

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 605

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Office of Technology Assessment should be reestablished.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 2016

Mr. FOSTER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Office of Technology Assessment should be reestablished.

Whereas the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) was created in 1972 to provide Members of Congress and congressional committees with objective analysis of increasingly complex scientific and technical issues faced by our country;

Whereas for over 20 years and 11 sessions of Congress, the OTA produced trustworthy, nonpartisan technical reports on issues as far ranging as nuclear arms control, electronic health records, and oil and shale technologies;

Whereas the expertise provided by the OTA saved taxpayers billions of dollars by identifying cost-effective areas for future investment and avoiding wasting money on technologies and policies that did not and could not work;

Whereas the OTA contributed to the security and economic growth of our Nation by providing timely and forward looking analysis of technological threats and opportunities;

Whereas it is frequently necessary for Members of Congress to make informed policy decisions about rapidly changing technologies that are often outside their technical areas of expertise;

Whereas in the 20 years since Congress has suspended appropriations for the OTA, the United States has missed significant opportunities for reallocating Federal spending to better align with current and future technological reality; and

Whereas 90 organizations came together to call for the OTA to be funded once again by Congress: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) the legislative process would greatly benefit
4 from once again having an office dedicated to giving
5 nonpartisan, technical advice to Congress;

6 (2) the Office of Technology Assessment rep-
7 resents a cost-effective improvement to the govern-
8 ance of our country; and

9 (3) funding should be restored to the Office of
10 Technology Assessment.

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