communities for these powerful storms. And I want to thank my friend from Florida who has firsthand knowledge of these problems, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, for introducing this important resolution.

I urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, before I talk about this issue, I would like to thank Chairman GORDON, once again, and also Ranking Member HALL and also their staffs for allowing this timely resolution to move forward so quickly. As the chairman has just said, the time is right for this resolution once again.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 387, which is to support the goals and ideals of National Hurricane Preparedness Week as established by the National Hurricane Center. Hurricane Preparedness Week begins on the 24th of May and lasts through the 30th of May of 2009. Now, in less than 2 weeks, Madam Speaker, on the 1st of June, unfortunately, we mark the beginning of yet another hurricane season in the Atlantic and central Pacific Oceans. Hurricane season lasts a long, long 6 months until November 30.

The goal of Hurricane Preparedness Week is to inform the public about hurricanes, their hazards, and to provide knowledge that, frankly, we can use and that hopefully all of us can use to take action now, to be ready now before the hurricanes hit. We must be ready. This information can be used to save property and, most importantly, it can be used to save lives. As the chairman himself said, we have too often seen what these storms can do.

Now, although the Federal Government plays a critical role before and after a storm, we have to do our part. We have to be ready ourselves. And it is the hope that the residents, particularly in areas that are hurricane prone, will prepare themselves and their families for this before this hurricane season starts.

History teaches us that a lack of hurricane awareness and preparation are, unfortunately, common threads among all hurricanes and major disasters. For instance, one of the biggest lessons learned from the recent wave of hurricanes is that the residents need to have enough supplies to take care of themselves and their families for at least 3 days after one of these storms makes landfall. Oftentimes, local governments are trying to keep order. They are trying to take care of really basic essentials right after a storm, so, therefore, it is important that each and every one of us have a plan, that we prepare and that we can be self-sufficient for those 3 days. Again, millions of Americans face great risk from tropical storms and hurricanes. More than 50 percent of all Americans live along the coast, which again just shows you how grave that risk can be.

Now, the statistics associated with hurricanes are staggering. An average of 11 tropical storms develop each year over the Atlantic Ocean or the Caribbean or the Gulf of Mexico. Six of these storms will, unfortunately, become hurricanes. Now, look, we just hope that they don't make landfall, and they can just slide by, and we can just kiss them goodbye. But we can't be sure that will happen, so we have to be ready.

Last year, unfortunately, several storms made landfall along the eastern and gulf coast, including Tropical Storm Fay, Hurricanes Gustav, Hanna and Ike. And as we have learned in the past few years, hurricanes pose, again, a serious, serious threat to our country. These massive storms can result in casualties and millions of dollars or, frankly, billions of dollars in economic damage and destruction.

During a hurricane, homes and businesses and other buildings can be damaged by heavy rain, by strong winds and by storm surge, which is one of the worst problems and a real killer. Tornadoes can strike after these storms or during the storms, and oftentimes power can be wiped out for days, if not weeks.

Experts at the NOAA's National Hurricane Center agree that there are some critical things that have to be done. Obviously, first, is to determine if you live in a hurricane-prone area, then know your home's vulnerabilities to either storm surge or flooding or wind and develop a written, a real family disaster plan based on this knowledge. And make sure that everybody in the family knows how to make that plan work and knows about it.

Once you determine, again, how vulnerable you really are to a hurricane, the National Hurricane Center recommends that people in hurricane-prone areas assemble a disaster supply kit before the hurricane season, not before a storm comes, but now before the hurricane season is even upon us; a first aid kit and essential medications, nonperishable food items such as canned goods, at least 3 gallons of water per person per day, again for at least 3 to 7 days, at least 3 days, preferably more; obviously, a battery-powered radio, a flashlight, extra batteries, special items including medications if you need them for infants, for the elderly or for disabled family members, and also making sure that you take care of pets, as well.

As we have learned in south Florida, the forecasters, the meteorologists and the hurricane specialists at National Hurricane Center who become, frankly, every year, heroes to all of us who are in hurricane-prone areas are often the source of the most valuable information on hurricane preparedness. They spend countless hours and days providing valuable information and warnings to all those Americans located in a potential path of a hurricane. Millions of Americans have come to rely on their steady advice and counsel, on their skill, and we thank them for their vital services.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Americans living in hurricane-prone areas to use this Hurricane Preparedness Week as an opportunity to learn more about the approaching hurricane season, to prepare before—before, I repeat—a storm threatens.

