



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024

No. 8

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 16, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ADRIAN SMITH to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2024, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL FOR HOUSING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, this is a picture of 3-year-old Jose Urribarri, who is a member of a migrant family in Chicago. Freezing weather is just one of the challenges facing families like Jose's as stable housing options disappear in the dead of winter.

Catholic Charities of Chicago is one of our local agencies leading the way

and moving families from police station floors into better accommodations, but Catholic Charities cannot do it alone. Scarce local resources mean that Congress needs to step up, as well.

Let's pass emergency supplemental funding for cities and bring some hope to those like Jose who need it badly right now.

ISRAELI HOSTAGES' AWARENESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday marked 100 days since Hamas, an Iranian-backed terrorist organization, brutally slaughtered, tortured, and kidnapped innocent Israelis.

On the morning of October 7, 2023, these barbaric extremists murdered individuals and families in cold blood. They raped women; they beheaded infants; they mutilated bodies; they burned people in their homes; and they abducted men, women, children, and the elderly. These are things that are very hard to say on the floor of the House of Representatives.

This is an incredible statement: More Jews were murdered on October 7 than on any other single day since the Holocaust. Today, 136 innocent hostages still remain in Hamas' custody in Gaza.

Our hearts ache with the families of the hostages. We will not rest until every single one of their loved ones returns home. We are waiting for the hostages, and we are fighting for them.

That is why I am honored and privileged to lead a bipartisan initiative in the House of Representatives to highlight the stories of these innocent hostages. Together, it is my hope that we can bring awareness to those viciously kidnapped by Hamas, and we can clearly say with one voice: Bring them all home.

I will begin by sharing the story of Agam Berger. Agam, who is 19 years

old, was more than one of 240 innocent Israelis taken captive by Hamas terrorists on October 7.

According to family and friends, Agam loves to volunteer with people with special needs and with children who have learning disabilities.

Agam and 135 hostages are still being held captive in Gaza, enduring incredible torture and trauma.

Agam's father, Shlomi Berger, said that he dreads what his daughter is going through after viewing footage of her wounded and scared along with three other teenage hostages.

Hamas should release Agam immediately, along with all of the other remaining hostages. Our country's strong support for Israel must not waver. It is time to bring Agam home. It is time to bring all of the innocent hostages home.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in this crucial effort to demonstrate our support for the hostages and for their families.

PREVENTING WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, as we begin the second year of the 118th Congress, a Congress which unfortunately in its first year was one of the lowest and least productive Congresses in memory, only 31 bills, it is time for us to come together and identify measures which have strong bipartisan support and would make a meaningful difference to the people of this country.

One of those bills is H.R. 2663, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act, a bill I introduced back in April with Congressman DON BACON of Nebraska. We have 151 cosponsors. Ten Republicans are part of this effort. It is

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H135

supported by 76 healthcare organizations, particularly those centered around nursing, a caring profession that every family relies on.

This bill addresses the frightening and accelerating epidemic of workplace violence that people who go to work every day in our hospitals, nursing homes, EMS, and ambulances, as well as our home health nurses, are facing every single day.

That is not just rhetoric. We did a GAO study a number of years ago and found that people who work in the healthcare sector suffer injuries, sometimes serious, sometimes fatal, five times more than any other sector in the U.S. economy.

There are ways to address this, Mr. Speaker, in terms of putting it into practice. Some preventative measures which hospitals have endorsed and used around the country are: train up their staff, give them a way to identify high-risk patients, give them the equipment, whether it is panic buttons or alerts to get help when they need it, and in some instances to provide more security dealing with more high-risk patients.

The 76 organizations include the American Nurses Association, the Emergency Nurses Association, the American College of Emergency Physicians. The list goes on and on.

They are feeling this every single day. In my district, unfortunately, last October, we experienced the tragic loss of a nurse. Joyce Grayson of Willimantic, Connecticut, was making a home health visit to a halfway house for a high-risk individual. He was on the sex offender list and had been convicted of a violent crime. She went in at 8 o'clock in the morning to administer medication, and she never left. She was found stabbed to death.

This is a woman who was 63 years old, 36 years as a nurse, 26 with the State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, 10 years as a home health nurse, mother of 6, and she brought in foster care children. She was identified and awarded the Foster Care Parent of the Year in the State of Connecticut in 2017 by the Department of Children and Families. She was an angel. That was the way she was described at the time that we, as a State, came together to mourn her.

Her family has asked one thing. They want to see change. Their lawyer, Kelly Reardon of New London, Connecticut, gave an interview recently. That is what the family is begging for. They don't want this to happen again.

All of us rely on our healthcare workforce, Mr. Speaker. Republican or Democrat, all of us need them to take care of us. It is time for us to care for them. It is time for us to listen to them. It is time for us to put into practice commonsense measures which are happening intermittently around the country and make it universal and enforceable for all of the people in the caring profession and the healing profession.

Mr. Speaker, let's pass H.R. 2663 in this Congress and do something meaningful for the American people.

PROTECTING ALL CHILDREN, BORN AND UNBORN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week marks 51 years since the Roe v. Wade decision was issued by the U.S. Supreme Court. Since that time, Americans have worked tirelessly to see that decision overturned.

As a doctor, I swore an oath to first do no harm and to protect the sanctity of human life. Here in Congress, we also swore an oath to protect our country and our citizens. That means that we must stand for human life.

This week, we will vote on legislation to block a proposed Biden administration rule that would prohibit States from giving funding to pregnancy resource centers that support the lives of both mothers and their unborn children.

At 9 weeks of age, a baby has begun to form facial features, fingernails, and toes. At 20 weeks, a baby can hear their mother's voice. It is clear that these are children.

In Congress, it is our duty to protect the lives of the vulnerable. This week, let's join together and fight to protect all children, both born and unborn.

FENTANYL CONTINUES TO PERMEATE INTO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week the Pennsylvania State Police released a report outlining the amount of illegal drugs that have been seized in Pennsylvania during arrests in 2023. The facts of this report are shocking, showing that over 240 pounds of fentanyl were seized in the past year compared to 35 pounds of heroin.

These statistics represent a dangerous new reality for our communities, that fentanyl and its analogues, which can be fatal in incredibly small doses, are now readily accessible and widespread throughout the State of Pennsylvania.

Right now, lives are at stake as this poison continues to permeate into the United States. As I travel throughout central and southwestern Pennsylvania, I have heard from coroners who tell me that these drugs are very easy to get and very fast to kill.

It is time for the Senate to immediately take up the HALT Fentanyl Act and permanently classify these drugs as schedule I narcotics and create strict penalties for the cartels and for the dealers who traffic them.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford to stand by as our constituents are killed by fentanyl poisonings.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF WARD SWEAT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Ward Sweat, who is retiring after 54 years of working at Sweat's Furniture.

Mr. Sweat was originally from north of Waycross where he spent his early years before moving to Brunswick with his family.

He graduated from Glynn Academy in 1964 and the University of Georgia in 1968. Shortly after graduation, he completed basic training in the National Guard and started working at the furniture store located in Fitzgerald in 1969, which his dad and the Singletons owned, along with a second location in Brunswick.

In 1984, his father bought out the Singletons, and Ward and his brother Dwight came to work there. The family business will continue to live on with Dwight's son Jonathan, who is taking over management there, which marks the third generation of Sweats in the store.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Sweat on his upcoming retirement. I thank him for his service to the community.

REMEMBERING BOB GRIFFITH

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Bob Griffith, who passed away at the age of 79.

Bob Griffith, Sr., was a longtime Effingham County football coach and was best known as a family man with dedication to his sport, his fellow coaches, and his players.

Griffith was a former Virginia Tech team captain, having also coached at Effingham County High School, Appling County, and Colquitt County. He was also a member of the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame, and he was awarded both State and regional Coach of the Year back in 1987.

Griffith worked for some time at Georgia Tech where he was honored with a scholarship established in his name, endowed by many of his former players.

□ 1215

However, coaching was about much more than any wins or awards. Friends of Griffith have spoken to his character, explaining how he was always helping out the Effingham program by showing up to spring practices and helping to raise money. Bob Griffith's legacy will be remembered by his teams, family, friends, community, and so many more.

