

FEDERAL INFORMATION SECURITY
AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letters.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, April 25, 2012.

Hon. RALPH M. HALL,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology's jurisdictional interest in H.R. 4257, the Federal Information Security Amendments Act of 2012, and your willingness to forego consideration of H.R. 4257 by your committee.

I agree that the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology has a valid jurisdictional interest in certain provisions of H.R. 4257 and that the Committee's jurisdiction will not be adversely affected by your decision not to request a sequential referral of H.R. 4257. As you have requested, I will support your request for an appropriate appointment of outside conferees from your Committee in the event of a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation should such a conference be convened.

Finally, I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Committee Report and in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DARRELL ISSA,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, April 26, 2012.

Hon. DARRELL ISSA,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ISSA: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology in H.R. 4257, the Federal Information Security Amendments Act of 2012.

As you know the staffs on our Committees have worked together to execute improvements to the legislation and I ask your assurances that the jurisdictional interests of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology be protected and kept in mind as the bill proceeds. I would ask for your continuing cooperation in addressing remaining issues to our mutual satisfaction.

I recognize and appreciate the desire to bring this legislation before the House of Representatives in an expeditious manner, and accordingly, I will waive further consideration of this bill in Committee, notwithstanding any provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. This waiver, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that agreeing to waive consideration of this bill should not be construed as waiving, reducing, or affecting the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Additionally, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology expressly reserves its

authority to seek conferees on any provision within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this, or any similar legislation. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee for conferees on H.R. 4257, as well as any similar or related legislation.

I ask that a copy of this letter be placed in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor.

I look forward to continuing to work with you on the legislation as you work towards H.R. 4257's enactment.

Sincerely,

RALPH M. HALL,
Chairman, Committee on Science,
Space, and Technology.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES
ON H.R. 4348, SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
EXTENSION ACT OF 2012, PART II

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4348, the Surface Transportation Extension Act, Part II. With this legislation, House Republicans are making all the wrong choices for Minnesota, and for the country.

House Republicans are choosing to bring another short-term extension of transportation policies to the floor instead of the two-year measure that passed the Senate with an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 74–22. The Senate bill would save or create over two million jobs, including an estimated 28,100 jobs in Minnesota. This legislation has been introduced in the House, and I am an original cosponsor.

The Senate bill is not perfect, and I encourage my Senate colleagues to continue working with stakeholders—including tribal leaders, small businesses, and local governments—to strengthen this bipartisan legislation. But this compromise solution will put people to work right away and provide the certainty that transportation agencies and businesses need. For over a month, House Republican leaders have refused to allow a vote. It is completely unacceptable that Tea Party Republicans in the House continue to stand in the way of two million American jobs at a time when construction workers across the country are sitting on the bench, desperate to work.

In this bill, my Republican colleagues also chose to include language that will increase gas prices for Minnesota families. H.R. 4348 grants approval for construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, which would divert Canadian oil away from Minnesota refineries to refineries in the Gulf of Mexico. In a March 2011 Star Tribune op-ed, respected oil economist Philip Verleger explained this diversion would reduce oil supply in the Upper Midwest, raising costs for Minnesotans at the gas station and grocery store. In fact, Verleger said the country as a whole would end up paying nearly \$5 billion more for oil than we do today if the pipeline is built.

This legislation also includes language offered by Congressman REID RIBBLE (R-WI) to

limit the ability of local governments and citizens to participate in transportation projects in their communities. These changes to the National Environmental Policy Act would restrict local influence in transportation decisions that directly affect residents' health, safety, and quality of life.

I urge my colleagues to reject this broken bill, which guarantees more uncertainty for states, fewer jobs for workers, higher gas prices for drivers and less control for local governments. Instead, we should choose the bipartisan alternative and immediately pass the Senate legislation to put two million Americans back to work.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE
ANNIVERSITY**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day occurred earlier this week.

For many years I have cosponsored a resolution, introduced in multiple sessions of Congress, affirming the United States Record on the Armenian genocide.

