

I rise today in support of H.R. 3493, the Securing the Cities Act of 2015.

In April 2010, the President stated: “The single biggest threat to U.S. security, both short-term, mid-term and long-term, would be the possibility of a terrorist organization obtaining a nuclear weapon.”

Since that time, the threat to our cities from nuclear terrorism has not abated. The rise of ISIS and the resurgence of al Qaeda have only increased the likelihood that radiological material will fall into the hands of those who wish to harm America.

Just last week, the Associated Press reported that the FBI foiled an attempt by smugglers in Eastern Europe to sell nuclear material to Middle Eastern extremist groups. That report stated that, in the past 5 years, the FBI has disrupted four other attempts by smugglers from the former Soviet Union to sell nuclear materials to criminal organizations.

These events only reinforce the testimony delivered before the House Committee on Homeland Security last month by Commissioner William Bratton of the New York City Police Department. In that testimony, the commissioner described the current terrorist threat to Manhattan as the highest it has ever been, and he specifically referenced the danger of illicit nuclear material entering the city.

Thankfully, since the attacks of September 11, 2001, this Congress, successive administrations, and local law enforcement have partnered to build the capability to guard against this risk.

In particular, the Department of Homeland Security initiated the Securing the Cities program within the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office. The Securing the Cities program provided training, equipment, and other resources to State and local law enforcement in high-risk urban areas to prevent a terrorist group from carrying out an attack using a radiological or nuclear device.

The Securing the Cities program began in 2006 as a pilot program in the New York City region, which included Jersey City and Newark. Since 2007, the New York City region has purchased nearly 14,000 radiation detectors and has trained nearly 20,000 personnel.

The pilot program has been so successful, it was expanded to the Los Angeles-Long Beach region in fiscal year 2012, the national capital region in fiscal year 2014, and just last week the cities of Houston and Chicago were announced as the fiscal year 2015 and 2016 recipients.

H.R. 3493 would authorize the Securing the Cities program, which has proven its utility as a pilot program. With continued authorization, we can assure that the extraordinary capability built by local law enforcement in conjunction with DHS does not become a hollow capability, unable to be effectively used at the critical moment.

I would like to thank my colleagues who have helped bring this authoriza-

tion to the floor, especially Chairman MCCAUL of the Homeland Security Committee, and my good friend PETE KING, and also my friend from Texas Representative JACKSON LEE.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and rise in support of H.R. 3493, Securing the Cities Act of 2015.

Mr. Speaker, the Securing the Cities program is a grant and technical assistance program administered by the Department of Homeland Security's Domestic Nuclear Detection Office. Since its inception nearly a decade ago, the Securing the Cities program has provided thousands of first responders with the tools they need to detect radiological and nuclear threats.

Started as a pilot project in 2006 in the New York City, Newark, and New Jersey metropolitan areas, the program has grown to include Los Angeles and Long Beach in 2012, and the Washington, D.C., Federal district in 2014. This year, the program has identified Houston and Chicago as high-priority areas for expanding the program.

Under the program, the initial grant award is generally used for planning and analysis at a regional level, with subsequent grants going towards equipment, training, and exercises. Importantly, through the Securing the Cities program, the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office is able to channel subject-matter expertise, training coordination, and technical support to all the identified high-risk metropolitan areas.

H.R. 3493, like the bill I introduced that will be next to be considered, is targeted at bolstering the security of our communities from the threat of a nuclear attack. As such, Mr. Speaker, I urge support of H.R. 3493.

We have an opportunity today to take action to bolster our defense against rogue actors and terrorists who would seek to detonate a nuclear device on U.S. soil. The disclosure in recent weeks of a thwarted plot by Moldovan operatives to provide smuggled nuclear materials to terrorist organizations with ambition to attack the United States has crystallized the need for action. Today, we can take such action. By approving H.R. 3493 and authorizing the Securing the Cities program, we will be enhancing the Nation's ability to detect and prevent a radiological and nuclear attack in cities facing the highest risk.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3493, the Securing the Cities Act of 2015.

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. DONOVAN) that the House suspend the

rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3493, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. DONOVAN. 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.

