

return submitted with the taxpayer's social security number to confirm the validity of the return. We continue working to correct the taxpayer's account until we complete the correction.

How can the IRS better work with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to identify, investigate, and prosecute identity thieves while protecting the privacy of victims?

Recently, we, with the Justice Department, announced the results of a nationwide investigation of suspected identity theft perpetrators. Working with the Justice Department's Tax Division and local U.S. Attorneys' Offices, the nationwide effort targeted 105 people in 23 states. This coast-to-coast effort included indictments, arrests, and the execution of search warrants involving the potential theft of thousands of identities and taxpayer refunds. In all, the resulting indictments included 939 criminal charges.

Local law enforcement and other federal agencies play a critical role in combating identity theft. Thus, an important part of our effort to stop identity thieves involves collaborating with law enforcement agencies. Although the rules for protecting taxpayer privacy often make it difficult for us to share information that local law enforcement might find helpful, we are developing a procedure that would enable us to share falsified returns with local law enforcement after obtaining a privacy waiver from the innocent taxpayer. Also, proposed legislation H.R. 3482 (the Tax Crimes and Identity Theft Prevention Act) would expand section 6103 of the U.S. tax code to allow limited disclosure of returns and return information to law enforcement for the purpose of combating tax crimes.

We share your concerns about identity theft. We will continue to review our processes to ensure that we are doing everything possible to minimize the affect of identity theft to taxpayers and help those who are victims of this crime.

I hope this information is helpful. If you need further assistance, please call me at (559) 454-6004 or Mr. James Denning (Identification Number 1000160482) at (559) 454-6691 if we can assist you further.

Sincerely,

ROSALIND C. KOCHMANSKI,
Field Director, Accounts Management.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEEHAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4362.

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. SMITH of Texas. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (H.R. 6062) to reauthorize the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program through fiscal year 2017.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6062

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 "Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program Reauthorization Act of 2012".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF BYRNE JAG GRANTS.

Section 508 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3758) is amended by inserting before the period the following: ", and \$800,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2013 through 2017".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6062 currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my Judiciary Committee colleague Mr. MARINO for his leadership on this law enforcement priority.

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program is the centerpiece of the federal government's assistance for state and local criminal justice initiatives. It was created in 2005 when two existing federal grant programs were combined.

Byrne JAG is a streamlined block grant program that empowers states and localities to address specific law enforcement challenges.

Byrne JAG funding is distributed by the Justice Department based on a formula that considers the jurisdictions' population and crime rates.

Some of the money is kept at the state level but much of it is distributed to localities.

Jurisdictions can tailor their spending based on their own communities' needs. These include prosecution and court programs, drug treatment programs and crime victims programs.

In my district, Byrne JAG funds have been used by the City of Austin to hire additional 911-call operators, purchase protective gear for law enforcement officers and provide training on forensics technology. These are all important public safety initiatives that were prioritized by local leaders.

Byrne JAG is currently authorized at \$1.1 billion per year, although this authorization is set to expire at the end of September when the current fiscal year ends.

In fiscal year 2012, Congress appropriated \$470 million for the Byrne JAG program, al-

though \$100 million of this money was a one-time set aside for this year's presidential nomination conventions.

H.R. 6062 reauthorizes the Byrne JAG program for five years at \$800 million a year.

H.R. 6062 enjoys bipartisan support and is widely supported by the law enforcement community.

I thank my Judiciary Committee colleague, Mr. MARINO, for his work on this issue and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

I would like to yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO), who is a member of the Judiciary Committee and the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, Chairman SMITH, I rise today in strong support of legislation I introduced, H.R. 6062, the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program Reauthorization Act of 2012.

The Edward Byrne Memorial JAG Program is the primary provider of Federal criminal justice funding to State and local jurisdictions, and it has been referred to as the "cornerstone Federal crime-fighting program."

The JAG program provides State and local governments with critically needed resources to support a wide range of law enforcement activities, including prosecution, prevention, education, planning, corrections, treatment, evaluation, and technology.

As a former district attorney and United States attorney, I understand the tremendous value of JAG-funded projects in fighting crime by improving the processes, procedures, and operations of criminal justice systems.

My legislation being considered today reauthorizes the JAG program for 5 years—I repeat, for 5 years—through fiscal year 2017.

This legislation is supported by the National Criminal Justice Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the National Sheriffs' Association, the National District Attorneys Association, and many more law enforcement organizations.

H.R. 6062 enjoys bipartisan support, including Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member CONYERS of the House Judiciary Committee, who are cosponsors. The legislation was considered by the House Judiciary Committee and approved by a voice vote on July 18.