Once again, I need to thank the chairman for allowing this resolution to come here quickly, timely. It is important, and I want to thank him for his cooperation, as well as the ranking member and both staffs.

And with that, I do not think I have another speaker. I yield back the remaining part of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, in conclusion, I want to again thank Mr. DIAZ-BALART for introducing this legislation. He understands this in a very personal way. This resolution can help save lives.

I urge adoption of the resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 387.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2020) to amend the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 to authorize activities for support of networking and information technology research, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2020

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 ''Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2009''.

SEC. 2. PROGRAM PLANNING AND COORDINATION.

(a) PERIODIC REVIEWS.—Section 101 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) PERIODIC REVIEWS.—The agencies identified in subsection (a)(3)(B) shall—

''(1) periodically assess the contents and funding levels of the Program Component Areas and restructure the Program when warranted, taking into consideration any relevant recommendations of the advisory committee established under subsection (b); and

''(2) ensure that the Program includes large-scale, long-term, interdisciplinary research and development activities, including activities described in section 104.''.

(b) DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC PLAN.—Section 101 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511) is amended further by adding after subsection (d), as added

by subsection (a) of this Act, the following new subsection:

''(e) STRATEGIC PLAN.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The agencies identified in subsection (a)(3)(B), working through the National Science and Technology Council and with the assistance of the National Coordination Office established under section 102, shall develop, within 12 months after the date of enactment of the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2009, and update every 3 years thereafter, a 5-year strategic plan to guide the activities described under subsection (a)(1).

''(2) CONTENTS.—The strategic plan shall specify near-term and long-term objectives for the Program, the anticipated time frame for achieving the near-term objectives, the metrics to be used for assessing progress toward the objectives, and how the Program will—

''(A) foster the transfer of research and development results into new technologies and applications for the benefit of society, including through cooperation and collaborations with networking and information technology research, development, and technology transition initiatives supported by the States;

''(B) encourage and support mechanisms for interdisciplinary research and development in networking and information technology, including through collaborations across agencies, across Program Component Areas, with industry, with Federal laboratories (as defined in section 4 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3703)), and with international organizations;

''(C) address long-term challenges of national importance for which solutions require large-scale, long-term, interdisciplinary research and development;

''(D) place emphasis on innovative and high-risk projects having the potential for substantial societal returns on the research investment;

''(E) strengthen all levels of networking and information technology education and training programs to ensure an adequate, well-trained workforce; and

''(F) attract more women and underrepresented minorities to pursue postsecondary degrees in networking and information technology.

''(3) NATIONAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE.—The strategic plan developed in accordance with paragraph (1) shall be accompanied by milestones and roadmaps for establishing and maintaining the national research infrastructure required to support the Program, including the roadmap required by subsection (a)(2)(E).

''(4) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The entities involved in developing the strategic plan under paragraph (1) shall take into consideration the recommendations—

''(A) of the advisory committee established under subsection (b); and

''(B) of the stakeholders whose input was solicited by the National Coordination Office, as required under section 102(b)(3).

''(5) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Director of the National Coordination Office shall transmit the strategic plan required under paragraph (1) to the advisory committee, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives.''.

(c) ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTOR.—Section 101(a)(2) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) and (F) as subparagraphs (F) and (G), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

''(E) encourage and monitor the efforts of the agencies participating in the Program to allocate the level of resources and management attention necessary to ensure that the strategic plan under subsection (e) is developed and executed effectively and that the objectives of the Program are met;''.

(d) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Section 101(b)(1) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511(b)(1)) is amended by inserting after ''an advisory committee on high-performance computing,'' the following: ''in which the co-chairs shall be members of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology and with the remainder of the committee''.

