

friends, the students that she taught, the parents, the faculty will always remember her passion and her belief in a brighter future for our youngest members of society.

ENFORCE THE LAW AGAINST SANCTUARY CITIES

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in favor of H.R. 3009, Enforce the Law Against Sanctuary Cities Act.

Why does it take tragedy after tragedy before this Congress and America gets behind the idea that we don't have to have more tragedies like Kate Steinle in San Francisco or one that almost may be forgotten about, Jamiel Shaw, Jr., in southern California some years ago, all at the hands of illegal immigrants that should not be here, should be deported? Why do we keep doing this?

Indeed, sanctuary cities not only don't enforce the law, they intentionally cause people to be in harm's way because they are not enforcing the law. Denying funding to them is one strong message to sanctuary cities, over 300 of them now in the United States, that they are doing the wrong thing and needlessly endangering or losing the lives of Kate Steinle to illegal immigrants that are here causing this crime.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 3009, and for the Senate to timely take it up and pass it as well.

□ 1015

SANCTUARY CITIES

(Mr. CÁRDENAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, watching the news lately, it is nothing but Donald Trump and his baseless rhetoric. He has attacked a war hero, but first attacked an entire country of people. Donald Trump is trying to get into the White House, but it looks like he has already infiltrated Congress.

This bill on the floor of this House today has Donald Trump written all over it. This Donald Trump bill treats people like criminals who haven't even been arrested yet.

Congress doesn't need to tell our local police and sheriffs how to keep us safe. Decades of research shows that this kind of bill will only make our neighborhoods less safe.

The safety of our families should not be a pawn to please Donald Trump. Republicans should work to fix our broken immigration system that will make our neighborhoods safer and supercharge our economy.

I stand with the Major County Sheriffs' Association and the Fraternal Order of Police and oppose this bill.

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND REFORM ACT

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last week the House passed legislation that would fund the Nation's highway and transit programs through December 18.

Transportation and infrastructure are key components of economic development efforts in North Carolina, and this fiscally responsible bill keeps important road and bridge projects going in the short term while discussions continue on a longer term bill.

Earlier this year I introduced legislation to help the Federal Government responsibly manage taxpayer money and stretch the limited funds available to the highway trust fund by exempting it from the Davis-Bacon Act's outdated, wasteful labor requirements for Federal-aid highway and public transportation projects.

The Davis-Bacon Act was passed in 1931 and requires Federal contractors and subcontractors to pay the local prevailing wage for construction projects on which the Federal Government is a party.

For decades, it has been driving up the cost of Federal highway projects by mandating artificially high wages. It is time to get America back on track by spending wisely, not carelessly.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on August 6, just a few days from now, America will have the privilege of celebrating the 50th anniversary of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, with the sadness to know that that Voting Rights Act has been gutted by the United States Supreme Court with instructions for this Congress to respond to the rights of Americans to vote.

I am very proud of the words that Justice Ginsburg said: It is common sense that, if polio is on the demise, why get rid of the polio vaccination.

Voting prohibitions and prohibiting people from voting has decreased over the decades, but it has because of the Voting Rights Act. Frankly, we are doing a great disservice.

When there are rebel flags being flown to show racial divide or monuments that represent very dire comments about those who are slaves, it looks as if this Congress could bring a voting rights legislation to be voted on for all Americans to be able to vote.

What a sad state of affairs when we cannot have a real vote on the floor of the House to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act, which many of us have worked on even from the last Congress.

I finally conclude by saying on this floor will be a bill dealing with what we call sanctuary cities, taking advan-

tage of an enormous tragedy of which I offer my deepest sympathy.

The National League of Cities, the Fraternal Order of Police, and the national Major County Sheriffs' Association are saying that the bill dealing with sanctuary cities is misguided.

It penalizes law enforcement, and it doesn't allow the common sense that should have been issued in San Francisco, pick up the phone and communicate.

I think we should do the right kind of law in this body, not laws that will undermine the very principles of democracy, equality, and justice.

Pass a Voting Rights Act now.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 23, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 23, 2015 at 9:32 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1599.
With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3009, ENFORCE THE LAW FOR SANCTUARY CITIES ACT

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 370 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 370

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3009) to amend section 241(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to deny assistance under such section to a State or political subdivision of a State that prohibits its officials from taking certain actions with respect to immigration. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time

as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on House Resolution 370, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring this rule forward on behalf of the Rules Committee.

The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 3009, the Enforce the Law for Sanctuary Cities Act. The Rules Committee met yesterday evening and heard testimony from both the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Immigration, in addition to several Members interested in this important issue.

This rule brought forward by the committee is a closed rule and provides for 1 hour of general debate, equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee.

We are bringing this rule forward today because both the safety of American people and the integrity of our system of laws depends on its passage. No institution, body, or agency has the right to selectively apply the law or selectively enforce the law.

The same individuals who claim exemption from our immigration laws demand equality under our criminal laws. Do we really want to live in a country where an agency claims the authority to pass political judgment on you and your circumstance to determine if the law applies to you?

This is precisely what the administration is proposing. Not only are their actions contrary to public safety, they fundamentally undermine the most basic concept of law.

I believe that sanctuary cities are unacceptable. That is why I was a part of the effort to prohibit them in Georgia and why I am so committed to continuing this fight here in Congress.

The tragic and preventable death of Kate Steinle in San Francisco at the hands of an illegal immigrant is the latest example of why we have to address sanctuary cities and enforce the law. Hear me, Mr. Speaker. Kate is not the only victim.

According to the U.S. Sentencing Commission, of 74,911 Federal crimes in fiscal year 2014, 27,505, or 36 percent, were committed by those here illegally.

