

how to effectively respond to active shooter incidents, develop plans for testing emergency communications equipment, and act as a clearinghouse for airport security best-practices.

I had the opportunity to travel to LAX nearly a year ago for a site visit and field hearing led by the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. HUDSON. During that trip, the Committee gained a better understanding of how relatively easy it is for someone with malicious intent to wreak havoc at one of the world's busiest airports and how important it is to have adequate emergency plans in place to respond to any security incident that may occur.

I would like to commend the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, Mr. KATKO and the former Chairman of the Subcommittee, Mr. HUDSON for their diligent efforts to address this important issue, and their dedication to strengthening the state of airport security nationwide. I also wish to commend the bipartisan efforts of both the Ranking Member of the Full Committee, Mr. THOMPSON, and the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Miss RICE, whose support of this legislation is greatly appreciated. Identical language to H.R. 720 was approved by the Committee on Homeland Security last Congress and subsequently passed the House by voice vote.

I urge support for this critical measure.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 720, a bill I am pleased to be a cosponsor of.

The shooting at LAX resulted in the loss of Officer Hernandez's life and served as a stark reminder of the dangers the men and women on the front lines of securing our aviation sector face.

Unarmed and exposed, Transportation Security Officers perform the often thankless task of screening 1.8 million passengers per day.

They do so with limited workplace protections and the great responsibility of preventing another terrorist attack on the scale of 9/11.

Given their vulnerability and the critical role they play in protecting our homeland, it is essential that airports and the law enforcement agencies that serve them have the resources, training, and plans in place to ensure a swift and effective response when an incident that threatens the safety of Transportation Security Officers occurs.

In March of 2014, I had the opportunity to attend the Subcommittee on Transportation Security's site visit and field hearing at Los Angeles International Airport focused on the tragic shooting that occurred there on November 1st of 2013.

While the response of the individual police officers who prevented further loss of life on that tragic day is to be commended, the overall response at LAX left much to be desired.

Panic buttons at the checkpoint were not in working order. The emergency phone Transportation Security Officers have been trained to use did not display the location of the incident to the command center, and the police, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel responding could not communicate via interoperable radios.

The bill before us today represents a bipartisan effort to remedy many of the deficiencies identified following the shooting.

During Committee consideration of the bill last Congress, Representative PAYNE offered

an amendment to the bill requiring TSA to conduct a nationwide assessment of the interoperability capabilities of emergency responders at airports.

I am pleased that the amendment was adopted and is still included in the bill before the House today.

Such an assessment will help inform where communications gaps that may hamper emergency response at airports still exist.

I would like to once again give my condolences for Officer Hernandez.

Under current law, the families of individuals serving a public agency in an official capacity as a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or chaplain receive compensation if their loved one is killed in the line of duty.

The same is true for families of employees of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and members of rescue squads or ambulance crews.

Unfortunately, the law has not been updated to include Transportation Security Officers within the definition of what constitutes a public safety officer.

As a result, the families of TSOs who are killed in the line of duty, such as the Hernandez family, are not entitled to funds from the Public Safety Officer's Benefits Program.

Last Congress, Representative BROWNLEY introduced legislation that would grant Transportation Security Officers the benefits of other law enforcement officers that are killed in the line of duty.

It is my understanding that Representative BROWNLEY intends to reintroduce the "Honoring Our Fallen TSA Officers Act" this Congress.

I implore my colleagues to support the forthcoming legislation so that the families of the men and women on the front lines of protecting our aviation sector are properly compensated when tragedy strikes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 720, The Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act of 2015, which improves intergovernmental planning and communication during security incidents at domestic airports.

As a former chair and ranking member of the Homeland Security Committee Transportation Security Subcommittee, I understand how important this bill will be in enhancing safety and protection in the air transit industry, not just for our citizens but for our Transportation Security Officers working in the line of duty.

This legislation, which requires the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to devote more resources for planning and communication during and in case of threats or emergencies, is prompted by the tragic death of Gerardo I. Hernandez, a Transportation Security Officer who was killed in the line of duty at Los Angeles International Airport on November 1, 2013.

At just 39 years old, Gerardo Hernandez was the first TSA officer to lose his life in the line of duty in the 12 year history of the agency.

He died from several gunshot wounds inflicted by an assailant while on duty at the Los Angeles International Airport.

Gerardo Hernandez was among those thousands of TSA employs carrying out their mission to keep the airways safe for traveling citizens, and their work across the nation cannot be understated.

