

Congress has still not thoroughly examined how the act is being used—or abused. But the sunset provisions don't kick in until Dec. 31, 2005, so there's still plenty of time—except that congressional Republicans want to lift those provisions now, making those broad new powers permanent.

Why there's a sudden rush to make the Patriot Act permanent is something of a puzzle. The old axiom "act in haste, repent at leisure" comes to mind.

The jury is still very much out on whether the Patriot Act and its administration are consistent with constitutional safeguards and basic civil liberties. The sunset provisions should stay and the law should be subjected to a strong dose of sunshine.

RECOGNIZING DR. ROD JULANDER

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. CANNON of Utah. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to honor and recognize Dr. Rod Julander for his devotion and dedication to the students, faculty and staff of Weber State University. For 43 years, he has been an integral part of the Political Science Department.

Dr. Julander began his teaching career at Weber State College in 1960 after receiving a Bachelors of Science from the University of Utah in 1958 and a Masters Degree in Philosophy in 1963. He returned to the University of Utah in 1986 for his Ph.D. and has been a highly valued member of the faculty throughout his years of service.

His hard work and dedication has been acknowledged at the local and national level. He has received numerous National, Regional, State and Community recognition and honors, including the Dello Dayton Teaching Award in 1992, the Crystal Crest Mater Teacher Award in 1995 and the Coretez Honors Award in 1974, and was Social Work Legislative Advocate of the Year.

His exceptional service has also been appreciated by the University and Alumni Association, where he has served as a member of the Executive Committee of the WSU Faculty senate, Past President of the WSU UUAP Chapter, a member of the Search Committee for the WSU Assistant to the President for Diversity, and part of the WSU Continuing Education Lecture Series. Rod Julander has also been active in the community through his involvement in civic and public service. Dr. Julander was a Utah State Senator in 1972, a Member of the Utah Radiation Control Board, a Legislative Consultant for the National Association of Social Workers and has served as the Vice Chair for the Utah State Democratic Party from 1997 to the present.

Dr. Julander's research has been published in the Western Political Science Quarterly, the Institute of Public Administration and in unpublished reports for the United States Air Force. In 1993, Dr. Julander became the chair of the Political Science department at Weber State University. Under his direction the department has grown and thrived. Dr. Julander has distinguished himself throughout his career as a devoted educator, teacher, mentor and skillful leader.

In 42 years of teaching Dr. Julander has influenced thousands of students. He has through his teaching, inspired, taught and been an example for all those whom he came in contact. We wish to add our thanks to Dr. Julander for his long time service to Weber State University, its students and the state of Utah.

His lovely wife Paula served four years in the Utah State House and is currently serving her second term as a Utah State Senator. Between them, Rod and Paula have 5 children and 14 grandchildren. Therefore, we are proud to join with his many colleagues and former students in extending our congratulations and heartfelt thanks to Dr. Julander for his years of dedicated service to Weber State University. We wish him luck in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE TRAVERSE BAY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COR-
PORATION

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Traverse Bay Economic Development Corporation for their outstanding service to the small businesses of the Traverse Bay area.

The Traverse Bay Economic Development Corporation is highly dedicated to the small businesses and commerce of its region. This tremendous organization has greatly assisted to improve the quality of life in the community it serves. Its unwavering commitment has been rewarded by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, which has recognized them as America's top small town for business growth. This is not the first time TBEDC has been recognized for its efforts to attract and expand business in the Grand Traverse County area.

I am honored today to recognize the Traverse Bay Economic Development Corporation for their commitment to their region.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS
REGARDING REFORM OF INTER-
NAL REVENUE CODE

SPEECH OF

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, American families have fallen victim to an unfair and burdensome tax code. Duplicative and outdated tax policies—even dating back to the Spanish American War—are forcing families across the Nation to sacrifice health insurance, car payments or their child's education in order to fulfill their tax obligations.

The IRS plays too big of a role in the everyday lives of American families. In 2001, alone, the IRS spent close to \$9 billion administering the tax system. Americans spent \$135 billion and three billion hours complying with the tax code that same year.

As we quickly approach April 15th, Americans struggle to comply with an increasingly

unfair and complex tax code. Unfortunately, we can no longer justify our own system of taxation. The marriage penalty and the death tax epitomize the unjust taxation millions of families are impacted by each year.

