

and professionals are added to our disaster relief efforts and our first responders who will respond to any disaster.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 570, the Dental Emergency Responder Act. This important legislation would recognize dentists as emergency response providers who are capable of giving medical assistance in the event of a public health emergency.

This bill is an efficient way to improve America's emergency response system. Not only does it ensure that we are fully prepared on all fronts in the event of a crisis or natural disaster, but it does not add any new Federal spending or increase our ever-growing deficit.

Dentists have strong general medical training that I firmly believe should be utilized during a public health emergency. In the wake of September 11, 2001, the worst attack on civilians in the history of our country, we must ensure that America's emergency response system is prepared, and this includes having a strong medical response system in place.

In a time of crisis, it is crucial that we have all hands on deck to issue medical assistance to the public. For this reason I am proud to support H.R. 570 and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 570, the Dental Emergency Responder Act of 2011. I urge my colleagues to support this act as it is a necessary step towards ensuring our nation's readiness for national emergencies.

As a member of the New York City Congressional delegation, I am no stranger to tragic, national events. In the wake of September 11, 2001, we witnessed thousands of citizens banding together to heal the community. Similarly, when Hurricane Katrina struck the gulf coast, Americans again came together to help those in need.

The people of our Nation stand together as a community in times of great sorrow. For this reason, Government should do all that it can to ensure that individuals with great skill are afforded the opportunity to assist in times of need.

For too long, dentists have been prohibited from assisting in times of emergency. However, this profession is composed of highly trained, and capable medical professionals, many of whom have offices that can easily convert into triage facilities when needed.

When this bill is enacted, states will be able to include, if they choose, dentists as part of the emergency response plan. The important decisions about how a state responds to a crisis will still be left to local authorities. Enactment of this bill simply provides decision makers with more options to respond to tragedies and emergencies.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 570.

Mr. PALLONE. I urge support of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Again, I urge support for the legislation and for the passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 570.

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. BURGESS. 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.

VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 525) to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance and increase the number of veterinarians trained in veterinary public health.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 525

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 "Veterinary Public Health Amendments Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH IN CERTAIN PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE PROVISIONS.

(a) PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE GRANTS.—Subsections (b)(1)(A) and (d)(6) of section 765 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295) are amended by inserting "veterinary public health," after "preventive medicine," each place it appears.

(b) PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 776(b)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295f-1(b)(1)) are amended by striking "public health or health professions degree or certificate" each place it appears and inserting "public health (including veterinary public health) or health professions degree or certificate".

(2) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Subparagraph (A) of section 776(b)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295f-1(b)(1)) is amended by adding "or" at the end.

(c) DEFINITION.—Section 799B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295p) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(27) VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH.—The term 'veterinary public health' includes veterinarians engaged in one or more of the following areas to the extent such areas have an impact on human health: biodefense and emergency preparedness, emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, environmental health, ecosystem health, pre- and post-harvest food protection, regulatory medicine, diagnostic laboratory medicine, veterinary pathology, biomedical research, the practice of food animal medicine in rural areas, and government practice."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to in-

clude extraneous material on H.R. 525 currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 525, the Veterinary Public Health Amendments Act of 2011, would take important steps to increase the number of public health veterinarians.

Food animal veterinarians have a vital role in our Nation's public health, and experts have informed us that there is, in fact, a shortage. This shortage could negatively affect our Nation's public health, including the safety of our Nation's food. We expect that this legislation will help greatly in solving that problem.

H.R. 525 would enable individuals seeking veterinary public health degrees to be eligible for existing public health workforce loan repayment programs. This legislation would also allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award existing training grants to increase the veterinary public health workforce.

I would like to thank all of the Members who have worked on this issue, including my physician colleague on the committee, Dr. PHIL GINGREY of Georgia. I would also like to thank Congresswoman TAMMY BALDWIN of Wisconsin for authoring the bill.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 525, the Veterinary Public Health Amendments Act of 2011. This is an important, bipartisan bill that we passed on the floor in the last Congress.

Veterinary medicine is an important component of our human public health system. From H1N1, to SARS, to food safety, public health veterinarians are critical to our protection of human health. This bill would ensure that veterinary public health professionals are eligible for two important public health workforce programs, but only to the extent that the work of these veterinarians has an impact on human health.

