

# INTERNATIONAL CHILD SUPPORT RECOVERY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2012

Mr. BERG. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4282) to amend part D of title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure that the United States can comply fully with the obligations of the Hague Convention of 23 November 2007 on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4282

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

## SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “International Child Support Recovery Improvement Act of 2012”.

(b) **REFERENCES.**—Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, wherever in this Act an amendment is expressed in terms of an amendment to a section or other provision, the amendment shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Social Security Act.

## SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO ENSURE ACCESS TO CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES FOR INTERNATIONAL CHILD SUPPORT CASES.

(a) **AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF HHS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH MULTILATERAL CHILD SUPPORT CONVENTIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 452 (42 U.S.C. 652) is amended—

(A) by redesignating the second subsection (1) (as added by section 7306 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005) as subsection (m); and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(n) The Secretary shall use the authorities otherwise provided by law to ensure the compliance of the United States with any multilateral child support convention to which the United States is a party.”.

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 453(k)(3) (42 U.S.C. 653(k)(3)) is amended by striking “452(1)” and inserting “452(m)”.

(b) **ACCESS TO THE FEDERAL PARENT LOCATOR SERVICE.**—Section 453(c) (42 U.S.C. 653(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (3);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (4) and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) an entity designated as a Central Authority for child support enforcement in a foreign reciprocating country or a foreign treaty country for purposes specified in section 459A(c)(2).”.

(c) **STATE OPTION TO REQUIRE INDIVIDUALS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO APPLY THROUGH THEIR COUNTRY’S APPROPRIATE CENTRAL AUTHORITY.**—Section 454 (42 U.S.C. 654) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)(A)(ii), by inserting before the semicolon “(except that, if the individual applying for the services resides in a foreign reciprocating country or foreign treaty country, the State may opt to require the individual to request the services through the Central Authority for child support enforcement in the foreign reciprocating country or the foreign treaty country, and if the individual resides in a foreign country that is not a foreign reciprocating country or a foreign treaty country, a State may accept or reject the application)”; and

(2) in paragraph (32)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “, a foreign treaty country,” after “a foreign reciprocating country”; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “or foreign obligee” and inserting “, foreign treaty country, or foreign individual”.

(d) **AMENDMENTS TO INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS.**—Section 459A (42 U.S.C. 659a) is amended—

(1) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) **REFERENCES.**—In this part:

“(1) **FOREIGN RECIPROCATING COUNTRY.**—The term ‘foreign reciprocating country’ means a foreign country (or political subdivision thereof) with respect to which the Secretary has made a declaration pursuant to subsection (a).

“(2) **FOREIGN TREATY COUNTRY.**—The term ‘foreign treaty country’ means a foreign country for which the 2007 Family Maintenance Convention is in force.

“(3) **2007 FAMILY MAINTENANCE CONVENTION.**—The term ‘2007 Family Maintenance Convention’ means the Hague Convention of 23 November 2007 on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance.”.

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “foreign countries that are the subject of a declaration under this section” and inserting “foreign reciprocating countries or foreign treaty countries”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and foreign treaty countries” after “foreign reciprocating countries”; and

(3) in subsection (d), by striking “the subject of a declaration pursuant to subsection (a)” and inserting “foreign reciprocating countries or foreign treaty countries”.

(e) **COLLECTION OF PAST-DUE SUPPORT FROM FEDERAL TAX REFUNDS.**—Section 464(a)(2)(A) (42 U.S.C. 664(a)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “under section 454(4)(A)(ii)” and inserting “under paragraph (4)(A)(ii) or (32) of section 454”.

(f) **STATE LAW REQUIREMENT CONCERNING THE UNIFORM INTERSTATE FAMILY SUPPORT ACT (UIFSA).**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 466(f) (42 U.S.C. 666(f)) is amended—

(A) by striking “on and after January 1, 1998,”;

(B) by striking “and as in effect on August 22, 1996,”; and

(C) by striking “adopted as of such date” and inserting “adopted as of September 30, 2008”.

