

peace and security across the Taiwan Strait and throughout East Asia.

While it is important to mark this historic anniversary, we also should take this opportunity to affirm our—that is to say the American—commitment. As a reflection of that, today's bill authorizes the President to transfer up to four surplus U.S. naval vessels to Taiwan. Taiwan has been a valued partner in combating global terrorism and delivering humanitarian relief when needed.

China's recent declaration of an Air Defense Identification Zone and subsequent provocation toward other ships in the region has raised concerns about the possibility of escalation and provocation. That makes the security posture of friends like Taiwan even more precarious and more important and underscores the need for us to continue this defense partnership.

The bill also, as the chairman indicated, authorizes the transfer of surplus naval vessels, two each to Mexico and Thailand, both critical defense partners of this Nation. These transfers will enhance the ability of those countries to collaborate with the U.S. Navy on joint or support operations. The bill also provides an overdue modernization of the congressional review process for the licensing of U.S. defense exports. Under the new criteria, congressional review will focus on major defense exports.

The bill also will help advance the President's Export Control Reform initiative, which has long been a priority for the high-tech community which I am proud to represent in northern Virginia. I have been working with the House Foreign Affairs Committee for years to reform Federal export controls, which have stifled innovation in the American commercial defense industry and put U.S. exports at a disadvantage.

Today's bill updates the process for congressional review of exports to reflect regulatory changes now being implemented by the Departments of State, Commerce, and Defense.

As we celebrate the 35th anniversary of the adoption of the Taiwan Relations Act, I look forward to working with other friends of Taiwan to reaffirm America's unwavering commitment to this partnership, including trade and investment activities that will benefit both of our nations moving forward.

Over the past 60 years, the United States-Taiwan relationship has undergone dramatic changes, but Taiwan's development into a robust, lively democracy underpins the strong U.S.-Taiwan friendship we enjoy today. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join the chairman and me in supporting this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING), a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank Chairman ROYCE for his

steadfast leadership on the Foreign Affairs Committee on this legislation that we have before us today.

□ 1700

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3470 strengthens the bilateral relationship between the United States and the Republic of China on Taiwan in two very important ways. First, it reaffirms Congress' commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act that for 35 years has served as the foundation of our relationship with the Republic of China on Taiwan. Secondly, Mr. Speaker, it authorizes the transfer of additional Perry-class guided missile frigates to Taiwan. And I should point out that I have seen firsthand in Taiwan the threat that the People's Republic of China constantly presents to Taiwan. They are there, right across a very short distance body of water, ready to strike at any time, so reaffirming our military commitment to Taiwan is critical.

As we have seen the Chinese Government continue to escalate tensions in the region, Mr. Speaker, making certain that we enhance this security cooperation is important. As Chairman ROYCE pointed out, Taiwan is a superior trading partner with the United States. They are in the top 10 trading partners, and I point out that the trade with Taiwan represents about 500,000 jobs here in the United States.

I would like to thank the chairman for his work to further the U.S.-Taiwan relationship, and certainly look forward to working with him to determine what else we can and should be doing to support an unwavering ally in an increasingly important part of the world.

My view of successful foreign policy is that your friends trust you and your enemies fear you, and this legislation today is a good step in the direction of our enemies fearing us and our friends trusting us.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, we have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation. Just as important as arms sales to Taiwan, the U.S. must support efforts to maintain and expand Taiwan's diplomatic presence. I am pleased to report to the House that legislation signed into law last year, another bipartisan product of this committee, helped Taiwan participate in the International Civil Aviation Organization for the first time since 1976.

Taiwan's participation in regional trade agreements could greatly benefit American consumers and exporters as well.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should be proud of the role that the Taiwan Relations Act has had in helping Taiwan become what it is today. Taiwan is a beacon of hope and democracy in a part of the world that still yearns for the basic freedoms that Americans and Taiwanese enjoy on a daily basis. As

we commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, let us speak with one voice and offer our strong support of Taiwan.

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 California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3470, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to affirm the importance of the Taiwan Relations Act, to provide for the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign countries, and for other purposes".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GREEN MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT HERITAGE PROTECTION ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 404) to preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 404

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 "Green Mountain Lookout Heritage Protection Act".

