

As I sit, sometimes in despair, watching my friends get out their calculators to figure out the 15 percent or 20 percent tip, I think this would be wonderful legislation to move forward.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3588, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3588, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. TIFFANY. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

BRYCEN GRAY AND BEN PRICE COVID-19 COGNITIVE RESEARCH ACT

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7180) to authorize the Director of the National Science Foundation to award grants to support research on the disruption of regular cognitive processes associated with COVID-19 infection, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7180

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Brycen Gray and Ben Price COVID-19 Cognitive Research Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term "Director" means the Director of the National Science Foundation;

(2) the term "National Academies" means the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine; and

(3) the term "eligible entity" means an institution of higher education (as such term is defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) or a consortium composed of non-profit organizations and institutions of higher education.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted nearly every aspect of life across the globe. Furthermore, it has produced major disruptions of individual's physical and mental health, including with respect of children and adolescents.

(2) Historical epidemiological perspectives suggest an association between exposure to general respiratory viruses and subsequent disruption of regular cognitive processes.

(3) Early research suggests that one in three individuals diagnosed with a COVID-19 infection experiences a disruption of regular cognitive processes within six months of such diagnosis.

(4) Research is urgently needed to better understand why disruption in regular cognitive processes occur in patients as a con-

sequence of a COVID-19 infection and how long such disruptions can continue after recovery.

(5) The National Science Foundation has a deep history of supporting interdisciplinary, basic research that spans the social, behavioral, and fundamental biological sciences and paves the way for scientific advancements.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RESEARCH.

The Director shall award grants to eligible entities, including through the RAPID funding mechanism, on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis to support interdisciplinary research on the disruption of regular cognitive processes associated with both short-term and long-term COVID-19 infections, including with respect to children and adolescents. Such research may include the following:

(1) Foundational studies on the effects of cognition, emotion, and neural structure and function relating to any disruption of regular cognitive processes associated with COVID-19 infection.

(2) Analysis of findings on the disruption of regular cognitive processes associated with COVID-19 infection, including the development of predictive theoretical frameworks to guide future research.

(3) Development of physical and conceptual tools needed to evaluate cognition, emotion, and neural structure and function of the brain as a consequence of a COVID-19 infection, and the potential relevance of such infection to the disruption of regular cognitive processes.

(4) Studies on the relevance of psychological and psychosocial factors, including major disruptions of physical health, mental health, and economic stability associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, on the disruption of regular cognitive processes, including an identification and evaluation of such factors.

(5) Any other activities the Director determines will support interdisciplinary research and collaboration on the disruption of regular cognitive processes associated with COVID-19 infection, including with respect to children and adolescents.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL ACADEMIES STUDY ON THE DISRUPTION OF COGNITIVE PROCESSES ASSOCIATED WITH COVID-19 INFECTION.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall enter into an agreement with the National Academies to study and produce a report on the disruption of cognitive processes associated with COVID-19 infection. The study shall—

(A) review the research literature and identify research gaps regarding Federal programs and activities with roles in addressing both short-term and long-term consequences associated with COVID-19 infection;

(B) assess the necessity of establishing causal inference approaches into research on the impacts of COVID-19 infection on cognitive processes to determine reverse causation;

(C) evaluate and make recommendations regarding the coordination of research and data collection, including with respect to children and adolescents, to identify the disruption of regular cognitive processes associated with COVID-19 infection, including long-term COVID-19;

(D) evaluate impacts of COVID-19 infection on populations under-represented in cognitive literature, such as poor, rural, and minority populations; and

(E) make recommendations regarding ways to coordinate engagement with researchers and stakeholders from universities, industry, public health organizations, State and local

governments, elementary and secondary educational organizations, and non-profit organizations to ensure that research, information, and best practices relating to the disruption of regular cognitive processes associated with COVID-19 infection, including long-term COVID-19, are shared among such entities.

(2) COMPLETION.—The study required under paragraph (1) shall be completed by not later than the date that is 16 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) REPORTS.—

(1) BY THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES.—Upon completion of the study under subsection (a), the National Academies shall transmit to the Director and Congress a report on such study.