I want to commend Representative BALDWIN for her leadership on this legislation. She has been working on this for a long time, and I was pleased to work with her. I also want to thank Chairman PITTS, Chairman UPTON, and Representative SHIMKUS for their support; and I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

I now yield 3 minutes to the sponsor of the legislation, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN).

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 525, the Veterinary Public Health Amendments Act.

Although we may not know it, our health depends, in part, on a small

army of veterinarians working in public health. Their role was never clearer than during the H1N1 virus outbreak. We now see that diseases can travel from animals to humans seemingly overnight.

Public health veterinarians are our frontline of defense against another outbreak. They inspect our slaughterhouses, prevent a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak from devastating our economy and our agriculture industry, and protect our citizens against the threat of bioterrorism.

Unfortunately, our current workforce cannot meet these public health challenges. In the next 20 years, experts predict a shortage of 15,000 veterinarians; and between 2006 and 2016, the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that the demand for veterinary services will increase by 35 percent. Something must be done to protect our national health by preventing and controlling infectious diseases, ensuring the safety and security of the Nation's food supply, promoting healthy environments, and providing health care for animals.

H.R. 525 will help to ensure that we have a more robust veterinary public health workforce. The bill has two main components: loan repayment for veterinarians who commit to teaching or to working in public health and a new fellowship program for public health veterinarians.

I want to thank the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges and the American Veterinary Medical Association for their tireless work on behalf of public health veterinarians.

I would also like to thank Chairman PITTS and Ranking Member PALLONE for their support on this important legislation.

This bill is identical to the Veterinary Public Health Amendments Act that passed the House by voice vote in the last Congress. This bill also passed the Energy and Commerce Committee unanimously.

I urge my colleagues to support this critical bill to ensure that our veterinary workforce is prepared to meet our public health needs.

Mr. PALLONE. I would certainly urge support for this important legislation.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD a letter from the American Farm Bureau Federation urging support of this legislation.

I would also like to point out that this legislation enjoyed unanimous support from both the Republican and Democratic sides of the dais in the full Committee on Energy and Commerce.

AMERICAN FARM
BUREAU FEDERATION®

Washington, DC, March 8, 2011.

Hon. FRED UPTON,

Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON: The American Farm Bureau Federation encourages your

support of H.R. 525, the Veterinary Public Health Amendments Act of 2011. This legislation, scheduled for floor consideration today, would amend the Public Health Service Act by adding veterinary public health as one of the groups eligible for grants to train the public health workforce, and would make veterinarians studying public health eligible for loan repayment.

The U.S. faces a critical shortage of veterinarians in public health practice areas such as food safety and security, bioterrorism and emergency preparedness, environmental health, regulatory medicine, diagnostic laboratory medicine, food systems veterinary medicine and biomedical research. Many recent studies have shown dramatic shortfalls of veterinarians in key public health practice areas, including food systems, veterinary medicine and at several federal government agencies protecting the nation's food supply and keeping a watchful eye out for bioterrorism and foreign animal diseases. The national pool of 2,500 new graduates a year is not enough to meet the demands of a growing population and the changing public health needs of society.

Public health starts at the farm and ranch level where veterinarians are essential for the health and welfare of our animals. Healthy animals mean a healthy food supply. However, many of our members feel continual strain caused by fewer large animal practitioners entering the field and the resulting underserved areas for veterinary expertise. From dairies in Maine to sheep flocks in Montana, fewer veterinarians are available to help producers care for their animals in both routine and emergency situations. National efforts such as this legislation are needed to address these critical deficits.

We urge the House of Representatives to approve H.R. 525 to increase the number of veterinarians working in public health practice. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation to our nation's farmers and ranchers.

Sincerely,

BOB STALLMAN,
President.

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 Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 525.

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. BURGESS. 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.

□ 1630

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112-13)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred

to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the Federal Register for publication stating that the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared on March 15, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2011.

The crisis between the United States and Iran resulting from the actions and policies of the Government of Iran has not been resolved. The actions and policies of the Government of Iran are contrary to the interests of the United States in the region and continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Iran and maintain in force comprehensive sanctions against Iran to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 8, 2011.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CHAFFETZ) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 570 and H.R. 525, in each case by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

DENTAL EMERGENCY RESPONDER ACT OF 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the