Seven victims were treated at the scene of the attack and three victims who were wounded by gunfire, including two TSA officers, identified as 54-year-old James Speer and 36-year-old Tony Grigsby needed hospital treatment.

On average, TSA officers screen 1.7 million air passengers at more than 450 airports across the nation, which averaged over 637.5 million passengers in 2012.

H.R. 720 will help ensure that all screening personnel have received training in how to handle potential shooting threats.

The bill also requires TSA to verify that all airports have plans in place to respond to any security threats, and provide technical assistance as necessary to improve those plans.

The bill also directs the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of Cybersecurity and Communication to report to Congress the capacity of law enforcement, fire, and medical response teams' communication and response to security threats at airports.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates the implementation of H.R. 720 would cost about \$2.5 million in 2015. Of the \$2.5 million, an estimated \$1.5 million would serve to provide additional technical assistance to airports, and the remaining \$1 million would be used to evaluate the interoperability of communication systems used by emergency response teams.

Mr. Speaker, it has been almost 14 years since our country suffered the tragedy of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

We will never forget how that day changed our lives, and the lives of every American generation to follow.

Security measures in airports across the country have been enhanced dramatically, and the resulting inconvenience is a small price to pay for the protective measures needed to keep the travelling public safe.

It is people like Gerardo Hernandez who do their best to make the necessary screening as least intrusive and burdensome as possible, consistent with the mission of ensuring the security of all members of the flying public.

TSA officers willingly risk their lives to make sure the job gets done, and for that we owe these men and women a debt of gratitude.

In honor of Gerardo Hernandez's contribution to his country, I strongly support this bill and urge all my colleagues to join me in voting for its passage.

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. 720.

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. KATKO. 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1831

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Georgia) at 6 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE ALAN NUNNELEE, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 99

In the House of Representatives, U.S., February 10, 2015:

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable Alan Nunnelee, a Representative from the State of Mississippi.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 719, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 720, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 719) to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 0, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 69]
YEAS—414