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF LEGAL AUTHORITY OF GREEN MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT.

(a) LEGAL AUTHORITY OF LOOKOUT.—Section 4(b) of the Washington State Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-339; 98 Stat. 300; 16 U.S.C. 1131 note) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: ", and except that with respect to the lands described in section 3(5), the designation of such lands as a wilderness area shall not preclude the operation and maintenance of Green Mountain Lookout."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Washington State Wilderness Act of 1984.

SEC. 3. PRESERVATION OF GREEN MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT LOCATION.

The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, may not move Green Mountain Lookout from its current location on Green Mountain in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest unless the Secretary determines that moving Green Mountain Lookout is necessary to preserve the Lookout or to ensure the safety of individuals on or around Green Mountain. If the Secretary makes such a determination, the Secretary shall move the Green Mountain Lookout to a location outside of the lands described in section 3(5) of the Washington State Wilderness Act of 1984 and designated as a wilderness area in section 4(b) of such Act.

SEC. 4. ALASKA NATIVE VETERAN ALLOTMENT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPLICATION.—The term "application" means the Alaska Native Veteran Allotment application numbered AA-084021-B.

(2) *FEDERAL LAND.*—The term “Federal land” means the 80 acres of Federal land that is—

(A) described in the application; and
(B) depicted as Lot 2 in U.S. Survey No. 13957, Alaska, that was officially filed on October 9, 2009.

(3) *SECRETARY.*—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) *ISSUANCE OF PATENT.*—Notwithstanding section 41 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1629g) and subject to subsection (c), the Secretary shall—

(1) approve the application; and
(2) issue a patent for the Federal land to the person that submitted the application.

(c) *TERMS AND CONDITIONS.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The patent issued under subsection (b) shall—

(A) only be for the surface rights to the Federal land; and

(B) be subject to the terms and conditions of any certificate issued under section 41 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1629g), including terms and conditions providing that—

(i) the patent is subject to valid existing rights, including any right of the United States to income derived, directly or indirectly, from a lease, license, permit, right-of-way, or easement on the Federal land; and

(ii) the United States shall reserve an interest in deposits of oil, gas, and coal on the Federal land, including the right to explore, mine, and remove the minerals on portions of the Federal land that the Secretary determines to be prospectively valuable for development.

(2) *ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.*—The Secretary may require any additional terms and conditions for the issuance of the patent under subsection (a) that the Secretary determines to be appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in 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 Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 404 would preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness area of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in my home State of Washington.

The Green Mountain Lookout was constructed in 1933 on the summit of Green Mountain for the purpose of fire detection. It was also used to look for enemy aircraft during World War II. While the lookout is no longer used for fire detection, it has, however, become a favorite destination for hikers.

Several years ago, after the lookout was damaged in a snowstorm, the Forest Service disassembled and removed the lookout by helicopter with the in-

tent of replacing the foundation and reassembling the lookout. In 2009, the lookout was reassembled, again using helicopter.

But in 2010, Mr. Speaker, an environmental group from out of State, from the State of Montana, filed and won a lawsuit claiming that the repairs violated both the Wilderness Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. As a result, a Federal judge in Seattle ordered the Forest Service to remove the historic lookout. Elimination of this popular hiking destination by this order would have begun this summer. This bill puts a stop to that nonsense and it protects the lookout.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately this is not an isolated incident. Too often, lawsuits from extreme groups seek to close off public access to public lands, and too often bureaucracies are happy to comply with eliminating existing recreation from public lands. At times they even take the lead in pushing such restrictions. Credit, however, is due to the Forest Service for using common sense in this case. In other cases, such as the subsistence cabin of the Alaska Native veteran addressed also in this bill, or the halting of stocking fish in the North Cascades, which is the subject of another bill, common sense hasn't always prevailed, so it falls to Congress to fix the problem.

The House has already acted once on this piece of legislation regarding the Green Mountain Lookout, in February, by protecting this lookout. By voting on this Senate bill today, the House will send the measure to the President to be signed and to become law.