Duplicative taxes also plague our tax code. The double taxation of dividends, for example, impacts the 52% of Americans invested in the stock market—half of which are seniors. The elimination of this injustice will create over 500,000 jobs each year and will eliminate a great burden on American investors.

Americans deserve a tax code that is simple, fair and encourages economic growth, not financial crisis. Our tax code provides disincentives for marriage, jobs and savings.

While many in this Chamber have spoken about reforming our tax codes, it has become clear that rhetoric does not produce results. Comprehensive tax reform and reform of the IRS must take place in order to ensure the economic stability of America and the financial stability of the American family.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 141, which acknowledges that our tax code is in desperate need of major reforms. Let us all stand committed to reforming a system that is sacrificing job growth, financial stability and economic recovery in order to build more bureaucracies like the IRS. I stand in strong support of this resolution.

THE GUARD AND RESERVE SELEC-
TIVE REENLISTMENT BONUS EQ-
UITY ACT OF 2003. APRIL 11, 2003

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Guard and Reserve Selective Reenlistment Bonus Equity Act of 2003. Joining me today are my colleagues Rep. MARK KIRK, himself a Navy reservist, and Reps. STEVE BUYER and GENE TAYLOR, Co-chairs of the House Guard and Reserve Caucus.

This bill would correct an unfortunate situation affecting guard members and reservists across the country that were mobilized for service to their country. Many have found that they can no longer receive payments on their reenlistment bonuses because of their mobilization status.

The primary purpose of the reenlistment bonus has been to maintain an adequate level of experienced and qualified enlisted personnel in the peacetime forces of the military services. In fact, legislative authority for a reenlistment bonus of one form or another has existed continuously since shortly after the Revolutionary War under a number of different names.

However, our experience with Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom has highlighted the fact that payments to mobilized guard members and reservists are suspended while they serve on active duty. For many, this creates a financial hardship and for others, a significant speed bump in their financial plans. This legislation would enable them to receive the payments due to them.

Currently, for U.S. operations pertaining to Homeland Security, and deployments in Afghanistan, and Iraq, 275,000 reserve troops

and National Guardsman have been mobilized. The activated troops serve along side active duty men and women.

It surprises me that inequities still exist between reservists and active-duty service members serving side by side to protect the interests of the United States and I am pleased to work with my colleagues in correcting one of them.

Knowing that the Senate has already acted on a similar measure, I am confident that this bill will enjoy swift approval by the House and will soon be at the President's desk for enactment into law.

JOB PROTECTION ACT OF 2003

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased today to be joining my good friend, Philip Crane, in introducing the Job Protection Act of 2003. I am very pleased both with the substance of this bill and the bipartisan cooperation exhibited by everyone in its development. This bill is a model for how we should be addressing national issues in this Congress.

The bill responds to the recent World Trade Organization ruling that held that our export-related tax benefit, the FSC/ETI provision, violates our trade agreements. I believe that it is necessary for this country to comply with its international agreements. But I believe that the response to the ruling must be designed in a way that preserves jobs in the United States.

The FSC/ETI provisions currently benefit companies manufacturing and producing goods in the United States. One company executive described the beneficiaries of FSC/ETI as companies "doing business the old-fashioned way," producing goods in the United States and selling them overseas.

Merely repealing FSC/ETI without returning the revenues to companies producing in the United States could result in further job losses in the United States. This would be unacceptable, particularly now when there has been a steady erosion in U.S. manufacturing jobs.

Our bill will comply with the WTO ruling by repealing the FSC/ETI benefit, but it also will provide a permanent effective rate reduction for U.S. manufacturers that is consistent with our trade agreements. It will create positive incentives for companies to expand their operations in the United States, not overseas. It will preserve, not threaten U.S. jobs.

Mr. Speaker, we have had similar challenges to our export-related benefits in the past. We always have responded in a bipartisan, bicameral basis. Such a response is appropriate because that type of challenge is not a partisan issue. It is a legal dispute between our country and our foreign competitors. In that dispute we all represent the same client, the United States. We should proceed just like a group of lawyers representing the same client, perhaps disagreeing in private, but never sharing those disagreements or competing legal briefs with our opponent.

Attached is a summary of the provisions of the bill.