CONGRATULATING RICCIARDI'S PIZZA

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a Georgia restaurant that has been recognized for making the best Chicago-style pizza in Georgia according to a Washington

Post analysis. Ricciardi's Pizzeria and Bar in Richmond Hill, located about one-half hour from Savannah, was one of the six Georgia pizza spots highlighted by the national outlet for its Chicago-style pizza.

The Windy City specializes in making delicious Chicago-style pizzas. The Washington Post used millions of Yelp reviews and have developed a formula to identify the best pizza options in each State, which led to Ricciardi's being ranked No. 3.

Congratulations to Ricciardi's on this wonderful accomplishment. I wish them continued success in serving great pizza to the people of the First District.

CHATHAM EMERGENCY SERVICES FIREFIGHTERS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of four Chatham Emergency Services firefighters who put their lives on the line to save others.

The Savannah Exchange Club recently named Robert Bateman as the Volunteer Firefighter of the Year, Donte Boykin as Rookie Firefighter of the Year, Dustin Turk as Professional Firefighter of the Year, and Lieutenant Ray Jennings as Paramedic of the Year.

Chatham Emergency Services CEO, Chuck Kearns, spoke of the crews and community board saying they "are some of the most dedicated and service-oriented professionals and volunteers" he has encountered.

As Chatham Emergency Services begins its 63rd year of service, I again thank Robert, Donte, Dustin, Ray, and all its members for their hard work to keep our community safe.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KUSTOFF) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Our Father, who art in Heaven, You have taught us how to pray. And with this familiar prayer or the prayers that reside deep in our souls, we offer these prayers to You. However we approach You, we pray that You will accept our manner of worship as holy and acceptable to You.

Even as You receive us, in the multitude of languages and the range of voices that ascend to Your hearing,

You teach us also how to love, commanding us to love one another even as You have loved us—with all our strengths and shortfalls, gifts and gaffes, differences and divisions.

On this day, which marks the 238th anniversary of the passage of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, authored by Thomas Jefferson, may it not be law but love that compels us to safeguard the freedom of religion for our fellow citizens. May it not be statute but stewardship of Your grace that calls us to honor the principles of the First Amendment, respecting the faith of all peoples.

Remind us again, that we owe no one anything but to love one another. And as we love one another, may we have fulfilled Your great command.

In the light of Your love, we pray in the name by which we know You.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Vermont (Ms. BALINT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BALINT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

POSTAL SERVICE FOR RURAL AMERICA

(Ms. BALINT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, let me just say may the record show the Vermonter is here. Snow across D.C.; the Vermonter is here.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a voice for rural America. In Vermont's capital city, Montpelier, we do not have a functioning post office. This is completely unacceptable.

The post office is a vital, nonnegotiable part of our communities. It is part of the fabric of rural America. Seniors depend on it, small businesses depend on it, and our downtowns depend on it to keep our communities vibrant and connected.

Vermonters are frustrated, and rightly so, not only because they have been denied reliable, accessible service, but because the USPS has failed to give us any answers as we try to rectify this failure.

Vermonters are not asking much. A fully functional post office in a State's capital city is not a big ask. We must

get back to making government work for the people at its most basic functions.

When we ignore this need, we continue to erode faith in the government, and we leave communities behind. I won't stop raising my voice until reliable Postal Service is restored in Montpelier, Vermont, and in other parts of rural America.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1637

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JAMES) at 4 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

MOVING AMERICANS PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1568) to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to protect personally identifiable information, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1568

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 "Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act".

SEC. 2. PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Paragraph (2) of section 431(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1431(c)) is amended to read as follows:

"(2)(A) The information listed in paragraph (1) shall not be available for public disclosure if—

"(i) the Secretary of the Treasury makes an affirmative finding on a shipment-by-shipment basis that disclosure is likely to pose a threat of personal injury or property damage; or

"(ii) the information is exempt under the provisions of section 552(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code.

"(B) The Secretary shall ensure that any personally identifiable information, including Social Security numbers and passport numbers, is removed from any manifest signed, produced, delivered, or electronically transmitted under

this section before access to the manifest is provided to the public.”.

(b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation before us today, the Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act, takes an important step to protect the privacy of all Americans, especially our veterans and servicemembers returning from overseas. It requires Customs and Border Protection to remove personally identifiable information from any shipping manifest before CBP makes the manifest information available to the public.

Under current law, Customs and Border Protection is required to make certain shipping manifest information available for public disclosure. Unfortunately, there is no requirement to ensure these manifests do not contain Americans' personal information. Instead, U.S. citizens returning home from military postings or job opportunities abroad are expected to navigate a complicated and bureaucratic system—that often experiences significant delays, I might add—to request that any personal information be removed from manifests to protect their identity from fraudsters and scammers.

Our brave men and women in uniform, as well as Americans whose employers or family commitments have required them to relocate overseas, already face numerous hurdles when they return home. Ensuring U.S. Customs and Border Protection proactively removes this data from manifests is a simple, straightforward, and actually long overdue step to protect their identities.

I applaud Representatives MICHAEL WALTZ and BILL PASCRELL for their leadership on this legislation and Senators DAINES, STABENOW, and PETERS for leading this effort in the Senate. I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to follow the Ways and Means Committee's lead and unanimously pass this bipartisan legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1568, the bipartisan Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act.

I believe that privacy is something we are going to be discussing on this floor for the next 10 years. We are trying to catch up to the electronics that exist in our lives, and we want to make sure that people are all respected.

We know protecting privacy is a difficult and constantly evolving challenge. This is especially true in our modern world. Privacy is deeply important for all Americans, particularly our servicemembers abroad. Unfortunately, our troops are often victims of identity theft.

For security purposes, U.S. Customs and Border Protection requires manifest sheets to document the cargo of incoming vessels. The Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act will ensure that personal data on cargo manifests cannot be abused.

I am proud to co-lead this crucial and commonsense measure with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WALTZ).

In recent years, manifest data has been mistakenly exposed, enabling identity theft, credit card fraud, and unwanted solicitations. Our plan will protect Americans from having their personal information compromised.

We must make sure information like names, addresses, Social Security numbers, and passport numbers can be removed from cargo manifests before they are disclosed. This is a no-brainer. We are talking about protecting people's privacy, including servicemembers and their families serving abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD two letters of support for the Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act: the first is from the New Jersey Warehouse and Movers Association; the second is from the American Trucking Associations and a coalition of supportive organizations.

NEW JERSEY WAREHOUSE &
MOVERS ASSOCIATION
September 11, 2023.

Hon. BILL PASCRELL,
Washington, DC.

REPRESENTATIVE PASCRELL: As the leader of the New Jersey Warehouse & Movers Association, I have the privilege of representing moving and storage companies located across the Garden State. Thank you for your continued leadership, especially as a member of the US House Ways & Means Committee.

Our members especially thank you for introducing, along with Representative Mike Walz, the bipartisan Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act (“MAPPA” / HR 1568). As you know, this legislation would help protect the privacy and personally identifiable information (PII) of American servicemembers, federal employees, private sector workers, and their families who are returning to the United States after living abroad.

With multiple defense and government installations, more than a dozen Fortune 500 corporate headquarters, globally recognized colleges and universities, and its status as a center for international trade, New Jersey residents frequently move overseas and then return to the US. This exchange plays an important role in our state's continued economic growth, and the moving industry is proud to support these individuals and their

families. Unfortunately, current government policy regarding the security of their PII unwittingly places them at risk of identity theft, financial fraud, and other crimes. The MAPPA would change this policy and require US Customs to remove the PII contained in vessel manifests from trade data that is provided to sale.

Passage of legislation accomplishing the goal of the MAPPA has been a long-standing priority of the moving industry. We are thankful for introducing identical legislation in the House (HR 1568) and the Senate (S 758). The Senate passed S 758 in March 2023, making House approval the only step necessary before the legislation goes to the White House for the President's signature.

As such, the New Jersey moving industry asks you to contact House Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member Richard Neal and urge him to support the Committee, including S 758 as passed by the Senate in the next available markup, to approve the legislation without amendment, and for the House to consider the legislation under suspension of the rules. We also understand that Rep. Waltz is testifying in support of MAPPA during the Ways and Means Committee's “Member Day” hearing on September 14, 2023—joint testimony in support of the legislation or a letter of support for the legislation submitted for the hearing's record would be appreciated as we all work to enact this necessary and commonsense legislation.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important issue.

MAY 24, 2023.

Hon. JASON SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ADRIAN SMITH,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Trade, Committee
on Ways and Means, Washington, DC.

