

the opportunity to include a lot of the provisions in this bill.

H.R. 4253 incorporates legislation I introduced in May and was passed in the House in June creating an important program within the Small Business Administration that will give our veterans a chance to succeed in business enterprises but provides them with all the help and assistance a grateful Nation can offer.

My legislation is intended to help veterans through grants, information services and contacts with professionals in fields of their endeavor. This Federal program will enhance the ability of a veteran to become a successful entrepreneur in his or her chosen field. I know from personal experience, being a veteran of 6 years and an entrepreneur for 30 years, I was able to realize the American Dream, and I think this bill does it.

H.R. 4253 puts an emphasis on providing veterans with the market research, financial options and the technological training important to become a successful small business owner. This legislation not only expands the number and the scope of the Veteran Outreach Centers, it ensures the opening of more doors and an opportunity for our women veterans. Assisting our women returning from combat is something that has long been overlooked and overdue. It is high time that we did something about it.

Today, the House will pass a bill that will help individuals make an important transition from being a veteran to a small business entrepreneur. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4253.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I would like to yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have produced over 600,000 new veterans thus far and have created a serious challenge for the Nation: how to facilitate our returning servicemembers' successful transition back home and into our economy. Given the ongoing nature of these conflicts, the shift in economic opportunities and the diverse needs of returning veterans, this is an unprecedented situation that will require a major and rapid response.

To promote veterans' abilities to be productive engines of the economy, I believe we must comprehensively modernize Federal programs designed to assist this key group through self-employment opportunities. H.R. 4253 achieves this objective by obtaining the Small Business Administration programs to ensure they are customized to meet the growing needs of this sector in a changing economy.

This Nation has a clear obligation to ensure that our returning servicemembers have the assistance they need to succeed at entrepreneurship. By complementing their individual strengths with appropriate Fed-

eral resources, we can help them realize their full potential, while also growing the economy.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the staff that worked on this bill. From the majority staff, Michael Day, Adam Minehardt and Andy Jimenez. From the minority staff, Barry Pineles and Kevin Fitzpatrick. I also want to recognize Max Goodman from Mr. BUCHANAN's staff and Cara Toman and Erik Komendant from Mr. ALTMIRE's staff.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 4253.

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the Ranking Member for yielding me the time and rise in support of H.R. 4253.

I would like to thank Congressman ALTMIRE for bringing this bill to the floor today and for including in the bill a number of provisions important to me.

H.R. 4253 incorporates legislation I introduced in May and the House passed in June creating an important program within the Small Business Administration that will give our veterans not just a chance at success in a business enterprise but provide them with all the help and assistance a grateful Nation can offer.

My legislation is intended to help veterans through grants, information services, and contact with professionals in their fields of endeavor.

This federal support will enhance the ability of a veteran to become an entrepreneur in his or her own right.

H.R. 4253 puts an emphasis on providing veterans with the market research, financial options and technological training important to becoming a successful small business owner.

This legislation not only expands the number and scope of Veteran Outreach Centers, it ensures the opening of more doors and opportunities for our women veterans. Assisting our women returning from combat has been an area long overlooked and it's high time we did something about it.

Today, the House will pass a bill that will help individuals make an important transition from veteran to small business entrepreneur.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 4253.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and urge its adoption.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4253.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS UNDER SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4252) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through May 23, 2008, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4252

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

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to extend temporarily certain authorities of the Small Business Administration”, approved October 10, 2006 (Public Law 109-316; 120 Stat. 1742), as most recently amended by section 1 of Public Law 110-57 (121 Stat. 560), is further amended by striking “December 15, 2007” each place it appears and inserting “May 23, 2008”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on December 15, 2007.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam 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 gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today we will consider a short-term extension for programs in the Small Business Act and Small Business Investment Act. This bill extends the authorization of the Small Business Administration and these programs through May 23, 2008.

This short-term extension is necessary to ensure continuous operations at the agencies so that this Nation's entrepreneurs continue to receive vital assistance. The programs at the SBA are designed to stimulate job creation and economic development across the country.

As the sole Federal agency charged with assisting this Nation's 26 million small businesses, it is critical that the SBA is able to meet their needs through access to capital, technical assistance and increasing their ability to secure Federal contracting opportunities.

The Small Business Committee has been working to improve and revitalize these efforts through a number of bills. The committee has taken steps to provide an overhaul and improvements to ensure our Federal Government is adapting to the current economy.

With 15 bills passed out of the House, these reforms have been a collaborative and bipartisan effort to assist small firms. Four of these bills were sponsored by Members of the minority, and nearly all of these bills have passed with over 300 votes in the House. I will also note that 10 different members of the committee, six of whom are serving their first term in Congress, have been the sponsors of these bills.

These reforms include major changes to SBA programs which affect millions of small businesses. The bills that have been passed are designed to improve small business contracting programs, as well as providing needed updates to the SBA disaster program that failed so many Americans during Hurricane Katrina.

