

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support the bill. I thank the gentleman from California for his leadership in bringing this bill to our attention.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to thank my friend, Mr. SCOTT from Virginia, the chairman of the Crime Subcommittee, for working with dispatch to get this bill to the floor.

The danger of shining a laser beam into someone's eyes is not a new concept. It is reported that the power density from a 1 milliwatt laser, a power common in the laser pointers we have become familiar with, focused to a point, is brighter than the equivalent area of the sun's surface. Understandably, this can cause temporary or permanent eye damage. The danger from shining a laser at the cockpit of a commercial aircraft, especially during a takeoff or a landing, is a tragedy waiting to happen.

This bill will help prevent such a disaster from being realized. In 2005, when a similar bill was passed by this body, this emerging threat was estimated at 400 reported incidents over the previous 15 years. By contrast, in 2009 alone, there were almost 1,600 episodes reported. In 2010, there have been approximately the same number of incidents from 2009 in just the first half of the year. In my home State of California, there have been over 570 incidents so far in 2010.

Mr. Speaker, we have discovered that a number of those incidents were reported to the regional air traffic control system unit in Sacramento within my district.

Since the Judiciary Committee first began examining this issue, the effects of pilots being hit by a beam of a laser pointer have varied from causing the pilots to become distracted, to requiring emergency evasive maneuvers. Emergency maneuvers, to prevent a perceived mid-air collision, resulted from a wide variety of mistaken beliefs, including that the aircraft was about to strike the warning light on a tower or that the laser beam was actually the lights of an approaching aircraft.

Law enforcement pilots are frequently targeted and have to consider the possibility that they are being illuminated by a laser scope attached to a rifle. Law enforcement pilots have, on occasion, been required to discontinue a response to a crime, a crime in progress, due to being hit by a laser.

Some Federal prosecutors have declined to pursue cases under current law, believing that the current Destruction of Aircraft statute does not fit the facts of their particular laser case. Some States have statutes that have been successfully used to address this problem, but, unfortunately, many do not.

This bill specifically addresses the incident of shining a laser pointer into

an aircraft cockpit and will make, therefore, aircraft travel safer for pilots and for the public. While a number of laser pointers being aimed at aircraft cockpits has dramatically increased during the past 5 years, the power of the current generation of laser pointer devices has also significantly increased.

The cost, on the other hand, has gone down, making them much more widely available. Additionally, there are ways to increase the power of certain lasers by replacing the diodes with those intended for other purposes.

The problem of lasers being shone into cockpits is so prevalent in the Sacramento area that the FBI, FAA, Federal Air Marshal Service, as well as State and local law enforcement, have established a Laser Strike Working Group to address the problem, with other working groups expanding to other areas. This bill provides an important tool for securing the safety of air travel and is endorsed by the Air Line Pilots Association.

I received a letter dated July 27 from the Air Line Pilots Association, International, wherein they say: "The inappropriate use of widely available lasers against airborne flight crews is a genuine and growing safety and security concern. A laser illumination event can, at a minimum, be an unwanted flight crew distraction; and in serious cases can even lead to eye damage and temporary incapacitation."

Going on, the Air Line Pilots Association, International states that "your legislation is greatly needed to ensure that such reckless and malicious activity will, in fact, be classified and prosecuted as a Federal offense. We have worked with numerous Federal law enforcement organizations over the past years on this issue and there is strong agreement that such crimes should be addressed by Federal statute and not be adjudicated solely by State laws. H.R. 5810 will also help put the public on notice that shining laser lights into aircraft cockpits is a serious offense which will be met with serious consequences for those convicted of such crime."

□ 1410

And in conclusion, the Airline Pilots Association, International states: "We urge Congress to expeditiously pass this legislation and thereby enhance the safety and security of all commercial airline passengers and crew members."

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume just to thank the gentleman from California for his leadership. This is an extremely important piece of legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5810, 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.

SENIOR FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2010

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3040) to prevent mail, telemarketing, and Internet fraud targeting seniors in the United States, to promote efforts to increase public awareness of the enormous impact that mail, telemarketing, and Internet fraud have on seniors, to educate the public, seniors, their families, and their caregivers about how to identify and combat fraudulent activity, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3040

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 "Senior Financial Empowerment Act of 2010".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) The proportion of the population of the United States age 60 years or older is predicted to drastically increase in the next 30 years as more than 76,000,000 Baby Boomers approach retirement and old age.

(2) It is estimated that between 500,000 and 5,000,000 seniors in the United States are abused, neglected, or exploited each year.

(3) Abuse, neglect, and exploitation of seniors crosses racial, social class, gender, and geographic lines.

