any federal law enforcement agency to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia to assist the Department in carrying out crime prevention and law enforcement activities in the District of Columbia if deemed appropriate by the Chief of the Department and the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Page 2, line 13, strike out "sec. 4-192(d)" and insert "sec. 5-133.17(d)".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2199.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

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

I urge all Members to concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 2199, entitled the District of Columbia Police Coordination Act of 2001. The Senate amendment is simply technical.

The Senate and the House versions of H.R. 2199 are identical in content. However, when the House version was prepared and introduced, reference was made to section 4-192(d) of the D.C. Code, and at that time, the newly codified version of the D.C. Code had not been received. Section 4-192(d) was one of many provisions that was redesignated as part of a new codification. Section 4-192(d) is now section 5-133.17(d) of the D.C. Official Code. The Senate amendment reflects this change.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2199, if they can understand it, the District of Columbia Police Coordination Act of 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2199, the District of Columbia Police Coordination Amendment Act, as amended by the Senate, which will

strengthen PL 105-33, legislation that has done much to cure uncoordinated efforts of Federal and local law enforcement officials in the Nation's capital. I want to thank the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), the chair of our subcommittee, my good friend, for her leadership on this bill in the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia and in bringing this matter to the floor today.

H.R. 2199 amends the Police Coordination Act I introduced in 1997 by allowing agencies not named in the original legislation to assist the Metropolitan Police Department with local law enforcement in the District. Inadvertently, PL 105-33 failed to make the language sufficiently open-ended to include agencies not mentioned in the original bill.

Prior to the Police Coordination Act, Federal agencies often were confined to agency premises and were unable to enforce local laws on or near their premises. Therefore, although they were police officers, they could not adequately protect their agencies. Instead, for example, Federal officers often called 911, losing time in preventing crime and apprehending criminals, while taking hard-pressed D.C. police officers from urgent work in the city experiencing serious crimes. Federal officers were trained and willing to do the job but lacked the authority to do so before the passage of the Police Coordination Act.

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Five agencies have already signed agreements with the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia enabling them to assist the MPD, including the Federal Protective Service, the largest police force in the Federal service and the largest to participate. Now, over 400 officers are assisting D.C. police in protecting the District, as well as the Federal presence.

Federal agencies understand that the extension of their jurisdiction enhances safety and security within and around their agencies, while offering needed assistance as well to District residents, visitors and tourists. The Capitol Police and Amtrak Police, who have the longest experience with expanded jurisdiction, report that the morale of their officers has been affected positively because of the satisfaction that comes from being integrated into efforts to reduce and prevent crime in and around agencies and in the Nation's capital.

The only reason the House must again consider this bill, already passed once in the House and passed in the Senate last week, is because of a minor technical amendment included by the Senate that updates the bill language to reflect a recent recodification of the D.C. Code. This noncontroversial technical amendment to the Police Coordination Act is another step toward achieving my goal of assuring the most efficient use of all the available police resources to protect Federal agency staff, visitors and D.C. residents.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2199.

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

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

H.R. 2199 was introduced by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and went through our subcommittee and the full committee, and I am pleased that the technical amendment from the Senate has come over because this is truly a Police Coordination Act and very needed.

What it does is it allows the Federal law enforcement agencies to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, thus enhancing the safety and security of the residents and travelers in the District of Columbia.

I urge this Congress to adopt unanimously the H.R. 2199, as amended.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 2199.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a

quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RECOGNIZING SERVICE OF CREW MEMBERS OF USS ENTERPRISE BATTLE GROUP FOR WAR EFFORT IN AFGHANISTAN

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 279) recognizing the service of the crew members of the USS Enterprise Battle Group during its extended deployment for the war effort in Afghanistan, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 279

Whereas the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, on the United States resulted in shifting the principal focus of the Armed Forces from preserving peace to prosecuting and winning a war against terrorism;

Whereas among the first military units to make this transition to wartime operations was the USS Enterprise Battle Group, which, on September 11, 2001, while en route back to the United States from a scheduled peacetime deployment, was immediately redeployed to conduct operations against terrorists;

Whereas elements of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps began deploying to the theater of war to secure bases and support combat operations as early as September 19, 2001; and

Whereas since then, not only have the special operations and conventional forces of all the services performed magnificently, but the members of the Armed Forces have repeatedly demonstrated an extraordinary level of commitment and professionalism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress recognizes and commends the excellent service of all in the Armed Forces who are prosecuting the war to end terrorism and protecting the security of the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCHROCK) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCHROCK).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 279.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank very much the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY); the

chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP); the ranking member, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON); and Members of the House leadership for allowing me to bring this resolution to the House floor today.

On November 10, the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise and her battle group returned to Norfolk, Virginia, after an extended deployment that included participation in the war on global terrorism in Afghanistan.

On September 11, while America was under attack, the USS Enterprise and her battle group had just begun their journey home from a routine deployment in the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Southern Watch over Iraq. Within 30 minutes after the first attack on New York City, the commanding officer of the *Enterprise* made a 180-degree turn, headed back towards the Middle East, and waited for orders from the National Command Authority here in Washington. The captain and his crew and accompanying ships were eager and ready to defend America against attack.

Mr. Speaker, I was privileged to serve in the United States Navy for 24 years. I am privileged today to represent the Second Congressional District of Virginia, home to the USS Enterprise Battle Group, a battle group that consists of 14,500 military personnel, 13 ships, and 8 squadrons of helos and airplanes.

The crew of this ship and her battle group were prepared to defend America every day of the year. September 11 was no exception. The first attacks on Afghanistan came from the USS Enterprise Battle Group. Our men and women wear the uniform of their Nation with more pride than any other Nation in the world.

I worked closely with the Committee on Armed Services to expand this resolution to thank all services fighting in the war against terrorism. The combined efforts of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and the Coast Guardsmen will win that war for America and rid this world of terrorism forever.

Mr. Speaker, let me say it once again: our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marine Corps and Coast Guardsmen are the best in the world. The purpose of this resolution is to commend the USS Enterprise Battle Group and thank them for extending their deployment and for being the first ones to enter the battle against terrorism.

To all the soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen on active duty and in the reserves fighting this battle today, I thank you for your commitment, your bravery, and for volunteering to defend our great country.

Mr. Speaker, I think I can speak for all of my colleagues when I say "thank you" to the men and women in the Armed Forces, who served with honor, respect and bravery. They are true American heroes. God bless them, God bless their families, and God bless America.