

input and support in helping to refine the legislation.

It is my understanding that H.R. 209 will soon be placed before the Senate for its consideration.

I look forward to its expedited consideration and its eventual enactment into law in the very near future.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 209, the Technology Transfer Commercialization Act of 1999 and to pass this important measure.

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, Ms. MORELLA is a Member I have great respect for because of her bipartisanship.

I appreciate the efforts made in the H.R. 209, the Technology Transfer Commercialization Act of 1999, to ensure members of the public benefit from inventions created by the federal government.

However, I am concerned that this bill could lead to consumers having to pay more for prescription drugs as a result of there not being adequate notification or time to raise public objections concerning the government granting a company the exclusive right to manufacture a prescription drug developed by federal researchers.

I look forward to working with members of the House of Representatives and the Senate to ensure that any legislation eventually enacted works to the benefit of the public and businesses, alike.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. 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 Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 209, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FIRE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1550) to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration for fiscal years 2000 and 2001, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1550

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 "Fire Administration Authorization Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 17 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2216) is amended to read as follows:

"AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

"SEC. 17. Except as otherwise specifically provided with respect to the payment of

claims under section 11 of this Act, there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the purposes of this Act—

"(1) \$30,554,000 for fiscal year 1999;

"(2) \$46,130,000 for fiscal year 2000, of which \$2,200,000 shall be used for research activities, and \$250,000 shall be used for contracts or grants to non-Federal entities for data analysis, including general fire profiles and special fire analyses and report projects, and of which \$6,000,000 shall be for anti-terrorism training, including associated curriculum development, for fire and emergency services personnel; and

"(3) \$49,500,000 for fiscal year 2001, of which \$3,000,000 shall be used for research activities, and \$250,000 shall be used for contracts or grants to non-Federal entities for data analysis, including general fire profiles and special fire analyses and report projects, and of which \$8,000,000 shall be for anti-terrorism training, including associated curriculum development, for fire and emergency services personnel.

None of the funds authorized by paragraph (3) may be obligated unless the Administrator has certified to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate that the obligation of funds is consistent with the strategic plan transmitted under section 3 of the Fire Administration Authorization Act of 1999."

SEC. 3. STRATEGIC PLAN.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than April 30, 2000, the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration shall prepare and transmit to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a 5-year strategic plan of program activities for the United States Fire Administration.

(b) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The plan required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a comprehensive mission statement covering the major functions and operations of the United States Fire Administration in the areas of training, research, data collection and analysis, and public education;

(2) general goals and objectives, including those related to outcomes, for the major functions and operations of the United States Fire Administration;

(3) a description of how the goals and objectives identified under paragraph (2) are to be achieved, including operational processes, skills and technology, and the human, capital, information, and other resources required to meet those goals and objectives;

(4) an identification of the fire-related activities of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Department of Defense, and other Federal agencies, and a discussion of how those activities can be coordinated with and contribute to the achievement of the goals and objectives identified under paragraph (2);

(5) a description of objective, quantifiable performance goals needed to define the level of performance achieved by program activities in training, research, data collection and analysis, and public education, and how these performance goals relate to the general goals and objectives in the strategic plan;

(6) an identification of key factors external to the United States Fire Administration and beyond its control that could affect significantly the achievement of the general goals and objectives;

(7) a description of program evaluations used in establishing or revising general goals and objectives, with a schedule for future program evaluations;

(8) a plan for the timely distribution of information and educational materials to State and local firefighting services, including volunteer, career, and combination services throughout the United States;

(9) a description of how the strategic plan prepared under this section will be incorporated into the strategic plan and the performance plans and reports of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

(10)(A) a description of the current and planned use of the Internet for the delivery of training courses by the National Fire Academy, including a listing of the types of courses and whether they provide real time interaction between instructor and students, and including the number of students enrolled, and the geographic distribution of students, for the most recent fiscal year;

(B) an assessment of the availability and actual use by the National Fire Academy of Federal facilities suitable for distance education applications, including facilities with teleconferencing capabilities; and

(C) an assessment of the benefits and problems associated with delivery of instructional courses using the Internet, including limitations due to network bandwidth at training sites, the availability of suitable course materials, and the effectiveness of such courses in terms of student performance.