(4) Each year millions of individuals in the United States are victims of financial exploitation, including mail, telemarketing, and Internet fraud. Many of those who fall prey to such exploitation are seniors.

(5) It is difficult to estimate the prevalence of fraud that targets seniors because cases are severely underreported and national statistics on senior fraud do not exist.

(6) The Federal Bureau of Investigation notes that seniors in the United States are less likely to report fraud because they do not know to whom to report, they are ashamed to have been a victim of fraud, or they do not know that they have been a victim of fraud. In some cases, a senior who has been a victim of fraud may not report the crime because he or she is concerned that relatives may conclude that the senior no longer has the mental capacity to take care of his or her own financial affairs.

(7) According to a 2009 report by the MetLife Mature Market Institute, the annual financial loss by victims of senior financial abuse is estimated to be at least \$2,600,000,000.

(8) Perpetrators of mail, telemarketing, and Internet fraud frequently target seniors because seniors are often vulnerable and trusting people.

(9) As victims of such fraudulent schemes, many seniors pay a financial cost, having

been robbed of their hard-earned life savings, and frequently pay an emotional cost, losing their self-respect and dignity.

(10) Perpetrators of fraud targeting seniors often operate outside the United States, reaching their victims through the mail, telephone lines, and the Internet.

(11) The Deceptive Mail Prevention and Enforcement Act increased the power of the United States Postal Service to protect consumers against persons who use deceptive mailings, such as those featuring games of chance, sweepstakes, skill contests, and facsimile checks.

(12) During fiscal year 2007, Postal Inspection Service analysts prepared more than 27,000 letters and informative postcards in response to mail fraud complaints. During that same year, postal inspectors investigated 2,909 mail fraud cases in the United States and arrested 1,236 mail fraud suspects, of whom 1,118 were convicted. Postal inspectors also reported 162 telemarketing fraud investigations, with 83 arrests and 61 convictions resulting from such investigations.

(13) In 2000, the United States Senate Special Committee on Aging reported that consumers lose approximately \$40,000,000,000 each year to telemarketing fraud, and estimated that approximately 10 percent of the Nation's 14,000 telemarketing firms were fraudulent. Some researchers estimate that only one in 10,000 fraud victims reports the crime to the authorities.

(14) A 2003 report by AARP found that, though the crime of telemarketing fraud is grossly underreported among seniors who have been victims of such fraud, seniors who are properly counseled by trained peer volunteers are less likely to fall victim to fraudulent practices.

(15) The Federal Bureau of Investigation reports that the threat of fraud to seniors is growing and changing. This is largely due to the fact that many younger Baby Boomers have considerable computer skills and criminals have responded by targeting seniors through online scams like phishing and email spamming, in addition to traditional telephone calls and mass mailings.

(16) The Internet Crime Complaint Center (hereinafter referred to in this paragraph as "IC3") is a partnership between the National White Collar Crime Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation that serves as a vehicle to receive, develop, and refer criminal complaints regarding cybercrime. The IC3 processed more than 219,553 complaints of Internet crime in 2007. From these submissions, the IC3 referred 90,008 complaints of Internet crime, representing a total dollar loss of \$239,090,000, to Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies in the United States for further consideration.

(17) Consumer awareness is the best protection from fraud.

SEC. 3. CENTRALIZED SERVICE FOR CONSUMER EDUCATION ON MAIL, TELEMARKETING, AND INTERNET FRAUD TARGETING SENIORS.

(a) CENTRALIZED SERVICE.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Federal Trade Commission, after consultation with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Postmaster General, the Chief Postal Inspector for the United States Postal Inspection Service, and the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, shall—

(A) periodically disseminate to seniors, and families and caregivers of seniors, general information on mail, telemarketing, and Internet fraud targeting seniors, including descriptions of the most common fraud schemes;

(B) periodically disseminate to seniors, and families and caregivers of seniors, informa-

tion on methods available to report fraud targeting seniors, such as—

(i) referring complaints to law enforcement agencies, including the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and State attorneys general; and

(ii) calling a national toll-free telephone number established by the Federal Trade Commission for reporting mail, telemarketing, and Internet fraud;

(C) in response to a specific request by a party to the Federal Trade Commission inquiring about any history of fraud committed by a particular entity or individual, provide to such party any publically available information on any record of law enforcement action for fraud against such entity or individual—

(i) by the Federal Trade Commission; and

(ii) by any other agency that reports such actions to the Federal Trade Commission; and

(D) maintain a website to serve as a resource for information for seniors, and families and caregivers of seniors, regarding mail, telemarketing, and Internet fraud targeting seniors.

