

September 11, 2001, and may be suffering financial hardship. This bipartisan measure is in the tradition of the GI Bill, the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, and numerous other provisions of law enacted to benefit military veterans.

I thank Representatives FORBES and ROHRABACHER, two members of the Republican Party who worked with me on this and helped cosponsor it, and Representatives SCHAKOWSKY and NADLER of my party for cosponsoring H.R. 2192. I also thank the Judiciary Chairman, Mr. SMITH, the Ranking Member, Mr. CONYERS, and the Subcommittee on Courts, Commercial and Administrative Law chairman, the distinguished Mr. HOWARD COBLE, for their assistance in moving this bill.

This bill does indeed help Reservists and National Guardsmen in a special way. But it also shows that the previous bill that Mr. CHAFFETZ sponsored shows that we in the Judiciary Committee can work in a bipartisan manner, and that Congress can work, and that we should be at least in double digits.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2192, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers at this time. I would encourage my colleagues to vote for this. It's a good day when we can come to the floor of the House and vote in support of our Guardsmen and those serving in our military.

I appreciate, again, the good bipartisan support and work of Mr. COHEN, Mr. FORBES, and others.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2192.

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. COHEN. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RISK-BASED SECURITY SCREENING FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ACT

Mr. CRAVAACK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1801) to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for expedited security screenings for members of the Armed Forces, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1801

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 "Risk-Based Security Screening for Members of the Armed Forces Act".

SEC. 2. SECURITY SCREENING FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 44903 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(m) SECURITY SCREENING FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary shall develop and implement a plan to provide expedited security screening services for a member of the Armed Forces, and any accompanying family member, when the member of the Armed Forces presents documentation indicating official orders while in uniform through a primary airport (as defined by section 47102 of this title).

"(2) PROTOCOLS.—In developing the plan, the Assistant Secretary shall consider—

"(A) leveraging existing security screening models used by airports and air carriers to reduce passenger wait times before entering a security screening checkpoint;

"(B) establishing standard guidelines for the screening of military uniform items, including combat boots; and

"(C) incorporating any new screening protocols into an existing trusted passenger program, as established pursuant to section 109(a)(3) of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (Public Law 107-71; 115 Stat. 613; 49 U.S.C. 114 note), or into the development of any new credential or system that incorporates biometric technology and other applicable technologies to verify the identity of individuals traveling in air transportation.

"(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Assistant Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the implementation of the plan."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall implement the plan required by this Act.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CRAVAACK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which 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 Minnesota?

There was no objection.

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

The bill under consideration today, H.R. 1801, the Risk-Based Security Screening for Members of the Armed Forces Act, is a bipartisan effort which directs TSA to establish an expedited screening process for members of the Armed Forces and their families when they are traveling on orders throughout our Nation's airports. Currently, military servicemembers traveling on orders must remove their Class A uniform blouse jackets, metal belt buckles and insignia devices before proceeding through security checkpoints.

While it is important every passenger undergo a security screening before boarding a plane, it makes absolutely

no sense to require American servicemembers to take off their jackets and medals for TSA screening before boarding their flights home. Unless intelligence identifies a specific threat, we should honor our servicemembers' willingness to sacrifice themselves for our country by treating them as patriots, not operating under the assumption that everyone intends to harm our country's transportation system.

Importantly, this commonsense bill will streamline the screening process for our servicemembers and lead to decreased checkpoint wait times for other American travelers. Moreover, this legislation will complement TSA Administrator Pistole's move toward a risk-based checkpoint screening system for passengers and will prioritize members of the Armed Forces for inclusion into that process.

I am pleased to report that since H.R. 1801 was passed unanimously with bipartisan support in committee, TSA has now begun testing a military ID reading pilot program for U.S. armed servicemembers at Monterey Peninsula Airport in California. While this bill will not let a member of the Armed Forces bypass security, it will require TSA to develop an expedited screening process designed to reduce our servicemember's checkpoint waiting times and focus more resources on unknown and high-risk passengers.

To be clear, this program does not impact the TSA's existing layered aviation security approach that includes Federal air marshals—the last line of defense—Federal flight deck officers, secure flight vetting, AIT machines, TSA intelligence analysts, explosive trace detection, canine teams, credentialing and boarding pass scanning systems, and behavior detection. It is merely part of the highly integrated risk-based analysis system that allows further concentration of limited resources on potentially higher risk passengers.

In closing, I'd like to thank Transportation Security Committee Chairman MIKE ROGERS and Homeland Security Committee Chairman PETER KING for moving this legislation, and all of my colleagues in committee, particularly Ranking Member BENNIE THOMPSON and Subcommittee Ranking Member SHEILA JACKSON LEE, for their support.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1801, and yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, I'd like to acknowledge the work of Chairman KING and Ranking Member THOMPSON.

As a member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I'm pleased that, for the first time in this 112th Congress, the House is considering important transportation security legislation. H.R. 1801, the Risk-Based Security Screening for Members of the Armed Forces Act, requires the Transportation Security Administration to

develop a plan for providing expedited screening for our military personnel at airport security checkpoints.

