China for another year. I oppose this resolution and call upon my colleagues to vote against it.

As events over the past week have shown, the human rights situation in China needs to improve. Increased respect for human rights must be accompanied by political and democratic reforms. But let us not forget that our own country’s record on certain human rights issues is less than perfect, as has been noted by such organizations as Amnesty International. Over 1.8 million Americans are in jail, most of them for non-violent crimes and many of them—and this is not an accident—coming from our country’s worst schools. Given our own record, we should avoid hypocrisy in our insistent demands for reform in China.

Rather, we should be pragmatic in our efforts and pursue a productive engagement with Chinese society. The only way we can convey our values to other countries is to have a record of the type that our country has had—of being a productive and engaged member of the international community. By contrast, in the case of other proposals that merely provide, without support, for an understanding that can stop incidents of misconduct long before they occur. Moreover, this bill focuses on the long-term improvement of the law enforcement profession. Further, it strengthens our federal prosecutorial tools with demonstrated effectiveness at sanctioning misconduct. This bill seizes upon the opportunity to initiate reforms that would restore public trust and accountability to law enforcement. This legislation provides a direct contrast to other proposals that merely provide, without any selection criteria or performance benchmarks, a select number of police agencies more money—proposals which have been widely criticized by the Administration, civil rights groups and even law enforcement organizations.

Our bill makes seven concrete steps toward improving law enforcement management and misconduct prosecution tools and has the support of a broad range of groups, from the NAACP to the Southern States Police Benevolent Association:

1. Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies—The bill requires the Justice Department to recommend additional areas for the development of national standards for accreditation of law enforcement agencies in conjunction with professional law enforcement accreditation organizations, principally the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (“CALEA”). The bill further authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to law enforcement agencies for the purpose of obtaining accreditation from CALEA.

2. Law Enforcement Agency Development Programs—The bill authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to States, units of local government, Indian Tribal Governments, or other public and private entities; and multi-jurisdictional or regional consortia to study law enforcement agency operations and to develop pilot programs focused on effective training, recruitment, hiring, management and oversight of law enforcement officers which would provide focused data for the CALEA standards promulgation process.

3. Administrative Due Process Procedures—The bill requires the Attorney General to study the prevalence and impact of any law, rule or procedure that allows a law enforcement officer to delay for an unreasonable or arbitrary period of time the answer to questions posed by a local internal affairs officer, prosecutor, or review board on the investigative integrity and prosecution of law enforcement misconduct.

4. Enhanced Funding of Civil Rights Division—The bill authorizes appropriations for expenses related to the enforcement against pattern and practice discrimination described in section 20401 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 14141) and authorizes appropriations for expenses related to programs managed by the Community Relations Service.


6. Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law—The bill amends section 242 of Title 18 of the United States Code to expressly define excessive use of force and non-consensual sexual conduct as deprivations of rights under color of law.

7. Study of Deaths in Custody—The bill amends section 20101(b) of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C.A. 13701) to require assurances that States will follow guidelines established by the Attorney General for reporting deaths in custody.

8. Given the litany of incidents—Rodney King, Amadou Diallo, Abner Louima—it should be clear to all members, and the nation at large, that this issue must be addressed in a bipartisan manner. Faced with such compelling evidence, we cannot afford to overlook any other study of problems that we all know to exist. The energies of Congress should be focused on the adoption of legislative priorities that address the substance of law enforcement management and strengthen the current battery of tools available to sanction misconduct.

As a Congress we have been enthusiastic about supporting programs designed to get officers on the street. We must be just as willing...