Hon. RICHARD NEAL,
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and
Means, Washington, DC.

Hon. EARL BLUMENAUER,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Trade, Committee
on Ways and Means, Washington,
DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN J. SMITH, RANKING MEMBER NEAL, CHAIRMAN A. SMITH, AND RANKING MEMBER BLUMENAUER: Our organizations respectfully request Committee sign off for House consideration—under suspension of the rules as a stand-alone bill—the Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act (S. 758), as passed by the Senate on March 9, 2023.

The legislation addresses a specific and unique issue and helps protect the sensitive personal data of servicemembers, federal employees, private sector workers, and families who are returning to the United States after living abroad. S. 758 was introduced on a bipartisan basis by Senators Daines, Peters, Stabenow, and Marshall and passed the Senate by voice vote. It has a bipartisan House companion (H.R. 1568) introduced by Representatives Waltz and Pascrell. The legislation is identical to the Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act (115th—H.R. 4403), which in 2018 the Ways & Means Committee reported out by voice vote, followed by House passage under the suspension calendar. The Congressional Budget Office and Joint Tax Committee have determined a “zero” score for the legislation.

Each year, the U.S. military, federal departments, and private sector organizations relocate tens of thousands of Americans back home to the U.S. after posting overseas. Other Americans return home after time abroad for personal reasons. When shipping their personal household goods to the U.S., these individuals must include elements of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) on shipping forms which are made part

of vessel manifests. The PII often contains Social Security numbers, Passport numbers, home addresses, and other sensitive data.

Currently U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is required to make all commercial information from vessel manifests—often capturing the sensitive PII of returning American citizens—available to data brokers who package and resell this data throughout their subscriber network. Without concrete action to protect the PII, normally held under strict security by the U.S. Government, these elements can be exposed, placing Americans at risk of identity theft, financial fraud, and other abuses of their data.

The Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act helps protect Americans from this risk by ensuring PII is removed from manifests prior to CBP providing and selling the commercial manifest information to data brokers. While it does not amend other provisions of the Tariff Act or in any other way modify Customs, authorities or trade policy, it does remove the U.S. Government from making sensitive PII of servicemembers and other Americans available to potential criminals as citizens move back home to the United States.

Given the focused nature of this legislation and increase in identity theft crimes in recent years, we urge the Committee to agree to direct House consideration of the Senate-passed version of the Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act (S. 758) as a stand-alone bill under suspension of the rules.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN TRUCKING
ASSOCIATIONS,
INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF MOVERS,
MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA,
SENIOR EXECUTIVES
ASSOCIATION,
WORLDWIDE ERC®.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense measure today.

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WALTZ), an expert on this topic.

Mr. WALTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 1568, the Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act.

This bipartisan, bicameral bill will require U.S. Customs and Border Protection, CBP, to remove personally identifiable information, including Social Security and passport numbers, from cargo manifests before they are disclosed to the public.

Currently, CBP requires manifest sheets, which include PII, in order to disclose and document the cargo of incoming vessels for customs and security purposes. Now, originally, the intent of this requirement was to increase competition. It was to facilitate better public analysis of import trends. It was to allow port authorities and transportation companies to more easily identify potential customers and changes in their industry.

□ 1645

Like many things we do here, it had a viable and good intent. However, in

recent years, the PII of relocating individuals has, again, been publicly released. That has enabled identity theft. It has enabled credit card fraud and unwanted solicitations.

Importantly, from a national security standpoint, the disclosure allows our adversaries, from terrorist organizations to foreign intelligence organizations of our adversaries like China, Russia, and Iran, to easily access the PII of our servicemembers and their families as they move around the globe to keep this great Nation free.

The personal identification, Mr. Speaker, of every American should be safe and secure, but due to the current public disclosure of cargo manifests, our servicemembers and their families are experiencing a higher risk of identity theft, fraud, and targeting as they move abroad in service of our Nation.

It is critical that we take the necessary steps to protect them from this dangerous and fraudulent activity. The Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act is essential to protect the private information not only of our servicemembers but of all Americans.

I thank Ways and Means Chairman JASON SMITH, Democrat co-lead, Representative PASCRELL, and particularly the Ways and Means staff for their hard work and working with my team to move this bill through committee and to the full House for consideration.

I look forward to passage by the full House. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, and I look forward to working with Senator DAINES, in particular, in the Senate to get this important bill signed into law.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, protecting the privacy of the American people must be our priority. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this commonsense measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues have sufficiently described the details of this bill, why we need to do it, and that we should do it immediately.

I certainly urge my colleagues to support it so that we can get this done, especially to assist our men and women in uniform.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1568, 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. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SOCIAL SECURITY CHILD PROTECTION ACT OF 2023

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3667) to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for the reissuance of social security account numbers to young children in cases where confidentiality has been compromised, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3667

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 “Social Security Child Protection Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. REISSUANCE OF SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBERS TO YOUNG CHILDREN IN CASES WHERE CONFIDENTIALITY HAS BEEN COMPROMISED.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 205(c)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(c)(2)(B)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv); and

(2) by inserting after clause (ii) the following new clause:

“(iii) *In any case in which a social security account number has been issued to a child who has not attained the age of 14 pursuant to subclause (IV) or (V) of clause (i) and it is demonstrated by evidence, as determined by the Commissioner of Social Security, and submitted under penalty of perjury to the Commissioner by a parent or guardian of the child that in the course of transmission of the social security card to the child, the confidentiality of such number has been compromised by reason of loss or theft of such social security card, the Commissioner shall issue a new social security account number to such child and make note in the records maintained with respect to such child of the pertinent information received by the Commissioner regarding the loss or theft of the social security card.*”

(b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. 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 the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to identity theft, it is not just ourselves, our friends, and our coworkers, but it is also children who are at risk.

In 2021, roughly 1.25 million children were the victims of identity fraud. In many cases, it can take years before families discover that their children had their Social Security numbers stolen and misused by criminals.

Unfortunately, when parents try to obtain a new Social Security number for their child, they hit a government roadblock. Under existing policy, the Social Security Administration will only issue a new number if a child can show this theft caused harm within the past 2 years.

Because children do not have a work or credit history, many families never realize their child's identity has been compromised until it is too late.

Last year, South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem testified that her family was victimized by an improper disclosure of their Social Security numbers.

Congress must take steps to protect the American people from identity theft and those who have had their Social Security numbers compromised.

H.R. 3667, the Social Security Child Protection Act of 2023 introduced by Representatives Wenstrup and Blumenauer, will require the Social Security Administration to immediately issue a new number to a child under the age of 14 when that child's Social Security card has been compromised.

This is a commonsense fix to a serious problem that millions of families face every year, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I join in commending our colleagues, Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. WENSTRUP, for their outstanding work on H.R. 3667, the Social Security Child Protection Act.

I especially acknowledge Mr. BLUMENAUER, who is going to be leaving the Congress, for his longstanding work in this area.

Currently, Social Security Administration policy says that in order to get a new Social Security number, the person has to show both that their number has been misused by a third party and that this misuse has resulted in harm to the number holder.

Unfortunately, we have heard from parents about their child's Social Security cards being stolen in the mail when they are first issued. From there, criminals are able to hold on to that number and use it for nefarious purposes.

Unfortunately, children who never receive their Social Security card in the mail may not realize for many years that their identity has been stolen. That is why this legislation is so critical and important.

I commend the members of the majority for bringing this forward. It is rare that we bring forward Social Security legislation, noting that Social Security is the number one antipoverty program in the country, the number

one antipoverty program for the elderly, and the number one antipoverty program for children.

It also might surprise listeners who are tuning in to know that it has been 52 years since the Congress has taken any action to enhance Social Security benefits.

This is deemed a huge step forward to focus on a policy that is much needed, but more than 5 million of our fellow Americans get below poverty level checks from Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, 10,000 baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security, and Congress hasn't even taken a vote.

It is not a lot to ask of Congress, and I hope that our distinguished colleagues—and I know many of them care deeply about this issue—somehow find the resolve to vote on enhancing Social Security benefits. It will go well with this legislation.

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP), the author of the bill and an expert on this topic.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the Social Security Child Protection Act, H.R. 3667.

Child identity theft is a serious problem in our country, and families across America should have the ability to protect their children when a child's Social Security number is compromised early in life.

