

Numerous classified reports from both the Department of Homeland Security inspector general and the Government Accountability Office have detailed the security risks created by the Managed Inclusion process. We must take action to eliminate this vulnerability, and we can do so by passing H.R. 2127.

Ranking Member THOMPSON's bipartisan legislation will require TSA to limit expedited screening to the population for which it was intended: those travelers who have been vetted and are known to be low risk.

I urge my colleagues to join Ranking Member THOMPSON, Chairman KATKO, and me in supporting this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I would like to again thank Members for supporting this legislation. H.R. 2127 will eliminate a significant gap in our aviation security and ensure that each passenger who boards a commercial flight receives the appropriate level of screening.

I urge all my colleagues to join us in supporting this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support this strong, bipartisan piece of legislation.

H.R. 2843, which we just spoke about, and H.R. 2127, this bill, work side by side with each other, and it is a good example of the bipartisan nature which permeates this committee. One bill deals with the expansion of PreCheck; the other one deals with the constriction on the other side of PreCheck, and that is the Managed Inclusion, which none of us think is a good idea, long term, for security purposes.

I am proud to be part of this legislation. I am proud of the bipartisan work we are doing on this committee, and I look forward to much more production moving forward.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2127, 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.

FIRST RESPONDER ANTHRAX PREPAREDNESS ACT

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1300) to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines and antimicrobials

available to emergency response providers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1300

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 "First Responder Anthrax Preparedness Act".

SEC. 2. PRE-EVENT ANTHRAX VACCINATION PROGRAM FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROVIDERS.

(a) ANTHRAX PREPAREDNESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-296; 6 U.S.C. 311 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 526. ANTHRAX PREPAREDNESS.

"(a) PRE-EVENT ANTHRAX VACCINATION PROGRAM FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROVIDERS.—For the purpose of domestic preparedness for and collective response to terrorism, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall establish a program to provide anthrax vaccines from the strategic national stockpile under section 319F-2(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-6b(a)) that will be nearing the end of their labeled dates of use at the time such vaccines are to be administered to emergency response providers who are at high risk of exposure to anthrax and who voluntarily consent to such administration, and shall—

"(1) establish any necessary logistical and tracking systems to facilitate making such vaccines so available;

"(2) distribute disclosures regarding associated benefits and risks to end users; and

"(3) conduct outreach to educate emergency response providers about the voluntary program.

"(b) THREAT ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall—

"(1) support homeland security-focused risk analysis and risk assessments of the threats posed by anthrax from an act of terror;

"(2) leverage existing and emerging homeland security intelligence capabilities and structures to enhance prevention, protection, response, and recovery efforts with respect to an anthrax terror attack; and

"(3) share information and provide tailored analytical support on threats posed by anthrax to State, local, and tribal authorities, as well as other national biosecurity and bio-defense stakeholders."

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by inserting at the end of the items relating to title V the following new item:

"Sec. 526. Anthrax preparedness."

(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pre-event vaccination program authorized in section 526(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall carry out a pilot program to provide anthrax vaccines to emergency response providers as so authorized. The duration of the pilot program shall be 24 months from the date the initial vaccines are administered to participants.

(2) PRELIMINARY REQUIREMENTS.—By not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and prior to implementing the pilot program under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

(A) establish a communication platform for the pilot program;

(B) establish education and training modules for the pilot program;

(C) conduct economic analysis of the pilot program; and

(D) create a logistical platform for the anthrax vaccine request process under the pilot program.

(3) LOCATION.—In carrying out the pilot program under this subsection, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall select emergency response providers based in at least two States for participation in the pilot program.

(4) DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide to each emergency response provider who participates in the pilot program under this subsection disclosures and educational materials regarding the associated benefits and risks of any vaccine provided under the pilot program and of exposure to anthrax.

(5) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until one year after the completion of the pilot program, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the progress and results of the pilot program, including the percentage of eligible emergency response providers, as determined by each pilot location, that volunteer to participate, the degree to which participants obtain necessary vaccinations, as appropriate, and recommendations to improve initial and recurrent participation in the pilot program. The report shall include a plan under which the Secretary plans to continue the program to provide vaccines to emergency response providers under section 526(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a).

(6) DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall begin implementing the pilot program under this subsection by not later than the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) and the gentleman from New York (Miss RICE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 1300, the First Responder Anthrax Preparedness Act, which I introduced along with my good friend and colleague from New Jersey, BILL PASCRELL. This important, bipartisan legislation will ensure that emergency response providers have access to preevent anthrax vaccines.