From 1915 to 1923, over 1,500,000 people were murdered by the Turkish Ottoman Empire because of their Christian faith and Armenian ethnicity. To this day, Turkey continues to deny that the mass murder, rape, forced marches and deportations that occurred actually constituted genocide.

Raphael Lemkin, the Jewish legal scholar who coined the word genocide and tirelessly advocated for international law defining it and preventing it, was driven largely by what happened to the Armenians. He, and others after him, recognized that there is power in accurately describing these events so that future horrors, like the Nazi-perpetuated Holocaust and genocides in Bosnia, Cambodia, Rwanda and Darfur are prevented. Sadly, genocide and crimes against humanity are hardly relegated to the past—even today we see racially and ethnically motivated violence in Sudan's Nuba Mountains perpetrated by an internationally indicted war criminal—and the world does little.

This year's observance of the anniversary of the Armenian genocide is especially meaningful. In December 2011, the House of Representatives adopted H. Res 306, which I was pleased to cosponsor. The resolution calls on the Secretary of State to urge Turkey to end religious discrimination and return all Christian places of worship and religious artifacts to their rightful owners. Thousands of these sacred sites and artifacts were confiscated by the Ottoman Empire during and after the Armenian Genocide.

It is important that we take this time to remember the Armenian genocide, even though it occurred nearly a century ago. Only through such acts of remembrance can we hope to prevent future acts of genocide.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 64TH
ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S
INDEPENDENCE

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2012

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the State of Israel is the premiere functioning democracy in the Middle East and has been a steadfast ally of our great nation since its inception. I would like to congratulate the state of Israel on the 64th anniversary of its independence. The citizens of Israel have persevered in the face of great adversity to establish and maintain a free and democratic nation in their homeland.

Israel was founded on the principles of a shared destiny of the Jewish people and their cultural heritage. Despite the acts of violence and wars that have ensued, Israel has persisted in its pursuit of its right to exist in the Middle East. Israel has also played the important role of a refuge for the Jewish people, as well as African peoples, who have suffered great atrocities.

I speak from my heart, having personally witnessed the beauty and majesty of Israel and its people. I have prayed before the Wailing Wall and gazed at the skyline of Jerusalem. Let us today reaffirm our unwavering commitment to our great friend and ally, Israel.

A TRIBUTE TO THE SERVICE OF
AL PERRY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Mr. DENHAM to pay tribute to the service of Mr. Al Perry on the occasion of his retirement from the Veterans Affairs (VA) Central California Healthcare System. His years of dedicated service to United States veterans exemplifies his reverence for our country and demonstrates the best of what America has to offer.

After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Middlebury College in 1970, Mr. Perry served in the United States Medical Service Corps from 1971 to 1973. This service marked the beginning of his unwavering commitment to promoting and protecting the welfare and safety of our nation. Following his service, Mr. Perry attended Northeastern University where he obtained a Master's Degree in Public Administration, and the Medical College of Virginia where he earned a Master's Degree in Healthcare Administration.

During his career with the VA, he has served as a friend and counselor to many of our nation's service men and women. As a coach and mentor for the VA's career and development programs, Mr. Perry served as a guide and moral paradigm for countless veterans by steering and advising them through difficult decisions. Prior to this, Mr. Perry served as adjunct faculty at California State University, Long Beach and Boston University.

A tireless advocate for all veterans, Mr. Perry has held a number of leadership posi-

tions within the VA. He served as Co-Chair, Chair, Acting Director, and eventually Director of several national taskforces and healthcare systems, including the VA National Workload Realignment Taskforce, the CARES Livermore Realignment Taskforce, and the federal medical disaster stations during Hurricanes Katrina, Ike, and Gustav.

Under his management, the VA Central California Healthcare System was widely recognized. In 2003, the VA Central California Healthcare System received the "Central California Excellence in Business Award" from the Fresno Chamber of Commerce and the Fresno Bee. In 2006, they received the VA Secretary's Annual Labor-Management Partnership Award and were recognized by the VA Under Secretary with the Annual Diversity Award. They also received the Robert W. Carey Performance Achievement Award and were ranked among "America's 100 Most Wired Hospitals" in 2009, 2006, and 2004. In 2010, they received the Robert W. Carey Performance Achievement Award.