(e) REPORT.—Section 101(a)(3) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) by striking ''is submitted,'' and inserting ''is submitted, the levels for the previous fiscal year,''; and

(B) by striking ''each Program Component Area;'' and inserting ''each Program Component Area and research area supported in accordance with section 104;'';

(2) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) by striking ''each Program Component Area,'' and inserting ''each Program Component Area and research area supported in accordance with section 104,'';

(B) by striking ''is submitted,'' and inserting ''is submitted, the levels for the previous fiscal year,''; and

(C) by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(3) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (G); and

(4) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraphs:

''(E) include a description of how the objectives for each Program Component Area, and the objectives for activities that involve multiple Program Component Areas, relate to the objectives of the Program identified in the strategic plan required under subsection (e);

''(F) include—

''(i) a description of the funding required by the National Coordination Office to perform the functions specified under section 102(b) for the next fiscal year by category of activity;

''(ii) a description of the funding required by such Office to perform the functions specified under section 102(b) for the current fiscal year by category of activity; and

''(iii) the amount of funding provided for such Office for the current fiscal year by each agency participating in the Program; and''.

(f) DEFINITION.—Section 4 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5503) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (7) as paragraphs (2) through (8), respectively;

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following new paragraph:

''(1) 'cyber-physical systems' means physical or engineered systems whose networking and information technology functions and physical elements are deeply integrated and are actively connected to the physical world through sensors, actuators, or other means to perform monitoring and control functions;'';

(3) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking ''high-performance computing'' and inserting ''networking and information technology''; and

(B) by striking ''supercomputer'' and inserting ''high-end computing'';

(4) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated, by striking ''network referred to as'' and all that follows through the semicolon and inserting ''network, including advanced computer networks of Federal agencies and departments;''; and

(5) in paragraph (7), as so redesignated, by striking ''National High-Performance Computing Program'' and inserting ''networking and information technology research and development program''.

SEC. 3. LARGE-SCALE RESEARCH IN AREAS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE.

Title I of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 104. LARGE-SCALE RESEARCH IN AREAS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Program shall encourage agencies identified in section 101(a)(3)(B) to support large-scale, long-term, interdisciplinary research and development activities in networking and information technology directed toward application areas that have the potential for significant contributions to national economic competitiveness and for other significant societal benefits. Such activities, ranging from basic research to the demonstration of technical solutions, shall be designed to advance the development of research discoveries. The advisory committee established under section 101(b) shall make recommendations to the Program for candidate research and development areas for support under this section.

''(b) CHARACTERISTICS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Research and development activities under this section shall—

''(A) include projects selected on the basis of applications for support through a competitive, merit-based process;

''(B) involve collaborations among researchers in institutions of higher education and industry, and may involve nonprofit research institutions and Federal laboratories, as appropriate;

''(C) when possible, leverage Federal investments through collaboration with related State initiatives; and

''(D) include a plan for fostering the transfer of research discoveries and the results of technology demonstration activities, including from institutions of higher education and Federal laboratories, to industry for commercial development.

''(2) COST-SHARING.—In selecting applications for support, the agencies shall give special consideration to projects that include cost sharing from non-Federal sources.

''(3) AGENCY COLLABORATION.—If 2 or more agencies identified in section 101(a)(3)(B), or other appropriate agencies, are working on large-scale research and development activities in the same area of national importance, then such agencies shall strive to collaborate through joint solicitation and selection of applications for support and subsequent funding of projects.

''(4) INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CENTERS.—Research and development activities under this section may be supported through interdisciplinary research centers that are organized to investigate basic research questions and carry out technology demonstration activities in areas described in subsection (a). Research may be carried out through existing interdisciplinary centers, including those authorized under section 7024(b)(2) of the America COMPETES Act (Public Law 110–69; 42 U.S.C. 1862o–10).''.

SEC. 4. CYBER-PHYSICAL SYSTEMS AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT.

(a) ADDITIONAL PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS.—Section 101(a)(1) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (H), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (I), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

''(J) provide for increased understanding of the scientific principles of cyber-physical systems and improve the methods available for the design, development, and operation of cyber-physical systems that are characterized by high reliability, safety, and security; and

''(K) provide for research and development on human-computer interactions, visualization, and information management.''.