During an 8-month period in 2014, sanctuary cities released more than 8,000 criminal illegal immigrant offenders the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was seeking to deport.

According to a new report released by the Center for Immigration Studies,

of these 8,000 released, approximately 1,900 were arrested for successive crimes during the 8-month timeframe.

I believe San Francisco's hands are soaked in blood now. They choose to protect criminal illegal aliens over an innocent American woman.

Beyond the public safety threat posed by sanctuary cities, the Federal Government has the responsibility to be good stewards of tax dollars entrusted to them by hard-working Americans.

There is no reasonable explanation, in law or policy, as to why the Federal Government should send money to cities in the form of grants or reimbursements to help them enforce the law when they are blatantly ignoring the law.

It is a waste of taxpayer money to send this money to States for purposes of law enforcement when they clearly aren't using it for that purpose.

The situation before us today is one dangerous political hypocrisy. The administration has vocally stated immigration law lies with the Federal Government and the Federal Government alone.

In fact, their entire case against Arizona was premised on that point. That was when States were trying to enforce the law.

When States don't enforce the law, essentially playing into the administration's failure to enforce the administration's claims, there is nothing they can do. It is sort of an interesting proposition.

Last week I questioned the Secretary of Homeland Security about the issues of sanctuary cities. The Secretary stated there was nothing that DHS could do and that he didn't feel it was productive to try and force the cities to cooperate.

The administration jumped all over States that help enforce immigration laws, including suing Arizona for enacting laws to protect its borders and its citizens.

I ask: Where is the outrage by the administration over San Francisco's failure to follow the law? Where is the law suit?

It is not surprising that the administration is only outraged when States are acting in a manner that doesn't meet their political goals.

DHS refuses to make sanctuary cities comply with the law while, at the same time, DOJ is now requiring law enforcement in Maricopa County, Arizona, to provide services in Spanish to jail inmates and to have Federal oversight for all workforce enforcement raids. This kind of political hypocrisy is the kind that has already cost the life of Kate Steinle.

The administration wants a non-enforcement policy, but it is up to Congress to make the administration follow the law. That is exactly why the Rules Committee is bringing forward this rule and H.R. 3009.

Sanctuary cities ignore and shield illegal immigrants at the expense of law-

abiding Americans, and the administration, through its failure to defend and enforce this law, is complicit.

Listen, Mr. Speaker, I believe that sanctuary cities should be descriptions of cities that provide safe and secure places for law-abiding citizens, not the definition for cities choosing to provide safety for those flaunting our immigration laws.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding me the 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule and the underlying bill. The rule here today provides for consideration of H.R. 3009, a bill that I strongly oppose that wouldn't even solve the problem that it attempts to here today.

First, a little bit about the process. This is a closed process that reflects the practice of shutting down debate on the House floor.

We should be talking about how to protect Americans like Kathryn Steinle. Instead, we are limited to debating a bill that, even if it had been the law, would not have affected this case or others like it or secured our borders. We are not even allowed to introduce amendments that would secure our borders here before the House floor.

We have not had a single hearing on this bill, and it has not been marked up in committee. It simply appeared before the Judiciary Committee.

It simply appeared before the Rules Committee yesterday fully formed. We talked for several hours about many of its flaws there. But, unfortunately, nevertheless, it has been advanced under this rule to the House floor.

This bill is not a fix. It is not a solution to anything. It is a heavy-handed way to attack communities that are simply trying to find solutions to what is fundamentally a Federal problem.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, dress it up however you like. It is our fault, the institution of Congress' fault, the Federal Government's fault, that we have failed to secure our borders.

It is the Federal Government's fault that there are 10-, 12-, 14 million people in our country illegally, some of them felon immigrants. That is not the fault of any city or county or State.

Our law enforcement professionals—sheriffs, police chiefs—are doing the best they can with the facts on the ground which work against them because of this body's failure to act.

This bill before us is simply an attempt to provide a false solution to a tragic incident, this in spite of the fact this body has refused to bring forward a single bill to fix our broken immigration system or secure our border.

The murder of Kathryn Steinle was a terrible tragedy. It should not have occurred. There were so many breakages along the way and things that could have been done to prevent it. But this action is primarily a way to highlight our broken immigration system.

It is a disgrace, for instance, that our immigration enforcement agencies dedicate significant resources to pursuing tens of thousands of individuals with no criminal history while the enforcement of our laws against serious felons like Mr. Lopez-Sanchez, as a result, is limited to something like a phone call or an email from the sheriff in San Francisco.

□ 1030

ICE, the agency with sole authority to pursue, detain, and deport people within our borders—an agency with a budget of more than \$5 billion annually—is to blame here for its perverse allocation of resources.

Mr. Speaker, ICE should have pursued this individual vigorously, and ICE is responsible for the fact that this man was walking the streets of San Francisco instead of in Mexico; but, rather than take responsibility for this tragedy and commit to making the necessary changes to prevent anything like this from happening in the future—like, for instance, encapsulating the President's DACA and DAPA programs in statute so that our limited enforcement resources can be focused on criminal felons rather than tens of thousands of individuals with no criminal history—instead of doing that, this body is threatening local law enforcement with reducing their funds to keep communities safe.

Mr. Speaker, this bill before us would do even less to address this issue in a meaningful way. This legislation undermines local law enforcement, tramples the 10th Amendment to our Constitution, and directly undermines the authority and judgment exercised by local law enforcement agencies that are simply trying to do their job as best they can in light of a Federal failure—a Federal failure—to deport felon immigrants, a Federal failure to secure our borders, and a Federal failure to establish enforcement priorities in statute.

