

A child goes missing in this country every 40 seconds. Almost 800,000 children are reported missing each year and 500,000 go missing without ever being reported.

In many cases of missing children, the AMBER Alert system is activated to help law enforcement and community search efforts.

However, in order to issue an AMBER Alert for a missing child, law enforcement officials must have a description of the child, the suspect, the vehicle if there is one and how the abduction took place. Additionally, they must be able to confirm that the child has in fact been abducted and did not simply wander off on their own.

Without evidence of an abduction, law enforcement officers cannot issue an AMBER Alert. This is where programs like the Child and Elderly Missing Alert Program step in.

Experience shows that time is of the essence when searching for missing persons—particularly young children and the elderly.

H.R. 4305 would allow funding under the Justice Department's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant program to go toward rapid recovery phone call and alert systems that can be deployed when children and elderly persons are missing.

Such programs complement the AMBER Alert program by quickly disseminating information about missing persons within targeted geographic areas even when the information available is minimal.

Having a child, elderly or disabled loved one go missing is any family's worst nightmare. H.R. 4305 provides a critical tool in the efforts to find missing persons.

I again thank the gentleman from Ohio for his work on this issue and I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WESTMORELAND). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4305, 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.

□ 1500

MISSING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE PATIENT ALERT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2800) to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2800

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 "Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program Reauthorization Act of 2012".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE MISSING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE PATIENT ALERT PROGRAM.

Section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

"(a) GRANT.—Subject to the availability of appropriations to carry out this section, the Attorney General, through the Bureau of Justice Assistance, shall award competitive grants to non-profit organizations to assist such organizations in paying for the costs of planning, designing, establishing, and operating locally based, proactive programs to protect and locate missing patients with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.";

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting "competitive" after "to receive a";

(3) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

"(c) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under subsection (a), the Attorney General shall give preference to national nonprofit organizations that have experience working with patients, and families of patients, with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias."; and

(4) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

"(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$1,000,000 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend and include extraneous materials on H.R. 2800, as amended, 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. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2800, the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program Reauthorization Act of 2012, is sponsored by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS). I thank her for her work on this issue.

Alzheimer's disease is a serious condition that is becoming more and more prevalent. The disease affects as many as 5 million people in this country, or one in eight older Americans, and a new person develops Alzheimer's every 69 seconds. This pace is expected to increase with time.

It is estimated that more than half of the people with Alzheimer's or other types of dementia will become lost from their families or caretakers at some point. Many of these people cannot remember their name, their family members or their address. This makes returning home safely difficult for law enforcement officers and Good Samaritans.

As is true whenever a person goes missing, time is of the essence when attempting to locate a lost Alzheimer's patient. One study found an almost 50

percent mortality rate for Alzheimer's patients who are not found within 24 hours of becoming lost.

To address the problem of missing Alzheimer's patients, Congress created the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program in 1996. This Justice Department program provides grants to locally based organizations to protect and locate missing patients with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. Congress has appropriated money for this every year since its creation.

The Justice Department has provided grants to several programs, including the Alzheimer's Association's Safe Return program. In this program, people with Alzheimer's and dementia are registered in a data base and receive a bracelet that indicates the individual is memory impaired. The bracelet also includes a 24-hour emergency response number to call if the person is found wandering or has a medical emergency.

The Alzheimer's Association reports a 99 percent success rate for reuniting enrolled missing individuals with their caretakers through the Safe Return program.

H.R. 2800, the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program Reauthorization Act of 2012, reauthorizes this program at \$1 million a year for 5 years. This authorization level reflects the fiscal year 2012 appropriations level. H.R. 2800 helps to ensure that people with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia are returned safely home when they become lost.

Again, I want to thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) for her leadership on this issue, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I thank Chairman LAMAR SMITH for his support for H.R. 2800, the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program Reauthorization Act. This bill reauthorizes a small, but effective, program that assists local law enforcement and protects vulnerable people with Alzheimer's disease. I appreciate the chairman's willingness to work with me and move this bill forward.

Alzheimer's disease currently affects an estimated 5.3 million Americans, and that number will multiply in the coming decades as our population grows. The Alzheimer's Association estimates that 7.7 million Americans will have Alzheimer's by the year 2030, and 11 to 16 million Americans will have the disease by the year 2050.

One great risk for Alzheimer's patients is wandering away from home. According to the Alzheimer's Association, more than 60 percent of Alzheimer's patients are likely to wander. Wanderers are vulnerable to dehydration, weather conditions, traffic hazards, and individuals who prey on vulnerable seniors. Up to 50 percent of Alzheimer's patients who wander will become seriously injured or die if they

are not found within 24 hours of their departure from home. Wanderers often cannot remember who they are or where they live and cannot assist law enforcement officials and other first responders who try to help them.

The Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program is a Department of Justice program that provides competitive grants to nonprofit organizations to assist in paying for the cost of planning, designing, establishing, and operating programs to protect and locate missing patients with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. These grants help local communities and public safety agencies quickly identify persons with Alzheimer's disease who wander or who are missing and reunite them with their families.

