

of this requirement. And I would observe that it places a particular burden on the elderly, the group most often victimized by telemarketing frauds.

The FTC testified before our Committee last month that they would not remove any expiring numbers from the Do-Not-Call Registry, that is, phone numbers will stay registered, pending action by Congress to address this issue.

To that end, H.R. 3541 will eliminate the automatic removal of telephone numbers registered on the Registry, subject to certain common sense exceptions, such as at the request of the individual to whom the number is assigned. To maintain the accuracy of the Registry, H.R. 3541 directs the FTC to “periodically” check telephone numbers on the Registry against national or other appropriate databases, and remove from such Registry telephone numbers that have been disconnected and reassigned. The Committee intends for the FTC or any subcontractor to check these numbers at least once a month and preferably more frequently as technology allows. Nothing in this bill prohibits the FTC from removing invalid telephone numbers from the Registry at any time. The Committee expects the FTC to work with industry and technology experts to ensure the accuracy of the Registry. The legislation directs the FTC to report to Congress, not later than 9 months after date of enactment, on efforts taken by the agency to improve the accuracy of the Registry. I commend Representatives DOYLE and PICKERING for their strong bipartisan leadership on this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this strong package of important consumer protections. Let us hope for swift action on H.R. 3541, as well as on the legislation establishing a permanent funding mechanism, leading to quick enactment so that Americans are not once again inundated with unwanted calls from telemarketers.

Mr. STEARNS. 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 North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3541, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: “A Bill to amend the Do-not-call Implementation Act to eliminate the automatic removal of telephone numbers registered on the Federal ‘do-not-call’ registry”.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EXTENSION

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4341) to extend the trade adjustment assistance program under the Trade Act of 1974 for 3 months.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4341

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

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) ASSISTANCE FOR WORKERS.—Section 245(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2317(a)) is amended by striking “December 31, 2007” and inserting “March 31, 2008”.

(b) ASSISTANCE FOR FIRMS.—Section 256(b) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2346(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and \$4,000,000” and inserting “\$4,000,000”; and

(2) by inserting after “October 1, 2007,” the following: “and \$4,000,000 for the 3-month period beginning on January 1, 2008.”.

(c) ASSISTANCE FOR FARMERS.—Section 298(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2401g(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “, and there are authorized” and inserting “, There are authorized”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following: “There are authorized to be appropriated and there are appropriated to the Department of Agriculture to carry out this chapter \$9,000,000 for the 3-month period beginning on January 1, 2008.”.

(d) EXTENSION OF TERMINATION DATES.—Section 285 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2271 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2007” each place it appears and inserting “March 31, 2008”.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) through (d) shall be effective as of January 1, 2008.

SEC. 2. OFFSETS.

(a) TIME FOR PAYMENT OF CORPORATE ESTIMATED TAXES.—The percentage under subparagraph (B) of section 401(i) of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act is increased by 0.25 percentage points.

(b) CUSTOMS USER FEES.—Section 13031(j)(3)(B)(i) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(j)(3)(B)(i)) is amended by striking “December 13, 2014” and inserting “December 20, 2014”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) will each control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. TAA will run out very soon, and this is essential that that not happen. This is a vital program for workers in this country, for the firms for which they work, for farmers, and for their entire communities.

We’ve been trying to not only extend TAA, but we’ve been trying to reform it and to improve it. We have passed legislation in this House, legislation that, indeed, reformed and enhanced and expanded TAA, and it passed this House with some considerable bipartisan support. It addressed issues like this:

Expands TAA to service workers;

Improves funding, because a number of States have essentially run out of funds;

Streamlines the process for application for TAA because an unfriendly regimen of rules has too often made it difficult for people to access it;

Modernizes the unemployment system, which badly needs it;

Provides assistance to manufacturing communities hard hit by trade.

