

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Camp Pendleton Medal of Honor Post Office”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), a fellow Army veteran.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, of the several postal namings that we will be voting on today, in my humble opinion, none can recognize a more significant contribution than this one. Many will pay honor to those who have served their country, particularly those in the military.

But this post office, located at the Mainside of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, is being named not on behalf of one or two or five, but for the many, many, many marines who have deployed from Camp Pendleton since 1942.

With over 42,000 marines and sailors currently stationed there and with its history in World War II, the Medal of Honor recipients whose names will appear on the plaque at what is now a numbered Mainside post office will remind all of those who come to that base and come to that facility that people like Colonel William Barber, who received the Medal of Honor for actions at the Chosin Reservoir in Korea, and over 250 Medal of Honor recipients, more than any other base I know of in the world—it will represent those who gave their last measure, those who did for their colleagues and their comrades far more than any of us could imagine ever finding the courage to do.

I hope the naming of this will finally allow us to name what we do not have enough roads for, we do not have enough signs for, we do not have enough post offices for, and that is to recognize that the base at Camp Pendleton and its post office, as a result of the authority of this committee, has put out corpsmen and marines for decades who have served our country in a way that no other base could take such pride in.

I hope that all who hear this will recognize that we have named many post offices after an individual, but never after an act. And the act of heroism

that earns the Medal of Honor is unparalleled to any American.

I thank the chairman for his assistance, and I thank the ranking member for bringing this bill in a timely fashion.

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

I, too, am pleased to join my colleagues—in particular, my friend from California (Mr. ISSA)—in the consideration of H.R. 136.

Camp Pendleton, located in southern California, is the West Coast's largest expeditionary training facility for the U.S. Marine Corps. In the over 230 years of Camp Pendleton's existence, hundreds of thousands of brave men and women have made great sacrifices there to protect our country.

Many of these courageous marines and Navy corpsmen have posthumously received the Medal of Honor, our Nation's highest award for valor, in recognition of their extreme heroism and selflessness.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to commemorate the heroic actions members of our military take every day to defend our freedom. The Medal of Honor recipients who have passed through Camp Pendleton have earned our eternal gratitude. By naming this post office in their honor, we show them the respect they deserve.

I urge passage of H.R. 136.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of this measure introduced by Congressman ISSA of California.

Mr. Speaker, Camp Pendleton, in addition to being a United States Marine Corps base in southern California that is home to 42,000 active marines and sailors, also has a distinguished history. Many of our Nation's servicemen and -women have been based out of Camp Pendleton since it was first opened during World War II.

H.R. 136 designates the main post office on base in honor of all of the brave warriors from Camp Pendleton units that have received the Medal of Honor. I urge Members to support this bill to name a post office for these distinguished warriors.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 136.

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. RUSSELL. 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.

FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2016

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2347) to amend the Federal Advisory Committee Act to increase the transparency of Federal advisory committees, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2347

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 “Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendments of 2016”.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Ensuring independent advice and expertise.
- Sec. 3. Preventing efforts to circumvent the Federal Advisory Committee Act and public disclosure.
- Sec. 4. Increasing transparency of advisory committees.
- Sec. 5. Managing Federal advisory committees.
- Sec. 6. Comptroller General review and reports.
- Sec. 7. Application of Federal Advisory Committee Act to Trade Advisory Committees.
- Sec. 8. Definitions.
- Sec. 9. Technical and conforming amendments.
- Sec. 10. Effective date.
- Sec. 11. No additional funds authorized.

SEC. 2. ENSURING INDEPENDENT ADVICE AND EXPERTISE.

(a) BAR ON POLITICAL LITMUS TESTS.—Section 9 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting “MEMBERSHIP;” after “ADVISORY COMMITTEES;”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) APPOINTMENTS MADE WITHOUT REGARD TO POLITICAL AFFILIATION OR ACTIVITY.—All appointments to advisory committees shall be made without regard to political affiliation or political activity, unless required by Federal statute.”.