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE.**—Section 1738B of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (d), by striking “individual contestant” and inserting “individual contestant or the parties have consented in a record or open court that the tribunal of the State may continue to exercise jurisdiction to modify its order,”;

(B) in subsection (e)(2)(A), by striking “individual contestant” and inserting “individual contestant and the parties have not consented in a record or open court that the tribunal of the other State may continue to exercise jurisdiction to modify its order”; and

(C) in subsection (b)—

(i) by striking “‘child’ means” and inserting “(1) The term ‘child’ means”;

(ii) by striking “‘child’s State’ means” and inserting “(2) The term ‘child’s State’ means”;

(iii) by striking “‘child’s home State’ means” and inserting “(3) The term ‘child’s home State’ means”;

(iv) by striking “‘child support’ means” and inserting “(4) The term ‘child support’ means”;

(v) by striking “‘child support order’” and inserting “(5) The term ‘child support order’”;

(vi) by striking “‘contestant’ means” and inserting “(6) The term ‘contestant’ means”;

(vii) by striking “‘court’ means” and inserting “(7) The term ‘court’ means”;

(viii) by striking “‘modification’ means” and inserting “(8) The term ‘modification’ means”;

(ix) by striking “‘State’ means” and inserting “(9) The term ‘State’ means”.

(3) **EFFECTIVE DATE; GRACE PERIOD FOR STATE LAW CHANGES.**—

(A) **PARAGRAPH (1).**—(i) The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect with respect to a State on the earlier of—

(I) October 1, 2013; or

(II) the effective date of laws enacted by the legislature of the State implementing such paragraph, but in no event later than the first day of the first calendar quarter beginning after the close of the first regular session of the State legislature that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(ii) For purposes of clause (i), in the case of a State that has a 2-year legislative session, each year of the session shall be deemed to be a separate regular session of the State legislature.

(B) **PARAGRAPH (2).**—(i) The amendments made by subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) shall take effect on the date on which the Hague Convention of 23 November 2007 on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance enters into force for the United States.

(ii) The amendments made by subparagraph (C) of paragraph (2) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

## SEC. 3. DATA EXCHANGE STANDARDIZATION FOR IMPROVED INTEROPERABILITY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 452 (42 U.S.C. 652), as amended by section 2(a)(1) of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(o) **DATA EXCHANGE STANDARDIZATION FOR IMPROVED INTEROPERABILITY.**—

“(1) **DATA EXCHANGE STANDARDS.**—

“(A) **DESIGNATION.**—The Secretary, in consultation with an interagency work group which shall be established by the Office of Management and Budget, and considering State and tribal perspectives, shall, by rule, designate a data exchange standard for any category of information required to be reported under this part.

“(B) **DATA EXCHANGE STANDARDS MUST BE NONPROPRIETARY AND INTEROPERABLE.**—The data exchange standard designated under subparagraph (A) shall, to the extent practicable, be nonproprietary and interoperable.

“(C) **OTHER REQUIREMENTS.**—In designating data exchange standards under this section, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, incorporate—

“(i) interoperable standards developed and maintained by an international voluntary consensus standards body, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, such as the International Organization for Standardization;

“(ii) interoperable standards developed and maintained by intergovernmental partnerships, such as the National Information Exchange Model; and

“(iii) interoperable standards developed and maintained by Federal entities with authority over contracting and financial assistance, such as the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council.

“(2) **DATA EXCHANGE STANDARDS FOR REPORTING.**—

“(A) **DESIGNATION.**—The Secretary, in consultation with an interagency work group established by the Office of Management and

Budget, and considering State and tribal perspectives, shall, by rule, designate data exchange standards to govern the data reporting required under this part.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The data exchange standards required by subparagraph (A) shall, to the extent practicable—

“(i) incorporate a widely-accepted, non-proprietary, searchable, computer-readable format;

“(ii) be consistent with and implement applicable accounting principles; and

“(iii) be capable of being continually upgraded as necessary.