(b) TASK FORCE.—Title I of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511) is amended further by adding after section 104, as added by section 3, the following new section:

''SEC. 105. UNIVERSITY/INDUSTRY TASK FORCE.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2009, the Director of the National Coordination Office established under section 102 shall convene a task force to explore

mechanisms for carrying out collaborative research and development activities for cyber-physical systems, including the related technologies required to enable these systems, through a consortium or other appropriate entity with participants from institutions of higher education, Federal laboratories, and industry.

''(b) FUNCTIONS.—The task force shall—

''(1) develop options for a collaborative model and an organizational structure for such entity under which the joint research and development activities could be planned, managed, and conducted effectively, including mechanisms for the allocation of resources among the participants in such entity for support of such activities;

''(2) propose a process for developing a research and development agenda for such entity, including objectives and milestones;

''(3) define the roles and responsibilities for the participants from institutions of higher education, Federal laboratories, and industry in such entity;

''(4) propose guidelines for assigning intellectual property rights and for the transfer of research results to the private sector; and

''(5) make recommendations for how such entity could be funded from Federal, State, and non-governmental sources.

''(c) COMPOSITION.—In establishing the task force under subsection (a), the Director of the National Coordination Office shall appoint an equal number of individuals from institutions of higher education and from industry with knowledge and expertise in cyber-physical systems, of which 2 may be selected from Federal laboratories.

''(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2009, the Director of the National Coordination Office shall transmit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives a report describing the findings and recommendations of the task force.''.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL COORDINATION OFFICE.

Section 102 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5512) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 102. NATIONAL COORDINATION OFFICE.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall establish a National Coordination Office with a Director and full-time staff.

''(b) FUNCTIONS.—The National Coordination Office shall—

''(1) provide technical and administrative support to—

''(A) the agencies participating in planning and implementing the Program, including such support as needed in the development of the strategic plan under section 101(e); and

''(B) the advisory committee established under section 101(b);

''(2) serve as the primary point of contact on Federal networking and information technology activities for government organizations, academia, industry, professional societies, State computing and networking technology programs, interested citizen groups, and others to exchange technical and programmatic information;

''(3) solicit input and recommendations from a wide range of stakeholders during the development of each strategic plan required under section 101(e) through the convening of at least 1 workshop with invitees from academia, industry, Federal laboratories, and other relevant organizations and institutions;

''(4) conduct public outreach, including the dissemination of findings and recommendations of the advisory committee, as appropriate; and

''(5) promote access to and early application of the technologies, innovations, and expertise derived from Program activities to agency missions and systems across the Federal Government and to United States industry.

''(c) SOURCE OF FUNDING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The operation of the National Coordination Office shall be supported by funds from each agency participating in the Program.

''(2) SPECIFICATIONS.—The portion of the total budget of such Office that is provided by each agency for each fiscal year shall be in the same proportion as each such agency's share of the total budget for the Program for the previous fiscal year, as specified in the report required under section 101(a)(3).''.

SEC. 6. IMPROVING NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION.

Section 201(a) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5521(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

''(2) the National Science Foundation shall use its existing programs, in collaboration with other agencies, as appropriate, to improve the teaching and learning of networking and information technology at all levels of education and to increase participation in networking and information technology fields, including by women and underrepresented minorities;''.

SEC. 7. CONFORMING AND TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) SECTION 3.—Section 3 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5502) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''high-performance computing'' and inserting ''networking and information technology'';

(2) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''high-performance computing'' and inserting ''networking and information technology'';

(3) in subparagraphs (A) and (F) of paragraph (1), by striking ''high-performance computing'' each place it appears and inserting ''networking and information technology''; and

(4) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''high-performance computing and'' and inserting ''networking and information technology and''; and

(B) by striking ''high-performance computing network'' and inserting ''networking and information technology''.

