

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. 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 California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1357.

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. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SUPPORTING GOALS AND IDEALS OF FLAG DAY

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1429) celebrating the symbol of the United States flag and supporting the goals and ideals of Flag Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1429

Whereas Flag Day is celebrated annually on June 14, the anniversary of the official adoption of the American flag by the Continental Congress in 1777;

Whereas, on June 14, 1777, in order to establish an official flag for the new Nation, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act, which stated, "Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation";

Whereas the second Flag Act, signed January 13, 1794, provided for 15 stripes and 15 stars after May 1795;

Whereas the Act of April 4, 1818, which provided for 13 stripes and one star for each State, to be added to the flag on July 4 following the admission of each new State, was signed by President James Monroe;

Whereas in an Executive order dated June 24, 1912, President William Howard Taft established the proportions of the flag and provided for arrangement of the stars in 6 horizontal rows of 8 each, a single point of each star to be upward;

Whereas in an Executive order dated January 3, 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower provided for the arrangement of the stars in 9 rows staggered horizontally and 11 rows of stars staggered vertically;

Whereas the first celebration of the American flag is believed to have been introduced by Bernard Cigrand, a Wisconsin school teacher, who arranged for his pupils at Stony Hill School in Waubeka to celebrate June 14 as "Flag Birthday" in 1885;

Whereas, on June 14, 1894, the Governor of New York ordered that the American flag be displayed at all public buildings in the State, prompting many State and local governments to begin observing Flag Day;

Whereas President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first nationwide Flag Day in 1916;

Whereas in 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed legislation requesting National Flag Day be observed annually;

Whereas the United States flag is a symbol of our great Nation and its ideals;

Whereas in times of national crisis, Americans look to the United States flag as a symbol of hope, courage, and freedom;

Whereas the United States flag is universally honored;

Whereas the United States flag honors the men and women of the Armed Forces who have given their life in the defense of the United States;

Whereas the United States flag serves as a treasured symbol of the loss of loved ones to the countless families of those who died in defense of our Nation; and

Whereas June 14, 2010, is recognized as Flag Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives celebrates the United States flag and supports the goals and ideals of Flag Day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. 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 California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H. Res. 1429 celebrates our Nation's most enduring symbol: the American flag. With this resolution, this Chamber expresses its support for the annual recognition of Flag Day.

The gentleman from Ohio, Representative ROBERT LATTA, introduced H. Res. 420 on June 9, 2010. It was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which waived consideration of the bill to expedite its consideration on the floor today.

We celebrate Flag Day on June 14, the anniversary of the Continental Congress' passage of the first Flag Act in 1777. The flag is our symbol—a symbol of hope, courage, and freedom. All around the world, it represents the American people and our highest ideals. We, the people, have always looked to our flag as a symbol of hope, courage, and freedom, and for over 100 years, we have celebrated it each June.

As stated in this bill, the first celebration of the American flag is believed to have been introduced by Bernard Cigrand, a Wisconsin schoolteacher, who arranged for his pupils to celebrate June 14 as Flag Day in 1885. In 1947, President Truman signed legislation requesting that Flag Day be observed nationally each year, formalizing the tradition of annual Flag Day celebrations.

The flag honors the countless men and women of the Armed Forces who

have died serving to defend the United States. It is a lasting symbol of their sacrifice. As public servants, we rightly pledge our allegiance to the flag each day as do millions of Americans.

As we remember who we serve here in this Chamber, the flag stands before the entire world as a symbol of our shared values, our hopes, our aspirations, and our ideals each day of the year, and I am glad that we take this time each June to celebrate that fact.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the sponsor of this legislation, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA).

Mr. LATTA. I thank the gentleman from Utah for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to stand before you today in support of House Resolution 1429. This resolution celebrates the symbol of the United States, and it supports the goals and ideals of Flag Day.

Flag Day is celebrated on June 14, which was the anniversary of the official adoption of the American flag by the Continental Congress in 1777. This was done by the first Flag Act, which stated, "Resolved, that the flag of the United States be made of 13 stripes, alternating red and white, that the Union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

Since 1777, our flag's design has been altered three times under Executive orders, rearranging the design of the stars and the stripes each time a State was added.

To reiterate what the gentlewoman has stated, the first celebration of Flag Day is believed to have been introduced by Bernard Cigrand, a Wisconsin schoolteacher, who arranged for his students at Stony Hill School to celebrate June 14 as Flag Birthday in 1885.

President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first nationwide Flag Day in 1916. In 1947, President Harry Truman signed legislation requesting National Flag Day be observed annually.

Flag Day is an important holiday as our flag is the official symbol for our great Nation and its ideals. Our flag serves as a beacon of hope, courage, and freedom during times of crisis and triumph alike.

The flag honors the men and women of the Armed Forces who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in defending the United States, and it serves as a symbol to those families who have lost loved ones while defending our Nation.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I ask for unanimous consent on H. Res. 1429 as we celebrate our Nation's flag.

Ms. WATSON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, each one of our States proudly flies its own flag, but the flag that reigns supreme flies above ours. In each one of our offices here in the Capitol, we have the flags from our States or from our territories and the flag of the United States.

