

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for his kindness.

Mr. Speaker, I rise with the same kind of outrage that has been expressed by my colleagues, but I also understand the frustration and the pleas that has been made by the gentleman from Texas [Mr. REYES]. So I rise in opposition to the rule because I believe there is more that could have been done.

It is crucial that we acknowledge that this is not, this question of drug usage and drug devastation, it is not a Democratic problem or a Republican problem, it is an American problem. I think it is important for us to rise on this floor and come together to associate ourselves with a resolution that is an American resolution.

The Federal Government now spends currently \$15 billion per year in the war on drugs. But, interestingly enough, as it is under President Clinton, it has not been substantially or was not substantially different under President Bush. We focused a lot on border control, interdiction, law enforcement, punishment, and prevention. We do work some with education, treatment, and rehabilitation.

Individuals in my community suffer extensively. Black men comprise 12 percent of the total population; 13 percent of drug users, 35 percent of arrests and 55 percent of convictions.

I want a real solution. I want to acknowledge that there are problems with Mexico, but yet we can find data that says that the Mexican officials seized 30 percent more marijuana in 1995, which in turn was up 40 percent over 1994. Cocaine seizures went from 22.2 tons to 23.8 tons, and heroin seizures increased 78 percent from 1995.

So I think we need to recognize that work has been done. We have sufficiently cooperated with many Mexican officials so that the extradition process has been expanded.

I want to see us come together around solutions, to emphasize treatment, to emphasize the importance of bringing down the desire for drugs in our community. I do not want to see us not recognize the problems in Colombia or Mexico, but I do realize that we must do more about international smuggling, we must do more about money laundering, and in that instance I am disappointed that the Schiff amendment substitute was not considered to be brought to the floor of the House. I appreciate that there were those who supported this in the Committee on Rules.

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This had viable solutions by offering it as a sense of Congress:

First, the suggestion to dismantle major drug cartels and arrest and prosecute leaders of such cartels; that we would continue to work to implement effective legislation for Mexico to prohibit money laundering.

We would also like to achieve compliance with Mexico with outstanding ex-

tradition requests, and that effort has been enhanced; we need more of that. That we would work to increase the interdiction of narcotics and other controlled substances, and we would do more on prevention and treatment, I might add.

It again does this Congress no good and it does us great ill, if you will, in international relations and working with countries to improve this cooperative effort in fighting drugs if we castigate an administration that has shown itself well with the drug czar, that we are concerned about decreasing the amount of drugs that have come into this country, and to have an amendment on the floor that has been offered now that gives some and then takes some away by castigating the hard work of DEA agents, border control agents, and the various other Federal employees that have worked so hard with local government, with the President, and treatment programs, it does not show itself well, and does not get the job done in terms of helping Mexico do what it is supposed to do.

I am frustrated by this process. I want action, but I want us to recognize that it is an American problem and we must treat it as such, to make sure we can fight this drug problem and help the American citizens get rid of it.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. PAUL].

(Mr. PAUL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today, we are potentially faced with a vote to decertify Mexico for not cooperating with the United States to adequately fight the war on drugs. This is yet another of the truly frustrating votes in which a Member of Congress is forced to choose between two alternatives, both of which mandate not only an unconstitutional use of American taxpayer's dollars but pursue an ineffective policy action.

President Clinton recently certified Mexico as a good drug warrior. However, absent some procedural maneuvering to remove a waiver that allows the President to release Mexican foreign assistance notwithstanding decertification, the only choice we as Members of Congress will be left with is: First, certify Mexico and further encourage an obviously corrupt political regime to continue its corruption-based, prohibition-era-style activities with a check from the United States taxpayers in the amount of \$25 million; or, second, decertify Mexico and pressure that same regime to increase its corruption-based, prohibition-era-style activities with a check from the United States taxpayers in the amount of \$25 million.

Voting against certification does little more than pressure Mexico to pretend it's cracking down on drug producers. Voting for certification condones the President's position that Mexico is doing everything possible and the corruption remains both ignored and subsidized. This vote has become meaningless; the process of Mexican certification has become a kind of political dog and pony show. Unfortunately for the American taxpayer, foreign aid will continue to flow to Mexico regardless of the vote and regardless of whether this

money accomplishes anything positive or productive.

Today's war on drugs consists of inherently defective tactics and, as such, a new approach to the drug problem is desperately warranted. If we are going to be honest with ourselves, we would have to decertify our border guards, prison wardens, and school principals; after all, we cannot even keep drugs out of our own country, prisons, or schools.

We never seem to learn anything from our failures. Two years ago Texas banned smoking in all prisons. The price of a 99-cent pack of cigarettes suddenly soared to \$25 within the prison system, yet smoking continues while corruption thrives. Just last year, 40 prison employees faced felony charges for dealing in cigarettes.

I cannot possibly vote to certify Mexico as a drug warrior obediently taking orders from the United States Government. How can I in good conscience vote for a resolution to decertify Mexico whether it has teeth in it or not since our whole approach to the drug problem is flawed and doomed to fail. Most Members recognize this and thus, the frustration with this resolution.

This resolution, whether it passes or fails, embraces and subsidizes the same flaws prohibition-era approach and does little more than increase potential corruption and crime. The sooner we realize and acknowledge this, the better.

I urge a no vote on the rule.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] the chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 95, the rule for consideration of House Joint Resolution 58.

First, I would like to thank the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] for his skillful work on this proposed rule, and the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON], chairman of the Committee on Rules, for his support of our resolution.

House Joint Resolution 58, introduced by the gentleman from Florida [Mr. SHAW], disapproves the President's recent certification that Mexico had cooperated fully with the United States' antidrug efforts last year. This resolution of disapproval was reported favorably by the Committee on International Relations by a bipartisan vote of 27 to 5. This measure is supported by our ranking member, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] as well as the leadership of both parties.

Mr. Speaker, the latest data indicates that 60 percent of the illegal drugs entering our Nation passed through Mexico. That figure may be higher. It is a conservative estimate. If we do not work together to confront this problem, thousands of Mexican and American citizens, particularly our young people, will pay a terrible price. That is why we expect that our friends in Mexico would give their very best efforts, along with our Nation, to confront this terrible threat.