(b) MINIMIZING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—Section 9 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), as amended by subsection (a) of this section, is further amended by inserting after subsection (b) (as added by such subsection (a)) the following:

“(c) PUBLIC NOMINATIONS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS.—Prior to appointing members to an advisory committee, the head of an agency shall give interested persons an opportunity to suggest potential committee members. The agency shall include a request for comments in the Federal Register notice required under subsection (a) and provide a mechanism for interested persons to comment through the official website of the agency. The agency shall consider any comments submitted under this subsection in selecting the members of an advisory committee.

“(d) DESIGNATION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS.—

“(1) An individual appointed to an advisory committee who is not a full-time or permanent part-time officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be designated as—

“(A) a special Government employee, if the individual is providing advice based on the individual’s expertise or experience; or

“(B) a representative, if the individual is representing the views of an entity or entities outside of the Federal Government.

“(2) An agency may not designate committee members as representatives to avoid subjecting them to Federal ethics rules and requirements.

“(3) The designated agency ethics official for each agency shall review the members of each advisory committee that reports to the agency to determine whether each member’s designation is appropriate, and to redesignate members if appropriate. The designated agency ethics official shall certify to the head of the agency that such review has been made—

“(A) following the initial appointment of members; and

“(B) at the time a committee’s charter is renewed, or, in the case of a committee with an indefinite charter, every 2 years.

“(4) The head of each agency shall inform each individual appointed to an advisory committee that reports to the agency whether the individual is appointed as a special Government employee or as a representative. The agency head shall provide each committee member with an explanation of the differences between special Government employees and representatives and a summary of applicable ethics requirements. The agency head, acting through the designated agency ethics official, shall obtain signed and dated written confirmation from each committee member that the member received and reviewed the information required by this paragraph.

“(5) The Director of the Office of Government Ethics shall provide guidance to agencies on what to include in the summary of ethics requirements required by paragraph (4).

“(6) The head of each agency shall, to the extent practicable, develop and implement strategies to minimize the need for written determinations under section 208(b)(3) of title 18, United States Code. Strategies may include such efforts as improving outreach efforts to potential committee members and seeking public input on potential committee members.”.

(C) REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING FACA.—Section 7(c) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by inserting “promulgate regulations and” after “The Administrator shall”.

(d) ENSURING INDEPENDENT ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in section 8—

(A) in the section heading, by inserting “INDEPENDENT ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS;” after “RESPONSIBILITIES OF AGENCY HEADS;”;

(B) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(C) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) The head of each agency shall ensure that the agency does not interfere with the free and independent participation, expression of views, and deliberation by committee members. Each advisory committee shall include a statement describing the process used by the advisory committee in formulating the advice and recommendations when they are transmitted to the agency.”; and

(2) in section 10—

(A) in the section heading, by inserting “; CHAIR” after “ATTENDANCE”; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection:

“(g) The Chair shall not be an employee of the agency to which the advisory committee reports, unless—

“(1) a statute specifically authorizes selection of such an employee as the Chair; or

“(2) the head of the agency directs an employee to serve as the Chair.”.

SEC. 3. PREVENTING EFFORTS TO CIRCUMVENT THE FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.

(a) DE FACTO MEMBERS.—Section 4 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) TREATMENT OF INDIVIDUAL AS MEMBER.—An individual who is not a full-time or permanent part-time officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be regarded as a member of a committee if the individual regularly attends and participates in committee meetings as if the individual were a member, even if the individual does not have the right to vote or veto the advice or recommendations of the advisory committee.”.

(b) SUBCOMMITTEES.—Section 4 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), as amended by subsection (a) of this section, is further amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) APPLICATION.—The provisions of this Act or of any rule, order, or regulation promulgated under this Act shall apply to each advisory committee, including any subcommittee or subgroup thereof, except to the extent that any Act of Congress establishing any such advisory committee specifically provides otherwise. Any subcommittee or subgroup that reports to a parent committee established under section 9(a) is not required to comply with section 9(f).”.

(c) COMMITTEES CREATED UNDER CONTRACT.—Section 3(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended in the matter following subparagraph (C) by adding at the end the following: “An advisory committee is considered to be established by an agency, agencies, or the President if it is formed, created, or organized under contract, other transactional authority, cooperative agreement, grant, or otherwise at the request or direction of an agency, agencies, or the President.”.