(2) BY THE DIRECTOR.—Not later than three months after receipt of the report under paragraph (1), the Director shall transmit to Congress a summary of the Director's plans, if any, to implement the recommendations of the National Academies contained in such report.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Director to carry out this Act \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2023, to remain available through fiscal year 2025, of which \$1,000,000 is authorized to carry out the study and produce the reports under section 5.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 7180, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7180, the Brycen Gray and Ben Price COVID-19 Cognitive Research Act. I thank Representative GONZALEZ for introducing this important bill.

The COVID-19 crisis has disrupted our lives in countless ways over the past 2 years. As many of us continue to pick up the pieces and settle into a new normal, we can't lose sight of those who haven't been as fortunate.

Early research results indicate that a COVID-19 infection may leave individuals with an increased risk of developing mental health conditions. Millions who have been infected with COVID-19 now find themselves saddled with crippling anxiety, depression, and sleep problems, and they may be at an increased risk of death by suicide and drug overdose.

□ 1530

While researchers are raising alarms about these risks, improved data collection and additional research is needed to better understand the mental health implications of a COVID-19 infection. This bill directs the National

Science Foundation to rally the research community to take on this task.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 7180, and I thank my colleague, Mr. GONZALEZ, for introducing and championing this important legislation.

The Brycen Gray and Ben Price COVID-19 Cognitive Research Act directs the National Science Foundation to support research on the long-term neurological effects of COVID, particularly in adolescents. It also instructs NSF to commission a National Academies study on the disruption of cognitive processes associated with COVID.

This bill is named for two men who died by suicide after suffering neurological problems caused by COVID-19.

Tragically, there have been numerous instances of psychosis developed after COVID illnesses. The neurological effects of this disease is not well understood, and H.R. 7180 will help to change that.

Research on this issue has been progressing as we continue to learn more about the long-term effects of the disease. This bill will help accelerate these efforts to better inform the public and medical community; and hopefully, it will prevent more tragic deaths from occurring.

I again thank Representative GONZALEZ for his hard work on behalf of his constituents.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GONZALEZ).

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, the Brycen Gray and Ben Price COVID-19 Cognitive Research Act. I was proud to introduce this legislation alongside my friends Ms. WILD, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. MELJER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. JOYCE, and Mr. GIBBS, and I thank each of them for their leadership on the issue. I also thank the two wonderful leaders of our committee, Chairwoman JOHNSON and Ranking Member LUCAS, and their staffs for moving this important legislation forward.

Before I get into the heart of the bill, I will take a minute to share a little bit about who Brycen Gray and Ben Price were.

Brycen Gray was a 17-year-old young man from my district in northeast Ohio. Adored by his parents, Shawn and Tara, as well as his brothers, Ricky and Patrick, Brycen sadly passed a little over a year ago. Known for his quick wit and sense of humor with just the right amount of sarcasm,

Brycen could inspire the kind of laughter that makes you cry. Brycen was loving, charismatic, and selfless. Brycen was the kind of kid every parent dreams of.

Ben Price was a 48-year-old loving husband to his wife Jennifer, and a devoted father to their two amazing children Jett and Maya. Sadly, we lost Ben at the beginning of last year. Ben was a busy small business owner and farmer from the outskirts of Chicago, but his life revolved around his family, friends, and community. One of his passions was to jump-start the Special Connections of Grundy County, whose mission is to connect people with disabilities, like his beloved son Jett, to their community. Ben led by example and loved without reservation.

Both Brycen and Ben tragically passed after battles with cognitive impairments caused by COVID-19. Despite having no history of mental illness, each of them began to battle symptoms such as anxiety, panic, and paranoia. The disease took Brycen and Ben from two of the healthiest, most vibrant people you could find to individuals so debilitated that they could not bear to live another day. While they fought to the bitter end, each chose to end their pain.

There is no greater joy than being a parent. For those of us blessed to have children, we know it is the most important job any of us will ever have. To be sure, there are plenty of challenges attributed to the job. There is nothing more rewarding than watching your children grow, while at the same time there is nothing more terrifying than watching your children experience the tragedies that befell Brycen and Ben.

That is why the health and safety of our children should always come first. That is exactly why I started working on this bill. If we believe in protecting our families, we need to act now and start finding answers to why COVID-19 can have such a significant impact on the brain.

The legislation before us today is another important step in that effort. Thus far, we have learned that as many as one in three COVID-19 survivors experience a cognitive impairment following their acute infection. More alarming, nearly one in eight COVID-19 survivors are diagnosed with an illness for the first time. With nearly 80 million documented cases of infection in the U.S., the health implications could be massive.

