

list. I think we have all heard the stories about individuals who were wrongfully placed on that list or whose identifications were mistaken for somebody else. So that was a good way to start to get people off the list.

But right after the launch of that program, they had to shut it down. The TSA had to shut down the site because, as was reported in The Washington Post and the high-tech magazine Wired, it was determined that the information that individuals were entering onto the TSA Web site was not secure, very personal types of information. Security experts found that the site lacked many of the basic measures necessary to protect personal information, no encryption devices, no other safeguards, and that the data being transferred to TSA was essentially vulnerable to being taken and used for identity theft and other purposes.

After these concerns were brought to the attention of TSA, they had to bring down the Web site. They put up another Web site and program in February called the Travelers Redress Inquiry Program.

Now, the TSA has said that it has made the necessary adjustments to protect this very personal and confidential information from exposure and theft, but it is not clear that they have taken all the measures that are necessary, especially in light of the fact that only last week we found out that a hard drive containing the personal data of almost 100,000 TSA employees disappeared.

Data security does not seem to have been taken seriously enough by the TSA. This amendment is designed to focus greater attention on that issue.

This amendment is very simple. It requires TSA to take the necessary steps required to protect the personal information submitted online by passengers, by our constituents, when they are seeking to remove their names from the no-fly list, the selectee list or other related lists. It is designed to get at a very specific problem that has arisen in recent months, and I urge its adoption.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, let me thank the gentleman for a very thoughtful amendment. We have addressed this question in the Homeland Security Committee, but also in the subcommittee that I chair, and I think the important point is that when people are trying to clarify their name and they submit personal data, we should be responsible for protecting it. In light of what happened last week, and by the way, we will be having a briefing on that very issue dealing with the TSA's loss of the computer and all that data, this is a very instructive amendment.

It would be great to think that we would never lose material, but we do, and also to protect those that have

been subjected to a lot of scrutiny, some of them coming from different ethnic groups. This is very thoughtful, and I rise to support the amendment.

Madam Chairman, this amendment should be supported as it seeks to require the Department of Homeland Security (the Department) to use funds to protect the security of personal information submitted electronically to the Department's website for the Department of Homeland Security Traveler Redress Inquiry Program, otherwise known as DHS-TRIP, and any other Web site associated with that program.

It would be great if we only had to theorize about the possible security, or lack thereof, of the information sent to the Department via redress websites.

However, the past has shown that this problem is very real.

In February of this year, the Department's Transportation Security Administration (TSA) learned that the website they were using to collect personal information to aid in traveler redress contained a link that was not secure.

This insecure link caused hundreds of individuals to transmit information through cyberspace that was not encrypted and subject to being captured by identity thieves, at best, and terrorists, at worst.

The Web site was established to provide a remedy for passengers that had been delayed at airports and therefore believed that they had been incorrectly identified as someone on an aviation watch list.

What causes even greater concern is that for 4 months and 8 days TSA did not detect the problem through their own internal procedures. In fact, they became aware of the situation through an independent internet blog.

The fact that the redress website lacked the necessary security measures to protect users' personal information is proof in the pudding that more needs to be done to protect personally identifiable information sent to TSA.

The American public needs to know that the "S" in TSA stands for something.

Individuals that may have already been wrongfully identified—which can cause airport delays for hours or even days—should not have to experience a second round of mistreatment by having their personal information, including their name, gender, date of birth, social security numbers and addresses vulnerable to being hacked.

A few weeks after this discovery TSA launched the Department of Homeland Security Traveler Redress Inquiry Program, otherwise known as DHS-TRIP.

We have not yet determined whether the internal controls that should have been in place during the first mishap have been put in place with respect to DHS-TRIP.

The recent revelation that a TSA hard drive containing the personal, payroll and bank information of over 100,000 former and current TSA employees was reported stolen, does nothing to alleviate our concerns.

For these reasons, this amendment is a good idea, and should be supported.

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KING of New York. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chairman, I do not intend to oppose the amendment. I just would say to the gentleman, he is addressing a legitimate concern. One question I would have, and ask this be resolved as the process goes forward, it just says all funds that are necessary from the \$39.8 billion. Since Homeland Security funding is stretched as it is, since every dollar is essential to be spent for the right purpose, I would ask, as the process goes forward, we try to find a way to specify the amount necessary. I am just raising that as a point with the gentleman. I would certainly work with the gentleman as we go forward and with the chairman.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KING of New York. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chairman, I thank the gentleman, and I appreciate the point you are raising. As it says, such sums as may be necessary to address this issue. I wouldn't expect it to be a very large sum. TSA is telling us they have addressed this issue. I am not sure we are totally convinced. If we could get this amendment passed, obviously as we go through the process, if there is some claim that this is going to cost billions of dollars, I wouldn't expect it would, but I would be happy to work with the gentleman.