SEC. 4. RESEARCH AGENDA.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, in consultation with the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, representatives of trade associations, State and local firefighting services, and other appropriate entities, shall prepare and transmit to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing the United States Fire Administration's research agenda and including a plan for implementing that agenda.

(b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report required by subsection (a) shall—

(1) identify research priorities;

(2) describe how the proposed research agenda will be coordinated and integrated with the programs and capabilities of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Department of Defense, and other Federal agencies;

(3) identify potential roles of academic and other research institutions in achieving the research agenda;

(4) provide cost estimates, anticipated personnel needs, and a schedule for completing the various elements of the research agenda;

(5) describe ways to leverage resources through partnerships, cooperative agreements, and other means; and

(6) discuss how the proposed research agenda will enhance training, improve State and local firefighting services, impact standards and codes, increase firefighter and public safety, and advance firefighting techniques.

(c) USE IN PREPARING STRATEGIC PLAN.—The research agenda prepared under this section shall be used in the preparation of the strategic plan required by section 3.

SEC. 5. SURPLUS AND EXCESS FEDERAL EQUIPMENT.

The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 33. SURPLUS AND EXCESS FEDERAL EQUIPMENT."

"The Administrator shall make publicly available, including through the Internet, information on procedures for acquiring surplus and excess Federal fire, emergency, hazardous material, or other equipment or property that may be useful to State and local fire and emergency services."

SEC. 6. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH FEDERAL FACILITIES.

The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 34. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH FEDERAL FACILITIES."

"The Administrator shall make publicly available, including through the Internet, information on procedures for establishing cooperative agreements between State and local fire and emergency services and Federal facilities in their region relating to the provision of fire and emergency services."

SEC. 7. MISCELLANEOUS REPEALS.

The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 is amended—

(1) by repealing section 10(b) and redesignating subsection (c) of that section as subsection (b);

(2) by repealing section 23;

(3) in section 24—

(A) by striking "(a) The" and inserting "The"; and

(B) by repealing subsection (b);

(4) by repealing section 26; and

(5) by repealing section 27.

SEC. 8. NEED FOR ADDITIONAL TRAINING IN COUNTERTERRORISM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United States Fire Administration shall conduct an assessment of the need for additional capabilities for Federal counterterrorism training of emergency response personnel.

(b) CONTENTS OF ASSESSMENT.—The assessment conducted under this section shall include—

(1) a review of the counterterrorism training programs offered by the United States Fire Administration and other Federal agencies;

(2) an estimate of the number and types of emergency response personnel that have, during the period between January 1, 1994, and June 1, 1999, sought training described in paragraph (1), but have been unable to receive that training as a result of the over-subscription of the training capabilities; and

(3) a recommendation on the need to provide additional Federal counterterrorism training centers, including—

(A) an analysis of existing Federal facilities that could be used as counterterrorism training facilities; and

(B) a cost-benefit analysis of the establishment of counterterrorism training facilities in regions where many applicants for such training reside.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall prepare and submit to the Congress a report on the results of the assessment conducted under this section.

SEC. 9. NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY CURRICULUM REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, in consultation with the Board of Visitors and representatives of trade and professional associations, State and local firefighting services, and other appropriate entities, shall conduct a review of the courses of instruction available at the National Fire Academy to ensure that they are up-to-date and complement, not duplicate, courses of instruction offered elsewhere. Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall prepare and submit

a report to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report required by subsection (a) shall—

(1) examine and assess the courses of instruction offered by the National Fire Academy;

(2) identify redundant and out-of-date courses of instruction;

(3) examine the current and future impact of information technology on National Fire Academy curricula, methods of instruction, and delivery of services; and

(4) make recommendations for updating the curriculum, methods of instruction, and delivery of services by the National Fire Academy considering current and future needs, State-based curricula, advances in information technologies, and other relevant factors.