These decisions behind policing communities and ensuring public safety are made by those in those jurisdictions. We shouldn't have reactionary politicians in Washington threatening to cut off funding to sheriffs and police chiefs to make their communities less safe and lead to more victims of felons, both immigrant and American.

That is why this bill is opposed by the Conference of Mayors, Law Enforcement Immigration Task Force, the Fraternal Order of Police, and many other law enforcement professionals.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that article I, section 8 of the Constitution, which we began the session of Congress by reading, makes it clear that it is the Federal Government's responsibility to create and enforce immigration policy.

No matter how much this body tries to pass its failure on to cities, States, and counties, it will always come back here because only the Federal Government can secure our borders, only the

Federal Government can establish enforcement priorities in statute, only the Federal Government can provide a pathway to citizenship, and only the Federal Government deports felon immigrants.

Despite this, however, Congress has displayed a complete and total unwillingness to even begin the debate on fixing our broken immigration system, instead choosing to threaten local law enforcement for our own failures in this town, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I tried to reinitiate this debate just yesterday in the Rules Committee by introducing an amendment to this bill that would have allowed us to address the systemic problems by considering comprehensive immigration reform, including border security. Unfortunately, on a party-line vote, my measure was voted down and, therefore, in favor of maintaining this status quo.

Instead of having a meaningful debate on how to make our immigration system work in our favor and keep Americans safe by keeping immigrant felons off the street and securing our border, the Republicans are instead insisting to push this bill through the House, threatening local law enforcement without hearing, committee debate, or even the opportunity to amend it with good ideas from Democrats or Republicans.

Felons and egregious immigration violators like Mr. Lopez-Sanchez should not be free to walk the streets of this country, but until this body gets serious about securing our border and creating enforceable laws with the resources to enforce them, people like Mr. Lopez-Sanchez will walk free and will continue to harm Americans.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will effectively require local enforcement of immigration laws, effectively trying to foist off our responsibilities on beleaguered local law enforcement agencies who, with their limited resources, are making the best judgments they can to keep their communities safe.

Federal courts have found that the DHS detainer policies violate the Constitution. Because ICE detainers request that a person be held in local custody for up to 2 days beyond the time they would otherwise be released, Federal courts have concluded that ICE detainers cause a new period of detention, and they are unconstitutional.

ICE has flouted this requirement for years, issuing detainers based on investigative interests alone; and these dragnet detainer issuances practices have caused the detention of countless people who were not criminal felons, felon aliens, who are not removable—even U.S. citizens in some cases.

The Federal courts finally caught up with this practice and found them to be unconstitutional and are holding local agencies under civil liability for honoring detainer requests from ICE.

In Colorado, for example, the Arapahoe County sheriff was forced to pay \$30,000 to a victim of domestic vio-

lence who was, herself, arrested when she called the police for help. She was then held in the Arapahoe County jail at the request of Federal immigration authorities for 3 days after a judge had ordered her release. Another case in Jefferson County Sheriff's Office was forced to settle for \$40,000.

Now, detainers are a form of communication and are therefore, in a reasonable reading of this proposed law, included. Effectively, you are presenting impossible choices to local law enforcement. You are telling them, on the one hand, subject yourself to civil liability or subject yourself to the cutting off of Federal grants to support your efforts.

Either way, Mr. Speaker, it is a loss for the safety of American citizens and a loss for law enforcement, all because this body fails to own up to the fact that only we can fix the problem; only we can secure the border; only we can replace our immigration system with a comprehensive approach that makes sense and has the resources to enforce it, the Federal resources to enforcement.

This isn't some theoretical matter that some intellectually curious law review cooked up. Jurisdictions in my district have been found civilly liable for enforcing detainers and been forced to pay. Lawsuits are being filed, and local law enforcement agencies that serve as proxies for ICE are losing.

If you want to tell cities in my State to enforce unconstitutional policies, why not take on the liability federally? Will this body pay the settlement from the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office? Will this body pay the settlement of \$30,000 from the Arapahoe County sheriff?

The Republicans are making it clear that they don't have a plan to keep people like Kathryn Steinle safe. They don't have a plan to secure our borders. They don't have a plan to address our broken immigration system. This bill today is just another piece of evidence of this body's, this institution's failure to keep Americans safe.

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to hit a couple of points here. It was stated by my friend from Colorado about the issue of San Francisco and pursuing individuals, such as this one who committed murder; and the fact is ICE did ask for him to be held. San Francisco made the choice to let him go, which is leading us to the issue today before us, and we want to continue.

Also, this one assertion that this is a false solution debate—when is it a false solution to actually have to be here and discuss actually enforcing the law? I think that is exactly what we are doing here. If you choose to enforce the law, that is what your proper role should be, and if not, these are the penalties that will be put in place.

I think we will continue this process, Mr. Speaker, and at this time, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGOVERN), my distinguished colleague on the Rules Committee.

Mr. McGOVERN. I want to thank the gentleman from Colorado for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this closed rule. This process is an absolutely outrage. I also rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3009.

Mr. Speaker, along with all of my colleagues and every American, my heart goes out to the family of Kathryn Steinle. The murder of any innocent person is a tragedy, and after each such heinous crime, we always ask ourselves: Could this have been avoided? Could we have done something differently?

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3009 paints itself as a remedy to Kathryn Steinle's death, but it does nothing—absolutely nothing—to address how to improve communication between our law enforcement, immigration, prosecutors, and penal institutions, nor does it improve the protocols and practices of how decisions are made on the release or transfer of a prisoner against whom ICE has lodged a detainer request.