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Chairman, reclaiming my time, I will not oppose the amendment.

Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chairman, I thank the gentleman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment No. 18 offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CLEAVER) having assumed the chair, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Acting Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1684) to authorize appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

□ 1700

PERMISSION TO OFFER SHERMAN AMENDMENT NO. 14 OUT OF ORDER DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1684, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R.

1684 in the Committee of the Whole, pursuant to House Resolution 382, the following amendment be permitted to be offered at any time: Sherman amendment No. 14.

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

PERMISSION TO OFFER KUCINICH AMENDMENT NO. 11 OUT OF ORDER DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1684, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R. 1684 in the Committee of the Whole, pursuant to House Resolution 382, the following amendment be permitted to be offered at any time: Kucinich amendment No. 11.

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

PERMISSION TO OFFER ROTHMAN AMENDMENT NO. 12 OUT OF ORDER DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1684, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R. 1684 in the Committee of the Whole, pursuant to House Resolution 382, the following amendment be permitted to be offered at any time: Rothman amendment No. 12.

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

PERMISSION TO OFFER ROTHMAN AMENDMENT NO. 13 OUT OF ORDER DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1684, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R. 1684 in the Committee of the Whole, pursuant to House Resolution 382, the following amendment be permitted to be offered at any time: Rothman amendment No. 13.

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 382 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1684.

□ 1702

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1684) to authorize appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes, with Mrs. JONES of Ohio (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 18 printed in House Report 110-136 by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MS. CASTOR

The Acting CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 19 printed in House Report 110-136.

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 19 offered by Ms. CASTOR:
At the end of title XI of the bill, add the following (and conform the table of contents accordingly):

SEC. 1122. TRANSPORTATION WORKER IDENTIFICATION CREDENTIAL PROGRAM.

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall work with the State of Florida and other States, as appropriate, to resolve the differences between the Transportation Worker Identification Credential and existing access control credentials.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 382, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of this amendment. My amendment requires the Department of Homeland Security to work with the State of Florida and other States, if necessary, to resolve the differences between the Federal Transportation Worker Identification Credential, known as the TWIC, and Florida's existing access control card.

You see, shortly after 9/11, the State of Florida enacted a law requiring a centralized biometric credential for workers in deepwater ports in the State of Florida, including the three ports in my district in the Tampa Bay area.

This credential is known as the Florida Uniform Port Access Credential, or FUPAC. At the port of Tampa, we have credentialed over 39,000 port workers and the State of Florida has credentialed over 100,000 port workers throughout the State. This means that the FBI and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement have conducted extensive background checks.

Meanwhile, the Federal TWIC, which was first mandated in the Maritime Transportation Security Act, was not finalized by the Department of Homeland Security until just a few months ago.

The criteria in the FUPAC and the TWIC greatly duplicate each other. The Federal Government and the State of Florida must reconcile these credentials to ensure that our resources go to make our neighbors and our ports safe rather than satisfy bureaucratic red tape.

The Florida Ports Council says that this issue and its resolution will have a profound effect on both the viability of our maritime businesses and the security of Florida's ports.

As long as proper security requirements are being met, as they are with Florida's port credential, we need to spare the working folks who keep our ports moving from having to bear the burden and expense of undergoing unnecessarily duplicative background checks.

The amendment offered today requires that the Department of Homeland Security work with the State of Florida to resolve inconsistencies and avoid unnecessary duplication between the TWIC and the FUPAC.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment which will aid Florida's strong maritime economy and ensure that valuable resources go to keeping our neighbors and our ports safe rather than to unnecessary bureaucratic red tape.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Chair, I claim time in opposition to the amendment, even though I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman.

I rise in strong support of the Castor amendment to the Homeland Security authorization bill.

I have worked long and hard to coordinate the agreement between TSA and Florida on their respective worker ID cards for screening port workers. TSA has been dragging their feet, unwilling to compromise so that Florida does not have to discontinue its own card. It wasn't until Senator Paula