*(b) TITLE I.—The heading of title I of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511) is amended by striking ''**HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING**'' and inserting ''**NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**''.*

(c) SECTION 101.—Section 101 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING'' and inserting ''NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT'';

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''NATIONAL HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING'' and inserting ''NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT'';

(B) in paragraph (1) of such subsection—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''National High-Performance Computing Program'' and inserting ''networking and information technology research and development program'';

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''high-performance computing, including networking'' and inserting ''networking and information technology''; and

(iii) in subparagraphs (B), (C), and (G), by striking ''high-performance'' each place it appears and inserting ''high-end''; and

(C) in paragraph (2) of such subsection—

(i) in subparagraphs (A) and (C)—

(I) by striking ''high-performance computing'' each place it appears and inserting ''networking and information technology''; and

(II) by striking ''development, networking,'' each place it appears and inserting ''development,''; and

(ii) in subparagraphs (F) and (G), as redesignated by section 2(c)(1) of this Act, by striking ''high-performance'' each place it appears and inserting ''high-end'';

(3) in subsection (b)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''high-performance computing'' both places it appears and inserting ''networking and information technology''; and

(4) in subsection (c)(1)(A), by striking ''high-performance computing'' and inserting ''networking and information technology''.

(d) SECTION 201.—Section 201(a)(1) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5521(a)(1)) is amended by striking ''high-performance computing'' and all that follows through ''networking;'' and inserting ''networking and information research and development;''.

(e) SECTION 202.—Section 202(a) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5522(a)) is amended by striking ''high-performance computing'' and inserting ''networking and information technology''.

(f) SECTION 203.—Section 203(a)(1) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5523(a)(1)) is amended by striking ''high-performance computing and networking'' and inserting ''networking and information technology''.

(g) SECTION 204.—Section 204(a)(1) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5524(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''high-performance computing systems and networks'' and inserting ''networking and information technology systems and capabilities''; and

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''high-performance computing'' and inserting ''networking and information technology''.

(h) SECTION 205.—Section 205(a) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5525(a)) is amended by striking ''computational'' and inserting ''networking and information technology''.

(i) SECTION 206.—Section 206(a) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5526(a)) is amended by striking ''computational research'' and inserting ''networking and information technology research''.

(j) SECTION 208.—Section 208 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5528) is amended—

*(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING**'' and inserting ''**NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**''; and*

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''High-performance computing and associated'' and inserting ''Networking and information'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''high-performance computing'' and inserting ''networking and information technologies'';

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking ''high-performance computers and associated'' and inserting ''networking and information''; and

(D) in paragraph (5), by striking ''high-performance computing and associated'' and inserting ''networking and information''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2020, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 2020 is a good bipartisan bill which I and Mr. HALL introduced along with a number of our committee colleagues. H.R. 2020 continues to improve and update a program that was originally created in the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991.

The NITRD program, as it is known, involves a collaboration of more than one dozen Federal research and development agencies for a current total Federal investment of approximately $3.5 billion. This may sound like a lot, but the European Union is investing $7 billion over the next 5 years in cyberphysical systems alone.

To ensure we make the most effective use of our own resources and to remain a leader in these fields, it is critical that these many agencies come together to develop common goals and well-defined strategies.

H.R. 2020 strengthens the interagency planning, coordination and prioritization for NITRD by requiring the development and periodic update of the strategic plan, informed by both industry and academia. This plan is meant to create a vision for networking and information technology, R&D, across the Federal Government, and provides specific metrics for measuring progress toward that vision.

Next, the bill calls for an increased support of large-scale, long-term interdisciplinary research in networking and information technology that will help us tackle national challenges. These large-scale, long-term investments can provide substantial benefits to society, such as improving the effectiveness and efficiency of our health care and energy delivery systems.

Finally, H.R. 2020 promotes partnerships between the Federal Government, academia, and industry to foster technological transfer. It makes certain that the existing independent advisory committee will have the technical knowledge necessary to guide the program, and it ensures that the education of the future NITRD force remains an important component of the program.

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Many organizations support this legislation, including IBM, Association of Computing Machinery, Computing Research Association, IEEE-USA, and Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

Our nearly 20-year investment in the NITRD program has helped create jobs across all sectors of our economy and contributed immeasurably to our economic and national security.

Given how rapidly these fields evolve, a comprehensive look at the NITRD program by Congress is timely. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2020.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 2020, the Network and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2009. The NITRD program is the main Federal R&D investment portfolio in unclassified networking, computing, software, cybersecurity, and related information technology.

