

shows that highlighted the FBI and its prowess, but think about it today, in order to recruit people, in order to have job fairs and career fairs and to communicate information about the agency.

For instance, it is trying to recruit now people who can help in cyber crimes, and they have had a problem getting people who can get past some of the screening, so they have to do even more public relations in order to attract people who are capable of helping to build the cases like some of the ones which were discussed here earlier on the floor in which American companies were being cyber hacked and they were stealing essentially American jobs and wealth in that process.

I think, in this effort to separate the FBI from Hollywood, we might be separating the agency from its ability to promote itself. There is no Member of Congress that doesn't understand and appreciate the fact that there are times in which you need to be able to communicate with the public, and so it is the case with a Federal agency.

I think that the amendment—and I understand the impulse, and I am sure there is waste, and I can show you waste in the FBI and in any of these other agencies, but I don't believe that communicating with the American public is something that we should consider as wasteful. I, therefore, oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I would concur with the need to communicate; but, again, we are talking over 600 Hollywood projects, most of which are grossing millions of dollars, \$80 million, as I mentioned, for "Shooter," \$80 million for "The Kingdom."

It seems like, with that kind of grossing that is taking place, taxpayers shouldn't be on the bill to support the research that goes on. You have retired FBI agents, CIA, and others that can be brought in to do the research, as well as consult on these films.

We want accuracy, and yet we also understand that the taxpayer should only be footing the bill as necessary, and I don't think this is. Nothing against Mark Wahlberg or any others that are being used in these movies, especially with my name attached.

I still think the taxpayer deserves consideration here, and so I ask for this reasonable amendment to be supported. It allows the continued working on Most Wanted Fugitives and Most Wanted Terrorists and missing children programs. I think that is legitimate. Beyond that, I reject it. I ask for support of the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 21 OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if the offeror certifies, as required by Federal Acquisition Regulation, that the offeror or any of its principals:

(A) within a three-year period preceding this offer has been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for: commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating Federal criminal tax laws, or receiving stolen property; or

(B) are presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated above in subsection (A); or

(C) within a three-year period preceding this offer, has been notified of any delinquent Federal taxes in an amount that exceeds \$3,000 for which the liability remains unsatisfied.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, just for the sake of perfect clarity, may I have the first few words of the amendment read.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the Clerk will report the amendment.

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the amendment.

Mr. GRAYSON (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is identical to other amendments that have been inserted by voice vote into every appropriations bill this year and last year that has been considered under an open rule.

This amendment would expand the list of parties the Federal Government is prohibited from contracting with because of misconduct on the part of

those contractors. This list would include contractors who have been convicted of fraud; have violated Federal or State antitrust laws; who have been convicted of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, violation of Federal tax laws, and other items outlined in section 52.209-5 of title 48 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

These are all offenses which any contractor doing business with the Federal Government must disclose to the contracting officer, but oddly enough, the contracting officer, absent this amendment, would then be free to ignore these transgressions and award contracts to the offending entities.

I commend the authors of this bill for their inclusion of sections 536 and 537. I still believe, however, that we can improve on the bill by prohibiting agencies from contracting with those entities who have engaged in the activities described above.

It is my hope that this amendment will remain noncontroversial, as it has been, and, again, will be passed unanimously by the House.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I accept the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MR.

ROHRABACHER

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available in this Act to the Department of Justice may be used, with respect to the States of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin, to prevent such States from implementing their own State laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of medical marijuana.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak in favor of my amendment, which would prohibit the Department of Justice from using any of

the funds appropriated in this bill to prevent States from implementing their own medical marijuana laws. Twenty-nine States have enacted laws that allow patients access to medical marijuana and its derivatives, such as CBD oils.

It is no surprise then that public opinion is shifting, too. A recent Pew Research Center survey found that 61 percent of Republicans and a whopping 76 percent of Independents favor making medical marijuana legal and available to their patients who need it.

As I have said, 29 States have already enacted laws that will permit patients access to medical marijuana and their derivatives. By the way, 80 percent of Democrats feel the same way.

Despite this overwhelming shift in public opinion, the Federal Government continues its hard-line oppression against medical marijuana. For those of us who routinely talk about the 10th Amendment, which we do in conservative ranks, and respect for State laws, this amendment should be a no-brainer.

Our amendment gives all of us an opportunity to show our constituents that we are truly constitutionalists and that we mean what we say when we talk about the importance of the 10th Amendment.

In addition, this also gives us the opportunity to prove that we really do believe in respecting the doctor-patient relationship.

I proudly offer this amendment that has the support of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I am joined by Republican cosponsors DON YOUNG, TOM MCCLINTOCK, Dr. PAUL BROUN, STEVE STOCKMAN, and JUSTIN AMASH, as well as Democrat cosponsors SAM FARR, EARL BLUMENAUER, STEVE COHEN, JARED POLIS, BARBARA LEE, and DINA TITUS.

I urge my colleagues to support our commonsense, states' rights, compassionate, fiscally responsible amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I yield myself 1 minute.

The following national medical organizations are currently opposed to medical marijuana: American Medical Association, American Cancer Society, American Glaucoma Society, Glaucoma Research Foundation, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and American Psychiatric Association.

Also, recent research has demonstrated that marijuana use during teen years decreases IQ rates by an average of eight points.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS).

□ 2045

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chair, I rise to oppose the amendment. My State is named in the amendment.

Look, everyone supports compassionate, effective medical care for patients with cancer, epilepsy, chronic pain. You will probably hear anecdotal reports, maybe even during the testimony this evening, about how medical marijuana can solve some of these problems.

There are two problems with medical marijuana. First, it is the camel's nose under the tent; and second, the amendment as written would tie the DEA's hands beyond medical marijuana.

With regard to the camel's nose under the tent, let me just quote from the DEA report just published this month: Organizers behind the medical marijuana movement did not really concern themselves with marijuana as a medicine. They just saw it as a means to an end, which is the legalization of marijuana for recreational purposes. They did not deal with ensuring that the product meets the standards of modern medicine: quality, safety, and efficacy.

Because, Mr. Chairman, the term "medical marijuana" is generally used to refer—and this is from the NIH. We respect the NIH. This is the National Institute on Drug Abuse: The term "medical marijuana" is generally used to refer to the whole, unprocessed marijuana plant or its crude extracts.

Mr. Chairman, that is not what medicine is about. Medicine is about refining the components THC and CBD, actually making sure they are efficacious, giving the exact dose, not two joints a day, not a brownie here, a biscuit there. That is not modern medicine. In fact, the DEA supports those studies, looking at the safety and efficacy and dosing regimens for these, THC, CBD. They have licensed some of the drugs.

Mr. Chairman, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, medical and street marijuana are not different. Most marijuana sold in dispensaries as medicine, again reading from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, is the same quality and carries the same health risks as marijuana sold on the street.

Mr. Chairman, we know there are health problems. The problem is that the way the amendment is drafted, in a State like Maryland which has medical marijuana, if we ever legalized it, the amendment would stop the DEA from going after more than medical marijuana.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chair, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chair, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. We have 2½ minutes each.

I yield 1 minute to my colleague from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE).

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chair, I am not here to talk about brownies and biscuits. I am here to talk about a serious medical issue, cannabidiol, the CBD oil that comes from the cannabis plant. It is very low in THC and is nonpsychoactive. Research has shown very promising results in children with epilepsy, autism, and other neurological disorders. CBD oil is also showing promising results in adults with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and PTSD.

We need to remove the roadblocks to these potential medical breakthroughs. This amendment would do that. The Federal Government should not countermand State law. In this case, the absurd result of that is that medical discoveries are being blocked.

I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chair, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Louisiana, Dr. FLEMING.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Chairman, let me say that in this discussion you may have heard reference to the 10th Amendment and the Commerce Clause. Let me address that. I want to get that out of the way, because I have talked tremendously over the past few days and weeks about the dangers of marijuana.

This controversy came before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2005 in *Gonzales v. Raich*. The Supreme Court reviewed the Federal Government's authority to enforce the Controlled Substances Act. In a 6-3 decision, Justice Scalia, a strong states' rights advocate, concurred with the majority ruling that the CSA does not violate the Commerce Clause or the principles of State sovereignty.

Just to read what he said:

Not only is it impossible to distinguish controlled substances manufactured and distributed intrastate from controlled substances manufactured and distributed interstate, but it hardly makes sense to speak in such terms.

Drugs like marijuana are fungible commodities, as the Court explains marijuana that is grown at home and possessed for personal use is never more than an instant from the interstate market, and this is so whether or not the possession is for medicinal use or lawful use under the laws of a particular State.

Again, if we want to make a statement principle on the Tenth Amendment, fine, but don't do it on the backs of our kids and our grandkids. This is dangerous for them. How do we know this? The health risks: brain development, schizophrenia, increased risk of stroke. A study at Northwestern University recently showed profound changes in the brain just in casual marijuana users. Heart complications, three times normal in such use. Recent studies shows, as I said, not only damage in certain structures in the brain, but the same structures that attend to motivation, which again underlines the amotivational syndrome that we have all heard about.

So again, it is settled law. The Supreme Court has already spoken on the constitutionality of this. It is settled when it comes to medicine. We hear anecdotal stories, but there is no widespread accepted use of marijuana, medicinal marijuana and so forth. There is no acceptance of this by the medical community. It is not evidence-based. Fine, if you want to do research on it, but this will take away the ability of the Department of Justice to protect our young people.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman from Virginia has expired.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN), our doctor in the House. We do believe in the doctor-patient relationship and that the government shouldn't interfere.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I am a family physician and an addictionologist. Marijuana is addicting if it is used improperly. But used medically, and there are very valid medical reasons to utilize extracts or products from marijuana in medical procedures, it is a very valid medical use under the direction of a doctor. It is actually less dangerous than some narcotics that doctors prescribe all over this country.

Also, this is a states' rights, states' power issue, because many States across the country—in fact, my own State of Georgia is considering allowing the medical use under the direction of a physician. This is a states' rights, Tenth Amendment issue. We need to reserve the states' powers under the Constitution.

Please support this amendment.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word, and I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, I am listening to our friends on the other side of the aisle in opposition here and the notion about camel's nose, this train has already left the station. Eighteen years ago, the State of California voters approved medical marijuana. We now have 22 States that are doing so.

My good friend from Georgia is right. I mean, there are a million Americans now with the legal right to medical marijuana as prescribed by a physician. The problem is that the Federal Government is getting in the way. The Federal Government makes it harder for doctors and researchers to be able to do what I think my friend from Louisiana wants than it is for parents to self-medicate with buying marijuana for a child with violent epilepsy.

This amendment is important to get the Federal Government out of the way. Let this process work going forward where we can have respect for states' rights and something that makes a huge difference to hundreds of thousands of people around the country now and more in the future.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR).

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this amendment as a coauthor of it and to point out this is six Democrats and six Republicans that are authoring this. There are 33 States, three of which have just passed laws and the Governors have indicated they will sign them.

This is essentially saying, look, if you are following State law, you are a legal resident doing your business under State law, the Feds just can't come in and bust you and bust the doctors and bust the patient. It is more than half the States. So you don't have to have any opinion about the value of marijuana. This doesn't change any laws. This doesn't affect one law, just lists the States that have already legalized it only for medical purposes, only medical purposes, and says, Federal Government, in those States, in those places, you can't bust people. It seems to me a practical, reasonable amendment in this time and age.

Mr. FATTAH. Reclaiming my time, I yield to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS).

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chair, for the District of Columbia and 22 States, including Nevada, with laws in place allowing the legal use of some form of marijuana for medical purposes, this commonsense amendment simply ensures that patients do not have to live in fear when following the laws of their States and the recommendations of their doctors. Physicians in those States will not be prosecuted for prescribing the substance, and local businesses will not be shut down for dispensing the same.

I urge you vote in favor.

Mr. FATTAH. I yield to the gentlewoman from Oakland, California, Congresswoman LEE.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan amendment, which I am proud to cosponsor along with my colleagues. This amendment will provide much-needed clarity to patients and businesses in my home State of California and 31 other jurisdictions that provide safe and legal access to medicine. We should allow for the implementation of the will of the voters to comply with State laws rather than undermining our democracy.

In States with medical marijuana laws, patients face uncertainty regarding their treatment, and small business owners who have invested millions creating jobs and revenue have no assurances for the future. It is past time for the Justice Department to stop its unwarranted persecution of medical marijuana and put its resources where they are needed.

In States with medical marijuana laws, people with multiple sclerosis, glaucoma, cancer, HIV, and AIDS and other medical issues continue to face uncertainty when it comes to accessing the medicine that they need to provide some relief. So it is time to pass this. It is time to give these patients the relief that they need.

This is the humanitarian thing to do, it is the democratic thing to do, and I

hope this body will vote for it and pass it on a bipartisan basis. It is long overdue. Enough is enough.

Mr. FATTAH. Reclaiming my time, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words, and I yield to the gentleman from Maryland, Dr. HARRIS.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chair, marijuana is neither safe nor legal. Let's get it straight. The Controlled Substances Act makes marijuana in the United States illegal because it is not safe.

□ 2100

Mr. Chairman, there is more and more evidence every day that it is not safe. The effect on the brains, developing brains of teenagers and young adults, is becoming more and more clear, as the doctor from Louisiana has talked about, the effect on affect, the effect on mood; it is not safe.

Mr. Chairman, this is not a medicine. This would be like me as a physician saying: You know, I think you need penicillin, go chew on some mold. Of course I wouldn't do that. I write: for 250 milligrams of penicillin q.6 hours times 10 days. I don't write: chew on a mold a couple of times a day.

Mr. Chairman, why don't we have therapeutic tobacco? Nicotine, one of the substances in tobacco, purified is actually useful as a drug to treat autosomal dominant nocturnal frontal lobe epilepsy. Nobody writes a prescription: smoke a couple of cigarettes and cure your epilepsy. But that is what we are being asked to do.

Mr. Chairman, worse than that, this blurs the line in those States that have gone beyond medical marijuana. For instance, in Colorado, under Amendment 64, a person can grow six plants under the new law for general use, but if it is medical marijuana you can grow as many plants as you want as long you can prove you have a medicinal use.

So how is the DEA going to enforce anything when, under this amendment, they are prohibited from going into that person's house growing as many plants as they want, because that is legal under the medical marijuana part of the law, not under the new law?

Mr. Chairman, this is not the right place for this. The Ogden memorandum from this administration clearly states that the Department of Justice does not prioritize prosecution for medical marijuana—clearly states it. They don't do it. This is a solution in search of a problem that opens many other doors to the dangers of marijuana.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Louisiana (Dr. FLEMING).

Mr. FLEMING. May I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend, Mr. WOLF.

Look, first of all, let's be clear, marijuana is an addicting substance. It is

schedule I, it is against Federal law, it was passed that way into the CSA in 1970.

What this amendment would do is, it wouldn't change the law, it would just make it difficult, if not impossible, for the DEA and the Department of Justice to enforce the law.

Members on my side have been criticizing President Obama for selective enforcement of ObamaCare and for immigration and other laws like that. So now we are going to start going down the road of selective enforcement for our drug policy.

Medicinal marijuana, what is it exactly? Folks, I can tell you it is nothing more than the end run around the laws against the legalization of marijuana. There is nothing medical or medicinal about it. It is not accepted by physicians. Oh, somebody claims it may do something for glaucoma, perhaps. Well, maybe it will, maybe it won't. But there are a lot more drugs that do a much better job than that and they are much safer.

