

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 125

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the National Capital Planning Commission should adopt a plan that permanently returns Pennsylvania Avenue to the use of residents, commuters, and visitors to the Nation's capital and that protects the security of the people who live and work in the White House, and that the President should adopt and implement such a plan.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2001

Mrs. MORELLA (for herself, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. PETRI, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. FRANK, and Mr. CLAY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the National Capital Planning Commission should adopt a plan that permanently returns Pennsylvania Avenue to the use of residents, commuters, and visitors to the Nation's capital and that protects the security of the people who live and work in the White House, and that the President should adopt and implement such a plan.

Whereas in 1791 President George Washington commissioned Pierre Charles L'Enfant to draft a blueprint for American's new capital city, and they envisioned Pennsylvania Avenue as a bold, ceremonial boulevard physically linking

the United States Capitol building and the White House, and symbolically linking the legislative and executive branches of government;

Whereas Pennsylvania Avenue stood for 195 years and served as a vital, unbroken roadway, critical to the economic vitality and commerce of the District of Columbia and the surrounding region;

Whereas on May 20, 1995, citing possible security risks from vehicles transporting terrorist bombs, President Clinton ordered the Department of the Treasury and the Secret Service to close temporarily the two blocks of Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House to vehicular traffic;

Whereas the temporary closing is almost in its sixth year and continues to significantly impede and congest traffic, forcing costly and inconvenient delays on residents, commuters, and tourists, adding to already severe air pollution, placing additional financial burdens through lost revenues on the District of Columbia Government, and curtailing commerce;

Whereas while the security of the President and his family and visitors to the White House is of obvious concern, the need to assure the President's safety does not conflict with our principles of open and accessible institutions;

Whereas locally elected leadership, including the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Council of the District of Columbia, and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, which consists of representatives of local governments throughout the Washington metropolitan region, urges the President to reopen Pennsylvania Avenue;

Whereas the National Capital Planning Commission, the Federal Government's central planning authority in the Nation's Capital, established a task force to evaluate the impact of security measures around the White House and national memorials and Federal buildings in the city's monumental core and to evaluate various proposals to reopen Pennsylvania Avenue;

Whereas the Federal City Council and others have put forward plans which would reopen Pennsylvania Avenue while enhancing the security of the White House; and

Whereas the National Capital Planning Commission will recommend by July of this year a design to the President and the Congress that balances security needs while ensuring that Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House is accessible and open: Now, therefore, be it;

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that the National Capital Planning Commis-
3 sion should adopt a plan that permanently returns Penn-
4 sylvania Avenue to the use of residents, commuters, and
5 visitors to the Nation's capital and that protects the secu-
6 rity of the people who live and work in the White House,
7 and that the President should adopt and implement such
8 a plan.

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