SEC. 10. INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.

The Administrator of the United States Fire Administration shall make available through the Internet home page of the United States Fire Administration the abstracts relating to all research grants and awards made with funds authorized by the amendments made by this Act. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require or permit the release of any information prohibited by law or regulation from being released to the public.

SEC. 11. REPEAL OF EXCEPTION TO FIRE SAFETY REQUIREMENT.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 4 of Public Law 103-195 (107 Stat. 2298) is hereby repealed.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall take effect 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1550.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1550, the U.S. Fire Administration Authorization Act of 1999 reauthorizes training, research, data collection and analysis, and public education programs at the United States Fire Administration, which includes the National Fire Academy. It was passed out of the Committee on Science by a voice vote on April 29, 1999.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Fire Prevention and Control Act establishing the Fire Administration. Since its formation in 1974, the Fire Administration has played an important role in reducing the loss of life and property from fire. These declines can be traced in part to research sponsored by the USFA that led to afford-

able smoke detectors and its work in promoting sprinkler systems.

Recently, many in the fire-fighting community have begun questioning the value of a Fire Administration that appears to have lost its way. These concerns were raised in the recent Blue Ribbon Panel report that identified a number of deficiencies that have undermined the agency's effectiveness.

The Committee on Science shares these concerns and is dedicated to assuring that the report's recommendation, which reflect the consensus of the fire-services community, are implemented in H.R. 1550. This is the first step to getting the Fire Administration back on track, especially in research.

The bill provides a significant increase in funding, authorizing a total of \$95.6 million over fiscal years 2000 and 2001. Of this amount, \$5.2 million has been set aside for research, \$500,000 for outsourcing of data analysis, and \$14 million for antiterrorism training.

The bill also requires the Fire Administration to certify that funds obligated in fiscal year 2001 are consistent with the strategic plan required in section 3 of the bill.

The strategic plan provision of the bill matches closely the language's strategic plans in the Government Performance and Results Act. Additional elements of the plan include coordination with other Federal agencies, especially the Department of Defense; a plan for disseminating information and materials to State and local fire services; and an assessment of the use of the Internet in delivering training courses.

In addition to the increased authorization for research funding, the bill also requires the Fire Administration to establish research priorities and to develop a plan for implementing a research agenda.

The bill also directs the Fire Administration to make available the State and local fire and emergency services information on excess Federal equipment and on setting up cooperative agreements with Federal facilities, such as military bases; conduct an assessment on the need for additional counterterrorism training for emergency responders; review the content and delivery of the curriculum offered by the National Fire Academy; and to post abstracts of research grants it awards on its Internet homepage.

In addition, H.R. 1550 repeals obsolete sections of the Fire Administration statute. It also repeals, as of 1 year after enactment, a provision in law that exempts Federally-funded housing built in New York City from sprinkler requirements.

□ 1500

Before closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH), chairman of the Subcommittee on Basic Research of the Committee on Science, and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), who is the ranking

minority member of the subcommittee, for all their hard work in producing a balanced bill that will rejuvenate and strengthen the Fire Administration. It is a bill that deserves broad bipartisan support. I urge its passage.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Fire Administration has long enjoyed the bipartisan support of the Congress because of its vital mission: to improve safety for all of our citizens.

I would like to acknowledge the collegial approach taken by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Basic Research, in developing H.R. 1550. It has been a pleasure working with him on the bill.

I also want to thank the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), and the ranking Democrat member, the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN), for their efforts in moving the bill through the committee and in bringing it expeditiously before the House for its consideration.

The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 was intended to address a serious problem affecting the safety of all Americans. Much progress has been made during the past 25 years in public education about fire safety, improvement in the effectiveness of fire services, and the wider use of home fire safety devices. Nevertheless, the United States still has one of the highest fire death rates among advanced nations. In 1997, 4,000 Americans died and 24,000 were injured in fires. Moreover, the approximately 2 million fires reported each year result in direct property losses estimated well over \$8 billion, with total direct and indirect costs reaching \$100 billion annually.