“(C) INCORPORATION OF NONPROPRIETARY STANDARDS.—In designating reporting standards under this paragraph, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, incorporate existing nonproprietary standards, such as the eXtensible Markup Language.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) DATA EXCHANGE STANDARDS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall issue a proposed rule under section 452(o)(1) of the Social Security Act within 12 months after the date of the enactment of this section, and shall issue a final rule under such section 452(o)(1), after public comment, within 24 months after such date of enactment.

(2) DATA REPORTING STANDARDS.—The reporting standards required under section 452(o)(2) of such Act shall become effective with respect to reports required in the first reporting period, after the effective date of the final rule referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection, for which the authority for data collection and reporting is established or renewed under the Paperwork Reduction Act.

#### **SEC. 4. EFFICIENT USE OF THE NATIONAL DIRECTORY OF NEW HIRES DATABASE FOR FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH ASSESSING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF FEDERAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IN ACHIEVING POSITIVE LABOR MARKET OUTCOMES.**

Section 453 (42 U.S.C. 653) is amended—

(1) in subsection (i)(2)(A), by striking “24” and inserting “48”; and

(2) in subsection (j), by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

“(5) RESEARCH.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, the Secretary may provide access to data in each component of the Federal Parent Locator Service maintained under this section and to information reported by employers pursuant to section 453A(b), for—

“(i) research undertaken by a State or Federal agency (including through grant or contract) for purposes found by the Secretary to be likely to contribute to achieving the purposes of part A or this part; or

“(ii) an evaluation or statistical analysis undertaken to assess the effectiveness of a Federal program in achieving positive labor market outcomes (including through grant or contract), by—

“(I) the Department of Health and Human Services;

“(II) the Social Security Administration;

“(III) the Department of Labor;

“(IV) the Department of Education;

“(V) the Department of Housing and Urban Development;

“(VI) the Department of Justice;

“(VII) the Department of Veterans Affairs;

“(VIII) the Bureau of the Census;

“(IX) the Department of Agriculture; or

“(X) the National Science Foundation.

“(B) PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS.—Data or information provided under this paragraph may include a personal identifier only if, in addition to meeting the requirements of subsections (I) and (m)—

“(i) the State or Federal agency conducting the research described in subpara-

graph (A)(i), or the Federal department or agency undertaking the evaluation or statistical analysis described in subparagraph (A)(ii), as applicable, enters into an agreement with the Secretary regarding the security and use of the data or information;

“(ii) the agreement includes such restrictions or conditions with respect to the use, safeguarding, disclosure, or redisclosure of the data or information (including by contractors or grantees) as the Secretary deems appropriate;

“(iii) the data or information is used exclusively for the purposes defined in the agreement; and

“(iv) the Secretary determines that the provision of data or information under this paragraph is the minimum amount needed to conduct the research, evaluation, or statistical analysis, as applicable, and will not interfere with the effective operation of the program under this part.

“(C) PENALTIES FOR UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF DATA.—Any individual who willfully discloses a personal identifier (such as a name or social security number) provided under this paragraph, in any manner to an entity not entitled to receive the data or information, shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.”.

#### **SEC. 5. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. BERG) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Dakota.

#### **GENERAL LEAVE**

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

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today with my colleague, Mr. DOGGETT of Texas, and other members of the Human Resources Subcommittee of the Committee on Ways and Means. I urge support for House Resolution 4282, as amended, the International Child Support Recovery Improvement Act of 2012.

This bill provides the implementing legislation for the Hague Convention on International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance. Negotiation of this treaty began in 2003, and it was eventually signed in 2007. The Senate then provided its consent in 2010. Now States cannot take advantage of the benefits of this treaty until Congress moves forward.

Currently, States have the option to recognize child support orders from

other countries and many of them do. However, States have found that other countries are less cooperative in recognizing our orders.

The Hague Convention seeks to address this issue by establishing a standardized process so more countries cooperate in the collection of child support. This will ensure that children in the United States have the same access to financial support even when one of their parents is abroad.

This bill is about empowering the States, which operate the child support enforcement program, to do more for families and, most importantly, for children.

My home State of North Dakota has already made the necessary changes to its State law to accept the Hague Convention. Unfortunately, we are one of only 10 States that have done so. The United States cannot ratify the Hague Convention until all States make the necessary changes, so now is the time to act.