When a child's identity falls into the hands of the wrong person, it sets the stage for a future of financial problems and headaches that can hinder their ability to do things like open a bank account, purchase a car, or establish a line of credit.

I know firsthand that when adoption takes place, often there is a recommendation that that child, who may already have a Social Security number, get a new Social Security number for their protection.

Unfortunately, the Social Security Administration's current policies make it challenging for families to obtain a new Social Security number after a child's Social Security number has been compromised.

This commonsense legislation that we propose would direct the Social Security Administration to issue a new Social Security number to a child under the age of 14 if that child's Social Security card was lost or stolen. Parents should not be forced to navigate bureaucratic red tape to protect their child's financial future.

I am proud to be leading this bipartisan solution with my friend and colleague, Representative BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this measure, and I thank my Ways and Means colleagues and staff for their support of this sensible legislation.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. WENSTRUP and Mr. BLUMENAUER for their incredible work in this area. This bill deserves to be on the Consent Calendar. That is how important and straightforward it is.

Let us hope that our colleagues in the Senate see it in the same light and that we get something important accomplished.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, I cannot leave this floor as the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Social Security and not mention the fact that it has been 53 years since Congress has voted on anything to enhance Social Security.

That is a disgrace for both sides, Democrats and Republicans. It is a disgrace. Let's call it what it is.

Mr. Speaker, 5 million of our fellow Americans get below poverty level checks in the wealthiest Nation in the world, where billionaires stopped paying into Social Security on January 2.

Come on. In the wealthiest Nation in the world, how about we make sure that for 23 million Americans, they get a tax break?

We are willing to give corporations tax breaks left and right. How about the average working person who has paid into a system all of their lives, yet they get taxed on that? Where is the interest from my colleagues on the other side with respect to that?

Mr. Speaker, 23 million Americans who deserve a tax break can't get it, though we have a bill that is in front of them that would also recognize the teachers, firefighters, and police officers, who everyone professes to be in favor of until it comes time for them to get paid.

□ 1700

As our colleagues on the other side know, WEP and GPO prevent that from happening. We repealed that and made sure that these individuals get those needed benefits.

In this time of great disparity, global inflation, coming through a pandemic, and when economists have recognized the inequitable imbalance of wealth, what better way to bring balance than providing the decency of Congress just merely taking a vote?

If you disagree with it, if you have a better idea, for God's sake, put it forward, but please don't tell us about this commission behind closed doors where a select group of people without public hearings are going to determine what Social Security will be.

Social Security doesn't need a commission. It doesn't need to go behind closed doors. It needs a vote. Just like the vote we are giving to this commonsense proposal today, a vote on Social Security represents pure common sense because it assists over 70 million of your fellow Americans.

This is not Democratic or Republican. This is about your brothers, your sisters, your family, your aunts, your uncles, the people you worship and go to church with, and the people in your communities.

Speaking of communities, every community benefits. This is an enormous economic development plan because the money goes directly to the individual.

Where do those individuals spend that Social Security money? Right back in your districts. Right back in the district that these individuals live in.

It helps out the local pharmacists. It helps out the local grocery store. It helps out individuals.

This is something that should be embraced by both sides. Ironically, in the past when Social Security has been enhanced—it happened under Dwight David Eisenhower and under Mr. Nixon, as well. Since Richard Nixon was President of the United States, Social Security has not been enhanced.

Here we are, coming out of a global pandemic, coming out of global inflation, and the very individuals who need our help the most—our seniors—we won't even give them a vote.

Mr. Speaker, this is the United States Congress. We come here and represent the people of our districts. This is a benefit they not only richly need but they deserve. It is something they have earned.

This is not an entitlement, as some profess. This is an earned benefit.

Yes, for all you viewers at home, all you have to do is look at your pay stub. It says FICA, Federal Insurance Contribution Act. The Federal insurance is Social Security; the contribution is yours.

Yes, the employer also gives, but he gets a tax break for that, completely able to write it off.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. WENSTRUP for allowing me the opportunity to come here this afternoon to address their bill but also for providing an opportunity as well because I don't think we are going to see many more coming where we will actually get to vote on Social Security benefits and enhancements for the people who we are sworn to serve.

Mr. Speaker, again, 10,000 baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security. It has been 53 years since we last enhanced the program. More than 5 million get below poverty level checks, having paid in all their lives, and 23 million Americans are being denied a tax cut that they would otherwise receive.

Teachers and firefighters, et cetera, would see the repeal of WEP and GPO, and we can't get a vote in the Ways and Means Committee or on the floor of the Congress on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, it is a disgrace. Make no mistake, both parties share the blame, but there is no excuse for not taking a vote and putting this before the American people so they can fully appreciate it. They understand the need. They feel it every day because of the situation that they find themselves in because Congress has failed to act and failed to vote.

The fundamental thing that we are sent here to do is represent people and

vote; not to vote on the most basic of issues, the Nation's number one anti-poverty program for the elderly and the number one antipoverty program for the children. We have failed.

Yes, and it is paid for. It is paid for by those very billionaires who stopped paying in on January 2 to Social Security.

The guy making \$35,000 to \$50,000, Mr. Speaker, is paying in the whole time. The guy making \$100,000 to \$150,000 is paying in the whole time. Those other guys aren't.

Most people don't realize that there is a cap, and they are exempt from paying. How about we lift that cap, and they pay their fair share? How about we extend the benefits of Social Security that haven't been done in 53 years? Our fellow Americans who have paid in will get pulled up out of poverty, and future generations will know that it is there and secure for them, as it was for their parents and grandparents.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I certainly thank my colleagues for a bipartisan effort in moving forward a solution. I am proud to say that the tradition within the Committee on Ways and Means, especially Social Security issues, is bipartisan. When we can work together, we can move legislation forward.

I always welcome opportunities to have discussions that we know are important for America. On the need to address Social Security, it is my hope we can have a bipartisan action moving forward.

Meanwhile, we have a bill here that I think shows that we can work together to strengthen Social Security, that we can root out some fraud, assist the American people in rooting out fraud, and, hopefully, ultimately, prevent it so that Social Security can be stronger as a result.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly thank Dr. Wenstrup for his diligent effort along the way, and I urge my colleagues to support this good piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3667, 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. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

AUTHORITY OF U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION TO CONSOLIDATE, MODIFY, OR REORGANIZE CUSTOMS REVENUE FUNCTIONS

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5862) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 relating to authority of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to consolidate, modify, or reorganize Customs revenue functions, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5862

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY OF U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION TO CONSOLIDATE, MODIFY, OR REORGANIZE CUSTOMS REVENUE FUNCTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 412 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 212(b)) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “consolidate, discontinue,” and inserting “discontinue”; and

(ii) by inserting after “reduce the staffing level” the following: “below the optimal staffing level determined in the most recent Resource Allocation Model required by section 301(h) of the Customs Procedural Reform and Simplification Act of 1978 (19 U.S.C. 2075(h))”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, National Account Managers, International Trade Analysts” after “Financial Systems Specialists”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) AUTHORITY TO CONSOLIDATE, MODIFY, OR REORGANIZE CUSTOMS REVENUE FUNCTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection may, subject to subsection (b), consolidate, modify, or reorganize customs revenue functions delegated to the Commissioner under subsection (a), including by adding such functions to existing positions or establishing new or modifying existing job series, grades, titles, or classifications for personnel, and associated support staff, performing such functions, in consultation with the Office of Personnel Management.

“(2) POSITION CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS.—At the request of the Commissioner, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall establish new position classification standards for any new positions established by the Commissioner under paragraph (1).”.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 412(a)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 212(a)(1)) is amended by striking “403(a)(1)” and inserting “403(1)”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, America's trading relationships, as well as the challenges we face in trade around the world, are evolving every day. We must respond to those challenges now, not years in the future.

Families, farmers, workers, and small businesses rely on us to look out for them in an increasingly complex world.

Last year, the Committee on Ways and Means traveled to the port of Staten Island in New York and a cattle auction barn in Minnesota to listen to the American people whose livelihoods depend on international trade. They all asked Congress to do more to insist on strong enforcement of our trade laws.

The bill before us, H.R. 5862, will help address the challenges of ever-changing threats around the world through more effective enforcement of U.S. trade laws. It takes six narrowly defined jobs at Customs and Border Protection and replaces them with a single position of trade specialist in the agency's Office of International Trade.