While anxiety, mood, and brain fog are among the most common symptoms, researchers have also uncovered a prevalence of serious complications such as psychosis, dementia, paralysis, and brain hemorrhages. Moreover, additional impairments related to cognitive syndrome like impairments in memory, executive function, attention, and speed of information are common among COVID-19 survivors.

Despite the significant progress made by researchers to improve our understanding of COVID-19, it remains un-

clear how the virus alters brain function, who is most at risk, and what can be done to quickly diagnose and treat impacted patients.

The Brycen Gray and Ben Price COVID-19 Cognitive Research Act aims to close these gaps by accelerating our research efforts. Specifically, it authorizes the NSF to award grants on a competitive basis to support interdisciplinary research on the disruption of regular cognitive processes associated with both short-term and long-term COVID-19 infections.

Grantees will be tasked with carrying out foundational studies on the effects of cognition, emotion, neural structure, and function related to COVID-19 infections, developing new tools to evaluate cognitive disruptions from COVID-19, and examining the relevance of psychological and psychosocial factors. In addition, the bill stands up a team at the National Academies to study and produce a report on the issue.

We can't bring Brycen and Ben back, but we can ensure that their memories live on. I don't want to lose any more Americans because we weren't bold enough to take on an issue that might scare us, an issue we don't fully understand, an issue that is far more common than many in this body realize.

No family should have to endure the tragedy of losing a loved one from COVID-19's cognitive impacts. The Brycen Gray and Ben Price COVID-19 Cognitive Research Act ensures we will do everything in our power to find answers and deliver solutions. We cannot afford to lose any more time.

Again, I thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and Ranking Member LUCAS for their constant, incredible leadership on our committee. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

This legislation reflects how Congress can work in a bipartisan way to address difficult issues that our constituents are facing. The deaths of Brycen Gray and Ben Price due to COVID psychosis were unexpected and tragic.

While their memories will live on through their families and friends, we can give them a further memorial through the passage of this legislation and, hopefully, prevent more tragedies like this in the future.

H.R. 7180 represents a grassroots effort to address the issue in a thoughtful and meaningful way.

Again, I thank my friend Mr. GONZALEZ for championing this legislation. Many times, people who observe this body may think it is all about political tit-for-tat or it is about making noise or directing time and energy in a fashion that is less than productive. What Congressman GONZALEZ has demonstrated here today in the case of both Brycen and Ben is that we are

people, too, as Members. This tragedy touched Mr. GONZALEZ and compelled him to respond legislatively to make sure that other families can be spared what the Grays and Prices have gone through. It is a testament to my colleague from Ohio (Mr. GONZALEZ) and a statement that we are basically good and decent people in this place. We just need to focus on the priorities that are important to our fellow Americans as Congressman GONZALEZ is doing today.

Madam Speaker, I urge the passage of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I, too, thank Congressman GONZALEZ for offering this bill. I suspect there is nary a family represented in this body that has not been touched by a mental illness at one point or another and the tragedy and the suffering that that involves. We have all seen what happens with the loss of a child.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7180, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7180.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. TIFFANY. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SAFE CONNECTIONS ACT OF 2022

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7132) to preserve safe access to communications services for survivors of domestic violence and other crimes, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7132

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Safe Connections Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

Except as otherwise provided in this Act, terms used in this Act that are defined in section 345(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as added by section 4 of this Act, have the meanings given those terms in such section 345(a).

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual assault, human trafficking, and related crimes are life-threatening issues and have lasting and harmful effects on individuals, families, and entire communities.

(2) Survivors often lack meaningful support and options when establishing independ-

ence from an abuser, including barriers such as financial insecurity and limited access to reliable communications tools to maintain essential connections with family, social safety networks, employers, and support services.

(3) Perpetrators of violence and abuse described in paragraph (1) increasingly use technological and communications tools to exercise control over, monitor, and abuse their victims.

(4) Communications law can play a public interest role in the promotion of safety, life, and property with respect to the types of violence and abuse described in paragraph (1). For example, independent access to a wireless phone plan can assist survivors in establishing security and autonomy.

(5) Safeguards within communications services can serve a role in preventing abuse and narrowing the digital divide experienced by survivors of abuse.

SEC. 4. PROTECTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WITHIN COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES.