The bill before the House seeks to reinvigorate the efforts of the Fire Administration. I am pleased that it endorses the President's fiscal year 2000 proposal for a 40 percent funding increase and provides an additional 7 percent increase in the second year. Although these increases will raise the fire budget nearly \$50 million, it still pales compared to the scale of activity originally contemplated for the agency.

The landmark report, "America Burning", which was the genesis for the 1974 act, recommended an initial budget for the Fire Administration of \$124 million in 1974 dollars. H.R. 1550 is a good start for providing the level of resources the Fire Administration needs to carry out its important mission. In addition to resources, the bill provides for the agency to develop a management plan and establish the program priorities that will help to ensure the increased resources are used to maximize effect.

H.R. 1550 will enable the Fire Administration to increase support for its

critical responsibility of firefighter training through the National Fire Academy. Moreover, the budget growth will enable the agency to reverse the steep decline in support for fire research and for public education programs. Greater research is absolutely necessary so that we can help prevent firefighter injury and death nationally, including those that claimed the lives of three firefighters from the Dallas-Fort Worth area earlier this year.

Regarding public education, the Fire Administration must enlarge and improve its efforts to reduce losses for the population groups most at risk from fire death and injury. We know that the elderly, the very young and the poor are most vulnerable. I included language in the report accompanying the bill tasking the Fire Administration to carefully assess whether research and additional data collection activities could improve understanding of the factors that lead to increased fire risk. Effective targeted fire prevention campaigns can be developed only from a sound base of knowledge.

Also, I asked the Fire Administration to look into the current use of security bars, which are often called burglary bars. These devices offer protection from criminals but can become fire traps in the event of fire, as has recently been the case in Texas and other States. The Fire Administration could help prevent such tragedies by disseminating information about ways to install the security bars properly that also will allow for easy departure from a building in a fire emergency.

In addition to funding authorizations, H.R. 1550 establishes the requirement for a 5-year program plan for the agency. This plan will constitute the formal documentation of Fire Administration's response to the recommendations of the blue ribbon panel convened last year by FEMA Director Witt to review the agency's management and programs.

I am particularly concerned about the recent decision the FEMA director made to create the position of chief operating officer for the Fire Administration. The incumbent for this position, a civil service employee, would report directly to the FEMA director but assist rather than report to the administrator.

I understand the reasons that led to the creation of this new position and generally support the position. The problem lies in the tangling of lines of authority within the Fire Administration and confusing the roles of two officials. This arrangement, in my view, will create confusion in the line of authority within the Fire Administration that may be harmful to the functioning of the agency.

I believe the fire administrator is committed to carrying out reforms at the agency consistent with the blue ribbon panel's recommendations. I will be following this situation closely to be sure the fire administrator plays an important role in developing and im-

plementing the FEMA director's final response to the blue ribbon panel report.

One part of the process required by H.R. 1550 for developing the 5-year will include consultation with the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the fire service organizations to establish a prioritized set of research goals. I am particularly interested in seeing that this research prioritization places adequate emphasis on development of firefighter protection equipment. Firefighters put their lives on the line every day. It is only right they have the equipment that will allow them to do their jobs effectively and as safely as possible.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1550 is a useful bill that comes to the floor with bipartisan support and that authorizes programs that advance public safety. I am pleased to recommend the measure to my colleagues for their approval.

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

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 8 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH).

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, more than ever the American fire and emergency services are being called upon to respond to new challenges and incidents, most notably chemical, biological, nuclear, and conventional weapons of mass destruction. At the same time, they have small budgets, higher operating costs and fewer volunteers.

To their credit, the fire and emergency services simply make do with what they have in every one of our communities, but the cost to them is high. Roughly 100 firefighters and first responders die every year on the job and nearly one-third of our firefighters are injured. This compares, incidentally, to about 180 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty each year. However, both groups are vital to our communities. The difference is the budgets, with police getting about twentyfold of what we are giving to firefighters. For first responders, we can do better.