This streamlining will make CBP respond faster and more effectively to our Nation's trade challenges and protect and defend America's economic interests.

I thank the bill's sponsor and author, certainly, Representative STEEL, as well as Representative PANETTA, for taking the lead on this critical issue for American workers and the security of our supply chains. This bipartisan legislation will help ensure that American workers, families, farmers, and small businesses are not left behind.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5862, the Global Trade Specialist Act. It is legislation that I am proud to have co-led with my friend and fellow Californian, Representative STEEL.

It is a bill that would allow Customs and Border Protection to fulfill the position of global trade specialist, which would help facilitate and further our Nation's trade by giving CBP the flexibility to flow with the future of international trade.

As we know well, Customs and Border Protection has an important role to play when it comes to supporting trade. That is why CBP should also have the proper authority to modernize their staffing as the trade environment evolves.

Currently, CBP's Office of International Trade has several distinct but separate trade positions. This includes jobs such as import specialists, international trade analysts, management and program analysts, trade econo-

mists, auditors, attorneys, and so forth. These jobs do help CBP execute and enforce U.S. trade laws and ultimately protect our American economy, but there is a position missing, and that is a global trade specialist.

CBP has created such a position, but it doesn't have the flexibility, nor does it have the legal authority to hire for this position. Our legislation would give CBP that needed authority and so much more.

The global trade specialist position would allow CBP to realign and reshape the workforce in response to the evolving trade environment. It would be able to do this because the position also would better utilize and focus existing resources and Customs' revenue functions. It would give CBP more flexibility to modernize its trade workforce, to retain its employees, and to build its institutional knowledge. It would equip trade employees to more effectively execute trade enforcement and compliance operations. It would increase professional development opportunities.

Ultimately, by making trade facilitation jobs more attractive and rewarding rather than bureaucratic and boring, this legislation would enhance CBP's responsibility to recruit and retain staff and meet the mandated staffing levels as set forth in the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

In the formulation of this bipartisan legislation, I am not only proud to have worked with my fellow Ways and Means and California colleague, Mrs. STEEL, but it was built from provisions that were included in both the House's America COMPETES Act and the Senate's United States Innovation and Competition Act.

We also have incorporated feedback from CBP to ensure that this provision would work as intended and made additional changes at the request of Office and Personnel Management.

Lastly, this legislation is supported by the National Treasury Employees Union, which represents CBP workers.

Due to its broad support, this legislation passed unanimously at that Ways and Means Committee markup last November. I thank Chairman ADRIAN SMITH and, of course, Ranking Member NEAL for supporting this bipartisan bill that is the product of good-faith collaboration.

It is a bill, Mr. Speaker, that will allow CBP employees to go beyond a bureaucratic role and actually allow CBP to be creative, to be flexible, and to be forward-thinking when it comes to the ebbs and flows and the future of trade.

That is why I worked on this legislation, that is why I fully support its passage, and I encourage all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on the Global Trade Specialist Act.

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

□ 1715

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentle-

woman from California (Mrs. STEEL), an author of the bill.

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5862, the Global Trade Specialist Act.

I am proud to have introduced this bipartisan legislation with fellow Californian, Congressman JIMMY PANETTA.

In the 20-plus years since Congress created the Department of Homeland Security, the world has changed drastically. That means reforms are needed to improve U.S. Customs and Border Protection's global trade operations.

For over 5 years, CBP has requested authorization to create a global trade specialist position within its International Trade Office. This position would improve trade law enforcement and facilitate legitimate trade.

My bill will make narrowly tailored updates to help CBP respond to ever-evolving trade challenges by better utilizing existing personnel within CBP.

Both the House and Senate already passed bills that would grant CBP the authority to create a global trade specialist position, but neither bill has yet been enacted into law.

The Ways and Means Committee has repeatedly heard hearing testimony about how a global trade specialist position within CBP will better serve the needs of American workers and safeguard supply chains. That is why the Ways and Means Committee passed the bill unanimously by a margin of 42-0 in November of last year.

As geopolitical relationships change more rapidly and drastically in the modern world, it is critical that we empower CBP to operate as efficiently as possible. This legislation will empower CBP to address the dynamic and urgent nature of U.S. trade enforcement and help maintain American dominance in the global economy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote to finally get this commonsense solution across the finish line for the American people.

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

In closing, as you have heard, Mr. Speaker, this legislation has broad bipartisan support and support from the CBP. It really is critical that we modernize our trade administration as our trade environment is changing faster than ever. CBP's staffing model must evolve, and Congress must do its part to facilitate that evolution.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, to send this to the Senate and ultimately to the President's desk for signature into law.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle for very sufficiently described the bill, why we need to do it, and the details contained in the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5862, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. 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.

PROTECT REPORTERS FROM EXPLOITATIVE STATE SPYING ACT

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4250) to maintain the free flow of information to the public by establishing appropriate limits on the federally compelled disclosure of information obtained as part of engaging in journalism, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4250

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 “Protect Reporters from Exploitative State Spying Act” or the “PRESS Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COVERED JOURNALIST.—The term “covered journalist” means a person who regularly gathers, prepares, collects, photographs, records, writes, edits, reports, investigates, or publishes news or information that concerns local, national, or international events or other matters of public interest for dissemination to the public.

(2) COVERED SERVICE PROVIDER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “covered service provider” means any person that, by an electronic means, stores, processes, or transmits information in order to provide a service to customers of the person.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “covered service provider” includes—

(i) a telecommunications carrier and a provider of an information service (as such terms are defined in section 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153));

(ii) a provider of an interactive computer service and an information content provider (as such terms are defined in section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 230));

(iii) a provider of remote computing service (as defined in section 2711 of title 18, United States Code); and

(iv) a provider of electronic communication service (as defined in section 2510 of title 18, United States Code) to the public.

(3) DOCUMENT.—The term “document” means writings, recordings, and photographs, as those terms are defined by Federal Rule of Evidence 1001 (28 U.S.C. App.).

(4) FEDERAL ENTITY.—The term “Federal entity” means an entity or employee of the judicial or executive branch or an administrative agency of the Federal Government with the power to issue a subpoena or issue other compulsory process.

(5) JOURNALISM.—The term “journalism” means gathering, preparing, collecting,

photographing, recording, writing, editing, reporting, investigating, or publishing news or information that concerns local, national, or international events or other matters of public interest for dissemination to the public.

(6) PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF A COVERED JOURNALIST.—The term “personal account of a covered journalist” means an account with a covered service provider used by a covered journalist that is not provided, administered, or operated by the employer of the covered journalist.

(7) PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY DEVICE OF A COVERED JOURNALIST.—The term “personal technology device of a covered journalist” means a handheld communications device, laptop computer, desktop computer, or other internet-connected device used by a covered journalist that is not provided or administered by the employer of the covered journalist.

(8) PROTECTED INFORMATION.—The term “protected information” means any information identifying a source who provided information as part of engaging in journalism, and any records, contents of a communication, documents, or information that a covered journalist obtained or created as part of engaging in journalism.

(9) SPECIFIED OFFENSE AGAINST A MINOR.—The term “specified offense against a minor” has the meaning given that term in section 111(7) of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (34 U.S.C. 20911(7)).

SEC. 3. LIMITS ON COMPELLED DISCLOSURE FROM COVERED JOURNALISTS.

In any matter arising under Federal law, a Federal entity may not compel a covered journalist to disclose protected information, unless a court in the judicial district in which the subpoena or other compulsory process is, or will be, issued determines by a preponderance of the evidence, after providing notice and an opportunity to be heard to the covered journalist, that—

(1) disclosure of the protected information is necessary to prevent, or to identify any perpetrator of, an act of terrorism against the United States; or

(2) disclosure of the protected information is necessary to prevent a threat of imminent violence, significant bodily harm, or death, including specified offenses against a minor.

SEC. 4. LIMITS ON COMPELLED DISCLOSURE FROM COVERED SERVICE PROVIDERS.

(a) CONDITIONS FOR COMPELLED DISCLOSURE.—In any matter arising under Federal law, a Federal entity may not compel a covered service provider to provide testimony or any document consisting of any record, information, or other communications stored by a covered provider on behalf of a covered journalist, including testimony or any document relating to a personal account of a covered journalist or a personal technology device of a covered journalist, unless a court in the judicial district in which the subpoena or other compulsory process is, or will be, issued determines by a preponderance of the evidence that there is a reasonable threat of imminent violence unless the testimony or document is provided, and issues an order authorizing the Federal entity to compel the disclosure of the testimony or document.