On March 20, the Human Resources Subcommittee of the Committee on Ways and Means had a hearing on this issue and heard that States are waiting to follow our lead. It's time for this Chamber to do its job and pass this bill, which will improve the program while resulting in modest savings.

This bill also includes the continuation of our subcommittee's bipartisan efforts to standardize the process and data, and improve the exchange of data within and across human services programs. While the child support system already relies heavily on data exchanges, it's important for those efforts to be consistent with provisions we have recently enacted in child welfare, TANF, and unemployment programs. The goal is simple: improve government's efficiency; provide benefits to those who are eligible; and drive out waste, fraud, and abuse.

Finally, this bill expands researcher's access to a database maintained by the Office of Child Support Enforcement. The National Directory of New Hires, NDNH, captures employment information for individuals working in most jobs in the United States. Expanding access to earning data in the NDNH will improve our ability to determine whether Federal education, training, and social service programs help people find and keep jobs.

According to the administration, most Federal agencies do not currently have reliable access to data that can show the impact of their programs on a participant's employment and earnings. In an era of tighter resources, it's critical that we have reliable data to conduct rigorous evaluations and make sure that Federal investments are getting results.

The National Child Support Enforcement Association represents the views of State agency child support directors and actively participated in the negotiations of the Hague Convention.

I would like to thank Congressman GEOFF DAVIS, the chairman of the

Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources. I would also like to thank the subcommittee's ranking member, Mr. DOGGETT, who joins me on the floor today, as well as other members of the subcommittee for their support and original cosponsorship.

I invite all Members to join us in supporting this important bipartisan legislation. It will move us a step closer to ratifying the Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and ensuring that more children living in the United States receive the financial support they deserve.

I urge all my colleagues to support it and reserve the balance of my time.

COALITION FOR  
EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY,  
April 10, 2012.

Hon. GEOFF DAVIS,  
*Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Human Resources, Washington DC.*

Hon. LLOYD DOGGETT,  
*Ranking Member, House Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Human Resources, Washington DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN DAVIS AND RANKING MEMBER DOGGETT: I'm writing to express our strong support for your subcommittee's efforts, in H.R. 4282, to increase researcher access to the National Directory of New Hires (NDNH).

As background, the Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, whose mission is to increase government effectiveness through rigorous evidence about "what works." We have no financial interest in this or any other policy proposals or initiatives.

Our support for your proposal to increase researcher access to NDNH is based on its potential to greatly lower the cost and burden of conducting scientifically-rigorous evaluations of employment programs, by enabling such studies to measure employment and earnings outcomes using existing administrative data rather than engaging in costly new data collection (e.g., individual interviews).

As summarized in a short brief we recently developed—Rigorous Program Evaluations on a Budget—in other policy areas where administrative data are more accessible, such as education and criminal justice, large-scale rigorous evaluations have sometimes been conducted for as little as \$50,000–\$100,000, producing valid evidence that is of policy and practical importance. Researcher access to NDNH data could bring this capability to workforce development policy, greatly accelerating the development of credible evidence about what works to improve the employment and earnings of U.S. workers.

We appreciate your leadership on this important issue. Please let us know if we can be of assistance as it goes forward.

Sincerely,

JON BARON,  
*President.*

BUILDING KNOWLEDGE  
TO IMPROVE SOCIAL POLICY,  
June 4, 2012.

Hon. CONGRESSMAN BERG,  
*Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BERG: I am writing to congratulate you on advancing H.R. 4282, The International Child Support Recovery and Improvement Act of 2012, to the House floor. Thank you again for inviting me to testify before the Human Resources Subcommittee on Ways and Means.

As I stated in my recent testimony, this bill includes an important technical provision that enables researchers to more easily access the National Directory of New Hires (NDNH) database, which contains earnings and employment data collected by states from employers. Removing this barrier in the law will result in more accurate, cost-effective assessments of the employment effects of federal programs.