(2) PROCEDURES AND COMMENCEMENT.—The Federal Trade Commission shall establish and implement procedures to carry out the requirements of paragraph (1), including procedures—

(A) with respect to the frequency and mode of dissemination of information under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of such paragraph; and

(B) that provide for the implementation of the requirements of such paragraph not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$10,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2011 through 2015.

SEC. 4. GRANTS TO PREVENT MAIL, TELEMARKETING, AND INTERNET FRAUD.

(a) GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—Subject to the availability of funds authorized to be appropriated under this section, the Attorney General, after consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Postmaster General, the Chief Postal Inspector for the United States Postal Inspection Service, and the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, shall establish and administer a competitive grant program to award grants to eligible organizations to carry out mail, telemarketing, and Internet fraud prevention education programs for seniors.

(b) ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS.—The Attorney General may award grants under this section to State Attorneys General, State and local law enforcement agencies and groups, senior centers, and other local non-profit organizations that provide assistance to seniors, as determined by the Attorney General.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$20,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2011 through 2015.

SEC. 5. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS RELATED TO NATIONAL SENIOR FRAUD AWARENESS WEEK.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) there is a need to increase public awareness of the enormous impact that mail, telemarketing, and Internet fraud have on senior citizens in the United States;

(2) a week in the month of May should be designated as "National Senior Fraud Awareness Week";

(3) the people of the United States should observe National Senior Fraud Awareness Week with appropriate educational activities; and

(4) the President is encouraged to issue a proclamation supporting increased public

awareness of the impact of, and the need to prevent, fraud committed against seniors.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROONEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3040 was introduced to address the need to educate and inform the public of the predatory practices of unscrupulous individuals who prey upon the vulnerabilities of our senior citizens. Ours is an aging society. The U.S. Census Bureau tells us the following: in 2006, the year in which the first baby boomers began turning 60, persons age 60 and older comprised almost 17 percent of the population. By 2030, it is estimated that the 60-plus population will compromise nearly 25 percent of the U.S. population, and the number of people older than 65 will exceed 71 million, double the number in just 2000.

The oldest segment of our population owns the largest portion of wealth in the United States, and too often seniors have become a very enticing target to those who would seek to defraud them of their life savings. Although we currently lack national reporting mechanisms for tracking financial exploitation of elders, there is no doubt that we've got a real problem in this country. With the present state of the economy, older Americans are at greater risk of having their financial security threatened and disrupted.

Fraud perpetrated against seniors is a crime that they very often are incapable of recovering from because they don't have enough years left, so it's a matter of urgency. This bill, H.R. 3040, when enacted into law, will be part of the continuing effort to curb the rapidly growing problem of the victimization of senior citizens via telemarketing, mail, and Internet fraud through public awareness, education, and prevention.

It will accomplish this by creating a centralized service for consumer education on mail, telemarketing, and Internet fraud targeting seniors. It will direct the Federal Trade Commission to disseminate information on mail, telemarketing, and Internet fraud. It will provide means of referring complaints of fraud to appropriate law enforcement agencies. It will direct the FTC to establish a Web site to serve as a resource for seniors on financial

fraud. This will be accomplished through an authorization to the FTC of \$10 million per year from FY11 through FY15.

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H.R. 3040 will also authorize \$20 million a year from fiscal year 2011 through fiscal year 2015 for the Attorney General to establish and administer a competitive grant program to award grants to eligible organizations to carry out locally focused mail, telemarketing, and Internet fraud prevention and education programs for seniors.

Finally, the bill declares a sense of the Congress related to National Senior Fraud Awareness Week, and declares that a week in the month of May, Elder Abuse Awareness Month, should be designated as "National Senior Fraud Awareness Week." It also encourages the President to issue a proclamation supporting increased public awareness.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from Wisconsin for her leadership on this bill, and for those reasons, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, crimes against the elderly are a serious growing problem in America. Senior citizens are often the victims of abuse and neglect. Experts estimate that as many as 2 million older Americans are the victims of physical and psychological abuse every year. They are also the victims of financial crimes, including telemarketing fraud and identity theft.

The FBI reports that older Americans are prime targets for financial fraud because they are more likely to have nest eggs, own their homes, and have excellent credit. Seniors are more vulnerable to fraud schemes because they are less likely to report fraud or are ashamed of having been scammed or do not realize that they have been scammed.

These types of fraud are both creative and difficult to detect. Criminals will offer just about anything in an effort to defraud elderly victims—from counterfeit drugs, to health insurance, to anti-aging products, and even funeral services. Additionally, email scams have become more and more common.

