

February 27, 2002

Statement of Representative Edward J. Markey (D-Ma) on the Introduction of the Paul Revere Freedom to Warn Act

As the Representative of the towns that the original Paul Revere rode through on his way to warn the Minutemen of Lexington and Concord of the impending British Invasion, I am pleased to join today in introducing the "Paul Revere Freedom to Warn Act."

With apologies to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, I would like to offer the following brief remarks in support of this bill:

Listen my children and you shall hear  
Of a bill to help today's Paul Reveres  
In this February of Two thousand and two  
We're introducing it for a brave few  
Who blow the whistle when dangers appear.

Today Paul Revere is a hero for all  
And those here today have echoed his call  
They've risen up to warn of dangers at hand  
At nuclear sites all over the land  
They warned the FAA of problems galore  
Yet for years their warnings were largely ignored  
They warned of security at Livermore  
And instead of rewarding these brave few  
They were fired but could not then sue.

Through day and night ride these Paul Reveres  
And we must protect their right to sound the alarm  
To every business and government arm  
A cry of warning, when trouble is near,  
They're a voice in the darkness, a warning at the door,  
And their rights should be protected for evermore!  
For, borne on the night-wind of the Past,  
Through all our history, to the last,  
In the hour of darkness and peril and need,  
The people will waken and listen to hear  
Warnings of waste, wrongdoing, or greed,  
And protect our modern-day Paul Reveres.