Instead, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3009 chose to penalize local law enforcement agencies and strip them of their Federal grants and funding when they prioritize working with immigrant communities in order to keep neighborhoods, cities, and towns safe.

Republicans would rather demonize these cities and local law enforcement agencies and force them to squander scarce local resources on immigration enforcement, instead of local policing. In effect, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3009 will make our cities and communities less safe, rather than more secure.

This is why law enforcement and city governments oppose this bill. It deliberately and cynically undermines their ability to protect their communities, nurture public trust in the police and our legal system, and strengthen our public safety.

H.R. 3009 is opposed by the Major County Sheriffs' Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Criminal Justice Association, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National League of Cities; all of them strongly oppose this bill.

Mr. Speaker, this bill reeks of prejudice. It isn't meant to solve any problem. It is meant to punish cities that don't embrace the views of anti-immigrant extremists. It is meant to demonize all immigrants as criminals.

It means to punish any city, any police officer, any sheriff, and any cop on the beat who challenges the Republican anti-immigrant orthodoxy of "hate them all" and "deport them all." Deport the DREAMers; deport the parents of U.S. citizens; deport children fleeing violence—deport, deport, deport.

Mr. Speaker, this House continues to wait and wait for the Republican majority to show some leadership and bring up a comprehensive immigration reform bill. It has been more than 2 years since the Senate passed a strong, bipartisan immigration reform bill; and we are still waiting for the House Republicans to act.

What we need is a way to bring 11 million of our neighbors, friends, colleagues, small-business owners, and hard-working residents out of the shadows. Let them register, be documented, and not fear talking with the police. Let us recognize their achievements and contributions to the American way of life.

This bill had no hearings, no markup, and no input from local law enforcement—no regular order. In fact, in the topsy-turvy world of the Republican House, the Judiciary Committee's Immigration and Border Security Subcommittee is holding its first hearing on this topic today—this morning—when this bill is already here on the House floor for debate and voted today.

No, Mr. Speaker, this bill is just more of the same, old, divisive Republican anti-immigrant formula. America is better than this, and I urge my colleagues to reject this closed rule and to oppose the underlying bill.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise and just, again, part of this is really—and even if you look at the Administration's view on this bill and others, it is almost an Alice in Wonderland effect. What is up is down and down is up. We are looking at this, that enforcing the law hurts enforcement of the law and that it is backwards.

Now, there are issues that need to be addressed. One of the issues is that we have a communication problem. I agree. We have got a communication problem. When they say, "Hold him; he is going to be deported; he is deportable; he is not someone we want on our streets" and San Francisco and other sanctuary cities choose to release him, that is a communication problem. I will agree with my friends across the aisle on that point.

To say that punishing views—how about enforcing the law? The last time I sat in my law classes, we didn't enforce views; we enforced laws. I think that is what we are bringing up here.

I can't let it pass. I talked about this before, and as a Member who believes that there are immigration issues that we need to address and as a member of the Judiciary Committee—which, by the way, has held hearings dealing with this subject—in fact, just last week, the Secretary of DHS was in. I questioned him directly about this, and it is amazing. He has no real opinion about sanctuary cities as he told me in his testimony.

I find that rather amazing in that he would say that there would be a problem not enforcing these laws, and when

I asked about other laws that we want to enforce—is it okay for cities to turn their back on those laws—there is not an opinion there.

We have talked about this. We have had immigration hearings. We have begun the process of marking up legislation to secure our communities, to secure our borders, and to do those things; but before we start throwing in the nature of saying there is all wrong with the Republican majority on something that we have not done, I just want to go back and remind—I am still one who at the time was out there watching the proceedings from my home in the State of Georgia, where we were doing everything we could to balance the needs of our State and our economy during shutdown and during a depression, recession—whatever you want to call it—and we were trying to balance budgets, and we were watching this issue up here, but what I saw was that we are told today we are waiting for Republicans and the Republicans have all this bad agenda.

At the same point, when this body was controlled by my friends across the aisle, when the other body across the way—the Senate—was controlled by my friends across the aisle, and when the administration was new and in their early stages of developing their strategy for solving all the world's problems, what they chose to do was wreck health care and to work against community bankers. They chose that.

□ 1045

They chose not to do comprehensive immigration reform. They chose to use it as a political issue and a political pawn. They chose not to bring this up.

When you want to bring it up, let's shine the light brightly. Let's bring it up and shine the light brightly on both sides. The world was waiting. You managed to get a lot of other things through. You managed to do other things that you wanted to do, but you chose not to do this. You chose not to make this.

My question here is simply: the bill that is being brought forward, it says enforce the law.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

As the gentleman from Georgia might recall, when the Democrats controlled the Senate last session, they did pass comprehensive immigration reform with strong Republican and Democratic support. More than two-thirds of the body supported securing our borders, expelling felon immigrants, and keeping Americans safe. Had this body simply acted on that bill, as we repeatedly tried to get them to do, we quite likely would not be facing this tragedy that we face here today. Until this body acts, there are likely to be more victims, more American victims, of criminal immigrants.

It is not the fault of the Democrats. We, with the Republicans in the Senate, put together a bill that would have

addressed it. It is the fault of this body, the House of Representatives, that failed to act.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a Statement of Administration Policy with regard to this bill, which includes that the President's senior advisers would recommend that he veto this bill. He then goes into some of the same arguments we have been talking about with regard to why we need to secure our border and grow our economy and make sure that we can fix our broken immigration system.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY
H.R. 3009—ENFORCE THE LAW FOR SANCTUARY CITIES ACT

(Rep. Hunter, R-CA, and 44 cosponsors)

The Administration strongly opposes H.R. 3009. This bill fails to offer comprehensive reforms needed to fix the Nation's broken immigration laws, undermines current Administration efforts to remove the most dangerous convicted criminals and to work collaboratively with State and local law enforcement agencies, and threatens the civil rights of all Americans by authorizing State and local officials to collect information regarding any private citizen's immigration status, at any time, for any reason, and without justification.

