

Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015.”

I support this bill because it would address interoperability deficits among information technology systems and radio communications systems used by emergency services to exchange voice, data, disasters, and video in real time.

As a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I am intimately aware, as are many of my colleagues, of the essential and lifesaving role of communications during a crisis.

S. 1180 directs FEMA to establish the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Subcommittee to develop and submit recommendations for an integrated public alert and warning system to the National Advisory Council through: establishing common alerting and warning protocols, standards, terminology, and operating procedures for the system; include in such system the capability to adapt the distribution and content of communications on the basis of geographic location, risks, and multiple communication technologies and to alert, warn, and provide equivalent information to individuals with disabilities, access and functional needs, or limited English proficiency; ensure that specified training, tests, and exercises for such system are conducted and that the system is resilient, secure, and can withstand external attacks; and conduct public education efforts and a general market awareness campaign about the system.

The bill requires the system to: be designed to adapt to and incorporate future technologies for communicating directly with the public, provide alerts to the largest portion of the affected population feasible, and improve the ability of remote areas to receive alerts; promote local and regional public and private partnerships to enhance community preparedness and response; provide redundant alert mechanisms; and protect individual privacy.

Because the tragedies of September 11, 2001, were compounded by communication failures among first responders who entered the burning towers that comprised the World Trade Center it has been an imperative of the Homeland Security Committee to address first responder communication interoperability challenges.

S. 1180 amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Federal Emergency Management Agency to modernize the integrated U.S. public alert and warning system to help ensure that under all conditions the President, federal agencies, and state, tribal, and local governments can alert and warn the civilian population in areas endangered by natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters or threats to public safety.

Hurricane Katrina is an example of the need for emergency response agencies to be connected.

After the storm the majority of the rescue operations were being conducted by the U.S. Coast Guard locating people who were on the roofs of their houses.

The coast guard was not aware of the individuals who were stuck in their home calling 911, because they could not reach their roofs, causing about 986 Louisiana residents to perish after the storm due to the lack of effective communication.

An estimated 1,836 lives were lost as a result of the hurricane.

The City of Houston covers over a 1,000 square mile region in Southeast Texas. It has

a night-time population of nearly two million people, which peaks with over three million daytime inhabitants.

The city of Houston's 9-1-1 Emergency Center manages nearly 9,000 emergency calls per day. The volume of emergency calls can easily double during times of inclement weather or special City social/sporting events like Hurricanes Ike in September 2008; and Katrina as well as Rita, which occurred in September and October of 2005.

The types and severity of potential emergencies can encompass floods, hurricanes, and industrial incidents which would require multiple emergency agencies to respond.

On the average, EMS responds to a citizen every 3 minutes. Each EMS response is made by one of 88 City of Houston EMS vehicles.

There are over 200,000 EMS incidents involving over 225,000 patients or potential patients annually.

In 2013, the City of Houston's fire Department lost Captain EMT Matthew Renaud, Engineer Operator EMT Robert Bebee, Firefighter EMT Robert Garner and Probationary Firefighter Anne Sullivan when they responded to a hotel fire.

Throughout the history of the Houston Police Department over 110 officers have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Each member of the House of Representatives knows of the loss of a first responder who was going to the aid of those in harm's way.

S. 1180 will offer additional resources that can save the lives of first responders and those they help.

S. 1180 will ensure that FEMA's response to a crisis is organized with state and local resources.

I ask my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of S. 1180.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1180.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2745, STANDARD MERGER AND ACQUISITION REVIEWS THROUGH EQUAL RULES ACT OF 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 24, 2016, THROUGH APRIL 11, 2016

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-461) on the resolution (H. Res. 653) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2745) to amend the Clayton Act and the Federal Trade Commission Act to provide that the Federal Trade Commission shall exercise authority with respect to mergers only under the Clayton Act and only in the same procedural manner as the Attorney General exercises such authority, and providing for proceedings during the period from March 24, 2016, through April 11, 2016, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

COUNTERTERRORISM SCREENING AND ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4314) to require a plan to combat international travel by terrorists and foreign fighters, accelerate the transfer of certain border security systems to foreign partner governments, establish minimum international border security standards, authorize the suspension of foreign assistance to countries not making significant efforts to comply with such minimum standards, and for other purposes, as amended, 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 California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 371, nays 2, not voting 60, as follows:

[Roll No. 130]

YEAS—371

Abraham	Boyle, Brendan	Cartwright
Adams	F.	Castro (TX)
Aderholt	Brady (PA)	Chabot
Aguilar	Brady (TX)	Chu, Judy
Allen	Brat	Clark (MA)
Amodei	Bridenstine	Clarke (NY)
Ashford	Brooks (AL)	Clawson (FL)
Babin	Brooks (IN)	Clay
Barletta	Brown (FL)	Cleaver
Barr	Brownley (CA)	Clyburn
Barton	Buchanan	Coffman
Beatty	Buck	Cole
Benishek	Bucshon	Collins (GA)
Bera	Burgess	Collins (NY)
Bilirakis	Butterfield	Comstock
Bishop (GA)	Byrne	Conaway
Bishop (MI)	Calvert	Connolly
Black	Capps	Conyers
Blackburn	Capuano	Cook
Blum	Carney	Cooper
Bonamici	Carson (IN)	Costa
Bost	Carter (GA)	Costello (PA)
Boustany	Carter (TX)	Courtney

Cramer	Jones	Pitts	Whitfield	Woodall	Young (IA)
Crawford	Jordan	Pocan	Williams	Yarmuth	Zeldin
Crenshaw	Joyce	Poe (TX)	Wilson (SC)	Yoder	Zinke
Crowley	Katko	Poliquin	Wittman	Yoho	
Cuellar	Keating	Polis	Womack	Young (AK)	
Culberson	Kelly (MS)	Pompeo			
Cummings	Kelly (PA)	Posey			
Curbelo (FL)	Kennedy	Price, Tom			
Davis (CA)	Kildee	Quigley			
Davis, Rodney	Kilmer	Ratcliffe			
DeFazio	Kind	Reed			
DeGette	King (IA)	Renacci			
Delaney	King (NY)	Rice (NY)			
Denham	Kinzinger (IL)	Rice (SC)			
DeSantis	Kirkpatrick	Richmond			
DeSaulnier	Kline	Rigell			
DesJarlais	Knight	Roby			
Deutch	Kuster	Roe (TN)			
Diaz-Balart	LaHood	Rogers (AL)			
Dingell	LaMalfa	Rogers (KY)			
Doggett	Lamborn	Rokita			
Dold	Lance	Rooney (FL)			
Donovan	Langevin	Ros-Lehtinen			
Doyle, Michael F.	Larsen (WA)	Roskam			
Duffy	Larson (CT)	Ross			
Duncan (SC)	Latta	Rothfus			
Duncan (TN)	Lawrence	Rouzer			
Ellison	Levin	Roybal-Allard			
Ellmers (NC)	Lewis	Royce			
Eshoo	Lieu, Ted	Ruiz			
Esty	Lipinski	Ruppersberger			
Farenthold	LoBiondo	Russell			
Fattah	Loeb	Ryan (OH)			
Fitzpatrick	Loftgren	Salmon			
Fleischmann	Long	Sánchez, Linda T.			
Fleming	Loudermilk	Sanchez, Loretta			
Flores	Lowey	Sarbanes			
Forbes	Lucas	Scalise			
Fortenberry	Luetkemeyer	Schiff			
Foster	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Schrader			
Fox	Lujan, Ben Ray (NM)	Schweikert			
Frankel (FL)	Lummis	Scott (VA)			
Franks (AZ)	Lynch	Scott, Austin			
Frelinghuysen	MacArthur	Sensenbrenner			
Fudge	Maloney,	Serrano			
Gabbard	Carolyn	Sessions			
Garamendi	Maloney, Sean	Sewell (AL)			
Garrett	Marchant	Shimkus			
Gibbs	Marino	Shuster			
Gibson	Matsui	Simpson			
Gohmert	McCarthy	Sinema			
Goodlatte	McCaul	Sires			
Gosar	McClintock	Slaughter			
Graham	McCollum	Smith (MO)			
Granger	McDermott	Smith (NE)			
Graves (GA)	McHenry	Smith (NJ)			
Graves (LA)	McKinley	Smith (TX)			
Graves (MO)	McMorris	Stefanik			
Grayson	Rodgers	Stewart			
Green, Gene	McNerney	Stivers			
Griffith	McSally	Stutzman			
Grothman	Meadows	Swalwell (CA)			
Guinta	Meehan	Takai			
Guthrie	Meng	Takano			
Hahn	Messer	Thompson (CA)			
Hanna	Mica	Thompson (MS)			
Hardy	Miller (FL)	Thompson (PA)			
Harper	Miller (MI)	Thornberry			
Harris	Moolenaar	Tiberi			
Hartzler	Mooney (WV)	Tipton			
Hastings	Moore	Titus			
Heck (NV)	Mullin	Tonko			
Heck (WA)	Mulvaney	Torres			
Hensarling	Murphy (FL)	Trott			
Hice, Jody B.	Murphy (PA)	Turner			
Higgins	Nadler	Upton			
Hill	Napolitano	Valadao			
Himes	Neal	Van Hollen			
Hinojosa	Neugebauer	Vargas			
Holding	Newhouse	Veasey			
Honda	Noem	Vela			
Hoyer	Norcross	Visclosky			
Hudson	Nunes	Wagner			
Huelskamp	O'Rourke	Walberg			
Huffman	Olson	Walden			
Huizenga (MI)	Palazzo	Walker			
Hultgren	Pallone	Walorski			
Hunter	Palmer	Walters, Mimi			
Hurd (TX)	Pascrell	Walz			
Hurt (VA)	Paulsen	Wasserman			
Israel	Payne	Schultz			
Issa	Pearce	Waters, Maxine			
Jenkins (KS)	Perry	Watson Coleman			
Jenkins (WV)	Peters	Weber (TX)			
Johnson (GA)	Peterson	Webster (FL)			
Johnson (OH)	Pingree	Wenstrup			
Johnson, Sam	Pittenger	Westerman			
Jolly		Westmoreland			