KNOW THE CBRN TERRORISM THREATS TO TRANSPORTATION ACT

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3350) to require a terrorism threat assessment regarding the transportation of chemical, biological, nuclear, and radiological materials through United States land borders and within the United States, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3350

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 “Know the CBRN Terrorism Threats to Transportation Act”.

SEC. 2. TERRORISM THREAT ASSESSMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Under Secretary of Intelligence and Analysis, shall conduct a terrorism threat assessment of the transportation of chemical, biological, nuclear, and radiological materials through United States land borders and within the United States.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the terrorism threat assessment required under subsection (a), the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis shall consult with the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the heads of other Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate, to ensure that such terrorism threat assessment is informed by current information about homeland security threats.

(c) DISTRIBUTION.—Upon completion of the terrorism threat assessment required under subsection (a), the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis shall disseminate such terrorism threat assessment to Federal partners, including the Department of Transportation and the Department of Energy, and State and local partners, including the National Network of Fusion Centers.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3350, the Know the CBRN Terrorism Threats to Transportation Act, introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS).

This bill requires the Department of Homeland Security, through the Office of Intelligence and Analysis, to conduct a terrorism threat assessment of the transportation of chemical, biological, nuclear, and radiological materials across our land borders and within the United States.

As a fellow New Yorker, I share Congressman HIGGINS' security concerns related to the transportation of spent nuclear fuel across the Canadian-New York border. It is an appropriate response to have the Department of Homeland Security conduct a risk assessment related to this initiative.

DHS is responsible for assessing potential terror threats against the homeland. Threats related to CBRN materials are one of the most serious.

Terrorist groups have long had an interest in using CBRN materials. In addition to concerns that terror groups may try to create or purchase CBRN materials, there are concerns that terrorists could exploit such materials with legitimate commercial uses, including when such materials are transported from one location to another. It is this concern that the bill seeks to address.

The bill also directs that the results of the assessment be shared with relevant Federal, State, and local agencies, including the Department of Energy and the National Network of Fusion Centers. Coordination and information-sharing within the Department, as well as between the Department and other agencies, is critical for securing the homeland efficiently.

This is a commonsense bill, and I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1630

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

I rise in support of H.R. 3350, the Know the CBRN Terrorism Threats to Transportation Act.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. KING of New York; Chairman McCaul; and my ranking member, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, for their support of my bill.

H.R. 3350, the Know the CBRN Terrorism Threats to Transportation Act, would direct the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Intelligence and Analysis to conduct a terrorism threat assessment of the risks associated with transportation of chemical, biological, nuclear, and radiological materials.

Terrorists and militant groups have expressed an interest in using weapons

of mass destruction, especially those utilizing chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear, known as CBRN, agents or materials.

In fact, according to a recent Associated Press investigation, the FBI uncovered a plot by rogue Moldavian operatives to sell nuclear material to foreign terrorist organizations that have an interest in targeting the United States.

Next year the Department of Energy plans to allow the transporting by truck of highly enriched uranium from Canada to South Carolina. As a cost-saving measure, the planned shipment would be in liquid form.

These trucks are scheduled to enter the United States via the Peace Bridge in Buffalo, New York. An attack or an accident involving one of these trucks crossing the Peace Bridge could have devastating consequences.

The Peace Bridge is the busiest passenger crossing on the northern border and the second busiest cargo port of entry. Closing the bridge for an extended period of time would cause great economic harm to the region and national economies. Further, an attack could contaminate the Great Lakes, which contain 84 percent of North America's surface freshwater, with highly radioactive material.

Despite these risks, the Department of Energy approved this route, relying on an analysis of this route that is 20 years old, and did not anticipate carrying such high-level waste. In other words, the Federal Government is about to begin importing highly radioactive material, which has never been shipped in this manner, using outdated, pre-9/11 information that does not reflect the threats we face today.

To ensure that all relevant Federal agencies, including the Department of Energy, have the information they need to make decisions and develop policies that are informed by the terrorism threat picture, my bill would direct the Department of Homeland Security to share its assessment with Federal partners.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support H.R. 3350, a measure that will not only help ensure the Department of Energy has the information it needs with respect to transporting dangerous material through high-risk areas throughout the United States, but that other Federal agencies who are faced with similar questions are able to make better informed decisions.

Many of the routes used for the transport of CBRN materials were approved nearly 20 years ago and, as such, reflect a pre-9/11 mindset with respect to the threat and consequences of terrorism.

