

INTRODUCTION OF THE “INNOVATION PROTECTION ACT”

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, the “Innovation Protection Act” responds to the single most important problem facing our patent system today—the diversion of patent fees. One of the most effective steps we can take in responding to abusive patent litigation is making sure poor quality patents are not issued to begin with. To do that we need to give our examiners the resources they need to review and analyze the hundreds of thousands of complex and interrelated patent applications they receive every year.

The current finding mechanism has failed the patent system. It did not prevent the diversion of nearly \$150 million in collected user fees in fiscal year 2013 due to the sequester. And this loss is on top of the estimated \$1 billion in fees diverted over the last two decades. In essence, there is a tax on innovation in this country, and this legislation would repeal it.

That is why I along with Representatives COLLINS, NADLER, FRANKS, LOFGREN, SENSENBRENNER, DEUTCH, ROHRBACHER, and JEFFRIES introduced today the “Innovation Protection Act.” This critical bill will ensure that the USPTO retains all of the user fees it collects.

Significant patent stakeholders, including the American Intellectual Property Law Association, BSA—The Software Alliance, the Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform, the Intellectual Property Owners Association, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers—USA, among others, support the legislation.

This bill would create a permanent, reliable mechanism to protect the USPTO from the unpredictability of the annual appropriations cycle, which severely hinders USPTO’s ability to engage in the kind of multi-year, business-like planning that is needed to manage our patent system. It would eliminate the tax on innovation.

Therefore, a permanent funding mechanism is essential to encourage innovation and to ensure that our patent system remains the envy of the world.

THANKING THE CAPITOL POLICE FOR SERVICE DURING NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in November of last year, the newly elected members of the House of Representatives came to Washington, D.C. for New Member Orientation. This weeklong event, organized by the Committee on House Administration, is designed to orient our new colleagues and their staffs to the various responsibilities they assume in the upcoming congress, as well as to educate the members and their staffs on the resources they have here to help them in their new roles. It is a comprehensive under-

taking, but fortunately safety was never a concern during the event due to the hard work and professionalism of the Capitol Police.

The Capitol Police did excellent work protecting our visitors, allowing them safe travel between destinations and providing a sense of security as they visited their new offices on Capitol Hill for the first time. I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to the Capitol Police for their fine work in keeping our grounds secure and for their essential guidance, information and support.

HONORING DUKE MEN’S BASKETBALL

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled to rise today to congratulate the Duke men’s basketball team on winning the 2015 NCAA Division I National Championship! I say this as a Member who, depending on the vagaries of redistricting, has represented the campus, but also as a proud on-leave faculty member and the father of two Duke alumni.

This Duke team’s combined talent, tenacity, and teamwork helped them to overcome a tough conference schedule and make one of the most memorable runs in recent NCAA tournament history. Both Duke and the University of Wisconsin Badgers deserve recognition for their excellent play in the tournament and throughout the year. But Duke’s thrilling victory over Wisconsin to clinch the national title was a fitting finish to an historic season that also saw its legendary head coach, Mike Krzyzewski, “Coach K”, notch his record 1,000th win.

The Duke Blue Devils have a long history of success in men’s basketball, and I am proud that this year’s team was able to add a fifth national men’s basketball title to its collection. Congratulations to the players, staff, and coaches, who will be remembered as one of the greatest Duke teams of all time. Blue Devil fans everywhere are proud of your remarkable season, the latest chapter in our storied basketball tradition!

INTRODUCTION OF FEDERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE PARITY ACT OF 2015

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce a bill to offer law enforcement retirement to Federal Protective Service (FPS) law enforcement officers. This bill provides retirement parity to FPS law enforcement officers with all other law enforcement officers within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The lack of law enforcement retirement for FPS law enforcement officers has hurt morale and has contributed to a high rate of attrition of FPS law enforcement officers when compared to attrition rates of other law enforcement agencies within DHS. By providing these

enhanced retirement provisions to new hires within the Federal Protective Service, and crediting the service of current FPS law enforcement officers after enactment of the bill with the new provisions, we can begin to strengthen the morale and resolve of the Federal Protective Service.

FPS is responsible for delivering security and law enforcement services for the 8,700 assets that the General Services Administration (GSA) owns, controls, or leases across the country. The Federal Protective Service is part of the frontline defense for these Federal buildings, which include Federal courthouses, Social Security Administration buildings, Agency headquarters, and other buildings. FPS law enforcement officers are authorized to carry firearms and empowered to make arrests related to the protection of buildings, grounds, and property owned by the Federal government and persons on the property. Like other law enforcement officers within DHS, FPS officers receive the same training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and often risk their lives in protection of the nearly 1 million Federal employees and visitors to Federal buildings.

As a former law enforcement officer I have a deep appreciation for their service and the sacrifices that FPS law enforcement officers make on a regular basis. By providing this retirement provision I believe it will help the Federal Protective Service thrive in its mission of protecting Federal facilities, their occupants, and visitors with superior law enforcement and protective security services.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to consider this legislation and pass it as soon as possible.

HONORING ERNIE PYLE

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the greatest Hoosiers history has seen, who gave his life 70 years ago.

Ernie Pyle, a Hoosier journalist, became a household name as he told of the everyday lives—the trials and tribulations, the honor and dignity—of our soldiers in WWII.

Through his Pulitzer Prize winning column, Ernie Pyle brought the hard realities of war into the homes of families worldwide.

And he was an advocate for the common soldier—the guys he rightfully argued wars can’t be won without.

Generations of young journalists—especially those who’ve studied in his shadow at the Indiana University School of Journalism—have greatly benefited from his legacy.

Mr. Speaker, we should all be grateful for the sacrifice and service of great men like Ernest Taylor Pyle.

IN RECOGNITION OF BISHOP VICTOR L. POWELL

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding Man of God,