Networking and information technology, that technology that is vital but obviously sometimes drives us all crazy, sometimes outright batty, but it plays a critical role in our everyday lives, often in ways we do not even realize. Federal R&D investment in NIT has produced such computer breakthroughs as ARPAnet, the forerunner of the modern Internet, communications protocols to transmit data over networks, supercomputing, the Web browser, and the computer mouse, just to name a few. Multidisciplinary innovations include the decoding of the human genome, modeling and simulation of complex physical systems for aircraft, automobiles, power grids and pharmaceuticals, near real-time weather forecasting and climate models, and unmanned aerial vehicles and search and rescue robots.

Cybersecurity is one of the biggest security challenges facing our Nation today. It goes throughout all of our Federal agencies and even onto our private computer systems. This is just one area that the NITRD program helps to coordinate our Federal R&D, but it indicates just how imperative it is that we continue to support critical and collaborative research efforts such as this.

This bipartisan bill, and I again thank the chairman and also the ranking member for this, this bill authorizes one of the few formal interagency R&D activities within the Federal Government and one that has been viewed as a model of interagency cooperation and coordination. It is a culmination of recommendations from the 2007 PCAST Report on the program, feedback from numerous organizations, and hearing witness testimony. Technology has changed since this program was initiated in the early 1990s. This legislation updates the underlying statute to reflect those changes and helps prepare us for future innovative opportunities in NIT.

I want to thank the chairman for working on this important measure in such a bipartisan manner. Madam Speaker, he tends to do that. He is one of those Members that always tries to listen to all members of his committee.

I encourage my colleagues to join me, along with Chairman GORDON, Ranking Member HALL, and other members of the Science and Technology Committee in supporting H.R. 2020.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, we have no further speakers.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for his kind remarks and associating with his description of this very good bill.

I also want to say a special thanks to a former staff member of our committee, Jim Wilson, who was the staff director for the Research, Science and Education Committee. One of his last pieces of work before he left our committee was to put the framework for this bill together, and then working together with the good bipartisan staff that we have now, we have even a better bill. I thank him and I thank our current staff.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2020: the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2009.

Advanced computer networks are the wave of the future.

As technology has improved, we are better able to predict the paths of hurricanes, the force of tsunamis, or even the trajectory of comets.

Advanced computing is a broad area of active research. The Texas Advanced Computing Center, in Austin, has scientists who are using supercomputers to simulate airflow and manage shock waves for next-generation, hypersonic aircraft.

Other researchers there have been working to understand the process by which enzymes convert plant matter into energy, with the goal of creating more efficient enzymes. Then we could more quickly convert waste to energy.

High speed computers have also enabled scientists to develop realistic models of the human lung.

Teams of Texas researchers are working to develop a new tool to image, understand, and diagnose how air flows through the thousands of branching passageways of the lung, and how abnormalities can lead to illness.

There are so many useful applications for high speed computers and advanced networks.

The federal government invests more than $3 billion on the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD) program.

It is essential that such a large investment is spent wisely.

The President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology recently provided recommendations on how to improve our federal efforts in computer network research.

A key recommendation was to support high-risk, multi-disciplinary research. I support this suggestion.

For far too long, federal investments have been made in ''safe research,'' or research that has a certainty of getting a result.

The negative consequence is that science moves along at an incremental snail's pace.

Investments in high-risk research may never come to fruition or payoff. However we must support research of this nature.

Scientists must be unfettered to think more creatively. Then, they have the freedom to tackle big questions that sometimes take more time and more experimentation to answer.

As a previous chair of the Research and Science Education Subcommittee, I have long been a strong supporter of this kind of research.