My bill will ensure that the Department of Homeland Security assesses and shares threat information with the Department of Energy and other Federal agencies to ensure that they have the information needed to reach complicated decisions about transporting dangerous nuclear material throughout our communities.

Enactment of my legislation will send a message to citizens at risk in Buffalo and beyond that we care about keeping them secure and ensuring that Federal policy is informed by the best information we have on terrorism threats.

With that, I ask for my colleagues' support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is common sense to require DHS to conduct terrorism threat assessments for the legitimate storage, sale, or transportation of CBRN materials.

This bill complements the bill the House just considered, H.R. 3493, the Securing the Cities Act of 2015. We need to take all appropriate measures to safeguard our citizens from nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

The Securing the Cities program creates a warning and detection system around New York City and other high-risk locations. H.R. 3350 supplements this concept by requiring a proactive approach in reviewing security concerns related to the transportation of CBRN materials.

In closing, I wanted to express appreciation to Congressman HIGGINS, the ranking member of the Counterterrorism and Intelligence Subcommittee, and to the subcommittee chairman, PETER KING, for moving H.R. 3350.

I urge support for the underlying measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3350, the Know the CBRN Terrorism Threats to Transportation Act. The Department of Homeland Security and the Under Secretary of Intelligence and Analysis play a critical role in the safety of American families. Their work assessing the transportation of chemical, biological, nuclear, and radiological (CBRN) materials is essential for maintaining a high level of security for the country. This is why the Know the CBRN Terrorism Threats to Transportation Act must be passed.

The fact that my home state shares an international border gives me insight and understanding of the issues that border communities face. Extremist groups have an array of potential agents and delivery methods to choose from for chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear attacks. Castor beans, cyanide, sarin and other chemical agents are examples of the spectrum of terrorist CBRN threats. These materials need to be assessed in order to ensure the safety of not only our border communities, but our nation.

The Know the CBRN Terrorism Threats to Transportation Act requires a three step process for improving the safety of our borders. First, to prepare for the execution of a terrorism threat assessment regarding CBRN materials, the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis will consult with the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration and the heads of other federal departments and agencies. This is critical in ensuring that the assessment is conducted with the highest level of expertise. Next, the terrorism threat

assessment of the transportation of CBNR materials can be conducted. Finally, the assessment must be distributed to federal, state, and local partners so that everyone protecting our borders is informed and updated. At a time when this information should be readily available, we are still waiting to find the best process to address this critical issue.

I would like to close by saying that I am proud of our chamber for taking this important step to ensure that the data on the transportation of hazardous materials is readily available and accessible. I also want to thank my colleagues for understanding the importance of information regarding CBRN threats and the role of this information in strengthening our security.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3350.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. DONOVAN. 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.

DHS HEADQUARTERS REFORM AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3572) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reform, streamline, and make improvements to the Department of Homeland Security and support the Department's efforts to implement better policy, planning, management, and performance, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3572

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “DHS Headquarters Reform and Improvement Act of 2015”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is the following:

Sec. 1. Short title; Table of contents.
Sec. 2. Prohibition on additional authorization of appropriations.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY HEADQUARTERS REAUTHORIZATION

Sec. 101. Definitions.
Sec. 102. Headquarters components.
Sec. 103. Chief Privacy Officer.
Sec. 104. Office of Policy.
Sec. 105. Quadrennial homeland security review.
Sec. 106. Future years homeland security program.
Sec. 107. Management and execution.
Sec. 108. Chief Financial Officer.
Sec. 109. Chief Procurement Officer.
Sec. 110. Chief Information Officer.
Sec. 111. Chief Human Capital Officer.
Sec. 112. Chief Security Officer.
Sec. 113. Cost savings and efficiency reviews.

Sec. 114. Field efficiencies plan.
Sec. 115. Resources to respond to operational surges.
Sec. 116. Department of Homeland Security rotation program.

TITLE II—DHS ACQUISITION ACCOUNTABILITY AND EFFICIENCY

Sec. 201. Definitions.
Subtitle A—Acquisition Authorities
Sec. 211. Acquisition authorities for Under Secretary for Management.
Sec. 212. Acquisition authorities for Chief Financial Officer.
Sec. 213. Acquisition authorities for Chief Information Officer.
Sec. 214. Requirements to ensure greater accountability for acquisition programs.