I would like to thank the chairman and the committee for their help in ensuring that the authorization for this critical program does not lapse. I urge all of my colleagues to join in the support of our State and local law enforcement agencies by voting in favor of H.R. 6062.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6062, the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program Reauthorization Act of 2012.

The Federal justice grants reauthorized under this legislation provide critical funding to State and local jurisdictions in their efforts to combat crime.

Especially during periods of national budgetary constraints affecting the bottom lines of States and local governments, the Byrne JAG grants are particularly important. Across our Nation, many jurisdictions, to shore up their budgets, are actually laying off police officers. When many of our citizens are experiencing economic hardship, we must not add to their burden by allowing public safety to suffer.

H.R. 6062 reaffirms the Federal Government's commitment to assisting State and local governments in their effort to prevent and fight crime. But reauthorization of the Byrne JAG grant program is obviously just a first step. We must also follow through with actually appropriating sufficient funds for the program.

In addition, we should encourage allocation of grant funds to the full range of programs that State and local governments are allowed to fund. Under current law, State and local governments may use Byrne JAG funding for programs or projects that improve law enforcement efforts; prosecution and court programs; prevention and education programs; corrections and community corrections; drug treatment programs; planning, evaluation, and technology projects; and crime victim and witness programs.

Each of these are essential to a comprehensive effort to protect us from crime, and, therefore, all of them should receive significant funding under the Byrne JAG grant program. An imbalance in justice assistance funding creates an imbalance in anticrime efforts. Specifically, an appropriate amount of funding should be allocated to prevent crime, which will help reduce the amount of money needed to fund the after-crime cost of investigation, prosecution, incarceration, and victim assistance.

We must also assist State and local governments to fund public defender programs in recognition of the fact that the public is also protected from injustice when we safeguard the Sixth Amendment rights of our citizens.

Finally, it is essential that the full range of other programs that assist State and local public safety initiatives, including the COPS program, are adequately funded. The COPS program has funded the hiring of more than 123,000 State and local police officers and sheriff's deputies in communities across our Nation, and it has been proven to be extremely effective in reducing crime.

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I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 6062, and I commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO) for his work on the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of H.R. 6062 so that we can reaffirm our commitment to funding public safety programs, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time as well.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. I want to thank my colleague from Virginia for yielding me the time.

I just want to reiterate what Mr. SCOTT just said. I have to say I have never had more requests and concern about programs from mayors and elected officials in my municipalities than I get for programs like this Byrne JAG program, like the COPS program, like the SAFER program that deals with fire prevention.

I think a lot of it has to do with the fact that many of my towns—and I'm sure this is true across the country—because of the recession, because of budgetary constraints are laying off police, laying off firemen, don't have the resources, if you will, to deal with a lot of the crime prevention problems, so these programs are crucial to them.

I want to reiterate what Mr. SCOTT said about the fact that right now it's not only a question of reauthorizing, but also making sure that there's adequate funding for it. If I could just use an example in my own district, and that is that last week I was able to announce that several towns in my district, the Sixth District, have been awarded grants under the Byrne JAG program to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime. One grant is administered by Neptune and is benefiting both Asbury Park and Long Branch—Long Branch being my home town. Another grant is administered by New Brunswick, and it's helping Perth Amboy, Edison, and Woodbridge.

The funding is used to purchase law enforcement equipment and supplies. In New Brunswick, it's being used for a police vehicle, which will have mobile video and data equipment. This is really all about community safety, which is of utmost importance. At a time when our local law enforcement has to cope with difficult funding levels, these Federal grants make it possible for towns to support critical crime-prevention activities that protect New Jersey families and their residents. I can't stress enough how important this is.

So I'm just very pleased today that on a bipartisan basis we are reauthorizing this, I think, for 5 years. And as Mr. SCOTT said, the next step is to make sure that there's adequate funding because this is a crucial program. That's why I came down here tonight to speak about it.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. 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. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6062.

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. SCOTT of Virginia. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6169, PATHWAY TO JOB CREATION THROUGH A SIMPLER, FAIRER TAX CODE ACT OF 2012; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 8, JOB PROTECTION AND RECESSION PREVENTION ACT OF 2012; PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS FROM AUGUST 3, 2012, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 7, 2012; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES; AND WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Ms. FOXX, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-641) on the resolution (H. Res. 747) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6169) to provide for expedited consideration of a bill providing for comprehensive tax reform; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8) to extend certain tax relief provisions enacted in 2001 and 2003, and for other purposes; providing for proceedings during the period from August 3, 2012, through September 7, 2012; providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules; and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL AND RESOURCES ALLOCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2012

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1550) to establish programs in the Department of Justice and in the Department of Homeland Security to help States that have high rates of homicide and other violent crime, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1550

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 Law Enforcement Personnel and Resources Allocation Improvement Act of 2012".