Since 2001, there have been more than 2 million troops that have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Last Congress an earlier version of this legislation was accepted as an amendment on a bipartisan basis, as my colleague mentioned earlier, during consideration of the Transportation Security Administration Authorization Act, which passed this House by 397 votes in the "aye" and 25 in the "nay," but it was not acted upon by the Senate, unfortunately.

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H.R. 1801 properly recognizes the preciousness of time to our patriotic men and women serving in our armed services without compromising aviation security. This legislation will ensure that our troops and their families, including 236,963 defense personnel in my own home State in California, are given the opportunity to board an aircraft in a security-approved, expedited manner.

Our troops help keep our country safe. The least we can do is devise methods that help speed up the screening process for our troops that are in uniform and are traveling on airplanes while on official duty.

As our military presence in Iraq winds down, it is important that we remain cognizant of the burdens that deployments and travel have on servicemembers and their families in times of war and peace.

In addition to travel services, I support and urge this Congress, the administration, and the Department of Homeland Security to strengthen all military services and programs for our troops, including increasing veteran recruitment efforts.

Some of the additional military support that this Congress should consider would be, one, providing tax credits for hiring veterans looking for work; two, strengthening much-needed training programs for separating servicemembers; three, encouraging businesses and government contractors to hire the brave men and women who have been deployed and have now returned with developed valuable skills and professionalism while in the Armed Forces; four, ensuring that the servicemembers leave the military career-ready.

H.R. 1801 is one of many opportunities for the American public and this Congress to demonstrate their support to those who are serving bravely. Further, it is important to note that consideration of H.R. 1801 marks the first time in this Congress that the House is considering a bill reported by the Committee on Homeland Security. I and other members of this committee look forward to this legislation not being our last.

A number of commonsense homeland security bills are on the U.S. House of Representatives calendar and warrant timely consideration.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRAVAACK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD).

Mr. FARENTHOLD. I rise also in support of H.R. 1801.

As we come off a holiday weekend, the busiest travel time in this country, many Americans have gone through the screening at our numerous airports. The TSA works hard screening everybody and keeping our flights safe, but we must always be looking for ways to make that system more efficient and safer. Members of our military whom we know have served and put their lives on the line for this country should be among those who are first in a program where we trust our travelers.

We must continue to look for efficiencies to speed air travel. We must continue to look for fewer invasive ways to screen passengers. We must look for ways to make traveling a more pleasant experience and a more profitable experience for the businessmen and -women who travel.

I urge support of this bill, which is where we should start—with members of our armed services; but there are other places we need to look, too—to trusted-traveler programs and flight crews receiving expedited screening. The TSA must continue to work to improve this process to make it safer and more efficient. This bill gives the TSA the encouragement that they need, and is a great step along the way to more efficient, private and better screening for our airport security.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers. If the gentleman from Minnesota has no more speakers, I am prepared to close.

Mr. CRAVAACK. I am prepared to close after the gentlewoman from California closes.

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

H.R. 1801 is needed. It's common sense, and it's a piece of legislation with a history of bipartisan support. I urge my colleagues to support this measure and our troops.

Their time is limited, and it certainly shouldn't be wasted in long lines at the airport. Airports all around the country have multiple checkpoints that expedite the security screening process, and our service personnel have earned this privilege as well.

Likewise, I urge the Republican leadership to put on the House floor additional Homeland Security bills and bills aimed at easing our veterans' transition from military service to civilian careers. It's late November in the first session of this 112th Congress. It's coming to an end, the public is hurting, and Congress must act.

With that, Mr. Speaker, on H.R. 1801 I urge my colleagues to unanimously support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CRAVAACK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague from

California for her support on this very important bill and the shared importance, value, and trust we place in our military servicemembers.

I urge support of H.R. 1801, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Transportation Security, I am pleased that, for the first time this Congress, the House is considering important transportation security legislation.

In this budgetary climate, we must ensure that the Transportation Security Administration is maximizing its resources and adequately integrating efficient screening processes across its checkpoint security programs.

This legislation strives to do that by ensuring that an expedited screening program is established for members of the Armed Forces.

These are the men and women who sacrifice their time and family life to defend our liberty.

Affording them the opportunity to be respectfully screened in an expedited manner will ensure that we continue to honor their service and what their commitment means to the American public.

H.R. 1801 represents common-sense legislation with bipartisan support.

I am happy that I was able to work with Mr. ROGERS and others members of the Subcommittee and Full Committee on Homeland Security on this bill.

I look forward to continuing our work on the Committee on Homeland Security and producing additional bipartisan measures that strive to enhance our nation's transportation security efforts.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. CRAVAACK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1801, 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. CRAVAACK. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

FEDERAL WORKERS' COMPENSATION MODERNIZATION AND IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2465) to amend the Federal Employees' Compensation Act, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2465

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 "Federal Workers' Compensation Modernization and Improvement Act".