

I voted Yes on H.R. 4201, the Servicemember Family Protection Act.

The Servicemember Family Protection Act would enhance the protections that are offered to deploying servicemen and women in court-ordered child custody arrangements. As a co-sponsor of this bill, I believe we owe it to our men and women in uniform to provide consistent legal standards regarding child custody. This bill would create a uniform national standard for court-ordered child custody determinations by stating that if a court renders a temporary order for custodial responsibility for a servicemember's child based solely on their deployment, the original custody order must be reinstated following their return, unless the court finds that such a reinstatement would not be in the in child's best interest. Our men and women in uniform should not have to worry about whether their commitment to our country and their duty as a member of the military will result in the loss of custody of their children. We have a responsibility to defend those who defend us, and this bill would provide such protections.

The bill was approved by a vote of 390 – 2.