Today, the House will vote on the reauthorization of the United States Fire Administration. In this Congress the vote will not seem significant, but within the American fire services this is a landmark occasion. The United States Fire Administration is the lead agency for our 1.2 million first responders, the brave men and women who stand ready at a moment's notice to place their own lives in danger in order to protect ours. In the three terms I have served in Congress, this legislation is one of my proudest achievements.

The United States Fire Administration was established in 1975 under the Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974. Its mission was divided into four program areas: data collection, public

education, training, and technology development. Much of the progress in reducing fire-related deaths over the past 25 years can be attributed to the work of the USFA.

In recent years, the United States Fire Administration has been subject to scrutiny and criticism from its own constituents. In fact, James Lee Witt, Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, appointed a blue ribbon commission to conduct a thorough review of the administration and report back with recommendations to revitalize its mission. The commission represented virtually every facet of fire services, including career and volunteer firefighters, chiefs, ethnic and female firefighters and instructors. Having had the pleasure of meeting with the chair and co-chairperson of this distinguished commission, I can say that this group made certain that all views were represented in the report.

They listed 34 recommendations to improve the United States Fire Administration. At the top of their list was additional funding.

As many of my colleagues know, I am a fiscal conservative. So, quite frankly, I was somewhat skeptical of their motives. However, after careful review of the report, I saw in it a serious and earnest effort on the part of these stakeholders to bring about positive change, to increase funding for the United States Fire Administration while at the same time holding it accountable for its own performance.

The measure we will consider today will increase USFA's authorization from \$30 million to \$46 million in fiscal year 2000, approximately a 40% increase. It provides a fourfold increase in research that is so vital for firefighter safety and reducing the amount of damage in this country from fires.

The legislation will require USFA to prepare a 5-year plan on how the funding will be spent, mandating the administration to coordinate activities with other Federal agencies, including the National Institute of Standards and Technology. It will channel new funding into the National Fire Academy for counterterrorism training for first responders and call for a review of National Fire Academy courses to ensure that they are up to date and complement, not duplicate, courses of instruction offered elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, 3 weeks ago, as a member of the Congressional Fire Caucus, I had the pleasure of attending the 11th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services dinner here in Washington, D.C. The event was sponsored by leadership of the caucus, and I must say I was somewhat embarrassed to be seated at the head table when that honor should have been accorded to the 2,000 fire service leaders seated in the audience.

They came from every corner of the United States here to represent their segment of the firefighting industry. They were here in Washington to learn about the Federal process while also to

enjoy themselves at the dinner. But as I stand here today delivering these remarks, many of them are properly responding to emergencies placing their own lives in harm's way.

So when I say this legislation is one of my proudest achievements, my colleagues now know why. This will have the potential of saving countless numbers of lives, significantly reducing physical injuries and decreasing the dollar amount of damages caused by fire and other forms of disasters.

I would personally like to thank everyone from the fire service who offered their support to me throughout this entire reauthorization process. But more importantly, I would like to thank all 1.2 million first responders for their dedication and commitment to duty, and offer my best wishes for their continued success and safety. I am concerned that Washington's commitment to firefighters is not as great as firefighter's commitment to us. Too often, we take their willingness to protect and assist us for granted. The next time you hear a siren or see a fire truck, you should give some thought to the firefighters and rescue workers, who are mostly volunteers, going out of their way and often risking their lives to protect their communities and neighbors. I hope H.R. 1550 can be the beginning of a national effort to increase our support for these public-spirited citizens.

H.R. 1550 is an important piece of legislation that deserves broad bipartisan support. I ask my colleagues to support it.

Allow me to note some recent heroes, firefighter Matt Mosely, suspended from a helicopter hovering over a flame-engulfed factory plucked Ivers Sims from the top of a construction crane.

March 16, 1999, The Bourbonnais Fire Department, a volunteer department with 44 men and only three pumpers responded to the worst train wreck in America since 1993 found 14 dead and 119 injured. And acted with valor.

April 20, 1999, In Littleton, Colorado fire engineers placed their engines closer to the school to serve as cover for advancing officers and escaping students in Littleton.

Capt. Richard Knowlton, of the Austin Fire Department, dove from a 26-foot cliff into a Northwest Austin pond in June. After Knowlton pulled a swimmer from the pond, he attempted mouth-to-mouth resuscitation until emergency medical rescuers arrived.

We cannot overlook their needs without continued loss of life. Sgt. John Carter, who died last year in Washington, D.C. was an unnecessary fatality. The reconstruction report said that he could have been saved if his portable radio worked properly. It was old, it was faulty, and he died from drowning in a basement when his air ran out. If fireground communication can save even one life, how much is it worst spending.

Finally, it is very important to contrast spending on law enforcement vs. spending on the fire services. The federal government probably spends more than \$96 million a month on everything from cars to vests for cops, while the fire services get nothing.

And I would like to cite the lack of leadership in the Administration on this vote for H.R. 1550!

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL).

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas for yielding me this time to speak in support of H.R. 1550, the Fire Administration Authorization Act of 1999.

I would like to talk specifically about the merits of two provisions added by amendments I offered that are designed to strengthen our counterterrorism training efforts.

As we experience more instances of domestic terrorism, it is vital our first responders are trained to address the possibilities of terrorist attack. We are now facing a situation in which a policeman, paramedic or firefighter can be called upon to deal with a terrorist scenario.

Take Oklahoma City. In the bombing there, the incident commander was the fire chief. The law enforcement emergency professionals and others reported to him. In the future, given this example, training received at the National Fire Academy might mean life or death not just for our first responders but for uncountable numbers of people. It is essential that the Fire Administration have the resources necessary to help meet the anti-terrorism training needs of the fire services.

I agree with the Committee on Science's 1997 report authorizing the Fire Administration that important training programs for major fires, natural disasters and hazardous materials accidents should not come at the expense of existing USFA programs.

□ 1515

I would also note that the Blue Ribbon Panel convened last year by FEMA Director Witt recommends that the Fire Administration budget for natural disaster and terrorism response activities be \$15 million.

Accordingly, my first amendment increased the authorization level for the Fire Administration's anti-terrorist training activities by \$1 million for fiscal year 2000 and by an additional \$2 million for fiscal year 2001. These increases raised the total authorization level for this important activity to \$6 million per year in the first year and to \$8 million, or twice the current level, by the second year.

Under my second amendment, the U.S. Fire Administration is required to assess the need for additional capabilities for Federal counterterrorism training of emergency response personnel.

We need to know how adequate our current efforts are, what our current need is, and how best to satisfy that need in the event that demand for training exceeds our current capacity for training.

My amendments were designed to ensure an important activity of the Fire Administration is placed on a reasonable growth track consistent with the Blue Ribbon Panel's recommendation. Terrorism is a problem that has reached endemic proportions; and I feel strongly that, whenever possible, we

should do our part to protect Americans from this national threat.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this bill.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to take this opportunity to thank our colleagues, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Science, and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) for bringing this piece of legislation to the floor today.

This reauthorization addresses many of the concerns of today's firefighters and prepares them for the challenges ahead. I am pleased to cast my vote today in favor of the reauthorization of the Fire Administration. We trust America's firefighters with the lives of our families and the protection of our property, our homes, forests, and communities. In turn, they trust us with the protection of their lives by expecting us to provide them with the resources and training necessary to face the dangers ahead.

This legislation protects and prepares our Nation's firefighters for the critical challenges they face in our world today. This is a vital piece of legislation, preventing fires and protecting families and is ensuring our firefighters with the necessary funding to provide training and to enable them to gather information. By increasing funding by almost 40 percent, this reauthorization will assist Federal, State, and local firefighters in their efforts to develop and complete fire profiling, data analysis and reporting projects. It will provide today's firefighters with anti-terrorism training and develop a curriculum for fire and emergency services personnel.