NAYS—2

NOT VOTING—60

Mr. Speaker, Urias' selfless actions are heroic and brave. While our firefighters and fire departments do tremendous work, they can't be everywhere all of the time. His quick thinking stopped a fire that could have been devastating to so many. His Citizens Award is well deserved.

RECOGNIZING WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of World Down Syndrome Day, which seeks to draw awareness to Down syndrome and how people with Down syndrome play a vital role in our lives and our communities.

All of us know someone who lives with Down syndrome, and we know that in spite of some extra challenges, they live full and robust lives surrounded by family and friends.

In order to provide those living with Down syndrome and other disabilities the best start possible, I was happy to cosponsor, along with a majority of my colleagues in the House, the Achieving a Better Life Experience, or ABLE, Act, which was signed into law in 2014. This law empowers people with disabilities and their families to create a flexible account to help save for medical and dental care, education, community-based employment, community-based support, training, housing, and transportation.

My office participates in the Congressional Internship Program for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities. This program, which is a partnership with George Mason University's Mason LIFE program, gives students with intellectual disabilities an opportunity to gain congressional work experience. We have welcomed several bright young men and women who have made significant contributions to our office, and I am proud to participate in this vital program.

CUBAN MILITARY ENRICHED

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the President's failing visit to Cuba was dismissed by the Communist foreign minister, who declared "under no circumstance is the realization of internal changes in Cuba on the negotiation table."

Since the President's outreach to the Castro dictatorship, the consequence has been a surge in dissident arrests of patriots who overestimated the hope and change that a relationship might bring. Sadly, by doing business with the Castro regime, the benefits of trade will not reach the Cuban people. It will enrich the Cuban military, which stole

□ 1850

Ms. KUSTER changed her vote from "nay" to "yea."

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, today, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall vote No. 130. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 130.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I missed the following vote: H.R. 4314—Counterterrorism/Screening and Assistance Act of 2016, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for votes on Monday, March 21, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 130.

PLYMOUTH CITIZENS AWARD FOR URIAS JAH

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroics of Plymouth 17-year-old Urias Jah, who was recently recognized with the Citizens Award from Plymouth fire officials.

After hearing shouts of "Fire," Urias ran out of his apartment to see a fire spreading on the third floor of the complex and a woman on the second floor yelling for help. Urias was able to jump and pull himself up onto the second floor balcony and the third floor balcony with a fire extinguisher attached to his hips.

He then was able to extinguish the flames, saving property and, potentially, lives. Two hundred people, Mr. Speaker, reside in the complex. When firefighters arrived, they were flabbergasted that the 5½-foot Urias would actually be able to scale the building.