The proposal would repeal the FSC/ETI benefit effective on date of enactment. The

proposal would include binding contract transition relief and general transition relief. The general transition relief would be based on the company's FSC/ETI benefit for 2001. The company would receive a deduction of 100% of its base period amount for 2004 and 2005, 75% for 2006 and 2007 and 50% for 2008, with no general transition relief thereafter.

As the general transition relief phases out, a new permanent benefit for U.S. manufacturers would be phased in. The new benefit would reduce the effective corporate tax rate on income attributable to U.S. production activities. Purely domestic companies would receive an effective rate reduction of 3.5 points (reducing the 35% rate to 31.5%). Companies with operations offshore would receive a smaller rate reduction based on the value of their U.S. and world-wide production. That adjustment would create positive incentives for companies to keep operations in the United States.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO EXPAND THE EARNED IN- COME TAX CREDIT

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, the earned income tax credit (EITC) provides cash assistance to lower income working parents and individuals through the tax system and is an important part of the Federal "safety net" of programs for Americans living in poverty.

Under current law, there are three categories of EITC recipients: those with no children, those with one child, and those with two or more children. One does not need to owe taxes at tax time in order to benefit—the EITC benefit amount may exceed tax liability and be received in the form of a payment from the U.S. Treasury after the tax year's end. Moreover, certain eligible workers with children may choose to receive a portion of the EITC in the form of advance payments throughout the tax year.

While the EITC has been tremendously successful and has lifted more children out of poverty than has any other government program, I believe that our efforts to use this important tax credit to fight poverty can be further improved. Recent studies have shown that 29 percent of all children in families having three or more children subsist at incomes below the poverty level. This is more than double the poverty rate among children in smaller families. Nearly three of every five poor children in this country live in families with three or more children. Our former colleague Rep. Bill Coyne introduced legislation during the 107th Congress that targeted this particular problem and made other needed improvements to the EITC program. Today I reintroduce that bill.

The bill will create a new EITC benefit level for families with 3 or more children, with a credit percentage of 45 percent, to provide a higher benefit than what they currently receive under the "two or more children" category (which has a 40 percent credit rate). The bill would also double the credit percentage for workers with no qualifying children from 7.65 percent to 15.3 percent. This change recognizes the fact that there is virtually no safety

net for people in this category, who face high federal tax burdens. The 15.3 credit percentage is the amount needed to fully offset the amount of the payroll tax, including the employer's share.

In addition, the bill will increase EITC benefits for all family categories by raising the maximum creditable earnings used to calculate the credit. For all eligible individuals with children, this amount for the year 2002 will be \$10,710, the annual wages of a full-time worker earning the minimum wage. For childless workers, the maximum creditable earnings will rise to \$6,000, approximately 60 percent of those wages. In order to balance program costs, benefits will phase out at the same income level, as is the case under current law.

The creation of the additional EITC category involving three or more children will benefit approximately 3.2 million households and further reduce poverty among these larger families. The economic stimulus function of my bill cannot be overlooked, as it will benefit the U.S. economy by providing additional incentives for more people, especially low-income women, to join the work force.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when our country is facing so many economic challenges, we must not forget that our low-income families continue to remain at the margins of our economy and are the first to suffer the effects of an economic downturn. I urge all my colleagues to join me in this effort to further enhance the highly successful EITC by cosponsoring this legislation.

CONCERN FOR AMERICA'S TELECOMMUNICATION INDUSTRY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of concern for America's telecommunications industry.

Service providers and equipment manufacturers are going out of business, workers have been laid off, and capital investment is frozen. Experts agree the industry is experiencing an "economic meltdown." Once an engine of economic prosperity in the 1990s, this important sector is now a driver of the current recession.

Why is this happening?

In order to spur competition in the local phone market, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 required the local Bell companies to rent out their networks to competitors while they developed a customer base and built their own facilities.

That is fine. However, many state regulators set the Bells' leasing rates significantly below the cost of maintaining their lines. For some time now, the incumbent phone companies have been bleeding money while big players, such as Worldcom, take advantage of these artificially low rates that were designed to help new entrants gain access to the market. Without contributing to the local infrastructure, these companies are cherry picking lucrative business and select residential customers, while leaving the Bells to serve everyone else.

Instead of helping the little guys get started and bringing true competition to the local phone market, this regulation is a boondoggle for a few big companies at the expense of the