

I think the other important information is with other digital e-commerce issues that we are approaching and discussing. We are discussing one in the committee now, which is the 21st century access to disabilities, which is trying to make sure that the digital age doesn't leave the disability community behind.

So the question that we faced in the committee today was: How much do we make sure that we set the standards but that we don't dictate technology? Because, if we dictate technology, we disincentivize the folks who are the smarts behind this new age.

What we did on ESIGN was to say, Here are the standards. You smart people figure it out. Make sure that privacy is protected. Make sure that you can continue to keep data if people want hard copies. The other thing we allowed was for the consumers to choose. If people wanted to try this new venue, it was pretty scary. Can you imagine going on the Internet 10 years ago and saying, "I'm going to buy a pair of tennis shoes, and I'm going to put my credit card number on the computer, and they're going to mail me this stuff, and it's all going to work out"? It was pretty scary. People do it all the time now, but you know what? If you want to go down to the store and pay cash for those shoes, you can still do it.

So the benefit of what we did was to say let the consumers choose. Also, the benefit of what we did was to say give the business community the standards. Don't try to squeeze them into a one-size-fits-all method. Let the great innovative minds—many of them are in my colleague's State of Washington State—really make this stuff work.

I've been on the Energy and Commerce Committee for, fortunately, my 14 years in Congress, and I've been on the Telecommunications Subcommittee. I should be an expert. I still don't understand it. I still don't understand how it all works, but I know that there are smart enough people who can make it work, and this is a perfect example. This 10-year anniversary, in essence, is a tremendous success story. I have a 17-year-old, a 15-year-old and a 10-year-old. They are growing up in an age where they don't know any other way of doing transactions and of doing business than what we did 10 years ago.

JIM. I appreciate your effort. I appreciate your coming to me on the floor. Like I said, I'm not a big resolution guy, but I thought this was one worthy of sitting back and of focusing on what we did in the hopes, as we move forward on other high-tech issues, that we will set the guidelines but that we will let the really smart innovators figure out how it can be done.

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. 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 gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 290.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. 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.

□ 2100

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTERS TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT ACT

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5610) to provide a technical adjustment with respect to funding for independent living centers under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 in order to ensure stability for such centers, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. R. 5610

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 "Independent Living Centers Technical Adjustment Act".

SEC. 2. INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTERS TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT.

(a) GRANTS TO CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING IN STATES IN WHICH FEDERAL FUNDING EXCEEDS STATE FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the conditions described in paragraph (2) are satisfied with respect to a State, in awarding funds to existing centers for independent living (described in section 722(c) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f-1(c))) in the State, the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration—

(A) in fiscal year 2010—

(i) shall distribute among such centers funds appropriated for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.) by any Act other than the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5) in the same proportion as such funds were distributed among such centers in the State in fiscal year 2009, notwithstanding section 722(e) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f-1(e)) and any contrary provision of a State plan submitted under section 704 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 796c); and

(ii) shall disregard any funds provided to such centers from funds appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.); and

(B) in fiscal year 2011 and subsequent fiscal years, shall disregard any funds provided to such centers from funds appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.).

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5) for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.).

(2) CONDITIONS.—The conditions described in this paragraph are the following:

(A) The Commissioner receives a request from the State, not later than July 30, 2010, jointly signed by the State's designated State unit (referred to in section 704(c) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 796c(c))) and the State's Statewide Independent Living Council (established under section 705 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 796d)), for the Commissioner to disregard any funds provided to centers for independent living in the State from funds appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.).

(B) The Commissioner is not conducting a competition to establish a new part C center for independent living with funds appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 in the State.

(b) GRANTS TO CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING IN STATES IN WHICH STATE FUNDING EQUALS OR EXCEEDS FEDERAL FUNDING.—In awarding funds to existing centers for independent living (described in section 723(c) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f-2(c))) in a State, the director of the designated State unit that has approval to make such awards—

(1) in fiscal year 2010—

(A) may distribute among such centers funds appropriated for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.) by any Act other than the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 in the same proportion as such funds were distributed among such centers in the State in fiscal year 2009, notwithstanding section 723(e) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f-2(e)) and any contrary provision of a State plan submitted under section 704 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 796c); and

(B) may disregard any funds provided to such centers from funds appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.); and

(2) in fiscal year 2011 and subsequent fiscal years, may disregard any funds provided to such centers from funds appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H.R. 5610 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5610, the Independent Living

Centers Technical Adjustment Act. This bill addresses an issue brought to our attention by a number of States that are at risk of having to reduce services for adults with disabilities. Authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Independent Living Center program serves adults with disabilities by providing an array of independent living services, including the information and referral services, independent living skills training, peer counseling, and individual and systems advocacy training. This program is administered by the Rehabilitation Services Administration, which allocates Federal funds to the centers based on a formula in an established State plan. Under current law, Centers within a State must first receive funds at the level they received in the previous year, and absent sufficient funding, they must receive the same proportional amount of the total they received the previous year.

The Independent Living Centers were provided additional funds through the stimulus package passed by Congress in 2009. States were given maximum flexibility for determining the allocation of these funds among the centers in their States. Several States opted to distribute these temporary funds using a formula different from their base formula. As a result, some Centers received a proportionally larger or smaller allocation than they did in previous years.

This one-time change in the allocation of funds made sense because of the challenges State economies were facing. At the same time, current law did not envision this one-time increase in funding. And, in fact, the Rehabilitation Services Administration is required to allocate 2010 funds based on a Center's total proportional allocation for 2009 and the additional funding a Center received under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, or ARRA. This requirement may result in some Centers losing up to 35 percent of funds as the total proportion a Center received may be less than they received in the prior year.

The Independent Living Centers Technical Adjustment Act will allow States to request that ARRA funds not be included in determining their center's previous year allocations. That way, the temporary funds provided under ARRA do not permanently change the Center's base allocations. This is a complex but necessary fix to protect services for so many people with disabilities who benefit from the work of the Independent Living Centers.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman MILLER for introducing this important legislation, and I urge support of this technical change to ensure Independent Living Centers can continue the important work for people with disabilities in our communities.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5610, the Independent Living Centers Technical Adjustment Act. Independent Living Centers are non-residential, private, not-for-profit agencies that provide an array of services for people with disabilities to enable them to live independently. Independent Living Centers provide employment, skills training, peer counseling, and information for people with disabilities to enable them to become participating members of society. They enable people with disabilities to live independent lives and participate in society as working adults.

The Rehabilitation Act provides funding for the planning, conduct, administration, and evaluation of Independent Living Centers. Due to the way 31 States chose to distribute funds provided for the Independent Living Centers in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, FY 2010 funds may be distributed disproportionately to Independent Living Centers in those 31 States.

H.R. 5610, the Independent Living Centers Technical Adjustment Act, would enable funds to be distributed to Independent Living Centers in the appropriate manner for FY 2010. H.R. 5610 enables States that distributed ARRA funds disproportionately to the centers to have those funds disregarded in the determination of the distribution of FY 2010 funds. This bill ensures the funding for Independent Living Centers, which provide such a valuable resource for people with disabilities, is distributed to the centers proportionally and appropriately. I stand in support of this bill and ask my colleagues for support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I urge support of H.R. 5610, 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. CHU) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5610, 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.

HONORING THE CHILDREN OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the work being done by the Children of the American Revolution, Lake Minnetonka. They're hosting a pancake breakfast to raise money for their grant programs to teach kids about the real meaning of the Fourth of July. Their mission is to train good citizens, develop leaders, and to promote a love of the United States of America and its heritage.

The Lake Minnetonka chapter recently gave a grant to Our Military Kids, a nonprofit that provides tuition assistance for art, sports, and music camps to children of parents that are deployed overseas or recovering from serious injury. They're also presenting the first donation for a memorial that's planned for the Minnesota State capitol grounds that pays tribute to all family members of all men and women, past and present, who have served our country in uniform.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the children of the American Revolution, and I encourage all of us to remember those who serve this great Nation as we approach the Fourth of July.

REJECT JOB-KILLING BILL

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the job-killing bill, H.R. 4173, the Dodd-Frank Act of 2010. All this so-called financial reform legislation accomplishes is to heap additional regulations and burdens upon community financial institutions which, by and large, were not the cause of the financial crisis. Even worse, this legislation doesn't adequately address the issue of too big to fail for Wall Street firms that were the root of the problem.

The added regulatory cost on the community banks in this bill will further slow job growth in our economy. In Kansas, this will especially hurt businesses and farmers and ranchers that need loans from their community banks to help make payroll and grow their crops. The added costs of the regulations and increased capital requirements on these financial institutions will lead to an even worse credit market.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should reject the bill and pass commonsense legislation that addresses the problems of Wall Street that caused our financial crisis, not add further regulation and costs to Main Street.

□ 2110

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

GOD AND GUNS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when I was at a town hall meeting in Texas recently, a local man came up to me afterward to talk about his concerns over where our country was headed—