

And you should get your access badge from the Transportation Security Administration—not some rusty old van in the parking lot.

Today, I am introducing the Airport Security Enhancement Act of 2007 to make these standards the law of the land.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this critical national security effort.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, on November 8, 2007, I was absent from the House. Had I been present that day, I would have voted as follows:

“Yea” on final passage of H.R. 3688, the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement—vote No. 1060.

“Yea” on agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 806, Providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 3222, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes—vote No. 1063.

“Yea” on agreeing to the Conference Report for H.R. 3222, Making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes—vote No. 1064.

“Yea” on Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 802, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3355) to ensure the availability and affordability of homeowners’ insurance coverage for catastrophic events—vote No. 1066.

“Yea” on the Motion to Instruct Conferees regarding H.R. 3074, the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations for FY 2008—vote No. 1067.

“Yea” on Representative KLEIN of Florida Amendment No. 17 to H.R. 3355, the Homeowners’ Defense Act of 2007—vote No. 1068.

“No” on the following Amendments: Representative ROSKAM’s Amendments 6 and 13, Representative MANULLO’s Amendment and Mr. SHAYS’ Amendment to H.R. 3355, the Homeowners’ Defense Act of 2007—votes No. 1069, 1070, 1071, and 1072.

“No” on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions H.R. 3355, the Homeowners’ Defense Act of 2007—vote No. 1073.

“Yea” on final passage of H.R. 3355, the Homeowners’ Defense Act of 2007—vote No. 1074.

“Yea” on Agreeing to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 3043, Making appropriations for the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes—vote No. 1075.

SECOND CHANCE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, far too often this country does too little to keep people out of the revolving door of our prison system. Rather than taking steps that will provide long-term, rehabilitative solutions that will lower recidivism rates, Congress has adopted short-term fixes like stricter sentencing standards that keep prisoners in prison longer and bring them back more frequently. Study after study has shown that this approach does not work, and yet we continue to build new prisons and fill them beyond capacity.

That is why I support H.R. 1593, the Second Chance Act of 2007, which provides a new direction for our criminal justice system, one that focuses on helping prisoners turn their lives around and become contributing members of society. Specifically, H.R. 1593 allocates \$110 million to support a variety of prisoner re-entry programs which include mentorship, housing, drug treatment, education and job training. All of these programs are designed to assist former inmates as they transition back into society and provide the support they need to keep them from returning to prison.

I support this bill because it will begin to reverse the misguided policy of instituting harsher laws that create longer mandatory sentences for crimes. This country sends more and more people to prison every year. A 2006 Justice Department report found that a record 7 million people, 1 in every 32 U.S. adults, were behind bars, on probation, or on parole last year. These statistics are especially troubling because not only does time spent in jail affect the prisoner; it also creates a vicious cycle that has a detrimental impact on their families. Research shows that children of incarcerated parents are three to six times more likely to exhibit violent or serious delinquent behavior than other children.

While, I believe strongly in securing appropriate prison sentences for people who break our laws, I also feel that it is important that we do everything we can to ensure that, when people get out of prison, they enter our communities as productive members of society. H.R. 1593 makes an important step toward changing our country’s outlook on crime and punishment. I would like to thank my friend and colleague DANNY DAVIS for his tenacity and hard work on this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably absent Tuesday

afternoon, November 13, on very urgent business. Had I been present for the four votes which occurred Tuesday evening:

I would have voted “aye” on H.R. 3315, roll-call vote No. 1082.

I would have voted “aye” on H.R. 1593, roll-call vote No. 1083.

I would have voted “aye” on H.R. 3403, roll-call vote No. 1084.

I would have voted “aye” on H.R. 3461, roll-call vote No. 1085.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, on November 9, 2007, I was absent from the House. Had I been present that day, I would have voted as follows:

“Yea” on agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 809, providing for the consideration of H.R. 3996, Temporary Tax Relief Act—vote No. 1078.

“Yea” on final passage of H.R. 3996, the Temporary Tax Relief Act of 2007—vote No. 1081.

SUPPORTING WORLD DIABETES DAY

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today is World Diabetes day.

Diabetes is a serious, chronic disease afflicting over 20 million Americans. As the vice-chair of the Diabetes Caucus, I have had the opportunity to meet many people who must deal with the hardships and stress of living with diabetes 24/7. They have taught me what it means to “go-low” while participating in sports, to wake twice during the night to check blood sugar levels, and suffer from seizures. This is no way for anyone, especially children, to live.

Over the years, advances in medicine and technology have allowed patients to better manage their disease, but more work must be done in order to find a cure.

It is essential that Congress continue to support groundbreaking research at the NIH. We must also fight for federally funded stem-cell research, the greatest potential for finding a cure.

In honor of World Diabetes Day, I urge my colleagues to join me in the effort to help the millions who suffer from diabetes.