Mr. Perry's longstanding commitment to U.S. veterans is truly a reflection of his character and has not gone unrecognized. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the OPM "HERO" Award for Community Service in the Federal Non-Military Division the Presidential Rank "Meritorious Executive" Award, the "Distinguished Executive" Award, and the 2011 Veterans Health Administration Certified Mentor of the Year Award.

Mr. Perry has been a true champion for veterans of the Central Valley. He and his team have consistently and effectively partnered with local elected officials in efforts to better serve and care for Central Valley veterans.

We applaud Mr. Perry for his many years of work on behalf of our nation's veterans and their families. His retirement marks a bitter-sweet milestone for the VA Central California Healthcare System. We wish him the best of success as he begins the next chapter of his life.

Mr. Perry is looking forward to enjoying more time with his wife, Susan-Jean Perry, and his daughters and son-in-law, Amanda Perry, Meredith Kohl, and Kristoffer Kohl.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. DENHAM and I ask our colleagues to join us in congratulating Mr. Al Perry on his successful career as a leader in the Veterans Affairs Central California Healthcare System, and honoring for his lifelong service to the United States of America and its veterans.

THE HOLOCAUST

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today, there was a Yom HaShoah service held in the United States Capitol as they are being held in State Capitals throughout the Nation, to remember the victims of the Holocaust—the loss of six million lives. It is imperative that we remember the loss of those six million people and, also, the people who survived and those who helped them survive.

In 1984, as a young State Senator, I sponsored legislation to create the Tennessee Holocaust Commission, one of the first such state

Commissions. I'm very proud of the work of the Tennessee Holocaust Commission, much of which is educating Tennessee teachers so they can teach children about the Holocaust.

The Commission has been very successful and has benefitted from great leadership. Then Commission Chair Reverend Beverly Asbury, also Chaplain at Vanderbilt University, worked tirelessly to get the Commission off the ground and current Chairwoman Felicia Anchor, born in the Bergen-Belsen camp, uses her passion and personal experience to continue to do great things.

I wear a button to honor Raoul Wallenberg, a great diplomat who helped save 100,000 Jews. This morning HRH Princess Madeleine and Swedish Parliamentary Leaders met with the Congressional Swedish Caucus and talked about the efforts of Swedish Diplomats to engage the United States to help save lives.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Morgenthau and two people in his administration, Mr. Pehle and Mr. DuBois, implored our President to help rescue Jews, and the United States certainly helped. Unfortunately, many lives were lost because we didn't get involved soon enough. We should never meet evil with silence.

Yom HaShoah is about remembering. As we remember the lives lost, we should also remember those who survived and, also, the military that liberated the camps and the hundreds of thousands of righteous gentiles who risked their own lives to save Jews.

I urge all Americans visiting Washington to visit the U.S. Holocaust Museum and I urge all Tennesseans and those visiting Nashville to go to the Memorial on the State Capitol Grounds, situated alongside six cedar trees representing six million people, to remember and to understand why we must always remember.

IN RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL'S 64TH
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2012

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, this week Israel celebrated its 64th Independence Day. Since its founding on May 14, 1948, Israel has become America's greatest ally in the Middle East and our commitment to the U.S.-Israel relationship remains, today, stronger than ever.

Despite years of intermittent war and overwhelming odds, Israel has developed into a thriving democracy representing many of the same democratic principles that we enjoy in the United States today. Israel's vibrant democracy includes a very active free press representing a diverse set of opinions throughout society and a robust and fair legal system guaranteeing citizens' civil rights. Israel respects the freedom of religion for all of those who worship within her state and is a leader in the protection and promotion of gay rights in the Middle East region.

Israel has also become a leader in the fields of agriculture technology and high-tech, developing a drip irrigation system used all over the world and tech devices used in many households and businesses with the same reach. Israel's medical technologies and military advancements have also protected U.S. soldiers on the battlefield and saved many lives.