(d) ADVISORY COMMITTEES CONTAINING SPECIAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Section 4 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), as amended by subsections (a) and (b) of this section, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) SPECIAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Committee members appointed as special Government employees shall not be considered full-time or permanent part-time officers or employees of the Federal Government for purposes of determining the applicability of this Act under section 3(2).”.

SEC. 4. INCREASING TRANSPARENCY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

(a) INFORMATION REQUIREMENT.—Section 11 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 11. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to each advisory committee, the head of the agency to which the advisory committee reports shall make publicly available in accordance with subsection (b) the following information:

“(1) The charter of the advisory committee.

“(2) A description of the process used to establish and appoint the members of the advisory committee, including the following:

“(A) The process for identifying prospective members.

“(B) The process of selecting members for balance of viewpoints or expertise.

“(C) The reason each member was appointed to the committee.

“(D) A justification of the need for representative members, if any.

“(3) A list of all current members, including, for each member, the following:

“(A) The name of any person or entity that nominated the member.

“(B) Whether the member is designated as a special Government employee or a representative.

“(C) In the case of a representative, the individuals or entity whose viewpoint the member represents.

“(4) A list of all members designated as special Government employees for whom written certifications were made under section 208(b) of title 18, United States Code, a copy of each such certification, a summary description of the conflict necessitating the certification, and the reason for granting the certification.

“(5) Any recusal agreement made by a member or any recusal known to the agency that occurs during the course of a meeting or other work of the committee.

“(6) A summary of the process used by the advisory committee for making decisions.

“(7) Detailed minutes of all meetings of the committee and a description of committee efforts to make meetings accessible to the public using online technologies (such as video recordings) or other techniques (such as audio recordings).

“(8) Any written determination by the President or the head of the agency to which the advisory committee reports, pursuant to section 10(d), to close a meeting or any portion of a meeting and the reasons for such determination.

“(9) Notices of future meetings of the committee.

“(10) Any additional information considered relevant by the head of the agency to which the advisory committee reports.

“(b) MANNER OF DISCLOSURE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the head of an agency shall make the information required to be disclosed under this section available electronically on the official public website of the agency and to the Administrator at least 15 calendar days before each meeting of an advisory committee. If the head of the agency determines that such timing is not practicable for any required information, such head shall make the information available as soon as practicable but no later than 48 hours before the next meeting of the committee. An agency may withhold from disclosure any information that would be exempt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code.

“(2) WEBSITE AVAILABILITY.—The head of an agency shall make available electronically, on the official public website of the agency, detailed minutes and, to the extent available, a transcript or audio or video recording of each advisory committee meeting not later than 30 calendar days after such meeting.

“(3) GRANT REVIEWS.—In the case of grant reviews, disclosure of information required by subsection (a)(3) may be provided in the aggregate rather than by individual grant.

“(c) PROVISION OF INFORMATION BY ADMINISTRATOR OF GENERAL SERVICES.—The Administrator of General Services shall provide, on the official public website of the General Services Administration, electronic access to the information made available by each agency under this section.

“(d) AVAILABILITY OF MEETING MATERIALS.—Except where prohibited by contractual agreements entered into prior to the effective date of this Act, agencies and advisory committees shall make available to any person, at actual cost of duplication, copies of advisory committee meeting materials.”.

(b) CHARTER FILING.—Subsection (f) of section 9 of the Federal Advisory Committee

Act (5 U.S.C. App.), as redesignated by section 2(a) of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“(f) No advisory committee shall meet or take any action until an advisory committee charter has been filed with the Administrator, the head of the agency to whom any advisory committee reports, and the standing committees of the Senate and of the House of Representatives having legislative jurisdiction of such agency. Such charter shall contain the following information in the following order:

- “(1) The committee’s official designation.
- “(2) The authority under which the committee is established.
- “(3) The committee’s objectives and the scope of its activity.
- “(4) A description of the duties for which the committee is responsible, and, if such duties are not solely advisory, a specification of the authority for such functions.
- “(5) The agency or official to whom the committee reports.
- “(6) The agency responsible for providing the necessary support for the committee.
- “(7) The responsibilities of the officer or employee of the Federal Government designated under section 10(e).
- “(8) The estimated number and frequency of committee meetings.
- “(9) The period of time necessary for the committee to carry out its purposes.
- “(10) The committee’s termination date, if less than two years from the date of the committee’s establishment.
- “(11) The estimated number of members and a description of the expertise needed to carry out the objectives of the committee.
- “(12) A description of whether the committee will be composed of special Government employees, representatives, or members from both categories.
- “(13) Whether the agency intends to create subcommittees and if so, the agency official authorized to exercise such authority.
- “(14) The estimated annual operating costs in dollars and full-time equivalent positions for such committee.
- “(15) The recordkeeping requirements of the committee.
- “(16) The date the charter is filed.