The program was originally authorized in 1996, but has been operating under an expired authorization since 1998. H.R. 2800 reauthorizes the program and authorizations \$1 million per year in appropriations for fiscal years 2013 through 2017. This authorization level will allow the program to operate at the funding year 2012 funding level for the next 5 years.

This program is extremely cost effective. An annual appropriation of simply \$1 million would easily result in millions more in savings for the Federal Government by allowing more Alzheimer's patients to remain at home with their families, thereby reducing nursing-home utilization and saving Medicare and Medicaid expenses.

H.R. 2800 is cosponsored by 18 Members of Congress, including Congressman CHRIS SMITH and Congressman ED MARKEY, the coauthors of the Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease. The bill is also supported by both the Alzheimer's Association and the Alzheimer's Foundation of America.

This program saves law enforcement officials valuable time and allows them to focus on other security concerns. It also reduces unintentional injuries and deaths among Alzheimer's patients, brings peace of mind to their families, and thus allows more patients to remain at home with people who love them.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman LAMAR SMITH and Ranking Member JOHN CONYERS for advancing this bill through the Judiciary Committee. And, I especially want to thank Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS for her commitment and hard work over the years in support of the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program.

Alzheimer's disease robs millions of individuals in the U.S. of their ability to recognize once familiar places and faces or even to remember their names and addresses.

Not everyone with Alzheimer's wanders, but an estimated 60% wander at some point in the disease, and many of those wander repeat-

edly. They easily become disoriented and lost, even in their own neighborhood. While wandering is common, it also can be extremely dangerous, particularly for the unprotected and the mentally and physically vulnerable. If not found within 24 hours, up to half of those who wander risk serious injury or death. And their friends and families are beside themselves with worry.

Since its inception in FY1996 and the awarding of a grant to the Alzheimer's Association, the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program has been a literal life-line, helping in the safe return of many thousands of wanderers.

The program has been funded every year since 1996 and funding has been used to establish a nationwide emergency response service for individuals with Alzheimer's or another dementia who wander or have a medical emergency, including an identification and enrollment system.

H.R. 2800 reauthorizes for five years this Department of Justice Program that provides grants to nonprofit organizations to operate programs designed to help local communities and law enforcement officials quickly identify wandering dementia patients and reunite them with their families.

The program has a 98% success rate for safely returning program enrollees who were reported missing. The program also assists individuals with dementia who are not enrolled, with an 88% success rate. I encourage all of my colleagues to vote for this important legislation.

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. 2800, 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.

LOCAL COURTHOUSE SAFETY ACT OF 2012

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6185) to improve security at State and local courthouses, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6185

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 "Local Courthouse Safety Act of 2012".

SEC. 2. SECURITY TRAINING.

Part D of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3741 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 403. PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ENSURING OFFICER RESILIENCE AND SURVIVABILITY.

"The Director may carry out a training and technical assistance program designed to teach employees of State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies how to anticipate, survive, and respond to violent encounters

during the course of their duties, including duties relating to security at State, county, and tribal courthouses. If the Director offers a training program specifically designed to train participants on courthouse security issues, preference for admission into such program shall be given to employees of jurisdictions that have magnetometers available for use at their courthouses."

SEC. 3. STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE.

The State Justice Institute Act of 1984 is amended—

(1) in section 203(b)(1) (42 U.S.C. 10702(b)(1)), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting "safe," after "a fair"; and

(2) in section 206 (42 U.S.C. 10705)—

(A) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (14)—

(I) by inserting "to" before "conduct"; and

(II) by striking "and" at the end;

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (15) as paragraph (16); and

(iii) by inserting after paragraph (14) the following:

"(15) to improve the safety and security of State and local courts; and"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(g) MAGNETOMETERS.—In the case of a grant awarded under this section to be used as described in subsection (c)(15), if the State or local court applying for the grant does not have magnetometers available for use, not less than \$300 nor more than \$1,000 of the matching fund required under subsection (d) of the State or local court shall be used to acquire a magnetometer."

SEC. 4. SECURITY EQUIPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding after section 559 the following:

"§ 560. Surplus security equipment for State and local courts

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

"(1) the term 'surplus security equipment' means surplus property that is used to detect weapons, including metal detectors, wands, and baggage screening devices; and

"(2) the term 'qualifying State or local courthouse' means a courthouse of a State or local government that has less security equipment than the security needs of the courthouse require.

"(b) DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS SECURITY EQUIPMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, the Administrator of General Services shall ensure that a qualifying State or local courthouse has an opportunity to request to receive surplus security equipment for use at the qualifying State or local courthouse before the surplus security equipment is made available to any other individual or entity under this subchapter.

"(2) DISPOSAL.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), upon request by a qualifying State or local courthouse for surplus security equipment for use at the qualifying State or local courthouse, the surplus security equipment shall be made available to the qualifying State or local courthouse without cost, except for any costs of shipping, handling, and maintenance.

"(B) MULTIPLE REQUESTS.—If more than 1 qualifying State or local courthouse requests a particular piece of surplus security equipment, the surplus security equipment shall be distributed based on need, as determined by the Administrator of General Services, with priority given to a qualifying State or local courthouse that has no security equipment."

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 559 the following: