

Private Law 100-8
100th Congress

003875 SEP 491

An Act

Apr. 12, 1988
[H.R. 2819]

For the relief of Tracey McFarlane.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, notwithstanding her age, Tracey McFarlane may be naturalized under section 322 of the Immigration and Nationality Act if a petition is filed on her behalf pursuant to that section not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

Approved April 12, 1988.

Dear Sir:

I would like to express my anger to the elected officials of the government. If anyone in the United States deserves an apology from the Congress and the Senate, it is the men and women who serve this country and have fought for its freedom and the military malpractice vets. The reason I am saying this is, take a look at the above Bill. We all know that private Bills cannot be passed. How, then did this private Bill pass? We know that it did not pass by itself.

The tragedy in the United States today is that, the Congress and Senate is more interested in winning metals in the Olympics than helping a military malpractice vet who has been butchered by military doctors. Why does someone who has not served one day or contributed anything to protect this country, get preferential treatment over people whose blood has been spilled all over this world to protect this country?

But, I guess one day, Tracey McFarlane can tell her kids how great America is. But what will I tell my kids, who has lost a father because of this country? When will the Congress or Senate stand up and fight for military malpractice vets who has suffered for years? What has Tracey McFarlane suffered from?

Are there two kinds of justice in this country; one for Tracey McFarlane and one for [REDACTED]? IF SO, WHY? If not, why can't I get the same support that Tracey got?

Every human in America should be able to get his or her first amendment rights, or to get his or her day in court, so they can receive justice. That's the American way. Tracey had not been in this country five years and she was treated the American way. I WAS BORN HERE. I did my time for my country. But when it came to justice for me, my country looked the other way. That tells me, there are two kinds of justice in America.

I am hoping there is someone in the Congress or the Senate that can see how I've been butchered and abused by my country and denied justice all of these years.

My private bill has been in Congress since 1985. Only one Congressman came to my defense. How many got on the band wagon for Tracey McFarlane? I am 50 years old today. This government made me a cripple at the age of 24. I have had 16 knee surgeries. I will have to have more surgeries until I reach the age of 65, when I will have to have plastic knees.

My Bill number is 760. Who will come to my rescue? I am only one person standing up for justice for myself. If you were in my position, I am quite sure that you would do the same thing. How long will Congress and the Senate stand by and let GI's be butchered by incompetent military doctors and not lift a finger to stop this brutality? It is no more than right for anyone in America to gain justice, and that is all that I am asking.

[REDACTED]
Huntington Beach, CA. 92649
[REDACTED]

Please do a program on military malpractice, or let me be on your program. The public had a right to know what happen to us. Will you help



SAN BERNARDINO
COUNTY

The Sun

FRIDAY
March 8,
1991 ★★★

Highland man asks House panel for his day in court

By [REDACTED]
Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON—Willie Harris should have his day in court, but getting his complaint against the Air Force before a judge will be a difficult task, members of a House judiciary panel told him Thursday.

Harris claims that the more than 100 steroid shots he unwittingly accepted more than 26 years ago so he could carry the Kirtland Air Force Base basketball team to victory have left him disabled and in pain.

But the 48-year-old Highland man has been barred from suing the Air Force by a 1950 Supreme Court ruling that forbids most lawsuits against the military services.

Harris wants an exemption.

"They shot me up with steroids, and didn't even tell me it was steroids, just to win a basketball game," Harris told a House judiciary panel.

A bill that would allow him to

take the issue to court has been stuck in the committee for three years.

The so-called private relief bill, originally sponsored by Rep. Robert Dornan, R-Garden Grove, and now carried by Rep. George Brown, D-Riverside, would waive the Air Force's legal veil of protection.

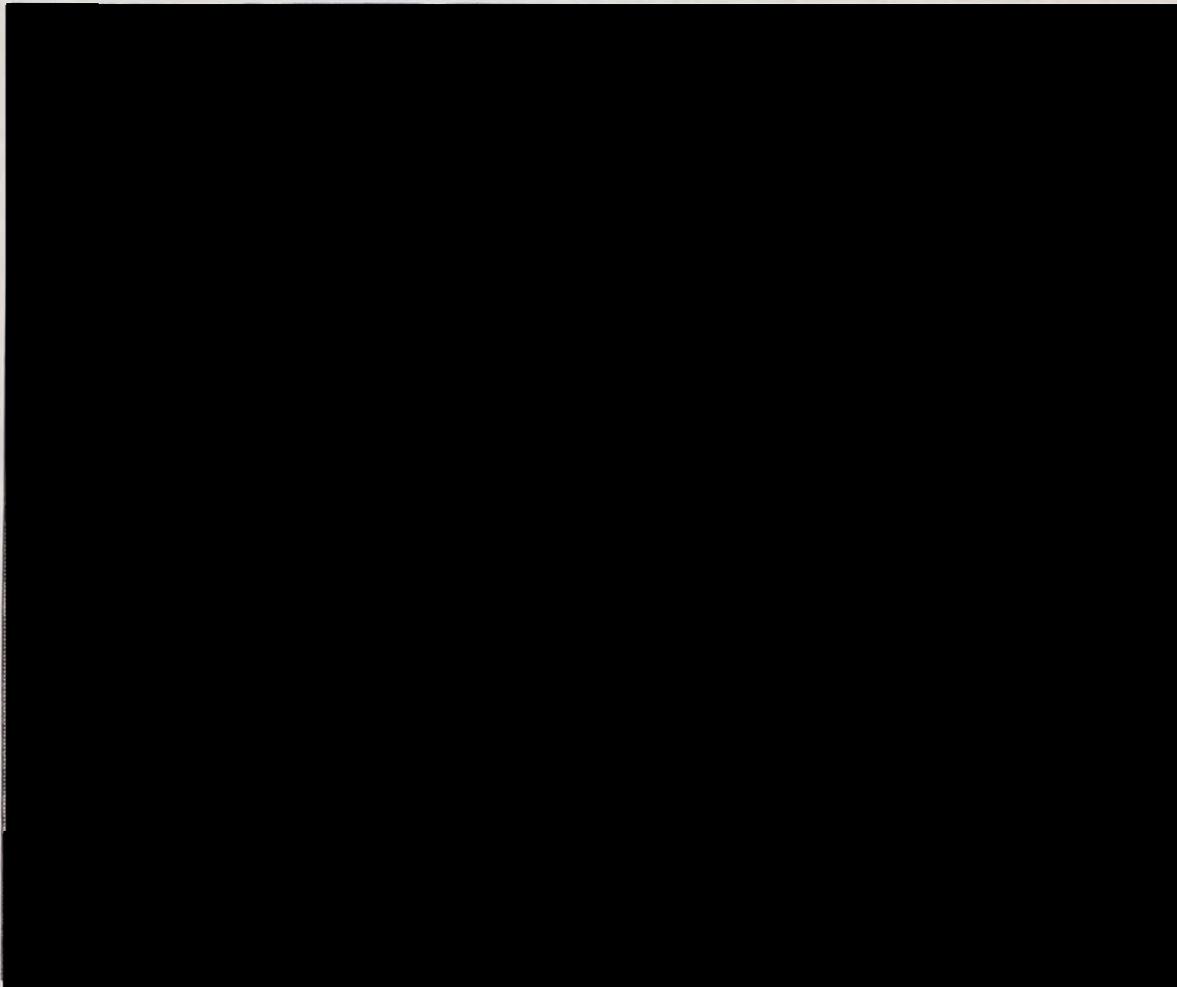
While members cautioned Harris of the difficulty in passing such legislation, Judiciary subcommittee Chairman Barney Frank, D-Mass., was clearly moved by Harris' story.

"You certainly have our sympathy and our admiration," Frank said, after Harris brandished X-rays of his collapsed knees and told of recurring night sweats and pain.

Harris' nightmare began in 1964. He was serving in the motor pool at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico when the base team learned of his talents.

The base commander ordered him transferred to special services so he could concentrate on his game, then pressured him to

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AP WIREPHOTO

Willie Harris holds up X-rays of his knees Thursday before the House Judiciary Committee in Washington, D.C.

House: Highland man pleads for day in court

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do almost nothing else, Harris said.

The officers even forced him to play at a distant base the day his first son was born, he said.

"Don't worry, we'll arrange transportation to make sure your wife gets to the hospital," Harris

said he was told by a senior officer.

He said he wasn't able to see the baby for three weeks.

After an injury, the team physician started injecting his knees with the steroid cortisone; it wiped out the pain at the time, but made the cartilage and bone as brittle as chalk, Harris said.

Harris could no longer play, but he could walk when he was discharged three years later.

He took a job as a Hollywood stuntman, but that ended in 1972 when what would have been a minor accident crushed his brittle knees.

Harris, who has undergone surgery 15 times, now walks with heavy braces.

"I lost two careers because of this," said Harris, who now lives

on a \$1,600-a-month disability pension.

Brown, who joined Harris at the hearing to speak on his behalf, said the point for Congress is not to make a determination of right or wrong, but just to allow the matter to be heard in court.

"He deserves the opportunity for a fair hearing," Brown said.

The bill requires a unanimous vote to get out of Frank's subcommittee — difficult but not impossible, the chairman said. A vote sending the bill to the full Judiciary Committee and possibly to the House floor could come in the next few months.

Frank warned, however, that success in the House doesn't mean success in the Senate.

"What happens then, if the House passes it and the Senate doesn't?" Frank said. "Nothing."