I proudly say that the flag of California has a bear on it because we are the last frontier, and the strength of the bear represents the strength of our State. Also, current Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is one of those who serves under the California flag, and he has his star on the Walk of Fame.

So I am so proud that the flag that the Speaker stands in front of in this Chamber and that adorns this Chamber is the flag that we celebrate. Every single American and every single person who lives in our country pays homage to our flag by flying it high.

I again urge all of my colleagues, Madam Speaker, to join me in supporting this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

All right. Now, this bill is actually something I can get excited about and that I'm sure we can be in unison on. So I hope Chairman TOWNS, wherever he might be, hears that loud and clear.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1429, celebrating the symbol of the United States flag and supporting the goals and ideals of Flag Day.

The American flag has been our national symbol for 233 years, and it remains a symbol of freedom wherever it is flown. Since 1777, when the Second Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes, our flag has stood for liberty and justice.

Flag Day was first celebrated throughout the country in 1885, as one early supporter, Bernard Cigrand, a Wisconsin schoolteacher, wanted June 14 to be known as "Flag Birthday." The idea quickly caught on, and many people wanted to participate. In 1894, the Governor of New York asked that all public buildings fly the flag on June 14 to begin observing Flag Day. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Flag Day as a national celebration. However, the holiday was not officially recognized until 1949 when President Harry Truman signed the National Flag Day bill.

Since the beginning of our Republic, Americans have flown the flag to show their appreciation and pride for this great Nation. Every day, Americans pledge their allegiance to the flag, and our troops carry the flag as they defend the liberties for which it stands. On Flag Day, we remember the importance of our oldest national symbols, and we reflect on the loss of loved ones who died in defense of our Nation.

Let us pledge allegiance to this flag, to declare our patriotism and to raise its colors high to express our pride and respect for the American way of life and for the freedom that it represents. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1429.

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. WATSON. 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.

□ 1430

GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY, EFFECTIVENESS, AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2010

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2142) to require the review of Government programs at least once every 5 years for purposes of assessing their performance and improving their operations, and to establish the Performance Improvement Council, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2142

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Government Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Performance Improvement Act of 2010".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings and purposes.
- Sec. 3. Agency defined.
- Sec. 4. Sense of Congress regarding the need for increased consultation between Congress and Federal agencies on performance management issues.

- Sec. 5. Performance assessments.
- Sec. 6. Strategic planning amendments.
- Sec. 7. Improving Government performance.
- Sec. 8. Assessments and reports.
- Sec. 9. Additions to performance plan.
- Sec. 10. Savings.
- Sec. 11. Funding.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Weaknesses in established management processes pertaining to the use of information about the performance of Federal agencies undermine the confidence of the American people in the Government and reduce the Federal Government's ability to adequately address public needs.

(2) To restore the confidence of the American people in its Government and to increase the Federal Government's ability to adequately address vital public needs, the Federal Government must continually seek to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability of Federal programs.

(3) With the passage of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, Congress directed the executive branch to seek improvements in the performance and accountability of Federal programs by having agencies focus on strategic objectives and annual results.

(4) The requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 have produced an infrastructure of outcome-oriented strategic plans, performance measures, and accountability reporting that serve as a solid foundation for agencies working with Congress to achieve long-term strategic goals and improve the performance of Federal programs; use of those plans and reports to improve outcomes has, however, been limited.

(5) Congressional policy making, spending decisions, and program oversight have been handicapped by insufficient attention to program performance and results.

(6) While improvements have been made in the development of outcome-oriented strategic plans, performance measures, and accountability reporting for individual programs, progress is still needed to ensure that agency leaders, employees, and delivery partners regularly use performance information to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of government operations and to communicate performance information coherently and candidly to inform congressional decision-making in conducting program authorization, appropriation, and oversight.

(7) Regular performance assessments, complemented by periodic assessments of Federal programs, provide critical information on whether programs are achieving specific performance objectives, help Congress and the executive branch identify the most pressing policy and program issues, and determine if specific legislative, operational, financial, or strategic reforms are needed to increase program effectiveness and efficiency.

(8) Programs performing similar or duplicative functions within a single agency or across multiple agencies should be identified and their performance and results shared among all such programs to improve coordination or possible consolidation and, ultimately, performance and results.

(9) The performance reporting requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, along with individual performance and accountability reporting requirements contained in legislation, are in some cases redundant, and steps should be taken to eliminate duplicative performance policies and to streamline outdated and unused reports.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are as follows:

(1) To improve the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 by implementing performance assessment processes that seek to assess Federal programs on a periodic basis with a particular focus on the following:

(A) Identification by agency leaders of clear priorities and setting of outcome-focused, measurable, ambitious targets for those priorities.

(B) Regular goal-focused, data driven performance assessments to measure progress and adjust strategies.

(C) Accountability expectations that encourage managers to innovate, informed by evidence and analysis of experience.

(D) Transparent, coherent, and candid communication of results.

(2) To use relevant performance and related information to help agencies make informed management decisions, improve the effectiveness of agency and program operations (particularly for those programs, projects, and activities that are deemed poorly performing), and submit funding requests based on evidence and other relevant information.