The Senate approved the measure by unanimous consent last week at the request of our Senator from Washington, Senator PATTY MURRAY. This action was prompted by a visit from Senator MURRAY to the Washington State communities affected by the tragic mudslide that claimed the lives of over two-dozen citizens. The Senator called me a week ago last Saturday morning. When she asked what she and her congressional colleagues could do to help, the mayor of Darrington, one of the communities that is affected, asked for enactment of this bill to save the lookout. It is a small action that cannot undo the tragedy, but it will help protect a recreation and economic asset in this corner of Washington State.

It goes without saying to all affected by the mudslide that our hearts go out to those of you who lost loved ones, and our sincere thanks is owed to all who have assisted in the rescue, search, recovery, and rebuilding of that area.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my optimism that this is just the first of other bills affecting public lands that will become law this year. There has been bipartisan communication between the House and the Senate on finding agreement on a number of bills of local importance to communities across the country—bills to solve

problems, foster economic development, and to protect historic and special places. Had not the special circumstances prompted action on this bill today, I am confident it would have become law soon enough. Senator MURRAY and I, along with Senator CANTWELL, also from Washington State, have been discussing a number of bills of interest to our particular State. I hope and believe these will be among those that can be accomplished later on this year. It takes one step at a time, so I urge my colleagues to support this bill and send it to the President for his signature.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the Green Mountain Lookout tower is perched on a bluff overlooking Washington State's Cascade Mountains in what is now the Glacier Peak Wilderness. Built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the tower is a popular destination for hikers and a testament to our long tradition of public lands-based service and training programs.

A lawsuit challenged the tower's presence in the wilderness area, and a judge ruled it be removed. Passage today of S. 404 will ensure the tower remains where it is, which we feel is important and appropriate. I want to thank Senator MURRAY of Washington and Representative DELBENE, the sponsor of the House companion. It is thanks to their hard work that we are considering this legislation today.

□ 1715

While it will not take away from the tragedy of the recent mudslide, passing this bill today will be a big win for the local community and the State of Washington as a whole.

We support the legislation and thank the majority and the chairman for bringing it up under suspension of the rules.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), who is the author of the House version of the Alaska provisions in this Senate bill.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman.

The Green Mountain Lookout Heritage Protection Act includes a provision that I offered as an amendment on the House floor in February. The amendment to the omnibus Public Access and Lands Improvement Act passed the House by voice vote, and I am pleased it has come before the House again as part of the Senate-passed legislation.

During the debate on that measure, I told a story that led to this provision, and how the Federal Government failed one of my constituents, Mr. William Alstrom, endangering his Alaska native veterans allotment and the cabin

he and his family built on their own effort on his land the Federal Government conveyed to him and then took back due to a bureaucratic error.

At its core, fixing issues like this is one we are all sent here to Washington to accomplish, and the way in which this has been fixed, merely months after I was first made aware of this issue, is an example of how Congress should function as we work together.

Today, after the House sends S. 404 to the President, I am pleased that William and his family can put this headache behind them, and William can put his time to better use by continuing to serve St. Mary's, Alaska, as mayor and president of his village corporation.

May I, again, thank the chairman, the ranking member, the two Senators, and the total Larsen delegation for this legislation, especially recognizing the mudslide.

But I hope we all recognize that the Federal Government is not a good manager of land. There are too many times that logic does not prevail and too many times they are being sued by interest groups that understand logic. I am suggesting respectfully, as the chairman has said, we ought to work together, both parties together, on solving land issues that are really created by our own government—both sides. I have been under eight Presidents, and I have watched these Presidents all not take into consideration individuals, their rights, their prerogatives, as free Americans.

So I, again, thank you for the efforts put forth in this legislation. I commend the chairman and ranking member for the work they put forth, and God bless you.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlelady from Washington (Ms. DELBENE), the sponsor of the legislation.

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman and the ranking member for their help in considering the Green Mountain Lookout Heritage Protection Act today, a bill close to the hearts of many of my constituents who have been struck by a terrible tragedy.

As many in this Chamber know, on Saturday, March 22, on a mountainside in my district near the towns of Oso and Darrington, an enormous landslide occurred, almost unthinkable in size and scope, wiping out an entire neighborhood and destroying an important stretch of State Route 530, the primary transportation artery between Arlington and Darrington, and other communities to the east.

At least 33 people have lost their lives, and more are still missing. The damage and loss caused by this disaster are heartbreaking, but the community response has been equally inspiring. People throughout the region have come together to support each other and do their part to aid in the search and recovery.

