

continue to do more. Moreover, H.R. 774 includes provisions that were specifically requested by the Task Force that would enhance the United States' ability to combat IUU fishing.

H.R. 774 is the product of extensive negotiations between Democratic and Republican staff in the last Congress, and I commend the Natural Resources Committee staff, particularly Matt Strickler and former staff Jean Flemma, for their work in moving this legislation forward. It is also supported by a broad coalition that includes the U.S. State Department, fishing industry interests, and conservation groups. I also thank Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and his staff for working with us on this legislation, and for his continued leadership on an issue that impacts many of his Alaska constituents.

I am proud to note that H.R. 774 was introduced with—and quickly gained—strong bipartisan support, which included Mr. DON YOUNG of Alaska; Mr. PETER DEFazio, Ranking Member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee; Mr. ROB WITTMAN, Chair of the Subcommittee on Readiness in the Armed Services Committee; Mr. DUNCAN HUNTER and Mr. JOHN GARAMENDI, respectively Chair and Ranking Member of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee; Mr. ED ROYCE, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee; and Mr. MICHAEL MCCAUL, Chair of the Homeland Security Committee.

I also acknowledge and thank the leadership of Chairman ROB BISHOP and Ranking Member RAÚL GRIJALVA of the Natural Resources Committee. H.R. 774 passed the Natural Resources Committee by unanimous consent on April 30, 2015.

I would also like to thank the International Conservation Caucus Foundation, the Gulf Coast Leadership Conference, and the countless recreational and commercial fishing businesses across the country for their full-fledged support of this bill.

It will continue to take a collective effort to prevent IUU fishing, from stakeholders, the White House, and Congress, so I urge my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 774, so that the U.S. remains a leader in ensuring the economic security of our nation and our allies.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 774, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EVIDENCE-BASED POLICYMAKING COMMISSION ACT OF 2015

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 1831) to establish the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1831

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 “Evidence-Based Policymaking Commission Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.

There is established in the executive branch a commission to be known as the “Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking” (in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).

SEC. 3. MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission shall be comprised of 15 members as follows:

(1) Three shall be appointed by the President, of whom—

(A) one shall be an academic researcher, data expert, or have experience in administering programs;

(B) one shall have expertise in database management, confidentiality, and privacy matters; and

(C) one shall be the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (or the Director's designee).

(2) Three shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, of whom—

(A) two shall be academic researchers, data experts, or have experience in administering programs; and

(B) one shall have expertise in database management, confidentiality, and privacy matters.

(3) Three shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, of whom—

(A) two shall be academic researchers, data experts, or have experience in administering programs; and

(B) one shall have expertise in database management, confidentiality, and privacy matters.

(4) Three shall be appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate, of whom—

(A) two shall be academic researchers, data experts, or have experience in administering programs; and

(B) one shall have expertise in database management, confidentiality, and privacy matters.

(5) Three shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, of whom—

(A) two shall be academic researchers, data experts, or have experience in administering programs; and

(B) one shall have expertise in database management, confidentiality, and privacy matters.

(b) EXPERTISE.—In making appointments under this section, consideration should be given to individuals with expertise in economics, statistics, program evaluation, data security, confidentiality, or database management.

(c) CHAIRPERSON AND CO-CHAIRPERSON.—The President shall select the chairperson of the Commission and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall select the co-chairperson.

(d) TIMING OF APPOINTMENTS.—Appointments to the Commission shall be made not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) TERMS; VACANCIES.—Each member shall be appointed for the duration of the Commission. Any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers, and shall be filled in

the manner in which the original appointment was made.

(f) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Commission shall serve without pay.

(g) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission.

SEC. 4. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) STUDY OF DATA.—The Commission shall conduct a comprehensive study of the data inventory, data infrastructure, and statistical protocols related to Federal policymaking and the agencies responsible for maintaining that data to—

(1) determine the optimal arrangement for which administrative data on Federal programs and tax expenditures, survey data, and related statistical data series may be integrated and made available to facilitate program evaluation, continuous improvement, policy-relevant research, and cost-benefit analyses by qualified researchers and institutions;

(2) make recommendations on how data infrastructure and statistical protocols should be modified to best fulfill the objectives identified in paragraph (1); and

(3) make recommendations on how best to incorporate outcomes measurement, institutionalize randomized controlled trials, and rigorous impact analysis into program design.

(b) CLEARINGHOUSE.—In undertaking the study required by subsection (a), the Commission shall consider whether a clearinghouse for program and survey data should be established and how to create such a clearinghouse. The Commission shall evaluate—

(1) what administrative data and survey data are relevant for program evaluation and Federal policy-making and should be included in a potential clearinghouse;

(2) which survey data the administrative data identified in paragraph (1) may be linked to, in addition to linkages across administrative data series;

(3) what are the legal and administrative barriers to including or linking these data series;

(4) what data-sharing infrastructure should be used to facilitate data merging and access for research purposes;

(5) how a clearinghouse could be self-funded;

(6) which types of researchers, officials, and institutions should have access to data and what their qualifications should be;

(7) what limitations should be placed on the use of data provided;

(8) how to protect information and ensure individual privacy and confidentiality;

(9) how data and results of research can be used to inform program administrators and policymakers to improve program design; and

(10) what incentives may facilitate inter-agency sharing of information to improve programmatic effectiveness and enhance data accuracy and comprehensiveness.

(c) REPORT.—Upon the affirmative vote of at least three-quarters of the members of the Commission, the Commission shall submit to the President and Congress a detailed statement of its findings and conclusions as a result of the activities required by subsections (a) and (b), together with its recommendations for such legislation or administrative actions as the Commission considers appropriate in light of the results of the study.

(d) DEADLINE.—The report under subsection (c) shall be submitted not later than

the date that is 15 months after the date a majority of the members of the Commission are appointed pursuant to section 3.

(e) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “administrative data” means data—

(1) held by an agency or a contractor or grantee of an agency (including a State or unit of local government); and

(2) collected for other than statistical purposes.

SEC. 5. OPERATION AND POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) EXECUTIVE BRANCH ASSISTANCE.—The heads of the following agencies shall advise and consult with the Commission on matters within their respective areas of responsibility:

- (1) The Bureau of the Census.
- (2) The Internal Revenue Service.
- (3) The Department of Health and Human Services.
- (4) The Department of Agriculture.
- (5) The Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- (6) The Social Security Administration.
- (7) The Department of Education.
- (8) The Department of Justice.
- (9) The Office of Management and Budget.
- (10) The Bureau of Economic Analysis.
- (11) The Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- (12) Any other agency, as determined by the Commission.

(b) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet not later than 30 days after the date upon which a majority of its members have been appointed and at such times thereafter as the chairperson or co-chairperson shall determine.

(c) RULES OF PROCEDURE.—The chairperson and co-chairperson shall, with the approval of a majority of the members of the Commission, establish written rules of procedure for the Commission, which shall include a quorum requirement to conduct the business of the Commission.

(d) HEARINGS.—The Commission may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold hearings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and receive evidence as the Commission considers appropriate.

(e) CONTRACTS.—The Commission may contract with and compensate government and private agencies or persons for any purpose necessary to enable it to carry out this Act.

(f) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other agencies of the Federal Government.

(g) GIFTS.—The Commission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of services or property.

SEC. 6. FUNDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b) and the availability of appropriations—

(1) at the request of the Director of the Census, the agencies identified as “Principal Statistical Agencies” in the report, published by the Office of Management and Budget, entitled “Statistical Programs of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2015” shall transfer funds, as specified in advance in appropriations Acts and in a total amount not to exceed \$3,000,000, to the Bureau of the Census for purposes of carrying out the activities of the Commission as provided in this Act; and

(2) the Bureau of the Census shall provide administrative support to the Commission, which may include providing physical space at, and access to, the headquarters of the Bureau of the Census, located in Suitland, Maryland.

(b) PROHIBITION ON NEW FUNDING.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act. This Act shall be carried out using amounts otherwise available for the Bureau of the Census or the agencies described in subsection (a)(1).

SEC. 7. PERSONNEL.

(a) DIRECTOR.—The Commission shall have a Director who shall be appointed by the chairperson with the concurrence of the co-chairperson. The Director shall be paid at a rate of pay established by the chairperson and co-chairperson, not to exceed the annual rate of basic pay payable for level V of the Executive Schedule (section 5316 of title 5, United States Code).

(b) STAFF.—The Director may appoint and fix the pay of additional staff as the Director considers appropriate.

(c) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals which do not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for a comparable position paid under the General Schedule.

SEC. 8. TERMINATION.

The Commission shall terminate not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. 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 the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1831, as amended, introduced by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN), my friend, the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

H.R. 1831 establishes a commission to study data across the Federal Government in order to approve policymaking. Under the bill, the President and the congressional leaders will appoint 15 leading researchers, program administrators, and data and privacy experts who will have 18 months to complete their work.

The commission will determine the best way to make the data accessible they need to make informed policy decisions. It will consider whether or not a clearinghouse would be a more prudent method of coordinating and protecting data.

The commission will also make recommendations on how to incorporate outcome data when designing Federal programs. It will help ensure the taxpayer can track the value of the program from the very first dollar that is spent. Chairman PAUL RYAN has tackled many important issues in this bill, ensuring access to existing Federal data to improve public policy decision-making.

The Government Accountability Office repeatedly calls for more and better data for both GAO and agencies to

effectively analyze Federal programs. Policymakers need access to data for decisionmaking so the Federal Government can be an effective steward of the taxpayers' money and resources.

The Federal Government administers more than 1,500 different programs, and the Congressional Budget Office estimates the annual Federal spending will exceed \$4 trillion in just 2 years' time.

We know that some programs are duplicative or wasteful, but what about all the others? Are they working? Do they make taxpayers' lives better? For the most part, we simply do not know and have the analytics to back it up.

According to two former Office of Management and Budget Directors—OMB Directors—Mr. Jim Nussle and Mr. Peter Orszag, less than 1 percent of Federal spending is based on such evidence.

The first step in ensuring evidence-based policy is to understand what data the Federal Government already has. From there, we can make an informed plan on how to protect the data while ensuring greater access for decisionmakers and a more informed public.

I want to thank Chairman PAUL RYAN for his work to give policymakers and the taxpayer access to the data needed to improve program results.

Senator PATTY MURRAY has introduced the companion bill in the United States Senate, and President Obama has called for an emphasis on evidence-based policies in his budget as well.

I want to thank, again, Chairman RYAN for his leadership and work on the bill, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1831.

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

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

The Evidence-Based Policymaking Commission Act was introduced in the House by Representative PAUL RYAN and in the Senate by Senator PATTY MURRAY on April 16, 2015. The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform ordered the bill reported by voice vote on May 19, 2015.

The bill, as amended, will create a 15-member commission to study ways to improve the use of administrative data on Federal programs and tax expenditures. The commission would also consider whether to establish a clearinghouse for information collected by Federal agencies.

Federal agencies collect a large amount of data on existing programs, and they are also the beneficiaries of those programs. Too often, however, Federal agencies do not share data with other agencies or with private researchers in a way that can help determine what is working and what is not.

The administration called for greater use of evidence to improve Federal programs, especially in the areas of education, health, and international development programs. The authors of this

bill have worked with the administration in drafting this legislation.

In examining ways to better use administrative data, it is critical to ensure that the privacy of individuals continues to be protected. That is why the members of this commission would be required to have expertise not only in economics and statistics, but also in data security and confidentiality.

This bill is supported by a wide range of private sector organizations, from The Heritage Foundation to the Urban Institute.

I believe an evidence-based policy-making commission would help us improve the way the Federal Government works. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to highlight the President's budget, on page 65, where it says: "The Budget also embraces Representative PAUL RYAN and Senator PATTY MURRAY's proposal to create a commission that would make recommendations about how to fully realize the potential of administrative data to improve Federal programs. The proposal exemplifies the high-level and bipartisan momentum for doing more to tap this important resource."

It is important that we come together. In this case, I want to thank members on both sides of the aisle, there in the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

I am somewhat resistant to creating another commission or board; it seems like we have an awful lot of these, but here, we see some good thinking in a bipartisan way with some support from not only the House of Representatives and the United States Senate, but also the President of the United States.

I see fit to pass this out of our committee. It sailed through, and I believe that it is a good bill and would urge our Members to vote "aye" in favor of this piece of legislation.

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

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

I want to state that being a Member of Congress, a freshman, that it is refreshing to be able to stand here today on a bipartisan bill and be supportive.

I do want the RECORD to reflect that the bill would require the President and four congressional leaders to each appoint three commission members. One of the President's appointees will be the Director of the Office of Management and Budget or a designee.

Some members would have to have experience as academic researchers, data experts, or program administrators. Other members would be required to have experience with database management confidentiality and privacy matters. Individuals with expertise in economics, statistics, program, and evaluation will also be considered.

It is important that we understand that there are currently so many of our

agencies that are collecting data and that now we have understood and in the spirit of being efficient and being progressive in our government, that this commission will satisfy that.

I am very much in support of this and urge my colleagues, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Again, I appreciate the gentleman's comments and agree that this is a place where we can come together and work together.

This 15-member commission would be directed to determine the best structure for information that is collected and maintained by Federal agencies.

One of the things that we will all have to be cognizant about is not only making this information available to congressional researchers and people at the GAO or OMB, but also making sure that the public has access to this information for they are, ultimately, the ones that have paid for it, and they should be able to consume it.

In this data-driven age, we should be able to find new methods, whether it is some new app or some other new way to collectively bring this information and have that information that is then passed on and accessible by the public.

I also look forward to Congress receiving the recommendations and would highlight one of the things that I think is good about the structure of this bill is that it expires 18 months after its enactment, so there is a built-in exit here. This does not continue on in perpetuity. It is something that has an expiration date, which we should probably look at on a more frequent basis.

Again, I would urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 1831.

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

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say a few words about what we're trying to do here.

We're trying to change the mindset in Washington.

Right now, when we're making policy, we focus on inputs . . . on effort—like how much money we're spending, how many people we're serving, how many programs we're creating.

What we need to do is focus on outcomes . . . on results—like how many people we're getting out of poverty.

Creating this commission is the first step in a long-term effort.

We're going to bring together the best minds on data collection and figure out how we can up our game.

Let's use the data we're already collecting to improve how government works.

How can we use data to evaluate policy?

How can we protect people's privacy?

How can we get the best results for the American people?

If we do this right, we'll stop having debates over what's Republican and what's Democrat . . . or what's liberal and conservative . . .

And we'll start having debates over what works and what doesn't work.

Those are the kinds of debates we need to have. So I urge all my colleagues to support his bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1831, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1530

HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2015

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 61) amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 61

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This joint resolution may be cited as the "Hire More Heroes Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. EMPLOYEES WITH HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DETERMINING EMPLOYERS TO WHICH THE EMPLOYER MANDATE APPLIES UNDER PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4980H(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(F) EXEMPTION FOR HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION.—Solely for purposes of determining whether an employer is an applicable large employer under this paragraph for any month, an individual shall not be taken into account as an employee for such month if such individual has medical coverage for such month under—

"(i) chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, including coverage under the TRICARE program, or

"(ii) under a health care program under chapter 17 or 18 of title 38, United States Code, as determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 3. BUDGETARY EFFECTS; STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO (PAYGO) SCORECARDS.

The budgetary effects of this joint resolution shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(d)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.