The Administration continues to believe that it is critical to fix the Nation's broken immigration system through comprehensive commonsense legislation that builds on existing efforts to strengthen border security, cracks down on employers hiring undocumented workers, streamlines legal immigration, and offers an earned path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants to get right with the law if they pass background checks, contribute to the Nation's economy by paying taxes, and go to the back of the line. While the Senate passed comprehensive legislation with strong bipartisan support over two years ago that would do just that, the House of Representatives failed to take any action. According to the Congressional Budget Office, that legislation would also grow the Nation's economy by 5.4 percent and reduce Federal deficits by nearly \$850 billion over 20 years. The Administration continues to urge the Congress to address all of the problems with the Nation's broken immigration system and take up commonsense legislation that will offer meaningful solutions to those problems.

The Administration also believes the most effective way to enhance public safety is through sensible and effective policies that focus enforcement resources on the most significant public safety threats. The Administration has put in place new enforcement priorities that do just that, focusing limited resources on the worst offenders—national security threats, convicted criminals, gang members, and recent border crossers. The effectiveness of these new priorities depends on collaboration between Federal, State, and local law enforcement. Every day, the Federal government fosters State and local collaboration through a variety of mechanisms, including policies, programs, and joint task forces. The Department of Homeland Security's Priority Enforcement Program (PEP) enables Federal immigration enforcement to work with State and local law enforcement to take custody of individuals who are enforcement priorities, including public safety and national security threats, before those individuals are released into communities. PEP is a balanced, commonsense approach to enforcing the Nation's immigration laws. It replaced the Secure Communities program, which, by establishing a “one-size-fits-all”

approach to State and local cooperation with Federal immigration enforcement officials, discouraged some localities from turning over dangerous individuals to DHS custody. Secure Communities was embroiled in litigation and widely criticized for undermining State and local community policing efforts. PEP builds collaboration between Federal, State, and local law enforcement that allows for the most effective enforcement while enhancing community policing and trust. The Congress should give PEP a chance to work, instead of displacing that collaborative approach—which prioritizes the worst offenders—with the coercive approach of this bill, which makes no such differentiation.

Finally, the bill would condition Federal money on State and local governments allowing their law enforcement officials to gather citizenship and immigration status information from any person at any time for any reason. The Administration believes that such blanket authority would threaten the civil rights of all Americans, lead to mistrust between communities and State and local law enforcement agencies, and impede efforts to safely, fairly, and effectively enforce the Nation's immigration laws.

If the President were presented with H.R. 3009, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto this bill.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, the Donald Trump wing of the Republican Party is clearly ascendant here today. It is the dominant thinking among House Republicans.

This is the same crowd that, just back in February, threatened the funding for Homeland Security because they were so eager to deport our DREAMers—young people who came here as children, who have cleared a criminal background check, who paid a fee and are already contributing to America—because whenever they are in doubt on immigration, they fade to the extreme right. These are the same Members of Congress who have even gone to court to sue the President of the United States when he prioritized the deportation of criminals over immigrant families; and these are the same Republicans who were so fearful of a same discussion here, and this Congress, this House, is never a sanctuary of sanity when it comes to immigration.

But they refuse to bring to the House floor a bipartisan bill unanimously approved in the Homeland Security Committee to deal with border security. If that weren't bad enough, they came back this year with a totally partisan border security bill, and they have been afraid to bring it to the floor because they do not want a reasoned discussion of immigration in this House of Representatives.

Unfortunately, this Congress is also never a sanctuary from partisan political stunts designed to capitalize on the latest tragedy, like the tragedy that occurred in San Francisco. This bill is not about grabbing criminals; it is about grabbing headlines. It is not about a thoughtful debate of the best immigration and law enforcement policies for our country; it is about scoring

political points. It does so by rejecting the expert opinion of sheriffs and police chiefs and law enforcement experts and organizations and local mayors and leaders in the municipal level across America who say that, to fight crime effectively, they need to win the trust of all of the communities that they serve.

This bill is opposed by major law enforcement organizations, by municipal government organizations. I saw at the top of the list of those law enforcement organizations the police chief of my hometown, who works with community policing to make our communities safe. Some localities believe that they can better enforce the law, better keep our communities safe, if an undocumented person who is a witness or a victim of crime is involved with them and reporting those crimes and helping enforce the law.

If I have to choose between Donald Trump and his extreme attitudes embodied by colleagues here in this House today and my local law enforcement about how to protect my family, all of our families, I choose law enforcement. Let's reject this bad bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. POLIS. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. DOGGETT. If they are so committed to supporting local law enforcement, eliminating funding for the COPS program is hardly the way to do it. We ought to be putting our dollars and our support and our immigration laws in conformity with the law enforcement experts across America and protect our families.

Reject this bad bill, and then do something substantive to back our law enforcement officials.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I appreciate the argument, and this is why we have this time. But I do want to just remind again, from my previous statement, bringing up a bill last Congress reminds me of back when I used to coach kids in football. There was always that struggle you wanted to put as many kids in, you wanted everybody to play, and you still wanted to win the game. There was that balance that you always had.