In the days after the tragedy occurred, members of the community and

the mayor of Darrington asked for support on issues important to the region. One of their requests to our congressional delegation, to Senators MURRAY and CANTWELL and Congressman LARSEN and myself, was for our help to pass this bill.

Last year, I introduced the Green Mountain Lookout Heritage Protection Act in the House, and, with unanimous Senate passage last week, we are one step closer to providing this community with a piece of good news about a treasured local landmark. The Green Mountain Lookout, located in the Glacier Peak Wilderness, was built in 1933 as a Civilian Conservation Corps project to detect fires and spot enemy aircraft during World War II. The lookout is a popular destination for hikers near and far, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is also an important, historic, and unique part of community of Darrington.

Unfortunately, severe weather caused the Green Mountain Lookout to fall into disrepair in 2001, and the U.S. Forest Service began taking steps to preserve the historic structure for future generations. However, an out-of-state group filed a lawsuit against the Forest Service for using machinery to conduct repairs and, unfortunately, a U.S. District Court ordered the Forest Service to remove the lookout. If Congress does not act soon, the lookout will be removed for good.

This lookout is a local landmark for the Darrington community and the Pacific Northwest, and is also a critical tourist attraction and economic driver in the region. At a time when this community is faced with a long, difficult road to recovery, we must do everything we can to help, including supporting the region's economy, and, in this case, protecting the Green Mountain Lookout saves a cherished landmark and supports outdoor recreation and tourism, both critically important to the local economy.

This bill is simple. It would allow routine maintenance while keeping this iconic structure where it is meant to be, and always has been, on Green Mountain near Darrington. Local governments in the area, my constituents, as well as a number of environmental and historic preservation groups, support saving the lookout. This bill also saves money because it would cost more money to remove the lookout than to keep it where it is.

The Green Mountain Lookout represents a significant piece of the Pacific Northwest's history. It deserves to be protected for outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy for many years to come.

This bill can't undo what has been done. But, as the mayor of Darrington told me, it can be a piece of good news and a victory for an inspiring community that has gone through so much.

Today, I ask all Members of the House to vote for this bill and do their part to support this remarkable community and this historic landmark.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arizona has 15½ minutes.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN).

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the full committee, the ranking member of the full committee, and the ranking member of the subcommittee for helping to bring S. 404 to the floor, the Green Mountain Lookout Heritage Protection Act.

The lookout symbolizes a unique and vanishing part of the Pacific Northwest's heritage, and this bill symbolizes Congress' solidarity with a hard-hit part of our State.

The Green Mountain Lookout is one of few surviving fire lookouts in the West. It is one of only six such lookouts within a wilderness area. It was an early warning station during World War II to alert citizens to possible aerial invasion.

The communities in nearby Darrington and Oso are recovering from last month's tragic landslide that has taken the lives of dozens of people and shut the communities off from much of the outside world. First responders, FEMA, and other Federal agencies have been extraordinary in their efforts to help with recovery.

Passing this bill invests in a longer-term economic recovery of the region. Many of the people in these communities rely on outdoor recreation and the tourism that it brings for their livelihoods. Part of that economy is based on access to its historic and beautiful location, like Green Mountain Lookout.

Keeping the lookout in place means Darrington has one more reason to tell people from across this country that Darrington is open for business. With the summer recreation season coming up, protecting Green Mountain Lookout sends a message from Congress to these communities as well that we are with you.

For 12 years, I represented these communities in Congress and for 3 years before that on the local county council. I introduced legislation identical to this bill in June 2012 right after an ill-advised court decision suggested that Green Mountain Lookout should be taken down.

I was pleased that Senators MURRAY and CANTWELL followed that with the introduction of companion legislation in December of 2012.

In February 2013, Congresswoman DELBENE reintroduced this bill, along with our Senate colleagues.

I appreciate my colleagues' willingness to protect the lookout, and I appreciate the support of Chairman HASTINGS, Ranking Member DEFAZIO, and

others to put this bill on the President's desk.

By protecting the lookout, we will protect the economic livelihoods of many of those who have struggled after last month's tragic landslide.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and to vote for S. 404.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I advise my friend from Arizona I am prepared to close if he is prepared to close.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I think the Representatives from Washington stated the case for the legislation. All of us concur with that.