(b) NOTICE TO COURT.—A Federal entity seeking to compel the provision of testimony or any document described in subsection (a) shall inform the court that the testimony or document relates to a covered journalist.

(c) NOTICE TO COVERED JOURNALIST AND OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A court may authorize a Federal entity to compel the provision of testimony or a document under this section only after the Federal entity seeking the testimony or document provides the covered journalist on behalf of whom the testimony

or document is stored pursuant to subsection (a)—

(A) notice of the subpoena or other compulsory request for such testimony or document from the covered service provider not later than the time at which such subpoena or request is issued to the covered service provider; and

(B) an opportunity to be heard before the court before the time at which the provision of the testimony or document is compelled.

(2) EXCEPTION TO NOTICE REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notice and an opportunity to be heard under paragraph (1) may be delayed for not more than 45 days if the court involved determines there is clear and convincing evidence that such notice would pose a clear and substantial threat to the integrity of a criminal investigation, or would present an imminent risk of death or serious bodily harm, including specified offenses against a minor.

(B) EXTENSIONS.—The 45-day period described in subparagraph (A) may be extended by the court for additional periods of not more than 45 days if the court involved makes a new and independent determination that there is clear and convincing evidence that providing notice to the covered journalist would pose a clear and substantial threat to the integrity of a criminal investigation, or would present an imminent risk of death or serious bodily harm, including specified offenses against a minor, under current circumstances.

SEC. 5. LIMITATION ON CONTENT OF INFORMATION.

The content of any testimony, document, or protected information that is compelled under sections 3 or 4 shall—

(1) not be overbroad, unreasonable, or oppressive, and, as appropriate, be limited to the purpose of verifying published information or describing any surrounding circumstances relevant to the accuracy of such published information; and

(2) be narrowly tailored in subject matter and period of time covered so as to avoid compelling the production of peripheral, nonessential, or speculative information.

SEC. 6. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to—

(1) apply to civil defamation, slander, or libel claims or defenses under State law, regardless of whether or not such claims or defenses, respectively, are raised in a State or Federal court; or

(2) prevent the Federal Government from pursuing an investigation of a covered journalist or organization that is—

(A) suspected of committing a crime;

(B) a witness to a crime unrelated to engaging in journalism;

(C) suspected of being an agent of a foreign power, as defined in section 101 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801);

(D) an individual or organization designated under Executive Order 13224 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism);

(E) a specially designated terrorist, as that term is defined in section 595.311 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor thereto); or

(F) a terrorist organization, as that term is defined in section 212(a)(3)(B)(vi)(II) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)(B)(vi)(II)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 4250.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today, I am presenting bipartisan legislation to protect vital First Amendment freedoms from being infringed and chilled by overreaching government actions. I thank my colleagues across the aisle for their support of this issue.

This bill prohibits the Federal Government from compelling a journalist to disclose documents, communications, or other information obtained or created as part of the journalist's job.

Our Founders chose to enshrine the freedom of the press in the First Amendment of the Constitution, alongside freedom of speech and other fundamental freedoms, because it is a lynchpin of republican government. It is vital to the functioning of a free and democratic society.

As James Madison said: "A popular government without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy; or, perhaps both. . . . And a people who mean to be their own governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."

Well, the most commonly understood form of potential abuse involves the output of a free press; that is, censorship. It is also critically important to protect the input; that is, the work of journalists in reporting on the affairs of the Nation. A key aspect of freedom of the press is the pursuit of the truth without government entanglements or intimidation.

If the government forces journalists to reveal sources or work product, it could undermine the gathering of information that is in the public interest. That is why 32 States and the District of Columbia have expressly protected this right with statutory shield laws, and 49 States have either a statutory or common law privilege that protects journalists from compelled disclosure. These laws allow journalists to do their jobs without fear that the government will unreasonably seize their records.

Today's legislation, the PRESS Act, does the same thing at the Federal level. Administrations from both parties have been guilty of unjustly targeting journalists and using compulsory processes to obtain information from them and their sources.

Now, over the years, versions of this very bill have received widespread support from across the political spectrum, and indeed, this bill passed through the Judiciary Committee on a unanimous, bipartisan vote.

Mr. Speaker, liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and journalists are often the first to expose government fraud, waste, abuse, and encroachments on personal freedoms.

In a free country, we need to make sure that the government cannot unmask journalists' sources without good cause, and that is why the need for this legislation is so strong. This bill provides those protections, and it is long past time for this legislation to be signed into law.

I will close by again thanking my Democrat colleagues for their support and especially my fellow Judiciary Committee colleague, Mr. RASKIN. This bill is proof that it is possible for Congress to set politics aside and act to protect the rights of all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4250, the Protect Reporters from Exploitive State Spying Act, or the PRESS Act, and I yield myself such time as I may consume in support of this bill.

Introduced by my colleagues, Representatives KEVIN KILEY, DARRELL ISSA, HARRIET HAGEMAN, RUSSELL FRY, JAMIE RASKIN, and TED LIEU, H.R. 4250 is a reporter shield law that will ensure that journalists can engage in effective journalism while reducing the risks of putting themselves, or their confidential sources upon whom they rely to bring critical stories to the public's attention, in legal jeopardy.

Specifically, H.R. 4250 would create a strong but qualified Federal statutory privilege that protects journalists from being compelled by the Federal Government to reveal confidential sources and information.

The bill also allows the government to defeat this privilege under certain circumstances where a court determines that the disclosure is necessary to prevent or identify any perpetrator of an act of terrorism or to prevent a threat of imminent violence, significant bodily harm or death, and then only after the journalist is provided notice and an opportunity to be heard before the court.

Additionally, the bill prohibits the Federal Government from compelling an electronic service provider that stores a journalist's information to disclose that information, as well as information relating to the journalist's personal account or technology device to the government. The government can defeat this privilege only if a court determines that there is a reasonable threat of imminent violence absent the information's disclosure and subject to notice and other requirements and exceptions.

Lastly, the PRESS Act contains a rule of construction that provides that the act should not be construed to apply to civil defamation, slander, libel claims, or defenses under State law. The rule of construction also makes clear that the act does not prevent the Federal Government from pursuing an

investigation of a journalist or organization that is suspected of engaging in criminal or terrorist activity, is a witness to a crime unrelated to journalism, or is suspected of being an agent of a foreign power.

This is necessary and long-overdue legislation. Over the past several decades, Democratic and Republican Presidential administrations have attempted to crack down on leaks of classified information to media outlets, and these investigations have included efforts to obtain journalists' records.

In 2021, the Washington Post, the New York Times, and CNN reported that the Department of Justice, under the Trump administration, sought the information and records of their reporters. Previously, during the Obama administration, the Department reportedly searched FOX News reporter Jeffrey Rosen's emails and even listed him as a co-conspirator in an Espionage Act case against the source of leaked information.

These and other recent episodes further illustrate the need for stronger protections for journalists and their sources.

Indeed, one of the most critical roles that the free press plays in our democracy is to keep the public informed about the functioning of government and the policymaking process, including allegations of government wrongdoing or incompetence. Yet, the press' ability to carry out this role would be seriously eroded if a reporter could not obtain complete and accurate information about such wrongdoing or incompetence by assuring confidential sources their anonymity.

The PRESS Act would protect a journalist's ability to bring these important stories to the public's attention, stories which almost always hinge on protecting the identity of confidential sources without unwarranted interference by the Federal Government.

□ 1730

The lack of a Federal press shield law is quite striking given the broad and bipartisan support for such laws.

Currently, over 40 States and the District of Columbia have enacted press shield laws or otherwise afford similar privileges through their State constitutions or common law.

Here in Congress, there is longstanding and bipartisan support for a Federal press shield law. For example, former Vice President Mike Pence, when he was a Member of Congress back in 2005, introduced the Free Flow of Information Act, which was very similar in concept to H.R. 4250.

The Free Flow of Information Act subsequently passed the House twice in the 110th and the 111th Congresses, the first time by a 398-21 vote, and the second time by voice vote under suspension of the rules.

Last Congress, the House passed the PRESS Act by voice vote under suspension of the rules, as well.

In this Congress, the bill passed the Judiciary Committee by a 23-0 vote, and, unfortunately, despite this history of broad bipartisan support, the Senate has never acted on any of these bills, though hope springs eternal.

I am encouraged that, even as stark differences among Members of this body remain, this important legislation continues to enjoy bipartisan support.

I thank Chairman JORDAN for his work in helping to bring H.R. 4250 to the floor today, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

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

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I note that the PRESS Act is endorsed by a number of First Amendment and press freedom organizations, including the ACLU, the Center for Democracy and Technology, the Committee to Protect Journalists, Demand Progress, the Electronic Frontier Foundation, the First Amendment Coalition, the Freedom of the Press Foundation, the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University, the National Association of Broadcasters, PEN America, the Protect The 1st Foundation, the Radio Television Digital News Association, and the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 4250, a necessary and long overdue Federal protection for journalists and their sources.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks. I again thank Mr. RASKIN for working with me on this legislation, as well as Chair JORDAN and Ranking Member NADLER for helping to get it through the Judiciary Committee with unanimous bipartisan support.

I very much look forward to seeing this bill get to the President's desk and get signed into law this year. I urge all of my colleagues here in the House to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4250.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

REMOTE ACCESS TO COURT PROCEEDINGS FOR VICTIMS OF THE 1988 BOMBING OF PAN AM FLIGHT 103 OVER LOCKERBIE, SCOTLAND

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3250) to provide remote access to court proceedings for victims of the 1988 Bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3250

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

SECTION 1. REMOTE ACCESS TO COURT PROCEEDINGS FOR VICTIMS OF THE 1988 BOMBING OF PAN AM FLIGHT 103 OVER LOCKERBIE, SCOTLAND.

(a) DEFINITION OF VICTIM OF CRIMES ASSOCIATED WITH THE BOMBING OF PAN AM FLIGHT 103.—In this section:

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the term "victim of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103" means any individual—

(A) who suffered direct or proximate harm as a result of the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 that occurred over Lockerbie, Scotland, on December 21, 1988, and was present at or near the scene of the bombing when it occurred, or immediately thereafter; or

(B) who is the spouse, legal guardian, parent, child, brother, sister, next of kin, or other relative of, or who is determined by the applicable district court of the United States to be an individual who possesses a relationship of similar significance to, an individual described in subparagraph (A) or an individual otherwise described in this subsection.

(2) LIMITATION.—The term "victim of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103" does not include an individual who participated or conspired in the crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

(b) AUTHORIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date of enactment of this Act, and notwithstanding any provision of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure or other law or rule to the contrary, in order to permit victims of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 to access court proceedings in the criminal case against Abu Agila Mohammed Mas'ud Kheir Al-Marimi and against any co-conspirator subsequently charged and prosecuted in a court of the United States for crimes related to the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, the district court of the United States in such a case shall order that reasonable efforts be made to make remote video and telephonic access to proceedings in the case available to victims of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

(2) NO LIMIT ON LOCATION.—Remote video and telephonic access to proceedings shall be made available under paragraph (1) to a victim of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 without regard to the location of the victim of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

(c) DISTRICT COURT DISCRETION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to eliminate or limit the discretion of a district court of the United States to control the manner, circumstances, or availability of re-

mote video or telephonic transmissions where necessary to control the courtroom or protect the integrity of court proceedings or the safety of parties, witnesses, or other participants in the proceedings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous materials on S. 3250.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, on December 21, 1988, a bomb planted by Libyan terrorists detonated on Pan Am Flight 103 while it was flying over Lockerbie, Scotland; 270 people, including 190 Americans, 34 of which were from my home State, the State of New Jersey, lost their lives in this tragic attack.

Over 30 years later, the Department of Justice announced the arrest and indictment of the alleged bomb maker. His trial is scheduled to take place in Washington, D.C., with pretrial hearings that are already underway.

However, given the time that has passed and the attack's international impact, surviving families are generally older, and some of them are physically unable to attend these hearings. Others live scattered across the United States of America and the world, making it difficult to travel and to attend.

In light of this fact, the government filed an unopposed motion with the court to provide remote access to the proceedings for the victims of this bombing. Unfortunately, the court denied the motion, finding that no statute or case law authorized such an accommodation.

This bill, fortunately and importantly, provides that authorization. S. 3250 provides the court with a limited, one-time only authorization to accommodate the victims of the Pan Am 103 bombing by making remote video and telephonic access available to these victims and their families.

Additionally, there is precedent for this type of measure. Congress passed similar laws authorizing access to trials for victims of September 11 and again during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This bill is supported by Victims of Pan Am Flight 103, which is an organization comprised of family members whose loved ones were killed on the flight. Their unyielding resolve in holding those responsible for the murder of their loved ones is the embodiment of American tenacity and American spirit.

I am proud to have spearheaded the House version of this important legislation, which will ensure that the victims of these attacks can witness as the architect of this atrocity faces the full weight of the American justice system.

Let this case serve as an unwavering warning to our enemies around the world: If you harm Americans, if you dare to strike at the heart of America, know this—there will be no refuge and no corner of the Earth where you can hide. You will find no peace.

I urge all Members to support this bill.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 3250, a bill to ensure that the victims and families of the victims of the 1988 bombing of Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, have remote access to the court proceedings that will finally bring one of the perpetrators of this terrorist attack to justice.

Mr. Speaker, on December 21, 1988, Pan Am Flight 103 took off from London Heathrow Airport en route across the Atlantic to New York's Kennedy Airport.

Thirty-eight minutes after it took off, while flying high above Lockerbie, Scotland, a bomb set off by a Libyan terrorist exploded, destroying the plane instantaneously and taking the lives of all of its passengers, as well as the lives of 11 residents of Lockerbie, who were killed by falling debris—270 people from 21 different countries, including 190 Americans, were killed in this deadly attack.

For more than three decades, law enforcement officials in the United States and around the world have worked relentlessly to see that everyone responsible for the bombing is held accountable.

Thanks to their hard work, one of the terrorists behind the attack will soon face trial for his actions in Federal district court. Because the victims and their families are scattered in more than a dozen countries throughout the world, and many have reached an advanced age that makes travel very difficult, it is nearly impossible to ensure these victims and family members have meaningful access to the court proceedings without some sort of remote audio or visual option.

Unfortunately, the district court where the trial would take place has determined that it does not have the authority to permit such remote access—in other words, cameras in the courtroom, or at least live streaming.

This legislation, therefore, would provide statutory authority and instruction to the district court in this case to order and ensure that remote video and telephonic access to the trial proceedings be made available to the victims.

Now, that is not too much to ask for the victims of the Lockerbie tragedy.

It is also not too much to ask on behalf of the American people who need and want to view the proceedings in U.S. v. Trump who can't get to Washington, D.C., to see it, but they would love to view it and hear it in live time, in real time.

Although the Lockerbie bombing occurred many years ago, the wounds are still fresh for the grieving families left behind. This legislation would help provide some level of comfort so that they can observe one of those responsible for this deadly attack being brought to justice.

I thank Senators CORNYN and GILLIBRAND for their efforts in bringing this important bipartisan legislation forward. I also thank my good friend, Representative VAN DREW, Ranking Member NADLER, and Representative CHRIS SMITH for leading this legislation in the House.

I urge all Members to support it.

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1745

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the author of this legislation and I don't agree on much. We fight like cats and dogs, with me being the dog, but on this, we agree.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 remains one of the deadliest terrorist attacks on American civilians in America's history. Now, 35 years later, we are on the verge of finally—finally—holding those responsible individuals accountable.

Let that be a symbol of America's unending pursuit of justice against those who would choose to do our country and our citizens harm.

I thank the families of the victims of this attack for their involvement with this bill and their tireless work in achieving justice for their loved ones.

I thank the bipartisan coalition both in the Senate and here in the House that helped this bill move rapidly to the President's desk.

I thank my good friend from Georgia for his support, and I thank Ranking Member NADLER. He is an important guy, and I certainly should thank him, as well. We appreciate his support and appreciate Ranking Member NADLER as well as, of course, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, JIM JORDAN.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3250.

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. VAN DREW. Mr. 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.

HONORING GOLD MEDAL RECIPIENT AND GREAT AMERICAN LANCE CORPORAL JOSEPH BARNA

(Mr. MEUSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I was reminded recently by my very good friend and great American, Tiffany Cloud, of another great American from my district, an avid writer and Marine Corps veteran, Lance Corporal Joseph Barna, whom I was pleased to meet several years ago.

Joe recently won a national gold medal for his essay "Our Life Is About Memories" in the prestigious 2023 Veterans Administration creative arts contest. This impressive feat marks his fourth national gold medal in this highly competitive veteran writing contest.

Joe Barna served our country with honor during the Korean war with the 1st Marine Division, 1st Regiment, 1st Battalion, Baker Company, Anti-Assault Platoon.

He writes essays, and he wrote a book, "God Makes Angels and Navy Corpsmen: A Korean War Veteran's Memories of the War and Life."

Joe also uses his writing talents to actively promote veteran causes throughout our community. He is all about America, and he is all about veterans.

Mr. Speaker, today on the House floor, I am not only honored to recognize Lance Corporal Joseph Barna, but I strongly encourage all Americans to read the essay "Our Life Is About Memories." It is sad, heartwarming, patriotic, and written by a great American.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Barna for his service.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-2926. A letter from the Director, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's Annual Report to Congress on the fiscal year 2022 operations of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 942; Mar. 4, 1927, ch. 509, Sec. 42 (as amended by Public Law 104-66, Sec. 1102(b)(1)); (109 Stat. 722) and 30 U.S.C. 936(b); Public Law 91-173, Sec. 426(b) (as amended by Public Law 107-275, Sec. 2(b)(4)); (116 Stat. 1926); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

EC-2927. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Action to Delay Effective Date Consistent With Congressionally Enacted Moratorium (RIN: 0936-AA14) received January 10, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2928. A letter from the President, transmitting a report on strikes against facilities to deter, degrade, and disrupt the ability of the Houthi militants to carry out future attacks against the United States and vessels operating in the Red Sea region, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1543(c); Public Law 93-148, Sec. 4(c); (87 Stat. 556) (H. Doc. No. 118—99); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SMITH of Missouri: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 3058. A bill to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve foster and adoptive parent recruitment and retention, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-347). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 5863. A bill to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters; with an amendment (Rept. 118-348). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 6918. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from restricting funding for pregnancy centers; with an amendment (Rept. 118-349). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mrs. KIM of California (for herself, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. TIFFANY):

H.R. 6994. A bill to require the reopening of covered recreation sites closed due to a natural disaster, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BIGGS (for himself, Mr. OGLES, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. CRANE, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. NORMAN, and Mr. CLYDE):

H.R. 6995. A bill making continuing appropriations for the Armed Forces and certain

Federal civilian personnel in the event of a Government shutdown during fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. GOLDEN of Maine (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 6996. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require broadcasting stations, providers of cable and satellite television, and online platforms to make reasonable efforts to ensure that political advertisements are not purchased by a foreign national; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. LALOTA (for himself and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 6997. A bill to establish an advisory group to encourage and foster collaborative efforts among individuals and entities engaged in disaster recovery relating to debris removal, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MANN:

H.R. 6998. A bill to ensure equal treatment for certain faith-based organizations in certain Small Business Administration programs; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. MEUSER:

H.R. 6999. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to require reports about the prosecution of certain offenses for recipients of Byrne grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STEIL:

H.R. 7000. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to clarify the authority of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection with respect to persons regulated by a State insurance regulator, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. TIFFANY:

H.R. 7001. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain National Forest System land in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest to Tony's Wabeno Redi-Mix, LLC, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. TENNEY (for herself, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. HILL, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. RYAN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. COSTA, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. MOLINARO, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. STAUBER):

H. Res. 965. A resolution calling for the immediate release of Ryan Corbett, a United States citizen, who was wrongfully detained by the Taliban on August 10, 2022, and condemning the wrongful detention of Americans by the Taliban; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida (for herself, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. MANNING, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. BACON, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. CAREY, Mr. CARL, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. CLINE, Mr. COLE, Mr. COSTA, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. DUARTE, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr.

SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. FROST, Mr. FRY, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GARBARINO, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. HARRIS, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mrs. HINSON, Ms. NORTON, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. KEATING, Mrs. KIM of California, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. LIEU, Mrs. LUNA, Ms. MACE, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. MAST, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. MCCAUL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NICKEL, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PORTER, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. RYAN, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. SELF, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. STANTON, Ms. STEFANK, Mr. STEUBE, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TOKUDA, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TRONE, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. WALTZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. WILD, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. ALFORD, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. KILMER, Mr. MILLS, Ms. BROWN, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. IVEY, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. COHEN):

H. Res. 966. A resolution condemning rape and sexual violence committed by Hamas in its war against Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. LUNA (for herself, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. TLAI, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. LIEU, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. CHU, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. EVANS):

H. Res. 967. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to permit Members to vote by proxy in certain cases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 968. A resolution calling on Congress to condemn voter suppression laws enacted by States and political subdivisions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mrs. KIM of California:

H.R. 6994.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the reopening of covered recreation sites closed due to a natural disaster, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BIGGS:

H.R. 6995.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

The single subject of this bill is to make continuing appropriations for certain federal personnel in the event of a Government shutdown during Fiscal Year 2024.

By Mr. GOLDEN of Maine:

H.R. 6996.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 1 of section 4 of article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require broadcasting stations, providers of cable and satellite television, and online platforms to make reasonable efforts to ensure that political advertisements are not purchased by a foreign national.

By Mr. LALOTA:

H.R. 6997.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 9 of Article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Disaster Relief

By Mr. MANN:

H.R. 6998.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following—Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To ensure equal treatment for certain faith-based organizations in certain Small Business Administration programs.

By Mr. MEUSER:

H.R. 6999.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

US Constitution Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Holding prosecutors accountable via reporting requirements and grant eligibility.

By Mr. STEIL:

H.R. 7000.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution: "To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes . . ."

The single subject of this legislation is:

To clarify that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau may not exert its authority over the business of insurance.

By Mr. TIFFANY:

H.R. 7001.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Forest Service land conveyance

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 79: Mr. CURTIS.
H.R. 491: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
H.R. 522: Mr. COSTA and Mrs. PELTOLA.
H.R. 807: Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 830: Ms. TLAB.
H.R. 895: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 987: Mr. RASKIN and Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 1008: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 1179: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 1230: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 1247: Mr. COURTNEY and Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 1293: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 1413: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina and Mrs. PELTOLA.
H.R. 1507: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 1526: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 1716: Mr. FROST.
H.R. 1788: Mr. WILLIAMS of New Jersey and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.
H.R. 1831: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 2555: Mrs. SYKES.
H.R. 2620: Mr. YAKYM and Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 3433: Ms. MENG and Ms. WILD.
H.R. 3435: Mr. MANN and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 3474: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 3492: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 3541: Ms. ADAMS and Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 3625: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 3654: Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 3847: Mr. CASTEN.

H.R. 3913: Mr. JAMES.
H.R. 4006: Mr. SELF.
H.R. 4175: Mr. DUNN of Florida.
H.R. 4224: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 4293: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 4363: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 4431: Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 4564: Mr. ROSE.
H.R. 4758: Mr. CARTER of Georgia and Mr. FINSTAD.
H.R. 4993: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 5012: Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 5041: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 5141: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. BUSH, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SCANLON, and Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 5267: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. CRANE, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. NORMAN, and Mrs. LUNA.
H.R. 5302: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 5652: Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 5819: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 5825: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 5960: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 5995: Ms. WEXTON and Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 6046: Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, and Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 6062: Mr. MOYLAN.
H.R. 6159: Ms. MATSUI and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.
H.R. 6248: Mr. FROST.
H.R. 6279: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
H.R. 6280: Ms. BUDZINSKI.
H.R. 6300: Mr. MAST.
H.R. 6342: Mr. CISCOMANI.
H.R. 6349: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK and Ms. STEFANIK.
H.R. 6495: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 6673: Mr. ARMSTRONG.
H.R. 6683: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 6758: Mr. CRANE.
H.R. 6805: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 6864: Mr. ROSE.
H.R. 6918: Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. STAUBER, and Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 6943: Mr. FERGUSON.
H.R. 6945: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 6962: Mrs. WAGNER.
H.R. 6964: Mr. MOLINARO.
H.J. Res. 54: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H. Con. Res. 41: Mr. LALOTA.
H. Res. 50: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.
H. Res. 82: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. HUIZENGA, and Mr. PALMER.
H. Res. 735: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS and Mr. CASAR.
H. Res. 786: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H. Res. 964: Mr. PALMER.