A copy of any such charter shall also be furnished to the Library of Congress.”.

SEC. 5. MANAGING FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

(a) COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT OFFICERS.—Subsection (c) of section 8 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), as redesignated by section 2(d) of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“(c) The head of each agency that has an advisory committee shall designate an Advisory Committee Management Officer who shall—

- “(1) be a senior official who is—
 - “(A) an expert in implementing the requirements of this Act and regulations promulgated pursuant to this Act; and
 - “(B) the primary point of contact for the General Services Administration;
- “(2) be responsible for the establishment, management, and supervision of the advisory committees of the agency, including establishing procedures, performance measures, and outcomes for such committees;
- “(3) assemble and maintain the reports, records, and other papers (including advisory committee meeting materials) of any such committee during its existence;
- “(4) ensure any such committee and corresponding agency staff adhere to the provisions of this Act and any regulations promulgated pursuant to this Act;
- “(5) maintain records on each employee of any such committee and completion of training required for any such employee;

“(6) be responsible for providing the information required in section 7(b) of this Act to the Administrator; and

“(7) carry out, on behalf of that agency, the provisions of section 552 of title 5, United States Code, with respect to the reports, records, and other papers described in paragraph (3).”.

SEC. 6. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW AND REPORTS.

(a) REVIEW.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall review compliance by agencies with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended by this Act, including whether agencies are appropriately appointing advisory committee members as either special Government employees or representatives.

(b) REPORT.—The Comptroller General shall submit to the committees described in subsection (c) two reports on the results of the review, as follows:

(1) The first report shall be submitted not later than one year after the date of promulgation of regulations under section 7(c) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), as amended by section 2(c).

(2) The second report shall be submitted not later than five years after such date of promulgation of regulations.

(c) COMMITTEES.—The committees described in this subsection are the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

SEC. 7. APPLICATION OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT TO TRADE ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

Section 135(f)(2)(A) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155(f)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “subsections (a) and (b) of sections 10 and 11 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act” and inserting “subsections (a) and (b) of section 10 and subsections (a)(7), (a)(8), (a)(9), (b)(2), and (d) of section 11 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act”.

SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.

Section 3 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) The term ‘special Government employee’ has the meaning given that term in section 202(a) of title 18, United States Code.”.

SEC. 9. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Section 7(d)(1) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “the rate specified for GS-18 of the General Schedule under section 5332” and inserting “the rate for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315”; and

(2) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking “handicapped individuals (within the meaning of section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794))” and inserting “individuals with disabilities (as defined in section 7(20) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 705(20)))”.

SEC. 10. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 11. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this Act and the amendments made by this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 2347, introduced by Congressman WILLIAM “LACY” CLAY. H.R. 2347 was introduced by Representative CLAY to help improve the governance and transparency of the Federal advisory committees.

Congress acknowledged the merits of using advisory committees to acquire viewpoints from business, academic, and other interests when it passed the Federal Advisory Committee Act in 1972.

While not necessarily well known, Federal advisory committees are small bodies of people who provide advice, guidance, or recommendations to Federal policymakers on a wide range of topics. All told, in fiscal year 2014, 825 Federal advisory committees held 7,173 meetings at a cost to the American taxpayer of more than \$334 million.

While these committees undoubtedly provided a number of valuable insights, it is important that we continue to work to ensure that these committees produce the best value for the taxpayer.

Unfortunately, some agencies note that the FACA requirements are cumbersome and resource intensive, thus reducing the ability of the committees to focus on substantive issues in a timely fashion.

Both governmental agencies and private groups say that the 1972 act does not do enough to require agencies to promote openness and transparency.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2347 works to address these problems and bring transparency to Federal advisory committees and the Federal agency decision-making process.

