

There was no objection.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1603, expressing support for National Craniofacial Acceptance Month.

H. Res. 1603 was introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from Arkansas, Representative MIKE ROSS, on July 30, 2010. It was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which ordered it reported favorably by unanimous consent on September 23, 2010. The measure has the support of over 70 members of the House.

Mr. Speaker, there are 100,000 children born each year in the United States with a craniofacial anomaly affecting the head, neck, extremities, or organs. These include cleft lip and cleft palate, the most common congenital craniofacial anomalies seen at birth, as well as other conditions that can cause hearing loss or other complications.

The development of more advanced treatment options for individuals with these conditions can greatly improve their quality of life, but the number of physicians who specialize in treating these rare and complex conditions is very small. People born with craniofacial anomalies often require extensive surgery in childhood and a great deal of support and encouragement along the way, so I am glad that we can do our part to raise awareness of these conditions today through the passage of H. Res. 1603. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, we support the bill, and I will support the gentlelady from California's motion to approve it. I appreciate the fact that we are able to consider the item at this time.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CHU. 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 agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1603.

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. BILBRAY. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

AMENDING RULE ON FIREFIGHTER OVERTIME PAY

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3243) to amend section 5542 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that any hours worked by Federal firefighters under a qualified trade-of-time arrangement shall be excluded for purposes of determinations relating to overtime pay.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3243

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

SECTION 1. TREATMENT OF HOURS WORKED UNDER A TRADE-OF-TIME ARRANGEMENTS.

Section 5542 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, any hours worked by a firefighter under a qualified trade-of-time arrangement shall be disregarded for purposes of any determination relating to eligibility for or the amount of any overtime pay under this section.

“(2) For purposes of this section—

“(A) the term ‘qualified trade-of-time arrangement’ means an arrangement under which 2 firefighters who are employed by the same agency agree, solely at their option and with the approval of their employing agency, to substitute for one another during scheduled work hours in performance of work in the same capacity; and

“(B) the term ‘firefighter’ has the meaning given such term by sections 8331(21) and 8401(14), respectively.”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within 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. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 3243, legislation to promote flexibility in work arrangements and scheduling for Federal firefighters. H.R. 3243 was introduced by Representative JOHN SARBANES, the gentleman from Maryland, on July 16, 2009. The bill was reported favorably by the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on September 23, 2010.

H.R. 3243 allows federal firefighters to trade shifts without triggering mandatory overtime payments and added costs for their agency. The bill simply allows traded time to be excluded from the calculation of overtime. This grants more leave flexibility to these workers, without costing the government any money. The change is consistent with the workplace practices of state and municipal fire departments across the country. Under the bill, any decision to approve the workers' request to switch shifts would remain at the discretion of the employing agency. Trade time will boost federal agencies' ability to recruit and retain trained firefighters. The bill is strongly supported by the International Association of Firefighters.

I thank Mr. SARBANES for his work on this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, we have a substantive bill here, and I appreciate the leadership bringing it up in the committee we are working on.

One of the things we haven't done enough on Government Oversight, and I think the American people say we haven't done enough as a Congress as a whole, is to look at those things that we are doing in the government that are not efficient, not effective, and, frankly, can be very wasteful not just of the taxpayers' money but in their time.

This bill is a commonsense approach. It changes the accounting process and really makes the system much more user friendly for those who are serving.

As the lady from California pointed out, those of us from California know how important the Federal firefighters can be. We just recently had massive fires break out again, and we are sadly looking forward to another season that could be very, very damaging. These firefighters are not just those covering military installations but actually protect homes throughout the country, especially in those fire-prone areas such as California.

I would again just say that I think this is appropriate. It is those little things that add up that the American people have been asking us to do more of, and I think this is one of those bipartisan issues. We can go back to our districts and say there is a lot of stuff we haven't done, we really need to do more, but at least we got together and got this item done. And this item could not only save money but may be able to make the system work efficiently.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the House Subcommittee with jurisdiction over the Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia, and as a strong supporter of this bill, I am pleased that the House will act today to advance H.R. 3243. The bill, introduced by Congressman JOHN SARBANES of Maryland, will allow federal fire fighters to trade shifts with each other, without triggering required overtime payments from their employing agencies. Notably, state and municipal fire fighters have long been able to swap shifts, or to exchange time, and still be paid according to the original work schedule. Such workplace flexibility aids in boosting employee morale and increases overall retention rates, without costing these local and state governments any additional money.

The Sarbanes bill simply amends title 5 by excluding trade time from the calculation of overtime pay for federal fire fighters. Clearly, it will still be up to the agency—such as the Department of Defense—to approve the request to switch schedules. The bill's enactment will actually save federal agencies money, because under current law, agencies must at times pay overtime for fill-in workers. However, under this legislation, these entities will now have employees voluntarily agreeing to work shifts without overtime being required.

Again, extending a small amount of scheduling flexibility to our federal fire fighters—that neither increases agency costs nor reduces manpower—is the right thing to do. Moreover, the bill's enactment will increase the attractiveness of federal fire fighters positions,

that at present can actually go unfilled for as long as half a year.

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all federal fire fighters as well as other fire fighters, including those recently combating the fires in the Salt Lake City suburbs, as well as my own fire fighters from Boston Local 718.

I also want to express my appreciation to Chairman TOWNS for his unwavering commitment to extending workplace flexibilities to all federal workers—regardless of whether they are white collar desk workers or shift workers such as our federal fire fighters.

Mr. BILBRAY. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CHU. 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. 3243.

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. BILBRAY. 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.

PRE-ELECTION PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION ACT OF 2010

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3196) to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to provide that certain transition services shall be available to eligible candidates before the general election.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3196

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 "Pre-Election Presidential Transition Act of 2010".

SEC. 2. CERTAIN PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION SERVICES MAY BE PROVIDED TO ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES BEFORE GENERAL ELECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(h)(1)(A) In the case of an eligible candidate, the Administrator—

"(i) shall notify the candidate of the candidate's right to receive the services and facilities described in paragraph (2) and shall provide with such notice a description of the nature and scope of each such service and facility; and

"(ii) upon notification by the candidate of which such services and facilities such candidate will accept, shall, notwithstanding subsection (b), provide such services and facilities to the candidate during the period beginning on the date of the notification and

ending on the date of the general elections described in subsection (b)(1).

The Administrator shall also notify the candidate that sections 7601(c) and 8403(b) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 provide additional services.

"(B) The Administrator shall provide the notice under subparagraph (A)(i) to each eligible candidate—

"(i) in the case of a candidate of a major party (as defined in section 9002(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986), on one of the first 3 business days following the last nominating convention for such major parties; and

"(ii) in the case of any other candidate, as soon as practicable after an individual becomes an eligible candidate (or, if later, at the same time as notice is provided under clause (i)).

"(C)(i) The Administrator shall, not later than 12 months before the date of each general election for President and Vice-President (beginning with the election to be held in 2012), prepare a report summarizing modern presidential transition activities, including a bibliography of relevant resources.

"(ii) The Administrator shall promptly make the report under clause (i) generally available to the public (including through electronic means) and shall include such report with the notice provided to each eligible candidate under subparagraph (A)(i).

"(2)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the services and facilities described in this paragraph are the services and facilities described in subsection (a) (other than paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (7), and 8(A)(v) thereof), but only to the extent that the use of the services and facilities is for use in connection with the eligible candidate's preparations for the assumption of official duties as President or Vice-President.

"(B) The Administrator—

"(i) shall determine the location of any office space provided to an eligible candidate under this subsection;

"(ii) shall, as appropriate, ensure that any computers or communications services provided to an eligible candidate under this subsection are secure;

"(iii) shall offer information and other assistance to eligible candidates on an equal basis and without regard to political affiliation; and

"(iv) may modify the scope of any services to be provided under this subsection to reflect that the services are provided to eligible candidates rather than the President-elect or Vice-President-elect, except that any such modification must apply to all eligible candidates.

"(C) An eligible candidate, or any person on behalf of the candidate, shall not use any services or facilities provided under this subsection other than for the purposes described in subparagraph (A), and the candidate or the candidate's campaign shall reimburse the Administrator for any unauthorized use of such services or facilities.

"(3)(A) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an eligible candidate may establish a separate fund for the payment of expenditures in connection with the eligible candidate's preparations for the assumption of official duties as President or Vice-President, including expenditures in connection with any services or facilities provided under this subsection (whether before such services or facilities are available under this section or to supplement such services or facilities when so provided). Such fund shall be established and maintained in such manner as to qualify such fund for purposes of section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

"(B)(i) The eligible candidate may—

"(I) transfer to any separate fund established under subparagraph (A) contributions

(within the meaning of section 301(8) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431(8))) the candidate received for the general election for President or Vice-President or payments from the Presidential Election Campaign Fund under chapter 95 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 the candidate received for the general election; and

"(II) solicit and accept amounts for receipt by such separate fund.

"(ii) Any expenditures from the separate fund that are made from such contributions or payments described in clause (i)(I) shall be treated as expenditures (within the meaning of section 301(9) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 431(9))) or qualified campaign expenses (within the meaning of section 9002(11) of such Code), whichever is applicable.

"(iii) An eligible candidate establishing a separate fund under subparagraph (A) shall (as a condition for receiving services and facilities described in paragraph (2)) comply with all requirements and limitations of section 5 in soliciting or expending amounts in the same manner as the President-elect or Vice-President-elect, including reporting on the transfer and expenditure of amounts described in subparagraph (B)(i) in the disclosures required by section 5.

"(4)(A) In this subsection, the term 'eligible candidate' means, with respect to any presidential election (as defined in section 9002(10) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986)—

"(i) a candidate of a major party (as defined in section 9002(6) of such Code) for President or Vice-President of the United States; and

"(ii) any other candidate who has been determined by the Administrator to be among the principal contenders for the general election to such offices.

"(B) In making a determination under subparagraph (A)(ii), the Administrator shall—

"(i) ensure that any candidate determined to be an eligible candidate under such subparagraph—

"(I) meets the requirements described in Article II, Section 1, of the United States Constitution for eligibility to the office of President;

"(II) has qualified to have his or her name appear on the ballots of a sufficient number of States such that the total number of electors appointed in those States is greater than 50 percent of the total number of electors appointed in all of the States; and

"(III) has demonstrated a significant level of public support in national public opinion polls, so as to be realistically considered among the principal contenders for President or Vice-President of the United States; and

"(ii) consider whether other national organizations have recognized the candidate as being among the principal contenders for the general election to such offices, including whether the Commission on Presidential Debates has determined that the candidate is eligible to participate in the candidate debates for the general election to such offices."

(b) ADMINISTRATOR REQUIRED TO PROVIDE TECHNOLOGY COORDINATION UPON REQUEST.—Section 3(a)(10) of the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note) is amended to read as follows:

"(10) Notwithstanding subsection (b), consultation by the Administrator with any President-elect, Vice-President-elect, or eligible candidate (as defined in subsection (h)(4)) to develop a systems architecture plan for the computer and communications systems of the candidate to coordinate a transition to Federal systems if the candidate is elected."

(c) COORDINATION WITH OTHER TRANSITION SERVICES.—