An anthrax attack is a serious mass casualty threat. Our national response

capability to a wide-area anthrax attack would be greatly enhanced by having prevaccinated responders able to deploy immediately and confidently, knowing that they have been afforded as much protection as possible.

To achieve that goal, this legislation establishes a preevent anthrax vaccination program to provide surplus anthrax vaccines from the Strategic National Stockpile to emergency response providers on a voluntary basis. In advance of the full vaccination program, the bill directs the Secretary of DHS to carry out a pilot program. Both the preevent vaccination program and the pilot program are required to have robust communication, education, and training for program participants.

The bill requires a report on the progress of the pilot and directs the Department of Homeland Security to conduct risk assessments regarding anthrax terror attacks and to share threat information with State and local law enforcement.

The Department has been working for over 3 years on establishing a preevent vaccination effort for first responders, but the project has been continually stalled. I am encouraged that DHS has hired a vaccination expert from the Department of Defense to take over the effort, and I believe that the mandates in this legislation will ensure that the pilot program moves forward.

I would like to thank Committee on Homeland Security Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON, along with Chairman MCSALLY and Ranking Member DON PAYNE of the committee's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications for their leadership on this issue and their work to advance this bill to the floor. I also want to thank Homeland Security Committee staff Kerry Kinirons, Kate Nichols, and Rosanna Muno.

And this is significant, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank Chairman UPTON and his staff at Energy and Commerce, Carly McWilliams and Karen Christian, for working with us on this bill. This bill is a great example of how committees can and should work together to advance commonsense legislation and not get involved in turf battles.

I will include the letters exchanged by Chairman MCCAUL and Chairman UPTON on H.R. 1300 in the RECORD.

H.R. 1300 has 50 bipartisan cosponsors and is supported by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of EMS Chiefs, and the Alliance for Biosecurity.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill, which will help to "protect our protectors," and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, July 21, 2015.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: I write in regard to H.R. 1300, First Responder Anthrax Pre-

paredness Act, which was ordered to be reported by the Committee on Homeland Security on May 20, 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. 1300 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. 1300 and requests your support when such a request is made.

I would appreciate your response confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 1300 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 HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, July 22, 2015.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON, Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1300, the "First Responder Anthrax Preparedness Act." 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 consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Homeland Security concurs with the mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration on this 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 conference on this bill be necessary, I would support a request by the Committee on Energy and Commerce for conferees on those provisions within your jurisdiction.

I will insert copies of this exchange in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

□ 1700

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of H.R. 1300, the First Responder Anthrax Preparedness Act.

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by commending my colleague from New York, my good friend, Mr. KING, for working to make sure we are prepared to respond to an event involving a weapon of mass destruction.

For nearly a decade, Mr. KING and Mr. PASCRELL have partnered to improve our ability to prevent, prepare for, and respond to WMD incidents; and I am pleased to be here today to help advance part of that agenda.

As the Capitol Hill community witnessed just over a decade ago, even a relatively small-scale anthrax attack can be devastating. An anthrax attack on a larger scale would not only result in more sick people, but would also de-

mand a larger response effort that could stretch our emergency response capabilities.

Although we typically think about our WMD policies at the national level, it is important to remember that the initial response to an anthrax event is local. We have an obligation to make sure that those who are called upon to respond to an anthrax attack can do so without jeopardizing their own health in the process.

As a member of the Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee, I have heard from emergency responders about what they need to effectively respond to an anthrax attack.

I have also had conversations with first responders in my own district, and what I have heard repeatedly is that first responders need access to preevent vaccinations so that, if and when the time comes, they can respond swiftly without fear for their own health.

These are the men and women we will rely on in the event of a WMD incident, the men and women we will call on to risk their lives, as they do every day; and they deserve every layer of protection we can provide.

H.R. 1300 would direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a program to provide surplus anthrax vaccines and antimicrobials to emergency response providers, on a voluntary basis, before an attack occurs.

This legislation has the support of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Emergency Medical Services Chiefs, and the Alliance for Biosecurity.

In my opinion, a program like this is long overdue, and I want to thank Mr. KING and Mr. PASCRELL for their leadership in working to make it a reality.

I urge my colleagues to support the First Responder Anthrax Preparedness Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to say to my brother, PETER KING, we wouldn't be here except for you. We have talked about this thing for 10 years; more than that, PETER, through the chair, and we have insisted. I am proud to introduce this legislation with my friend, Congressman KING.

It is critical that first responders have access to stockpiled vaccines so that they can respond quickly and confidently in the event of a biological threat.

Just weeks ago, we were reminded of the grave danger that anthrax poses and the need for an effective response—a strategy—when live anthrax was mistakenly shipped to dozens of labs all over the place.

This is not a hypothetical danger, Mr. Speaker. Some of us remember when anthrax was mailed to some of our colleagues' offices in 2001. Several staffers were impacted. We shut down

the Longworth House Office Building to decontaminate it. Packages were sent to other locations. Twenty-two Americans were infected; 5 were killed, and here we are, 14 years later.

For over a decade, Congressman KING and I have been fighting to develop a comprehensive national strategy to counter the grave threat that weapons of mass destruction pose to our Nation.

According to the former chief medical officer and assistant secretary of the Office of Health Affairs at the Department of Homeland Security, Alexander Garza:

A successful anthrax attack could potentially expose hundreds of thousands of people, cause illness, death, panic, economic losses . . . making this a weapon of mass disruption as well as destruction.

By passing this legislation, we will expand our national response capability by administering surpluses and expiring anthrax vaccines and antimicrobials to emergency first responders on a voluntary basis.

Making expiring anthrax vaccines from the Strategic National Stockpile available to emergency first responders provides a cost-effective solution.

It is important that we pass this legislation. I want to thank all of those who made it possible to get here today; and hopefully, in a few weeks, when we get back, we will have a big WMD legislation on this floor.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers. If Miss RICE has no further speakers, I am prepared to close after she closes.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we have a responsibility to protect the men and women we call on to protect the public when disaster strikes. H.R. 1300 is commonsense legislation. It will provide emergency responders with anthrax vaccines from the Strategic National Stockpile that are approaching their expiration.

Certainly, our hope is that our emergency responders will never have to respond to an anthrax attack, but they deserve to know that, if that call ever does come, they can respond without fear for their own safety.

Once again, I would like to congratulate my colleagues from New York and New Jersey on this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation. Let me emphasize the bipartisan nature of it.

BILL PASCRELL has been there from the start. He referenced the anthrax attacks here in the Capitol back in 2001. None of us who was here at that time will ever, ever forget that. That should have been a wakeup call then. Unfortunately, not enough action was taken. Now, finally, after all these years, we are taking this first major step.

I want to thank BILL PASCRELL for being there. I want to thank Miss RICE for the whole tone of the debate here this afternoon.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1300, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. KING of New York. 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 motion will be postponed.

STATE WIDE INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2206) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require recipients of State Homeland Security Grant Program funding to preserve and strengthen interoperable emergency communications capabilities, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2206

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 "State Wide Interoperable Communications Enhancement Act" or the "SWIC Enhancement Act".

SEC. 2. MINIMUM CONTENTS OF APPLICATION FOR CERTAIN HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FUNDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 2004(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 605(b)) is amended by—

(1) redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and

(2) inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph:

"(B)(i) certification that the Governor of the State has designated a Statewide Interoperability Coordinator, including identification in such certification of the individual so designated, who shall be responsible for—

"(I) coordinating the daily operations of the State's interoperability efforts;

"(II) coordinating State interoperability and communications projects and grant applications for such projects;

"(III) establishing and maintaining working groups to develop and implement key interoperability initiatives; and

"(IV) coordinating and updating, as necessary, a Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan that specifies the current status of State efforts to enhance communications interoperability within the State, including progress, modifications, or setbacks, and future goals for communications interoperability among emergency response agencies in the State; or

"(ii) if a Statewide Interoperability Coordinator has not been designated in accordance with clause (i)—

"(I) certification that the State is performing in another manner the functions described in subclauses (I) through (IV) of such clause; and

"(II) identification in such certification of an individual who has been designated by the State as the primary point of contact for performance of such functions;"

(b) LIMITATION ON APPLICATION.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to any grant for which an application was submitted under the State Homeland Security Grant Program before the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) and the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say at the outset, it is great to have two New Yorkers running a debate. It doesn't happen often that we run the House; so, KATHLEEN, let's take advantage of it while we can. Any motions you can think of we can make?

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2206, the State Wide Interoperable Communications Enhancement Act, which was introduced by the ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE). This bill recognizes the important role played by Statewide Interoperability Coordinators, SWICs.

We have all witnessed the communications failures during the response to the September 11 terrorist attacks and Hurricane Katrina. Interoperability is vital during disaster response.

However, despite investing more than \$5 billion in grant funding to enhance communications capability over the past 10 years, interoperability remains a challenge. To address this challenge, States have appointed SWICs to ensure emergency response providers in their States have the ability to communicate.

SWICs complete Statewide Interoperable Communications Plans, ensure grant investments are coordinated statewide, and oversee communications projects. Many SWICs also serve as the State point of contact to FirstNet for the design and construction of the Public Safety Broadband Network.

H.R. 2206 requires Governors to certify, as part of their applications for