It also clarifies transparency of committee membership by requiring members to be selected without political affiliation, giving agency heads authorization to require members to fully disclose conflicts of interest and treating those individuals who regularly attend and participate in committee meetings to be considered as a member, even if they are not allowed to vote.

H.R. 2347 classifies transparency of committee activities further by ensuring the committee’s advice, information, and recommendations are judgments of the committee and not the agency and, also, by requiring each agency to make available on their Web site the committee and its activities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOV-
ERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, December 10, 2015.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On October 9, 2015, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform ordered reported without amendment H.R. 2347, the Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendments of 2015, by unanimous consent. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, with an additional referral to the Committee on Ways and Means.

I ask that you allow the Ways and Means Committee to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Ways and Means represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, as well as in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, December 10, 2015.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
*Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Govern-
ment Reform, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding the Committee on Ways and Means' jurisdictional interest in H.R. 2347, the "Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendments of 2015." I wanted to notify you that the Committee on Ways and Means will forgo action on H.R. 2347 so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

This is conditional on our mutual understanding and agreement that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. In addition, the Committee reserves that right to seek conferees and requests your support when such a request is made.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 2347, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H.R. 2347.

Sincerely,

KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman.

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

Let me first thank my colleague, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL), as well as the majority party for working with us to get this bill to this forum and to get it ready for passage.

I rise in strong support of the Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendments. I have introduced this bill in each of the last four Congresses, and I am hopeful that this time the bill will make it to enactment.

□ 1300

The Federal Advisory Committee Act is one of our core open government laws. FACA is intended to ensure that advisory committees provide objective advice and operate with transparency. Over time, however, agencies have implemented FACA inconsistently and judges have created loopholes in the law.

This bill closes the loopholes that allow agencies to get around the Act. Currently, agencies can avoid FACA's requirements by conducting committee business through subcommittees. This bill makes it clear that FACA applies to subcommittees as well as to the parent committees.

The bill also clarifies that a committee that is set up by a contractor is subject to FACA if it is formed under the direction of the President or an agency. Under FACA, agencies would be required to disclose how advisory members are chosen, whether they have financial conflicts of interest if they are appointed to provide their own expertise, and who they work for if they are representing a specific interest.

This bill includes changes to lower the cost of implementation based on discussions with the Congressional Budget Office. Specifically, the bill would include a more streamlined definition of what would be considered a committee under the bill.

This bill will make the government more accountable by shedding light on who is advising the government and on how one is advising the government.

I thank my colleagues for their cooperation in this effort. This is a good government bill, and I urge its passage.

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

Mr. RUSSELL. Madam Speaker, I urge the adoption of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ROSLEHTINEN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2347, 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.

MAYA ANGELOU MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

Mr. RUSSELL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3735) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Town Run Lane in Winston Salem, North Carolina, as the "Maya Angelou Memorial Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3735

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

SECTION 1. MAYA ANGELOU MEMORIAL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Town Run Lane in Winston Salem, North Carolina, shall be known and designated as the "Maya Angelou Memorial Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Maya Angelou Memorial Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RUSSELL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 3735, which was introduced by Congresswoman ALMA ADAMS of North Carolina and is supported by the entire North Carolina delegation. The bill designates the post office located at 200 Town Run Lane in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, as the Maya Angelou Memorial Post Office.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Maya Angelou held a distinguished career that earned her over 80 honorary degrees. She was an American author, poet, and civil rights activist.

Dr. Angelou was born on April 4, 1928, in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1981, she moved to Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where she accepted the Lifetime William Neal Reynolds Professorship of American Studies at Wake Forest University. For over 30 years, she served as a professor at Wake Forest University and became a community leader.

Dr. Angelou made literary history with her 1969 acclaimed memoir, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," when she became the first African American woman to make the nonfiction bestseller list.

She served on two Presidential committees: the American Revolution Bicentennial Council, under President Ford, and the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year, under President Carter.

In 1993, upon the request of President Clinton, Dr. Angelou composed a poem to read at his inauguration. That poem, entitled "On the Pulse of Morning," was broadcast live around the world. In 2000, President Clinton awarded Dr. Angelou the National Medal of Arts.

She received recognition from the White House under the following Presidents as well. In 2005, Dr. Angelou