It reminds me of one time it happened to be one of my own kids. Now, that is pretty hard when you are coaching one of your own kids and you get to the end of the game and you didn't put him in like you thought you were going to because the time had run out on the game. And you go to him—fortunately, he was my son. I was driving home, and I said, “I am sorry.” I called his name and I said, “I am sorry I didn't get you into the game. The time had run out, but I had every intention of getting you into the game.” That is about like saying last Congress when the Senate was Democrat but the House was Republican and we have different ideas and different views that we

are bringing forward. I simply go back to the time when that did not exist, when time was still on the clock and they chose not to do anything.

Also, it is a good distracter from what we are talking about today: cities enforcing laws, finding solutions, and doing so. That is simply what this bill does, that is what this rule provides for, and those are the things that need to be talked about. This is the discussion that needs to be had, and this is the discussion the American people are having all over, including, by the way, San Francisco, who is reevaluating their policy even now.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS).

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my House colleagues to stop and think for a moment and to oppose not only the rule, but the underlying bill. It is extreme, it is anti-immigrant, and it is really not about sanctuary cities.

In fact, this flawed legislation actually second-guesses the decisions that are made by local police chiefs and sheriffs around the country on how best to police their communities and ensure public safety and ensure the kind of cooperation that they need in order for law enforcement to work properly.

As the founder and former executive director of the National Network to End Domestic Violence, representing domestic violence organizations and coalitions around the country, I am deeply concerned that this legislation will have a negative effect on the cooperation that is necessary between law enforcement and isolated, very isolated victims of domestic and sexual violence. Furthermore, it would strip the bipartisan provisions that passed in the Violence Against Women Act when we just reauthorized it.

Specifically, H.R. 3009 negatively amends section 241(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act by doing the following:

It undermines the spirit and protections of VAWA, effectively pushing immigrant survivors and their children, many of whom are likely U.S. citizens, deeper and deeper into the shadows of danger.

It undermines the policies that local communities have determined are appropriate for their localities to ensure that victims of crime come forward without fear of retribution.

It allows violent crimes to go uninvestigated, and it leaves victims without redress because of reductions in funding.

This bill would have damaging ramifications for families across the Nation and in my home State of Maryland.

I enter into the RECORD a letter from the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women, representing coalitions, organizations, shelters, services, and pro-

grams in every single State in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I want to just quote from this letter. It says: “Fear of deportation also strengthens the ability of abusers and traffickers to silence and trap their victims. Not only are the individual victims harmed, but their fear of law enforcement leads many to abstain from reporting violent perpetrators or coming forward, and, as a result, dangerous criminals are not identified and go unpunished.”

NATIONAL TASK FORCE TO END SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN,

JULY 21, 2015.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: As the Steering Committee of the National Taskforce to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (“NTF”), comprising national leadership organizations advocating on behalf of sexual and domestic violence victims and women’s rights, we represent hundreds of organizations across the country dedicated to ensuring all survivors of violence receive the protections they deserve. For this reason, we write to express our deep concerns about the impact of the “Enforce the Law for Sanctuary Cities Act” (H.R. 3009), which amends section 241(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

As government officials, we ask you to approach this issue from the perspective of a leader and be sure of the implications this bill can have on entire communities. All parties have the common goal of making communities safer. This bill will encourage law enforcement to enforce immigration law, and will significantly hinder the ability of certain communities to build trust and cooperation between vulnerable and isolated victims of domestic and sexual violence and law enforcement. Last year marked the twentieth anniversary of the bipartisan Violence Against Women Act (“VAWA”), which has, since it was first enacted, included critical protections for immigrant victims of domestic and sexual violence. This bill undermines the spirit and protections of VAWA and will have the effect of pushing immigrant survivors and their children (many of whom are likely U.S. Citizens) deeper into the shadows and into danger.

As recognized in VAWA, bipartisan legislation supporting our nation’s response to domestic and sexual violence and stalking, immigrant victims of violent crimes are often fearful of contacting law enforcement due to fear that they will be deported. A recent and comprehensive survey shows that 41 percent of Latinos believe that the primary reason Latinos/as do not come forward is fear of deportation.

Policies that minimize the intertwining of local law enforcement with ICE help bring the most vulnerable victims out of the shadows by creating trust between law enforcement and the immigrant community, which in turn helps protect our entire communities. Fear of deportation also strengthens the ability of abusers and traffickers to silence and trap their victims. Not only are the individual victims harmed, but their fear of law enforcement leads many to abstain from reporting violent perpetrators or coming forward, and, as a result, dangerous criminals are not identified and go unpunished. These criminals remain on the streets and continue to be a danger to their communities.

This bill undermines policies that local communities have determined are appropriate for their localities, and decrease the ability of law enforcement agencies to respond to violent crimes and assist all (immigrant, citizens, etc.) victims of crime. As

recognized in VAWA, law enforcement plays a critical role in our coordinated community response to domestic and sexual violence. Federal law enforcement funding supports critical training, equipment, and agency staffing that assists domestic and sexual violence victims. H.R. 3009 will allow violent crimes to go uninvestigated and leave victims without redress due to reductions in funding.

For these reasons, we urge you to affirm the intent and spirit of VAWA and oppose the provisions above. Thank you very much for taking this important step to protect and support immigrant survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Ms. EDWARDS. Surely, Mr. Speaker, this is not what we need to do. We need to ensure the continued protections of domestic violence victims all across this country, no matter who they are and no matter where they are, and to know that law enforcement will be there to protect them and their children.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

The best way to address the problems in our immigration system, the best way to address the lack of security for American citizens, the best way to ensure that there are not others like Kathryn Steinle and others that have fallen victim to immigrant felons is to fix our broken immigration system, secure our borders. Only Congress can do that.

Now, the President has taken the first steps to help keep Americans safe by suggesting certain policies like DACA and DAPA programs. Now, DACA is being implemented; DAPA is, unfortunately, tied up in the courts. What these efforts allow our law enforcement agencies to do is to focus their efforts on criminals like Mr. Lopez-Sanchez rather than violators of our civil law. It would be better if this body could put those concepts into statute or, better yet, make sure that we can differentiate between noncriminals and criminals within the law.

An immigration reform bill would reduce the risk of tragedies like this and help keep Americans safe by helping law enforcement identify people who are here illegally, and it would bring people out of the shadows. Identifying the portion of our people that are here illegally that qualify for relief and for prosecutorial discretion would help our law enforcement agencies narrow their focus and targets to individuals like Mr. Lopez-Sanchez.

Immigration reform efforts like H.R. 15, which was the comprehensive bill from last Congress, would modernize our immigration agencies, increase enforcement and resources tools, technology, and border security to prevent tragedies like this from occurring. Doing the difficult work of having a meaningful debate around immigration reform is the only way we can ever be able to keep Americans safer and reduce the likelihood of this kind of incident.

A vote for this particular bill won't do anything to address these systemic problems. Had this been the law, it would not have prevented this tragedy, nor does it do anything to address the problems plaguing our immigration system. Instead, it threatens and bullies local law enforcement and says to them, either expose yourself to civil liability—which is very real. My agencies in Colorado have been forced to pay—they have been forced to pay—\$30,000 or \$40,000. So pay legal fines, or we are going to cut your grants.

Look, it is a natural tendency of people to pass the buck, and Congress is basically trying to pass the buck to local law enforcement for our failures here in this body.

Mr. Lopez-Sanchez should not have been wandering the streets of San Francisco or any other American city. He should not have been allowed to illegally enter. In fact, he had been caught at the border four or five times, and he had snuck across other times.

□ 1100

We need real border security, and we need to finally enforce our law and get serious about restoring the rule of law, which this bill would only make an even bigger joke.

Rather than restoring the rule of law and encouraging cooperation between Federal, State, and local authorities in cases that involve immigrant felons, this bill would punish local law enforcement for prioritizing public safety and community policing over trying to do the job that Congress and the Federal Government are supposed to do.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado has 3 1/4 minutes remaining.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

It is time for this body to fix our broken immigration system to keep Americans safe. How many other victims like Kathryn Steinle need to make the ultimate sacrifice—or the countless other Americans who are victims of other kinds of crime—at the hands of immigrant felons? It will be until this body chooses to fix our broken immigration system and restore the rule of law.

This particular bill would only further dissipate the rule of law. It tells local law enforcement you have to either pay fines that drain your ability to enforce our laws or you lose grants that reduce your ability to enforce our laws.

Either way, if this bill were somehow to become law—even though the President has indicated he would veto it—it would drain away the very local law enforcement resources, the purpose of which is to keep Americans safe.

Let us move forward to replace our broken immigration system with one

that works, not try to pass the buck. Mr. Speaker, the buck can't be passed. It is the Federal Government's responsibility to secure our border and to establish immigration laws. It is the Federal Government's responsibility to deport criminals.

No matter how this body may try to say that it should be cities and counties and sheriffs and police chiefs—who are trying to do the dirty work—who are the result of our failure to take action, they need to make the decisions that are in the best interests of keeping their communities safe.

With 10 or 12 or 14 million people in our country illegally—some of them immigrant felons—we are passing along the buck to local law enforcement with an impossible task.

Rather than make that task more impossible by forcing them to pay civil fines or to lose important law enforcement resources, let's help them have the resources and policies they need to deport felon immigrants before they can commit crimes like the tragedy that occurred in San Francisco.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this rule, to oppose this bill, and to reject this bizarre approach that we are seeking here today, which would have done nothing to have prevented this tragedy or any other like it, and would lead to countless more tragedies by taking resources out of the hands of those who are on the front lines—on our streets, in our neighborhoods—keeping Americans safe.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

This is an interesting argument, as I stated before, because it really defies, in many ways, logic.

The best way to help prevent what has just happened is to enforce the law. It is not to give a substantive, wishy-washy: Well, I won't enforce this. I don't want to enforce this. I am making a political judgment.

In fact, that is really what the law should be there for, is to say: This is the law that has been passed through the political process, but this is the law for everyone.

When you have the debates in Congress, that is what the political argument is for. I don't disagree with my friend from Colorado, as this is the part that we are supposed to debate; but once it leaves here and it is printed and it is law and it is signed, it is to be enforced.

To really argue that, on this side, we don't want to enforce, and, on this side, we want to enforce, where does it end—when we don't want to enforce drug laws? trafficking laws? employment law? Where does it end?

I am sure there are political differences in many cities, possibly in my own district of the Ninth District of Georgia, where cities say: I am not sure I like this employment law. I am not sure I like having to deal with compliance, with Federal law. We will

just ignore it. No. It is about enforcement.

Lopez-Sanchez was requested by ICE. Whether you are talking about limited resources or whether you are talking about a lot of resources, it doesn't matter. They requested him to be held.

San Francisco said no. It is San Francisco's choice—their political choice, their life choice. It was a life choice for this young lady. Her life is gone.

It is not an economic choice—it is a life choice—and their choice led to a life's being taken. It is not about whether you like the law or not, and it is not about whether you have a view on the law or not—it is about whether you will enforce the law or not.

I struggle with this as I understand about the interest of immigrant communities, and I understand about good policing. My father was a State trooper.