Part I of title III of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 345. PROTECTION OF SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, AND RELATED CRIMES.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ABUSER.—The term ‘abuser’ means an individual who has committed or allegedly committed a covered act against—

“(A) an individual who seeks relief under subsection (b); or

“(B) an individual in the care of an individual who seeks relief under subsection (b).

“(2) COVERED ACT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘covered act’ means conduct that constitutes—

“(i) a crime described in section 4002(a) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291(a)), including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sex trafficking;

“(ii) an act or practice described in paragraph (11) or (12) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102) (relating to severe forms of trafficking in persons and sex trafficking, respectively); or

“(iii) an act under State law, Tribal law, or the Uniform Code of Military Justice that is similar to an offense described in clause (i) or (ii).

“(B) CONVICTION NOT REQUIRED.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall be construed to require a criminal conviction or any other determination of a court in order for conduct to constitute a covered act.

“(3) COVERED PROVIDER.—The term ‘covered provider’ means a provider of a private mobile service or commercial mobile service, as those terms are defined in section 332(d).

“(4) PRIMARY ACCOUNT HOLDER.—The term ‘primary account holder’ means an individual who is a party to a mobile service contract with a covered provider.

“(5) SHARED MOBILE SERVICE CONTRACT.—The term ‘shared mobile service contract’—

“(A) means a mobile service contract for an account that includes not less than 2 consumers; and

“(B) does not include enterprise services offered by a covered provider.

“(6) SURVIVOR.—The term ‘survivor’ means an individual who is not less than 18 years old and—

“(A) against whom a covered act has been committed or allegedly committed; or

“(B) who cares for another individual against whom a covered act has been committed or allegedly committed (provided that the individual providing care did not commit or allegedly commit the covered act).

“(b) SEPARATION OF LINES FROM SHARED MOBILE SERVICE CONTRACT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 business days after receiving a completed line separation request from a survivor pursuant to subsection (c), a covered provider shall, as applicable, with respect to a shared mobile service contract under which the survivor and the abuser each use a line—

“(A) separate the line of the survivor, and the line of any individual in the care of the survivor, from the shared mobile service contract; or

“(B) separate the line of the abuser from the shared mobile service contract.

“(2) LIMITATIONS ON PENALTIES, FEES, AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—Except as provided in paragraphs (5) through (7), a covered provider may not make separation of a line from a shared mobile service contract under paragraph (1) contingent on any requirement other than the requirements under subsection (c), including—

“(A) payment of a fee, penalty, or other charge;

“(B) maintaining contractual or billing responsibility of a separated line with the provider;

“(C) approval of separation by the primary account holder, if the primary account holder is not the survivor;

“(D) a prohibition or limitation, including one described in subparagraph (A), on number portability, provided such portability is technically feasible, or a request to change phone numbers;

“(E) a prohibition or limitation on the separation of lines as a result of arrears accrued by the account;

“(F) an increase in the rate charged for the mobile service plan of the primary account holder with respect to service on any remaining line or lines; or

“(G) any other limitation or requirement not listed under subsection (c).

“(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in paragraph (2) shall be construed to require a covered provider to provide a rate plan for the primary account holder that is not otherwise commercially available.

“(4) REMOTE OPTION.—A covered provider shall offer a survivor the ability to submit a line separation request under subsection (c) through secure remote means that are easily navigable, provided that remote options are commercially available and technically feasible.

“(5) RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRANSFERRED TELEPHONE NUMBERS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), beginning on the date on which a covered provider transfers billing responsibilities for and use of a telephone number or numbers to a survivor under paragraph (1)(A) in response to a line separation request submitted by the survivor under subsection (c), unless ordered otherwise by a court, the survivor shall assume financial responsibility, including for monthly service costs, for the transferred telephone number or numbers.

“(6) RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRANSFERRED TELEPHONE NUMBERS FROM A SURVIVOR’S ACCOUNT.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), upon the transfer of a telephone number under paragraph (1)(B) in response to a line separation request submitted by a survivor under subsection (c), the survivor shall have no further financial responsibilities to the transferring covered provider for the services provided by the transferring covered provider for the telephone number or for any mobile device associated with the telephone number.

“(7) RESPONSIBILITY FOR MOBILE DEVICE.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), beginning on the date on which a covered provider transfers billing responsibilities for and rights to a telephone number or numbers to a survivor