I urge all Members to vote for this piece of legislation. It is thoughtful, it is pragmatic, and it is necessary to do it with some urgency so that that historic site is not lost.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This is a good piece of legislation. I want to congratulate my colleagues from the western part of the State for introducing it and persevering on it.

It is just one of those issues, as I mentioned in my opening statement, where we many times in the West get influenced by somebody out of State. This is just one of those classic examples. There is no reason why the lookout should not be there for the people that surround the community of Darrington, and for the people that hike in that area.

But so many times I have come to the floor, and colleagues on my side, arguing about lawsuits, especially from the environmental emphasis. This is just one more example that we are correcting. In fact, I hope we can have more of those in the future.

This is a good piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker. I urge adoption of the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 404.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEBBIE SMITH REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4323) to reauthorize programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4323

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 “Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. GENERAL REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 2 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14135) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(3)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “2010 through 2018” and inserting “2014 through 2019”; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “2018” and inserting “2019”; and

(2) in subsection (j), by striking “2009 through 2014” and inserting “2015 through 2019”.

SEC. 3. TRAINING AND EDUCATION.

Section 303(b) of the DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 14136(b)) is amended by striking “2009 through 2014” and inserting “2015 through 2019”.

SEC. 4. SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAM GRANTS.

Section 304(c) of the DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 14136a(c)) is amended by striking “2009 through 2014” and inserting “2015 through 2019”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 4323, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

In 1989, Debbie Smith was kidnapped from her Williamsburg, Virginia, home while her husband, a police officer, was sleeping upstairs. Her assailant dragged her into the woods behind her home and raped her.

Despite being threatened with further harm, she bravely came forward, reported the assault, and consented to a forensic exam with hopes that her attacker would be quickly identified and apprehended. Unfortunately, this did not happen.

In the years following the sexual assault, Debbie Smith, stricken with thoughts of suicide, struggled with the paralyzing fear that her unknown attacker would return to inflict harm on her and her family. The traumatic effect remained with Debbie and her family for over 6 years until an offender was identified and convicted using DNA analysis.

I am pleased to sponsor H.R. 4323, the Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2014, to ensure victims of rape, sexual assault, and other violent crimes do not have to endure similar experiences

to Debbie Smith in the future. I would like to acknowledge the bipartisan support received from the numerous cosponsors of this important legislation, including lead cosponsor Congresswoman BASS of California and original cosponsors Ranking Member CONYERS, Crime Subcommittee Chairman SENBRENNER, and Ranking Member SCOTT. I also would like to recognize the efforts of my colleague from New York, CAROLYN MALONEY, in cosponsoring this bill reauthorizing the program she helped create in 2004. Finally, the gentleman from Texas, Judge TED POE, has also been a strong leader in this area for many years, and we are all very appreciative of his efforts.

With the goal of eliminating the backlog of untested DNA samples, the Debbie Smith program awards grants to State and local governments to fund the collection of samples from offenders and crime scenes, including rape kits, increased laboratory capacity, and the analysis of DNA samples in a timely and appropriate manner.

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Additionally, grants are authorized to provide training, technical assistance, and education to law enforcement officials, court officers, corrections personnel, and forensic science and medical professionals.

The effectiveness of DNA evidence in criminal investigations and prosecutions is unquestioned. As of January 2014, the use of the FBI's National DNA Index has provided important assistance in more than 224,000 investigations. In my home State of Virginia, the database contains more than 366,000 offender profiles and has aided in nearly 8,500 criminal investigations.

Due to a number of factors, including the expansion in recent years of the number of States requiring arrestees to submit DNA samples, the demand for the testing of these samples continues to outpace the capacity of State and local government laboratories.

In 2011, laboratories processed 10 percent more DNA cases than in 2009. However, backlogs persisted as demand grew by 16 percent during the same period, illustrating the need for the continued support of this vital program.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, reauthorizing the Debbie Smith program, to continue the reduction of DNA backlogs nationwide.

I thank Debbie Smith for her contribution to this effort and for her courage in standing up for millions of others.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 4323, the Debbie Smith Act, which was originally enacted in 2004. During Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we have the opportunity to take an important step in continuing a program that helps address the problem of sexual assault.