

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 812

To amend the Office of National Drug Control Policy Act Reauthorization Act of 1998 to ensure that adequate funding is provided for certain high intensity drug trafficking areas.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself and Mr. SOUDER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Office of National Drug Control Policy Act Reauthorization Act of 1998 to ensure that adequate funding is provided for certain high intensity drug trafficking areas.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Dawson Family Com-
5 munity Protection Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) In the early morning hours of October 16,
4 2002, the home of Carnell and Angela Dawson was
5 firebombed in apparent retaliation for Mrs.
6 Dawson's notification of police about persistent drug
7 distribution activity in their East Baltimore City
8 neighborhood.

9 (2) The arson claimed the lives of Mr. and Mrs.
10 Dawson and their 5 young children, aged 9 to 14.

11 (3) The horrific murder of the Dawson family
12 is a stark example of domestic narco-terrorism.

13 (4) In all phases of counter-narcotics law en-
14 forcement—from prevention to investigation to pros-
15 ecution to reentry—the voluntary cooperation of or-
16 dinary citizens is a critical component.

17 (5) Voluntary cooperation is difficult for law en-
18 forcement officials to obtain when citizens feel that
19 cooperation carries the risk of violent retaliation by
20 illegal drug trafficking organizations and their affili-
21 ates.

22 (6) Public confidence that law enforcement is
23 doing all it can to make communities safe is a pre-
24 requisite for voluntary cooperation among people
25 who may be subject to intimidation or reprisal (or
26 both).

1 (7) Witness protection programs are insufficient
2 on their own to provide security because many indi-
3 viduals and families who strive everyday to make
4 distressed neighborhoods livable for their children,
5 other relatives, and neighbors will resist or refuse of-
6 fers of relocation by local, State, and Federal pros-
7 ecutorial agencies and because, moreover, the contin-
8 ued presence of strong individuals and families is
9 critical to preserving and strengthening the social
10 fabric in such communities.

11 (8) Where (as in certain sections of Baltimore
12 City) interstate trafficking of illegal drugs has severe
13 ancillary local consequences within areas designated
14 as High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas, it is im-
15 portant that supplementary HIDTA Program funds
16 be committed to support initiatives aimed at making
17 the affected communities safe for the residents of
18 those communities and encouraging their coopera-
19 tion with local, State, and Federal law enforcement
20 efforts to combat illegal drug trafficking.

21 **SEC. 3. FUNDING FOR CERTAIN HIGH INTENSITY DRUG**
22 **TRAFFICKING AREAS.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 707(d) of the Office of
24 National Drug Control Policy Act Reauthorization Act of

1 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1760(d); Public Law 105–277; 112 Stat.
2 2681–670) is amended—

3 (1) by striking “The Director” and inserting
4 the following:

5 “(1) LIMITATION.—The Director”; and

6 (2) by adding at the end the following new
7 paragraph:

8 “(2) SPECIFIC PURPOSES.—The Director shall
9 ensure that, of the amounts appropriated for a fiscal
10 year for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas
11 Program, at least \$5,000,000 is used in high inten-
12 sity drug trafficking areas with severe neighborhood
13 safety and illegal drug distribution problems. The
14 funds shall be used—

15 “(A) to ensure the safety of neighborhoods
16 and the protection of communities, including
17 the prevention of the intimidation of potential
18 witnesses of illegal drug distribution and related
19 activities; and

20 “(B) to combat illegal drug trafficking
21 through such methods as the Director considers
22 appropriate, such as establishing or operating
23 (or both) a toll-free telephone hotline for use by

1 the public to provide information about illegal
2 drug-related activities.”.

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