Unfortunately, though this bill passed comfortably in this House and

was an important landmark supported by our Speaker, by the majority leader, by Chairman RANGEL, by others, many of us on the Ways and Means Committee and, as I said, with some considerable bipartisan support, but unfortunately, the bill has essentially not moved in the other body. And it has been blocked, I think, by a position in the other body that it should be linked to something else.

Also, the administration essentially has opposed this legislation. And it was really rather startling that that occurred. After all, earlier this fall the President said this about TAA: “I understand that if you’re forced to change a job halfway through a career it can be painful for your family. I know that. And that is why I’m a big believer in trade adjustment assistance that helps Americans make the transition from one job to the next.”

Unfortunately, it was only a few weeks after that that we received, on the eve of the markup of the bill in the Ways and Means Committee, a letter from the Secretary of Labor opposing the bill that was before the committee. And in the letter the Secretary said, “negative impacts with trade that are borne by the few,” that this does not warrant the changes we make in the legislation. Unfortunate language, indeed, because there has been an impact of trade very substantially across the board, not only in the manufacturing industries, but in the service industries and beyond, and that that impact has been borne by many, many more than a few.

So, what has happened is that we passed this legislation with some bipartisan support, legislation that, as I say, expanded and reformed TAA and also addressed overdue issues of unemployment counts. We’re just stuck because of the opposition of the administration, and also because of inaction in the Senate.

So, here’s what this legislation does:

It extends TAA for 3 months. Why 3 months? Three months because it’s the intention the majority, after we return after the holidays, if we adjourn for the holidays, and I assume we will, to get moving quickly to take up this vital reform of TAA within the first few months, to make it a high priority in this House, and we hope in the entire Congress, and we hope in the White House.

□ 1630

So I come today on behalf of many of us viewing the importance of this legislation and asking that this House vote for a 3-month extension until March 31, 2008.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back myself so much time as I may require.

I rise in support of this extension of the Trade Adjustment Assistance, or TAA program, for 3 months beyond its expiration of December 31. The TAA program provides important training,

health care, and other benefits to American workers adversely affected by trade. While this bill will continue the program for 3 months, I believe 6 months would be better and would allow the Senate sufficient time to pass the TAA reauthorization bill.

Also, the Senate and House must work together to develop what I hope will be truly bipartisan legislation that helps workers affected by trade and globalization get retrained and back to work sooner. Unfortunately, the House-passed Democrat bill was not the product of a bipartisan approach as I had hoped and did not include key Republican reform proposals.

In light of this, an overwhelming majority of the Republicans did not support it, and the bill drew a veto threat from the administration. In contrast, a TAA reauthorization bill that committee Republicans offered in an alternative on the floor was supported by 95 percent of all House Republicans and 11 Democrats. This strong support reflects the meaningful reforms in our 5-year TAA reauthorization, such as an increased health coverage tax credit.

As debate moves forward, I hope that at least some of the key TAA reforms in our bill will be considered and adopted. Several critical reforms in the House Republican TAA bill were not included with the House-passed language. They include providing more flexible training options to get people back to work sooner, such as training before layoffs, part-time training, and providing training scholarship for workers to use over 4 years, provisions to enhance the capacity of training providers, primarily community colleges to provide effective training programs, new accountability measures for TAA program funds, an extension and modernization of the Workforce Investment Act that will better integrate it with TAA to expand services to all workers and additional flexibility for States to operate UI programs that would help workers get back on the job faster.

I also want to reiterate my opposition to how the majority paid for the House-passed bill, and I hope we can revisit this issue as the process moves ahead.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I believe we should discuss TAA expansion in the context of initiatives that would expand trade opportunities for U.S. workers, farmers, and producers. We must pass all of our pending trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea and reauthorize trade promotion authority that allows the President a stronger hand to negotiate these beneficial agreements in the first place.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, this is not the time to have any lengthy debate about trade nor, I think, about TAA. But before I yield back my time, since this is going to be a 3-month extension, and that means there needs to be quick action and we intend to undertake it as

soon as we come back, I do want to emphasize a few points. Number one, the bill that passed here addressed the issue of service workers. Essentially, what Mr. HERGER has referred to in his bill left the status quo and left out virtually all service workers, and that is simply inadequate and inappropriate.