Moreover, the bill requires the U.S. Fire Administration to develop a comprehensive mission statement which will cover the administration's major functions and operations in training, research, data collection and analysis, and public education and allows fire companies to identify the fire-related activities of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Department of Defense, and other Federal agencies, and open discussion of how those activities can be coordinated with and contribute to the achievement of these goals and objectives of the U.S. Fire Administration.

This reauthorization prepares today's firefighters by providing them with the up-to-date information that they sorely need by allowing them to input their ideas into national fire prevention efforts and giving them the funding support that will protect them as they face the challenges ahead.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to fully support this measure.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me the time and for her leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, the Fire Administration Authorization Act contains an important provision which closes the loophole specific to New York City, the area that I represent.

In 1993, a provision was slipped into a technical amendments bill which exempted New York City from the national requirement that all multi-family housing built using Federal funds must have fire sprinklers installed. This loophole allowed Federally funded multi-family housing only in New York City to be exempted from this requirement if the structure had "an equivalent level of safety." Yet it did not define what "an equivalent level of safety" was. And, as we have learned, there is absolutely no substitute to sprinklers when it comes to limiting fires and saving lives.

After a terrible string of fires in New York City apartment buildings, the City Council this year passed a very strict fire safety law which made sprinklers mandatory in multi-family housing. But with this loophole in place, if a developer receives any Federal funding, they can apply to be exempt from this fire safety requirement.

I introduced a stand-alone bill, H.R. 1126, to close this loophole; and the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER), an original cosponsor, added it as an amendment to this legislation.

I would like to publicly thank the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. JAMES SENSENBRENNER) for supporting this provision and for making certain that apartment buildings in New York City are as safe from fire as they are in the rest of the country. I thank them for including the amendment.

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas for yielding me this time, and I rise today in support of the Fire Administration Authorization Act.

First, I wish to thank our Chairman, the gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, for his work on this bill and the ranking member of our committee, the gentleman from California Mr. GEORGE BROWN, and my colleagues who have sponsored and introduced this legislation, the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. SMITH, and the gentlewoman from Texas, Ms. JOHNSON, for graciously accepting the amendment I offered during mark-up.

Fewer than two weeks ago we approved this bill in the Committee on Science. The bill, among other things, requires the United States Fire Administration to create a five-year plan laying out the agency's overall goals and program activities. My amendment added a provision to assess, within the strategic plan, the benefits of providing fire education to local fire departments through distance learning.

Under my amendment, the Fire Administration's strategic plan must now include full con-

sideration of how the Internet is currently used and could be used more effectively in the future to deliver National Fire Academy training courses at remote sites. It also asks the Fire Administration to review its current training activities over the Internet and assess the benefits and problems associated with Internet use for training. Finally, it requires an inquiry into the availability of federal facilities with advanced tele-communications capabilities which could be used as remote settings for Fire Academy courses.

The question that prompted me to propose this amendment is whether the National Fire Academy has carefully considered how best to make use of the Internet. At an authorization hearing on the Fire Administration in the Science Committee earlier this year, I learned that on-campus courses at the Academy are heavily oversubscribed and that distance learning is one mechanism to provide needed training for the fire services community. I believe that by assessing the viability of instituting this mechanism, we take a first step toward facilitating this needed training for our valued fire services community, who will stand to benefit from this practical application of information technology.

My amendment marks an important step in ensuring that the Government keeps pace with the uses and applications of the technological advances taking place in the world as we approach the next millennium. It also represents a continuation of my efforts in Congress to ensure that the Federal Government will be at the forefront of these technological changers.

Again, I wish to thank my colleagues on the committee for supporting the amendment and encourage all my colleagues in the House to support this bill.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further questions for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1550, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING SLAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 165) acknowledging the dedication and sacrifice made by the men and women who have lost their lives while serving as law enforcement officers.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 165

Whereas the well-being of all citizens of this country is preserved and enhanced as a