I understand the relationship between communities and of their all working together to provide a safe community; but sanctuary cities are sanctuaries for those who abide by the law—those who are here legally, those who want to live a prosperous life and just get up and go to work and not have to worry about being shot on the street by somebody who is being sanctioned because he is here illegally—not once but multiple times over.

As has already been stated, this is not a judgment call. San Francisco could see this. They could see his record. They could see he had been detained for illegally entering. This is not something that was, frankly, even close. They chose.

The question remains: Do we enforce or do we not? The question remains: Do we want to be under a rule of law or do we want to have something else?

It has been brought up many times today of a bill in the last Congress that was passed by the Senate that would be the panacea for everything and probably would help this. That was the implication given.

I have just one question to those who make that assertion: If San Francisco and other sanctuary cities won't enforce the law now because of their political views, what gives them any idea they would for a new law?

We have got a fundamental problem here, Mr. Speaker. The fundamental problem is: Is political rule of law going to happen or is the rule of law going to happen?

Pass any bill you want, but if we allow them to ignore it without consequence, then you have no standard, you have no basis for debate, you have no place to move forward.

You can pass everything you want to and have the President sign it in beautiful ceremonies; but if we allow political subdivisions in this country to just continue to pick and choose, then we have got a problem.

Now, if there are issues, let's solve them here. Let's have the debates—I

agree—but this isn't up for debate when it leaves here.

So pass whatever you want to pass. Will San Francisco enforce it? I don't know—maybe, maybe not—but when they released and when other sanctuary cities release them and say: We are not going to hold. We are not going to do these things, then they have made a choice. Unfortunately, in this case, they made a life choice, and that beautiful life is gone.

This rule simply says enforce the law. This rule—this bill—says we have law. It is what we have got right now. It is not your aspirational goal. It is the law. Simply enforce it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

SAFE AND ACCURATE FOOD LABELING ACT OF 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 1599.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 369 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1599.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1111

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 consideration of the bill (H.R. 1599) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to food produced from, containing, or consisting of a bioengineered organism, the labeling of natural foods, and for other purposes, with Mr. SIMPSON in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Kansas (Mr. POMPEO) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 1599, the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act, is the product of diligent and bipartisan work by the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Agriculture Committee.

Over the past year and a half that we have been working on this legislation, we have solicited input from Members and from relevant agencies like the FDA and the USDA. We have also met with the organic community, conventional farmers and ranchers, seed producers, scientists, and supply chain specialists.

Throughout this process, we have sought to address every legitimate concern and provide whatever clarification might be necessary.

The fact is that the scientific consensus on the safety of genetically engineered products is utterly overwhelming. Precisely zero pieces of credible evidence have been presented that foods produced with biotechnology pose any risk to our health and safety.

Given this fact, it is not the place of government—government at any level—to arbitrarily step in and mandate that one plant product should be labeled based solely on how it was bred while another identical product is free of a government warning label because that producer chose a different breeding technology. That is unscientific, and that is bad public policy.

The mandatory labeling of genetically engineered products has no basis in legitimate health or safety concerns, but is a naked attempt to impose the preferences of a small segment of the populace on the rest of us and make the constituents whom I serve in Kansas pay more for their food.

A recent study shows that the proposed State GE labeling laws could raise the cost of the average family's food bill by, roughly, \$500 per year. Many, many families in Kansas simply cannot afford that.

Antibiototechnology interest groups are attempting to use State laws to force mandatory GE labeling on safe products and interfere with interstate commerce.

To ensure that families in Kansas and all across the country have access to nutritious and affordable food, H.R. 1599 accomplishes three primary objectives.

First, we ensure that every new GE plant destined to enter the food supply goes in for an FDA safety review.

Second, we prevent the creation of what would be the unworkable patchwork of State-by-State—or even county-by-county or city-by-city—mandatory GE labeling laws.

□ 1115

Finally, in order to provide clarity to those who prefer not to eat GE products, our bill authorizes a voluntary, user-fee-based non-GE labeling program at the USDA to provide even greater transparency and more options so that consumers, by ensuring a com-

mon definition for non-GMO for all foods, whether they are sold at the retail level or served in restaurants.

Members of Congress need to realize that allowing activists to create a patchwork State-by-State set of rules will have a real effect on our families and our districts. Those who support mandatory GE products must admit they are willing to increase the cost of food for families in Wichita and Dallas and Grand Rapids and in Vermont and in Boston and all across our Nation based on unscientific demands of a handful of antibiototechnology activists.

Congress' goal must be to ensure that people in those places have access to safe, nutritious, and affordable food to feed their families. A patchwork of laws will not accomplish that.

The reality is that biotechnologies, time and time again, have proven safe. It is simply not debatable. U.S. policies should reflect that. We should not raise prices on consumers based on the wishes of a handful of activists. I ask for everyone to support H.R. 1599.

Mr Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, July 15, 2015.

Hon. MICHAEL K. CONAWAY,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CONAWAY: I write in regard to H.R. 1599, Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015, which was ordered reported by the Committee on Agriculture on July 14, 2015. As you are aware, the bill also was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. I wanted to notify you that the Committee on Energy and Commerce will forgo action on H.R. 1599 so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

This is done with the understanding that the Committee on Energy and Commerce's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered. In addition, the Committee reserves the right to seek conferees on H.R. 1599 and requests your support when such a request is made.

I would appreciate your response confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 1599 and ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, DC, June 15, 2015.

Hon. FRED UPTON,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1599, "Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015." I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and accordingly, understand that the Committee on Energy and Commerce will forego action on the bill.

The Committee on Agriculture concurs in the mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of the bill at this time, the Committee on Energy and Commerce does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this bill or similar legislation in the future. In addition, should a