It also did not touch the issue of funding. It did not streamline the processes so many people today in the manufacturing field for example when they lose their job because of trade simply can't work their way through all of the red tape. Also it doesn't address the issues within the unemployment compensation system and also doesn't refer to the needs of communities especially hard hit in manufacturing areas.

So we should pass this bill with notice that we here on the majority side intend to move quickly next year. I hope there can be a lot of bipartisan discussion. We need to do it quickly.

Let me say one last thing about the gentleman from California's statement about trade bills. We need to reform trade policy. We also need to pass trade adjustment assistance, and the attempt to link the two in terms of legislation simply will not work, and I don't think should or will happen.

TAA can stand on its own feet. TAA is necessary for those thrown out of work through no fault of their own because of the impact of trade. And to try to use TAA as an instrumentality to push particular trade bills simply shortchanges people in this country who lose their jobs, communities that lose their base, firms that are left out because of trade. Trade is not the only cause of dislocation in this country, but it is a substantial cause that needs to be addressed by reforming trade policy, number one, and we took major steps to begin to do that this year on the majority side, and also to pass TAA.

So I hope Mr. HERGER and the Republicans will join with us the first 3 months of next year, and let's get busy and pass TAA. I hope also that the administration will drop its resistance and also stop trying to use TAA as a bargaining tool. That is not fair to people who are hurting economically through no fault of their own.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEVIN. 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 H.R. 4341.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4341.

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.

ADDRESSING VULNERABILITIES IN AVIATION SECURITY

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1413) to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to address vulnerabilities in aviation security by carrying out a pilot program to screen airport workers with access to secure and sterile areas of airports, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1413

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

SECTION 1. ENHANCED PERIMETER SECURITY AND ACCESS CONTROL THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE SCREENING OF AIRPORT WORKERS.

(a) **PILOT PROGRAM.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) shall carry out a pilot program at 7 service airports to screen all individuals with unescorted access to secure and sterile areas of the airport in accordance with section 44903(h) of title 49, United States Code.

(b) **PARTICIPATING AIRPORTS.**—At least 2 of the airports participating in the pilot program shall be large hub airports (as defined in section 40102 of title 49, United States Code). At least 1 of the airports participating in the pilot program shall be a category III airport. Each of the remaining airports participating in the pilot program shall represent a different airport security risk category (as defined by the Assistant Secretary).

(c) **SCREENING STANDARDS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided under paragraphs (2) and (3), screening for individuals with unescorted access under the pilot program shall be conducted under the same standards as apply to passengers at airport security screening checkpoints and, at a minimum of 1 airport, shall be carried out by a private screening company that meets the standards in accordance with section 44920(d) of title 49, United States Code. That airport shall be an airport that uses such a private screening company to carry out passenger screenings as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **DESIGNATED SCREENING LANE.**—In addition to the requirements under paragraph (1), each airport participating in the pilot program shall designate at least one screening lane at each airport security screening checkpoint to be used to screen individuals with unescorted access on a priority basis under the pilot program. Such lane may also be used to screen passengers.

(3) **ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SCREENING.**—At 1 of the 7 airports participating in the pilot program, the Assistant Secretary shall deploy, instead of the screening standards required under paragraphs (1) and (2), alternative means of screening all individuals with unescorted access to secure and sterile areas of the airport. Alternative means of screening may include—

(A) biometric technology for airport access control;

(B) behavior recognition programs;

(C) canines to screen individuals with unescorted access to secure and sterile areas of the airport;

(D) targeted physical inspections of such individuals;

(E) video cameras; and

(F) increased vetting, training, and awareness programs for such individuals.