Independent research firms like MDRC are contracted by the government to evaluate the extent to which federal programs work; in many cases, a key measure of effectiveness is the programs' long-term impact on participants' employment and earnings. The NDNH database, maintained by the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, houses employment and earnings data reported by the states for child support enforcement purposes. However, research contractors are generally unable to access this essential database. Instead they are forced to get the very same data directly from the states, at great cost to the federal government and at considerable burden in duplicative reporting for the states.

In this time of severe budget constraints, Congress must have credible, nonpartisan information to understand whether federally supported programs actually help people find work and increase their earnings. The technical provision in this bill would ensure the availability of data necessary for researchers to examine the effectiveness of these programs.

This provision expands researchers' access to NDNH data and also maintains strong privacy protections. Since personally identifiable information is contained in the NDNH database, the provision requires research firms to continue to uphold strict rules governing the data's confidentiality and provides severe penalties for unauthorized disclosure of this data.

Thank you for recognizing the importance of giving researchers greater access to NDNH data. Attached is my testimony for further reference.

Sincerely,

GORDON L. BERLIN,  
*President, MDRC.*

NATIONAL CHILD SUPPORT  
ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION,  
*McLean, VA, June 4, 2012.*

Representative GEOFF DAVIS, Chairman,  
Representative LLOYD DOGGETT, Ranking Member,  
*Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN DAVIS AND RANKING MEMBER DOGGETT: The National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA) supports the bipartisan International Child Support Recovery Improvement Act of 2012 (H.R. 4282) and applauds your efforts to bring the measure to the House floor.

Section 2 of the bill provides the implementing language necessary to ratify the 2007 Hague Convention Treaty on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance. NCSEA members worked tirelessly on the Convention. It contains procedures for processing international child support cases that are uniform, simple, efficient, accessible, and cost-free to U.S. citizens seeking support in other countries. It is founded on the agreement of countries that ratify the Convention to recognize and enforce each other's support orders.

International cases can be challenging and very time consuming for child support workers because there are no agreed upon standards of proof, forms or methods of communication. As more parents cross inter-

national borders leaving children behind, international child support enforcement is more important than ever.

For many international cases, U.S. courts and state Title IV-D child support enforcement agencies already recognize and enforce child support obligations, whether or not the United States has a reciprocal agreement with the other country. However, many foreign countries will not enforce U.S. support orders in the absence of a treaty obligation. Ratification of the Convention by the United States will mean that more children residing in the United States will receive financial support from their parents residing in countries that are also signatories to the Convention.

NCSEA has long sought congressional action on this issue, so that our nation's children receive the financial support to which they are entitled.

Thank you again for your leadership on this bill.

Sincerely,  
COLLEEN DELANEY EUBANKS,  
*Executive Director.*

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

I am pleased to join my colleague from North Dakota in our truly bipartisan effort on behalf of H.R. 4282, the International Child Support Recovery Improvement Act. He has made an excellent statement regarding the need for this legislation.

International borders should never be barriers to children receiving the financial support that their parents are obligated to provide, nor should a parent be able to avoid their responsibility by just leaving the country. That's why the United States has previously adopted reciprocal agreements with a number of other nations to collect child support from deadbeat parents who do not live in the same country as their children. But these agreements don't cover many nations, and the procedures sometimes vary from nation to nation. A more comprehensive approach is to enter into a broad convention, another type of treaty, to ensure the international collection of child support.

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In 2010, the Senate ratified the Hague Convention for the International Recovery of Child Support. Today's bill simply implements the treaty and provides that our child support collection across America fully complies with our treaty obligations. This will assure that more children living in the United States obtain the necessary financial support from a parent living in another country, and it will also protect taxpayers who ought not have to be responsible for covering the expenses when a parent is obligated to do so.

Exemplifying the need for today's bill is the plea of a mother from Houston, who wrote to the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement:

Please help me collect child support from my daughter's father in Venezuela. We were married years ago in the United States. It took a long time to finalize the divorce, as he was out of the country. Finally, the divorce went through, which at the time was a relief. But 3 to 4 years later, my daughter is

12 and teenage expenses are kicking in. Regardless of the divorce requirements, he states Venezuela is unable to conduct business with the U.S., and he's unable to send money on his own.