In my home State of Florida, Attorney General Bill McCollum's office reports that, in 2009, it received over 13,000 consumer fraud complaints from residents over the age of 60. The number of complaints has doubled since the previous year and has increased six-fold since 2006.

Congress must address the rising incidence of fraud and scams that endanger our Nation's seniors. I am pleased to support H.R. 3040, the Senior Financial Empowerment Act, which is co-sponsored by my colleagues Congresswoman BALDWIN, Chairman CONYERS, Ranking Member SMITH, Chairman SCOTT, and Ranking Member GOHMERT.

This legislation aims to do just what the title promises—to empower older Americans to protect themselves from seemingly harmless but devastating financial fraud schemes. The bill directs the Federal Trade Commission to provide tips to seniors on how best to safeguard themselves against fraud, and the bill directs the FTC to educate victims on how to report fraud to law enforcement authorities. Just learning simple steps, like shredding our billing statements, can help anyone prevent identity theft.

Today's seniors need to be empowered to protect themselves from the Internet, email, and telephone schemes. H.R. 3040 will help them achieve this goal. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the sponsor of the bill, a great advocate for seniors and a member of the Judiciary Committee, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN).

Ms. BALDWIN. Thank you, Chairman SCOTT, for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3040, the Senior Financial Empowerment Act of 2009.

My own experience as the primary caregiver for my grandmother opened my eyes to some troubling exploitative tactics targeted at America's seniors. Growing up in Wisconsin, I was raised by my maternal grandparents. Though I went east for college, I returned to my hometown, Madison, after graduation to be there for my grandmother, who by then was widowed and who had sacrificed so much of her own time and energy to raise me. Eventually, I became my grandmother's primary caregiver.

Around the time that my grandmother turned 90 years old, she asked me to help her sort through her mail and balance her checkbook. Now, first, I was struck by the sheer volume of solicitations she was getting. I was also shocked by how many were fly-by-night organizations or "look alike" charities that were writing her on a monthly basis. Their pleas for donations looked and sounded legitimate, but I had my suspicions, so I started digging a little bit deeper.

I was also disturbed by the amount of money my grandmother had been giving to some of these entities. She believed that those who were able to do so ought to be as generous as possible to those in need, but she had no way of determining the legitimacy of the entities that were contacting her and soliciting her so regularly.

That experience opened my eyes to the very real exploitation of seniors, like my grandmother, through the mail, telephone, and Internet. Millions of Americans become victims of similar financial exploitation each year, but it is not just the isolated and lonely who may fall prey to these scams. One only need read one's local newspaper in order to hear how widespread this really is.

In my home district in Wisconsin, over the years, we have seen all sorts of scams. One reads of ongoing reports about "notch baby" schemes in which Social Security beneficiaries born between the years 1917 and 1921 are asked to send money to organizations that promise to change the Federal laws to increase their benefits. These organizations go so far as to ask these seniors whether they would like their Federal money in a lump sum or in monthly payments.

Earlier this year, The Capital Times newspaper in Madison, Wisconsin, reported that an 84-year-old Madison woman was duped out of nearly \$3,000 after a phone scammer convinced her that her "granddaughter's boyfriend" was in a Canadian jail and needed bail money. Madison police reported that she received a phone call from the man, who called her "Grandma," and he told her he was in a Canadian jail after being picked up for drunk driving. To convince the elderly woman, "Officer Jacob Harris" came on the line and convinced her of the need for bail money for her "granddaughter's boyfriend." This elderly woman wired the money, and fell victim to a disturbingly common scam.

I also read that, not days after President Obama signed the historic health care reform bill into law, fraudsters were figuring out how to scam seniors. A cable TV advertisement exhorted viewers to call an 800 number so that they wouldn't miss a limited enrollment period to obtain coverage. We all know that there was no limited enrollment period for any coverage in the health care legislation that we passed.

Though we all have read and heard these anecdotal stories, it is difficult to estimate the prevalence of financial exploitation cases due to severe underreporting. According to a 2009 report by Met Life Mature Market Institute, for every case of abuse reported, there are an estimated four or more that go unreported. We do know some facts, though. This same study found that the annual financial loss by victims of senior financial abuse is estimated to be at least \$2.6 billion.

In my home State of Wisconsin, the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups estimates that 35,000 seniors in Wisconsin alone were the victims of financial exploitation last year. The Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions reports that half of their cases now being investigated include older victims.

On a national level, postal inspectors investigated almost 3,000 mail fraud cases in the U.S., and they arrested more than 1,200 mail fraud suspects in 2007 alone. Further, the FBI has confirmed that criminals are modifying their targeting techniques to include online scams, such as phishing and email spamming.

Given the prevalence of financial fraud targeting seniors, Congressman HOWARD COBLE and I introduced the Senior Financial Empowerment Act

with a very specific goal in mind—to empower seniors and to end the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of America's elders. The bill builds on the good work already being done by the Federal Trade Commission and by the U.S. Department of Justice, and it seeks to empower these agencies to support local and State efforts to combat financial fraud and to empower our seniors.

I would like to extend a special thanks to my colleague HOWARD COBLE from North Carolina for his leadership on this issue. It has been a pleasure working with him to advance this legislation.

I also want to thank Chairman SCOTT, Chairman CONYERS, and Ranking Members GOHMERT and SMITH for their longstanding commitment to America's seniors.

□ 1430

Mr. Speaker, when I saw my grandmother go through the last years of her life, and what she went through with these solicitations, I made a pledge to make sure that all older Americans have the tools that they need to protect themselves against financial crimes and fraud. I urge support for the Senior Financial Empowerment Act.

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) for her leadership on this bill, as well as the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE). This important legislation will protect a lot of seniors, and I would hope that we would pass the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3040, as amended.

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. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. 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.

NORTHERN BORDER COUNTER-NARCOTICS STRATEGY ACT OF 2010

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4748) to amend the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006 to require a northern border counternarcotics strategy, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4748

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 “Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategy Act of 2010”.

SEC. 2. NORTHERN BORDER COUNTER-NARCOTICS STRATEGY.

The Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-469) is amended by inserting after section 1110 the following new section:

“SEC. 1110A. REQUIREMENT FOR NORTHERN BORDER COUNTERNARCOTICS STRATEGY.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this section, and every two years thereafter, the Director of National Drug Control Policy shall submit to Congress a Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategy.

“(b) PURPOSES.—The Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategy shall—

“(1) set forth the Government's strategy for preventing the illegal trafficking of drugs across the international border between the United States and Canada, including through ports of entry and between ports of entry on that border;

“(2) state the specific roles and responsibilities of the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security (including the Office of Counternarcotics Enforcement), and other relevant National Drug Control Program agencies (as defined in section 702 of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1701)) for implementing that strategy; and

“(3) identify the specific resources required to enable the agencies described in paragraph (2) to implement that strategy.

“(c) SPECIFIC CONTENT RELATED TO CROSS-BORDER INDIAN RESERVATIONS.—The Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategy shall include—

“(1) a strategy to end the illegal trafficking of drugs through Indian reservations on or near the international border between the United States and Canada; and

“(2) recommendations for additional assistance to tribal law enforcement agencies with respect to such strategy.

“(d) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—The Director shall issue the Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategy in consultation with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the heads of other relevant National Drug Control Program agencies, and, with respect to subsection (c), the leaders of the affected Indian tribes.

“(e) LIMITATION.—The Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategy shall not change existing agency authorities or the laws governing interagency relationships, but may include recommendations about changes to such authorities or laws.

“(f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Director shall provide a copy of the Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategy to the appropriate congressional committees (as defined in section 702 of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1701)), and to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

“(g) TREATMENT OF CLASSIFIED OR LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE INFORMATION.—Any content of the Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategy that involves information classified under criteria established by an Executive order, or whose public disclosure, as determined by the Director or the head of any relevant National Drug Control Program

agency, would be detrimental to the law enforcement or national security activities of any Federal, State, local, or tribal agency, shall be presented to Congress separately from the rest of the Strategy.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4748, the Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategy Act of 2010, amends the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006 to require that the director of the National Drug Control Policy submit to Congress a Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategy.

The United States' northern border with Canada is the longest open border in the world, spanning 12 States and over 4,000 miles.

President Obama's recently released Drug Control Strategy describes an increasing amount of drug trafficking and related criminal activity occurring near the Canadian border, including on Indian reservations in that area.

According to a 2010 National Drug Threat Assessment, the amount of drug commonly known as “ecstasy” being seized at the northern border has increased almost 600 percent between 2004 and 2009.

The Office of National Drug Control Policy has developed a comprehensive strategy for addressing drugs coming across the southwest border. Congress supported this effort with a directive contained in the 2006 reauthorization bill.

The bill before us extends that directive to our northern border to help bring focus to the efforts to curb illegal drug trafficking and related crimes on the international border between the United States and Canada.

As with the southern border strategy, the northern border strategy will detail the specific rules and coordinate the efforts of law enforcement agencies, including the ONDCP, the Justice Department, and the Homeland Security Departments.

In addition, H.R. 4748 brings in Indian tribes with reservations on or near the Canadian border for a consulting role in implementing the strategy on the reservations.

I would like to commend our colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS), whose district spans 250 miles along the border, along the St.