

“an overreaction to a situation which can be reconciled among the states and not in a federal court.”

Skeptics rightly are concerned that some may be using the Internet as an excuse to protect the decades-old distribution system for wine and other alcoholic beverages. Although the Internet has not changed state liquor law enforcement, it has opened up the wine and beer market to new consumer choices and competition.

With the power of electronic commerce, adult consumers now have the freedom to choose from a rich assortment of different wine and beer products—from small wineries to nationwide brewers in America or any other country in the world.

We should be embracing this free market and open competition. Competition in the free market is the American way. But instead some wine and beer wholesalers want to use this legislation as a protectionist ploy to keep their present distribution system, which effectively locks out small wineries and micro-breweries from ever getting their products on a store shelf. Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the National Conference of State Legislatures have noted that this Federal legislation is nothing more than an attempt to use the Federal courts in a disagreement between wholesalers and small independent wineries and breweries.

On August 12, 1999, The Wall Street Journal wrote about this legislation: “This is a bad bill, with dangerous consequences not only for alcohol but for the future of e-commerce and other cross-state transactions.” I wholeheartedly agree.

The Department of Justice has warned Congress in relation to legislation affecting the Internet that: “[A]ny prohibitions that are designed to prohibit criminal activity on the Internet must be carefully drafted to accomplish the legislation’s objectives without stifling the growth of the Internet or chilling its use.” This bill fails that test. It is not carefully crafted. In fact, it is not even needed. It also could chill the use of the Internet as a means of promoting interstate commerce.

I will vote in support of this conference report because the provisions on sex trafficking, VAWA and justice for victims are proposals I endorse. I do so with profound regret with the process and that the majority insisted on including Aimee’s law and the internet alcohol bill that are not well considered. They are the price that we pay for making progress here today. I will work to see if we can limit their damage.

In closing, I wish to thank the conferees and their staffs who showed courtesy to me and mine. In particular, I thank Karen Knutsen of Senator BROWNBACK’s staff and Mark Lagon and Brian McKee of the staff of the Foreign

Relations Committee. I thank Nancy Zirkin of the American Association of University Women and Pat Reuss of the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund for their efforts on behalf of VAWA II. This has been a difficult matter at a difficult time that is being concluded as best we can under these circumstances in order to enact the sex trafficking legislation, VAWA II and the victims bill for all the good they can mean.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the distinguished Senator from Kansas be recognized to make a unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the votes occurring relative to the Thompson appeal as provided in the consent agreement this body agreed to on October 6, 2000, occur at 4:30 p.m. today, with adoption of the conference report to occur immediately following that vote as provided in the consent agreement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, for the information of Members, in light of this agreement, the next two votes will occur at approximately 4:30 p.m. with the Thompson appeal vote occurring at 4:30 and the conference report vote occurring immediately thereafter.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:49 p.m., recessed until 2:16 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. COLLINS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. HATCH. Without losing my own time, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished Senator from Vermont off the leader’s time, 2 minutes from the distinguished Senator from Minnesota off the leader’s time, and I understand the distinguished Senator from New York desires 5 minutes off the minority leader’s time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. JEFFORDS are located in today’s RECORD under “Morning Business.”)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from New York is now recognized.

TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT OF 2000—CONFERENCE REPORT—Continued

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I thank you as well as the chairman of our committee, Mr. HATCH, and the ranking member, Mr. LEAHY, for yielding me a brief amount of time to talk on the Violence Against Women Act.

I commend our leader on Judiciary, Senator LEAHY, for his diligent work on so many of the issues contained here. I know there are some differences on a few. I commend Senator BIDEN, who has worked long and hard on this issue for many years. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for his strenuous efforts. I also thank the Senator from California, Mrs. BOXER. When Senator BIDEN first introduced the bill in the Senate, Senator BOXER, then Congress Member BOXER, was the House sponsor; I was the cosponsor. When she moved on to the Senate, I became the lead House sponsor and managed the bill as it was signed into law.

When it was first enacted in 1994, the Violence Against Women Act signaled a sea change in our approach to the epidemic of violence directed at women. Until the law, by and large it had been a dirty little secret that every night hundreds of women showed up at police precincts, battered and bruised, because they were beaten by their spouse or their boyfriend or whatever. All too often they were told by that law enforcement officer, who really had no education, no training, or no place to send the battered woman: Well, this is a domestic matter. Go home and straighten it out with your husband.

So deep were the traditions ingrained that it was very hard to remove them. In fact, the expression “rule of thumb” comes from the medieval law that said a husband could beat his wife with a stick provided that stick was no wider than his thumb.

The Violence Against Women Act took giant strides to take this terrible, dirty secret, bring it above ground, and begin really to cleanse it. The new law acknowledged that the ancient bias showed itself not just in the virulence of the perpetrators of violence but in the failure of the system and the community to respond with sufficient care and understanding. Shelters grew, police departments were educated, the VAWA hotline—which we added to the law as an afterthought, I remember, in the conference—got huge numbers of