But the most important thing I want everybody to know, Mr. Chairman, today is the fact that marijuana is highly addicting. It is the most common diagnosis for addiction in admissions to rehab centers for young people. Why in the world do we want to take away drug enforcement and leave our young people out there vulnerable? Yes, you say it can only be used by adults. Well, if it is sitting around on shelves at home the kids are going to get into it. We are already hearing about Colorado fourth-graders dealing with it. We hear about more poisonings in the emergency room.

If you look at other places that have gone down this road like Alaska, they retracted from their legalization. So I don't think we should accept at all that this is history in the making and that we are never going to go back. You look at Amsterdam, they put a lot more restrictions back in the control even in that very, very liberal nation.

So for that and many reasons I would just say tonight from a legal standpoint this amendment would not be constitutional. Our laws are currently constitutional, as found so in 2005 by the Supreme Court. And this is an extremely dangerous drug for our children and future adults and future generations.

Mr. WOLF. I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Is this the close of the debate?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is correct.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, this is the most incredible debate we have had. Over half the States have already gone through every argument that was presented and decided against what you just heard. There are doctors at every one of those States that participated in a long debate over this and found exactly the opposite of what we have heard today.

Some people are suffering and if a doctor feels that he needs to prescribe

something to alleviate that suffering, it is immoral for this government to get in the way, and that is what is happening. The State governments have recognized that a doctor has a right to treat his patient any way he sees fit, and so did our Founding Fathers.

I ask for support of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Federal Bureau of Prisons to solicit, offer, or award a contract in which the federal government is required to provide a minimum number of inmates to a private correctional institution or a private detention center.

Mr. GRAYSON. For avoidance of data, I would like to have the first few words of the amendment read, please.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the Clerk will report the amendment.

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is simple. It prohibits the Federal Bureau of Prisons from soliciting, offering, or awarding a contract—and by the way, I am talking about a new contract, not an existing contract—to a for-profit prison that guarantees the number of prisoners that will be housed there.

I believe it is not only bad policy but fundamentally immoral to guarantee that our government will incarcerate a specific number of people so that a for-profit entity can guarantee its profit margin. Whether or not we agree on the main impetus for incarceration—punishment, rehabilitation, or some combination of both—I would hope that we can all agree that a perverse conflict of interest, such as the one that this amendment addresses, should not be allowed to exist to be able to guarantee a profit on human bodies.

This amendment seeks to eliminate any potential for a repeat of the "kids for cash" scandal that unfolded in 2008. In that instance, two judges from Pennsylvania accepted money from the builder of two private for-profit juvenile facilities in return for imposing harsh sentences on juveniles brought before their courts. All told, those two individuals received \$2.6 million in payments from the managers at that company.

American citizens' freedom and the length of a convicted person's prison sentence should never be a line item on a business sheet. I would hate to imagine a world in which certain segments of our society could honestly question whether or not they are being targeted purely for filling an incarceration quota guaranteed to a for-profit prison.

Let me be clear. I may not like for-profit prisons, but this amendment would not ban them nor would it have any effect on existing contracts that the Federal Government has already entered into. What it does do is it bans a practice of guaranteeing under new contracts a specific number of human beings that will be jailed or imprisoned in a given year. I think that is wrong. I hope that you do too.

I urge a "yes" vote on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I am concerned what this means for the Bureau of Prisons. I am inclined to maybe take the amendment. I think that is one of the concerns, somebody comes in without knowing.

Mr. GRAYSON. Will the gentleman yield for a question?

Mr. WOLF. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. The author of this amendment, namely me, is open to whatever ameliorating second order amendments the gentleman may care to offer. I think we may be on the same wavelength here, and I would not oppose a second order amendment if the gentleman so sought one.

Mr. WOLF. Well, we may be, and I think that is probably not a bad idea.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), the chairman of the full Judiciary Committee.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I have reservations about this that are very significant. I would oppose this amendment very strongly in its current form.

All private prison contracts provide for a guaranteed population. Without this, the contractors would operate at a significant risk which could only be addressed by significantly raising their annual operating cost, and also such language would adversely impact competition. Would contractors be willing to propose a 1,000 bed facility without