I support H.R. 2020 and urge my colleagues to support it also.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2020, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 192) recognizing National Nurses Week on May 6 through May 12, 2009.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 192

Whereas since 1999, National Nurses Week is celebrated annually from May 6, also known as National Recognition Day for Nurses, through May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing;

Whereas National Nurses Week is a time of year to reflect on the important contributions that nurses make to provide safe, high-quality healthcare;

Whereas nurses are known to be patient advocates, acting fearlessly to protect the lives of those under their care;

Whereas nurses represent the largest single component of the healthcare profession, with an estimated population of 2,900,000 registered nurses in the United States;

Whereas nurses are experienced researchers, and their work encompasses a wide scope of scientific inquiry including clinical research, health systems and outcomes research, and nursing education research;

Whereas nurses provide culturally and ethnically competent care and are increasingly being educated to be sensitive to regional and community customs of persons needing care;

Whereas nurses are best positioned to provide leadership to eliminate healthcare disparities that exist in our Nation;

Whereas nurses help inform and educate the public to improve the practice of all nurses and, more importantly, the health and safety of the patients they care for;

Whereas the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) released preliminary survey data showing that enrollment in entry-level baccalaureate nursing programs increased by only 2 percent from 2007 to 2008, and though this marks the eighth consecutive year of enrollment growth, the annual increase in student capacity in 4-year nursing programs has declined sharply since 2003 when enrollment was up by 16.6 percent;

Whereas United States nursing programs were forced to reject almost 100,000 qualified applications to nursing programs according to the National League for Nursing's most recent survey of all prelicensure nursing programs;

Whereas the nationwide nursing shortage has caused dedicated nurses to work longer hours and care for more acutely ill patients;

Whereas nurse educators work on average more than 57 hours per week in order to ensure that each and every new registered nurse receives an excellent education, advancing excellence among the next generation of nurses;

Whereas nurses are strong allies to Congress as they help inform, educate, and work closely with legislators to improve the education, retention, recruitment, and practice of all nurses and, more importantly, the health and safety of the patients they care for; and

Whereas increased Federal and State support is needed to enhance existing programs and create new programs to educate nursing students at all levels, to increase the number of faculty members to educate nursing students, to create clinical sites and have the appropriately prepared nurses to teach and train at those sites, to create educational opportunities to retain nurses in the profession, and to educate and train more nurse research scientists who can discover new nursing care models to improve the health status of the Nation's diverse population: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the significant contributions of nurses to the healthcare system of the United States;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week, as founded by the American Nurses Association; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Nurses Week with appropriate recognition, ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate the importance of nurses to the everyday lives of patients.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) and the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 192, a resolution that honors the important contributions of nurses in the United States health care system.

There are nearly 3 million registered nurses nationwide. Nurses represent the single largest group of health care professionals. They are involved in every aspect of care. They are researchers. They help inform and educate the public, and they also help educate doctors, especially those freshly out of medical schools or residencies. They monitor the health and safety of their patients. They work to provide culturally competent care.

Earlier this spring at an Energy and Commerce hearing, witnesses highlighted the important role that nurses play in improving access to primary care, particularly among the underserved populations.

I would like to thank Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, a nurse, for her leadership on this issue. I would also like to thank Representative CAPPS, who is also a nurse, for her continued support of nursing issues and for her work on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution that observes the important role that nurses play in the lives of their patients.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 192 recognizing National Nurses Week from May 6 through May 12, 2009. Not only is today the last day of National Nurses Week, but it is also the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. I hope that my colleagues here at the House of Representatives have had an opportunity to reflect over the last week on all of the contributions that nurses have made to ensure safe and high-quality health care to those under their care.

In each of our communities, nurses work collaboratively with patients and other health professionals to improve the safety of patients and advance care in a myriad of settings. Nurses represent the largest single component of the health care profession with nearly 2.9 million registered nurses in the United States who are dedicated to improving the health outcomes of million of patients under their care.

I applaud the work that nurses have contributed and because of the ailing economy, we are seeing more nurses filling the shortage that exists. Many are going back to work, or putting off planned retirement to help maintain their family income during tough economic times. Many of those jobs are also being filled by better recruiting tactics by hospitals that have increased wages, offered potential hires signing bonuses, and efforts have been made to retain older nurses by making their jobs less strenuous. But as past economic indicators have shown, nurses shortages occur in times of healthy economic expansion and as baby boomers get older, we hope that hospitals will continue to provide incentives for nurses to fill vacant health care positions.

I would like to thank Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, the sponsor of this resolution, and the American Nurses Association for raising public awareness about the contributions that nurses give to our communities. I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague and physician from the Virgin Islands for yielding to me. I rise in strong support of H. Res. 192, a resolution in recognition of National Nurses Week.