Subtitle B—Acquisition Program Management Discipline

Sec. 221. Acquisition Review Board.
Sec. 222. Requirements to reduce duplication in acquisition programs.
Sec. 223. Government Accountability Office review of Board and of requirements to reduce duplication in acquisition programs.
Sec. 224. Excluded Party List System waivers.
Sec. 225. Inspector General oversight of suspension and debarment.

Subtitle C—Acquisition Program Management Accountability and Transparency

Sec. 231. Congressional notification and other requirements for major acquisition program breach.
Sec. 232. Multiyear acquisition strategy.
Sec. 233. Acquisition reports.
Sec. 234. Government Accountability Office review of multiyear acquisition strategy.
Sec. 235. Office of Inspector General report.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act. This Act and such amendments shall be carried out using amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY HEADQUARTERS REAUTHORIZATION

SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.

Section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (13) through (18) as paragraphs (15) through (20);
(2) by redesignating paragraphs (9) through (12) as paragraphs (10) through (13);
(3) by inserting after paragraph (8) the following:
“(9) The term ‘homeland security enterprise’ means relevant governmental and non-governmental entities involved in homeland security, including Federal, State, local, and tribal government officials, private sector representatives, academics, and other policy experts.”; and
(4) by inserting after paragraph (13), as so redesignated, the following:
“(14) The term ‘management integration and transformation’—
“(A) means the development of consistent and consolidated functions for information technology, financial management, acquisition management, and human capital management; and
“(B) includes governing processes and procedures, management systems, personnel activities, budget and resource planning, training, real estate management, and provision of security, as they relate to functions cited in subparagraph (A).”.

“(A) means the development of consistent and consolidated functions for information technology, financial management, acquisition management, and human capital management; and
“(B) includes governing processes and procedures, management systems, personnel activities, budget and resource planning, training, real estate management, and provision of security, as they relate to functions cited in subparagraph (A).”.

SEC. 102. HEADQUARTERS COMPONENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 102 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 112) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—
(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “through the Office of State and Local Coordination (established under section 801)” and inserting “through the Office of Partnership and Engagement”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end;

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:
“(4) entering into agreements with governments of other countries, in consultation with the Secretary of State, and international nongovernmental organizations in order to achieve the missions of the Department.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(h) HEADQUARTERS.—

“(1) COMPONENTS.—The Department Headquarters shall include the following:

“(A) The Office of the Secretary.

“(B) The Office of the Deputy Secretary.

“(C) The Executive Secretariat.

“(D) The Management Directorate, including the Office of the Chief Financial Officer.

“(E) The Office of Policy.

“(F) The Office of General Counsel.

“(G) The Office of the Chief Privacy Officer.

“(H) The Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.

“(I) The Office of Operations and Coordination and Planning.

“(J) The Office of Intelligence and Analysis.

“(K) The Office of Legislative Affairs.

“(L) The Office of Public Affairs.

“(2) FUNCTIONS.—The Secretary, through the Headquarters, shall—

“(A) establish the Department’s overall strategy for successfully completing its mission;

“(B) establish initiatives that improve performance Department-wide;

“(C) establish mechanisms to ensure that components of the Department comply with Headquarters policies and fully implement the Secretary’s strategies and initiatives and require the head of each component of the Department and component chief officers to comply with such policies and implement such strategies and initiatives;

“(D) establish annual operational and management objectives to determine the Department’s performance;

“(E) ensure that the Department successfully meets operational and management performance objectives through conducting oversight of component agencies;

“(F) ensure that the strategies, priorities, investments, and workforce of Department agencies align with Department objectives;

“(G) establish and implement policies related to Department ethics and compliance standards;

“(H) manage and encourage shared services across Department components;

“(I) lead and coordinate interaction with Congress and other external organizations; and

“(J) carry out other such functions as the Secretary determines are appropriate.”.

(b) ABOLISHMENT OF DIRECTOR OF SHARED SERVICES.—

(1) ABOLISHMENT.—The position of Director of Shared Services is abolished.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 475 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 295), and the item relating to such section in the table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act, are repealed.

(c) ABOLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF COUNTERNARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT.—