The committee and the House have also reported legislation which streamlines the SBA access to capital initiatives and increases the outreach of entrepreneurial programs. With these bills passed out of this Chamber, we are prepared to take the final step to pass a comprehensive reauthorization to the SBA and its programs.

We will continue working with the Senate to get these reforms signed into law. This extension will provide time for the Senate to move their own changes and allow us to work out any differences.

□ 1715

At a time when the economy is in an uncertain state, it is important that these programs continue to serve small firms as Congress crafts these reforms. I look forward to working with Ranking Member CHABOT to move ahead on these efforts. Our common goal is to ensure the SBA can adequately and efficiently respond to the needs of entrepreneurs. Our Nation's main job creators, small businesses, deserve nothing less.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I would urge my colleagues to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4252, legislation to extend the authorization for programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act, as well as any program operated by the Small Business Administration for which Congress has already appropriated funds. This extension will last until May 23, 2008. I want to thank the distinguished chairwoman of the Small Business Committee, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, for working with me in her usual gracious manner.

With the current extension set to expire December 15, which isn't very far away, obviously, the extension is cru-

cial to ensuring programs designed to help our small businesses are able to continue to operate. Working in a bipartisan effort with Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ, the committee has reported 14 bills, most of which have been overwhelmingly bipartisan, and all of which have passed the House of Representatives.

While we have worked at a rather furious pace in an effort to formally reauthorize SBA programs, the other legislative body has had difficulties coming to the same bipartisan consensus. So without passage of this temporary legislation today, we find ourselves at risk of shortchanging the government contracting and capital programs for small businesses and impeding the management of the SBA.

Even with deliberations completed in the House, we operate in a bicameral legislative system. Time is needed for the legislative process in both bodies to function and, if necessary, for the two bodies to meet in conference to iron out any disagreements and to ensure that the SBA and its programs are best promoting the health of America's entrepreneurs who, after all, employ an awful lot of people in this country. The work cannot be expected to be done in a deliberative, thoughtful, and bipartisan manner with the looming deadline of midnight December 15 hanging over our heads.

Again, Madam Speaker, I want to thank my friend from New York for her very hard work on this legislation, and I urge all my colleagues to join us in supporting H.R. 4252, this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4252.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 3791, by the yeas and nays;
H.R. 2517, by the yeas and nays;
H. Res. 822, by the yeas and nays.
Postponed votes on H.R. 3505, H.R. 4253, and H.R. 2085 will be taken tomorrow.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

SECURING ADOLESCENTS FROM EXPLOITATION-ONLINE ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3791, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3791, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 409, nays 2, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 1131]

YEAS—409

Abercrombie	Cantor	Emanuel
Ackerman	Capito	Emerson
Aderholt	Capps	Engel
Akin	Capuano	English (PA)
Alexander	Cardoza	Eshoo
Allen	Carnahan	Etheridge
Altman	Carney	Everett
Andrews	Carter	Fallin
Arcuri	Castle	Farr
Baca	Castor	Fattah
Bachmann	Chabot	Ferguson
Bachus	Chandler	Filner
Baker	Clarke	Flake
Baldwin	Clay	Forbes
Barrett (SC)	Cleaver	Fortenberry
Barrow	Clyburn	Fossella
Bartlett (MD)	Coble	Foxx
Barton (TX)	Cohen	Frank (MA)
Bean	Conaway	Franks (AZ)
Becerra	Conyers	Frelinghuysen
Berkley	Cooper	Gallegly
Berman	Costa	Garrett (NJ)
Berry	Costello	Gerlach
Biggert	Courtney	Giffords
Bilbray	Cramer	Gilchrest
Bilirakis	Crenshaw	Gillibrand
Bishop (GA)	Crowley	Gingrey
Bishop (NY)	Cuellar	Gohmert
Blackburn	Culberson	Gonzalez
Blumenauer	Cummings	Goode
Blunt	Davis (AL)	Goodlatte
Boehner	Davis (CA)	Gordon
Bonner	Davis (IL)	Granger
Bono	Davis (KY)	Graves
Boozman	Davis, David	Green, Al
Boren	Davis, Lincoln	Green, Gene
Boswell	Davis, Tom	Grijalva
Boucher	Deal (GA)	Gutierrez
Boustany	DeFazio	Hall (NY)
Boyd (FL)	DeGette	Hall (TX)
Boys (KS)	Delahunt	Hare
Brady (PA)	Dent	Harman
Brady (TX)	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hastings (FL)
Braley (IA)	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hastings (WA)
Brown (SC)	Dicks	Hayes
Brown, Corrine	Dingell	Heller
Brown-Waite,	Doggett	Hensarling
Ginny	Donnelly	Herger
Buchanan	Doolittle	Herseth Sandlin
Burgess	Doyle	Higgins
Burton (IN)	Drake	Hill
Butterfield	Dreier	Hinchey
Buyer	Duncan	Hirono
Calvert	Edwards	Hobson
Camp (MI)	Ehlers	Hodes
Campbell (CA)	Ellison	Hoekstra
Cannon	Ellsworth	Holden