Abraham	DeSaulnier	Kaptur	Perlmutter	Salmon	Torres
Adams	DesJarlais	Katko	Perry	Sánchez, Linda	Trott
Aderholt	Deutch	Keating	Peters	T.	Tsongas
Aguilar	Dingell	Kelly (IL)	Peterson	Sarbanes	Turner
Allen	Dodd	Kelly (PA)	Pingree	Scalise	Upton
Amash	Doyle (PA)	Kildee	Pittenger	Schakowsky	Valadao
Amodei	Duffy	Kilmer	Pitts	Schiff	Van Hollen
Ashford	Duffy	Pompeo	Pocan	Schock	Vargas
Babin	Duncan (SC)	Kind	Poliquin	Schrader	Veasey
Barletta	Duncan (TN)	King (IA)	Poe (TX)	Schweikert	Vela
Barr	Edwards	King (NY)	Price (GA)	Scott (VA)	Velazquez
Barton	Ellison	Kinzinger (IL)	Price (NC)	Scott, Austin	Visclosky
Bass	Ellmers	Kirkpatrick	Quigley	Scott, David	Wagner
Beatty	Emmer	Kline	Rangel	Sensenbrenner	Walberg
Becerra	Engel	Knight	Ratcliffe	Serrano	Walden
Benishek	Eshoo	Kuster	Reed	Sessions	Walker
Beyer	Farenthold	Lamborn	Reichert	Sewell (AL)	Walorski
Bilirakis	Farr	Ribble	Renacci	Sherman	Walters, Mimi
Bishop (GA)	Fattah	Rice (NY)	Shimkus	Shuster	Walz
Bishop (MI)	Fincher	Rice (SC)	Simpson	Sinema	Schultz
Bishop (UT)	Fitzpatrick	Richmond	Smith (MO)	Waters, Maxine	Weber (TX)
Black	Fleischmann	Rigell	Smith (NE)	Watson Coleman	Webster (FL)
Blackburn	Fleming	Roby	Smith (NJ)	Wenstrup	Westerman
Blum	Flores	Rogers (AL)	Smith (TX)	Smith (WA)	Westmoreland
Blumenauer	Forbes	Rogers (KY)	Smith (WA)	Whitfield	
Bonamici	Fortenberry	Lewis	Rohrabacher	Speier	Williams
Bost	Foster	Lieu (CA)	Rokita	Stefanik	Wilson (FL)
Boustany	Fox	Lipinski	Rooney (FL)	Stivers	Wilson (SC)
Boyle (PA)	Frankel (FL)	LoBiondo	Ros-Lehtinen	Stutzman	Wittman
Brady (PA)	Franks (AZ)	Loebsack	Roskam	Swallow (CA)	Womack
Brady (TX)	Frelinghuysen	Loftgren	Ross	Takai	Woodall
Brat	Fudge	Long	Rothfus	Takano	
Bridenstine	Gabbard	Loudermilk	Rouzer	Thompson (CA)	Yarmuth
Brooks (AL)	Gallego	Love	Royal-Allard	Thompson (MS)	Yoder
Brooks (IN)	Garamendi	Lowenthal	Royce	Thompson (PA)	Yoho
Brown (FL)	Garrett	Lowey	Ruppersberger	Thornberry	Young (AK)
Brownley (CA)	Gibbs	Lucas	Rush	Tiberi	Young (IA)
Buchanan	Gibson	Luetkemeyer	Russell	Tipton	Young (IN)
Buck	Gohmert	Luján, Ben Ray	Ryan (OH)	Titus	Zeldin
Bucshon	Goodlatte	(NM)	Ryan (WI)	Tonko	Zinke
Burgess	Gowdy	Lummis			
Bustos	Graham	Lynch			
Butterfield	Granger	MacArthur			
Byrne	Graves (GA)	Maloney			
Calvert	Graves (LA)	Carolyn			
Capuano	Graves (MO)	Maloney, Sean			
Cardenas	Grayson	Marchant			
Carney	Green, Al	Marino			
Carson (IN)	Green, Gene	Massie			
Carter (GA)	Griffith	Matsui			
Carter (TX)	Grijalva	McCarthy			
Castor (FL)	Grothman	McCauley			
Castro (TX)	Guinta	McClintock			
Chabot	Guthrie	McCollum			
Chaffetz	Hahn	McDermott			
Chu (CA)	Hanna	McGovern			
Cicilline	Hardy	McHenry			
Clark (MA)	Harper	McKinley			
Clarke (NY)	Harris	McMorris			
Clawson (FL)	Hartzler	Rodgers			
Connolly	Hawkins	McNerney			
Conaway	Himes	McSally			
Connolly	Hinojosa	Meadows			
Cook	Holding	Meehan			
Cooper	Honda	Meeks			
Costa	Hoyer	Meng			
Costello (PA)	Hudson	Messer			
Courtney	Huelskamp	Mica			
Cramer	Huffman	Miller (FL)			
Crawford	Huizenga (MI)	Miller (MI)			
Crenshaw	Hultgren	Moolenaar			
Crowley	Hunter	Mooney (WV)			
Cuellar	Hurd (TX)	Moore			
Culberson	Hurt (VA)	Moulton			
Cummings	Israel	Mullin			
Curbelo (FL)	Issa	Mulvaney			
Davis, Rodney	Jackson Lee	Murphy (FL)			
Davis, Danny	Jeffries	Murphy (PA)			
DeFazio	Jenkins (KS)	Nadler			
DeGette	Jenkins (WV)	Napolitano			
Delaney	Johnson (GA)	Neal			
DeLauro	Johnson (OH)	Neugebauer			
DeBene	Johnson, E. B.	Newhouse			
Denham	Johnson, Sam	Nolan			
Dent	Jolly	Norcross			
DeSantis	Jones	Nugent			
	Jordan	Nunes			
	Joyce	O'Rourke			

NOT VOTING—18

Capps	Labrador	Ruiz
Cartwright	Lee	Sanchez, Loretta
Collins (GA)	Lujan Grisham	Sanford
Diaz-Balart	(NM)	Stewart
Duckworth	Noem	
Gosar	Palazzo	Welch
Gutiérrez	Roe (TN)	

□ 1857

Ms. KAPTUR changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE LATE HONORABLE ALAN NUNNELEE

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, on Friday we lost our colleague ALAN NUNNELEE, who represented the First Congressional District of Mississippi.

On yesterday, Congressman NUNNELEE was funeralized. The entire Mississippi delegation and 40 other Members of Congress attended.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House pause for a moment of silence in remembrance of Congressman NUNNELEE.

The SPEAKER. Members will rise and observe a moment of silence.

GERARDO HERNANDEZ AIRPORT SECURITY ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.