

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE  
WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, July 17, 2000.

Hon. BILL ARCHER,

Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ARCHER: I am writing to confirm our mutual understanding with respects to further consideration of H.R. 1102, the "Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act," which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition, to the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on Government Reform. I understand that the House will consider this bill in the near future. As you know, on July 14, 1999, the Committee on Education and the Workforce ordered favorably reported H.R. 1102, H. Rept. 106-331, Part I.

The Committee on Education and the Workforce has jurisdiction over pension provisions amending the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), which are contained in Title VI, of H.R. 1102. With your agreement, several of these ERISA provisions were included in the Conference Report to H.R. 2488, the "Financial Freedom Act of 1999."

I understand that the Committee on Ways and Means has approved H.R. 4843, the "Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act of 2000." H.R. 4843 amends the Internal Revenue Code, but does not include any corresponding ERISA pension amendments. In order to expedite consideration of H.R. 1102, I do not object to the House of Representatives considering the text of H.R. 4843 as an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to the Education and the Workforce reported version of H.R. 1102. However, I appreciate your willingness to work with me to assure that the ERISA provisions contained in H.R. 1102, as reported by the Committee on Education and the Workforce, are added in any conference agreement. I also appreciate your support in my request to the Speaker for the appointment of conferees from my Committee with respect to matters within the jurisdiction of my Committee when a conference with the Senate is convened on this legislation.

Thank you for agreeing to include this exchange of letters in the Congressional Record during the House debate on H.R. 1102. Again, I thank you for working with me in developing this legislation and I look forward to working with you on these issues in the future.

Sincerely,

BILL GOODLING,  
Chairman.

IN HONOR OF MR. MICHAEL VIRGIL, SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE, CARIBBEAN FIELD DIVISION OF THE U.S. DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Mr. Michael Virgil, Special Agent in Charge of the Caribbean Field Division of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), for all of his achievements on behalf of the United States and to congratulate him on such a noteworthy and honorable career.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Since joining the DEA in 1973, Mr. Virgil has continuously put himself in harms way to protect this country. Through his numerous foreign and domestic assignments, Mr. Virgil has made a career of fighting drug traffickers and drug cartels both here and abroad.

As the Assistant Country Attaché in Mexico City, Mr. Virgil oversaw the intelligence and enforcement operations. He also led the efforts of the Northern Border Response Force, a multi-agency program responsible for the seizure of more than 140 metric tons of cocaine and more than 2,000 arrests in a five-year period.

In addition, Mr. Virgil spearheaded the development and implementation of Operation Triangle, Operation Unidos, Operation Unidos II, and Cobra. In each of these programs, Mr. Virgil sought to create relationships between Mexico and other Central American countries to seal of drug-trafficking activities in Mexico.

Throughout his twenty-seven year career with the DEA, Mr. Virgil's dedication and service have not gone unnoticed. Mr. Virgil has been the recipient of numerous performance and achievement awards, including the Administrator's Award for Exceptional Service.

Mr. Virgil graduated with honors from the New Mexico State University, with a Bachelor's degree in Police Science and Criminology.

For his almost thirty years of dedicated duty in fighting the threat that drugs pose to our society, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and honoring Michael Virgil.

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 intro-

ducing 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 yes.

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