Our bill would provide relief to her and many other families. Child support touches the lives of nearly one in four children across America, securing financial support for almost 18 million children—including a million and a half children in Texas—and it's played an important role in keeping children out of poverty. Without its support, roughly half a million children would have fallen into poverty in 2010.

This bill recognizes the general premise that both parents are responsible for their children.

It would respond to another Texas mother who wrote the same office:

My ex-husband has been working for an international company for nearly 6 years. His income the first year was \$100,000. To date, after taxes, he's clearing over \$8,000 monthly. Per our court order, I'm only receiving \$260 a month, which is now currently on hold. So therefore I'm not receiving any funds from my child support at all. Please help me. I'm making less money since I switched from the night shift to days to be home with my two children. I keep making necessary sacrifices, but I have no one to help me.

That's the kind of individual, the kind of children that would be assisted by this legislation. Passing the act would access financial support from a noncustodial parent living abroad. As with other effective child support initiatives, taxpayers will benefit by not being saddled with the cost of supporting children whose parents should be doing so.

The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that this bill will result in some modest net savings to the child support program. Child support advocates, as Mr. BERG indicated, along with the American Bar Association, the Conference of State Court Administrators, the Conference of Chief Justices, and the National Center for State Courts have all endorsed this legislation. It is truly a bipartisan effort that improves the well-being of many children by ensuring that their parents abroad continue to fulfill their obligations here at home in the United States to their children.

I urge approval of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BERG. Again, this legislation will help families, and most importantly, children—help them receive the financial services they need, regardless of where they live or where their parents live. I appreciate the comments of our subcommittee ranking member who has joined me here today on the floor in support of this bill, and I look forward to continuing to work with him as we improve the child support enforcement program.

I yield back the balance of my time.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-  
MITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, WASH-  
INGTON, DC, MAY 18, 2012.

Hon. DAVE CAMP,  
*Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, 1102  
Longworth House Office Building, Wash-  
ington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN CAMP, reference is made to H.R. 4282, the "International Child Support Recovery Improvement Act of 2012," with respect to which the Committee on the Judiciary received a referral. I understand that the bill may soon proceed to consideration by the full House. As a result of your having consulted with the Judiciary Committee concerning provisions of the bill that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction, and your agreement to call up an amended version of the bill that is consistent with our mutual understanding with respect to those provisions, I to agree to discharge the Committee on the Judiciary from further consideration of the bill so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that, by foregoing consideration of H.R. 4282 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. Our committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for any such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 4282, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration thereof.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH  
*Chairman.*

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-  
MITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,  
WASHINGTON, DC, MAY 23, 2012.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,  
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, 2138  
Rayburn House Office Building, Wash-  
ington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH, thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4282, the "International Child Support Recovery Improvement Act of 2012," which the Committee on Ways and Means anticipates may soon proceed to consideration by the full House.

As introduced, H.R. 4282 contained two provisions (sections 2 and 4) that formed the basis of an additional referral of the bill to your committee. I am most appreciative of your decision to discharge the Committee on the Judiciary from further consideration of H.R. 4282, as amended, so that it may proceed to the House floor. I acknowledge that, although you are waiving formal consideration of the bill, the Committee on the Judiciary is in no way waiving its jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in those provisions of the bill, including sections 2 and 4 of the bill as amended, which fall within your Rule X jurisdiction. In addition, if a conference is necessary on this legislation, I will support any request that your committee be represented therein.

Finally, I will be pleased to include a copy of this letter, as well as your letter dated May 18, 2012, in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 4282.

DAVE CAMP,  
*Chairman.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. BERG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4282, 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.

#### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BERG). Pursuant to House Resolution 667 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5325.

Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) kindly resume the chair.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes, with Mr. POE of Texas (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, an amendment offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) had been disposed of and the bill had been read through page 56, line 24.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. KAPTUR

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment as the designee of Congressman MCINTYRE of North Carolina.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to plan for the termination of periodic nourishment for any water resource development project described in section 156 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-587), as amended by the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-662).

Ms. KAPTUR (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio.