

children, fearful for their safety, have had to abandon their country for Canada.

But Raif is not a criminal. He is a champion of freedom of thought and expression in a kingdom whose rulers fear both.

This week President Obama will travel to Saudi Arabia to meet with leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council. When the President sees King Salman, he should urge him to pardon Raif and allow him to join his wife and three children in Canada.

I seek the full support of Congress and the Obama administration in urging the Saudi Arabian Government to free Raif and all other prisoners of conscience like him, as befits any government with a seat on the U.N. Human Rights Council.

CONGRATULATING STATE COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER MELANIE LYNCH

(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 to congratulate State College High School health education teacher Melanie Lynch, who was recently named one of six winners of the National Health Education Teacher of the Year Award by the Society of Health and Physical Educators.

Specifically, Melanie was recognized for designing and putting in place lesson plans which educate, motivate, and inspire high school students and their communities to take personal responsibility for improving their health habits.

Melanie's classes involve not only the academic knowledge of which nutrients are best for their diets, but also about topics such as peer pressure, bullying, eating disorders, and how to eat right once they graduate high school. Lynch is assisted in those efforts by the textbook she co-wrote entitled "Comprehensive Health."

Physical and health education is key to students across the Nation receiving a well-rounded school experience. I appreciate the efforts of teachers such as Melanie Lynch in bringing real-world lessons into the classroom.

HONORING SILVER STAR HERO FIRST LIEUTENANT ELMER JEBO

(Ms. STEFANIK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an extraordinary hero from Tupper Lake in my district.

First Lieutenant Elmer Jebo was drafted into the Army in 1940 where he would participate in military campaigns across Italy.

On February 21, 1944, during the Anzio invasion, his position was attacked by six enemy tanks. For his

bravery under siege and his courageous conduct to repel these attacks, he was awarded the Silver Star and the Purple Heart by the U.S. Army.

Unfortunately, because of significant wounds sustained in combat, Lieutenant Jebo spent many months recovering at Walter Reed Medical Center and never received his medal. He has since passed.

After his family reached out to our office, I am honored that we were able to play a small part in preserving the legacy of this north country hero.

This Thursday my office will host his family at a ceremony in Washington to present them with Lieutenant Jebo's much-deserved Silver Star.

Today I am honored to recognize Lieutenant Jebo's heroic service on the House floor.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 639, the Chair announces that an amicus brief was filed on April 4, 2016, in the United States Supreme Court in the matter of *United States v. Texas*.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:00 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE) at 4 o'clock p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY HEADQUARTERS CONSOLIDATION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1638) to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit to Congress information on the Department of Homeland Security headquarters consolidation project in the National Capital Region, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1638

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 "Department of Homeland Security Headquarters Consolidation Accountability Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. INFORMATION ON DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY HEADQUARTERS CONSOLIDATION PROJECT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the Administrator, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress information on the implementation of the enhanced plan for the Department headquarters consolidation project within the National Capital Region, approved by the Office of Management and Budget and included in the budget of the President for fiscal year 2016 (as submitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code), that includes the following:

(1) A proposed occupancy plan for the consolidation project that includes specific information about which Department-wide operations, component operations, and support offices will be located at the site, the aggregate number of full time equivalent employees projected to occupy the site, the seat-to-staff ratio at the site, and schedule estimates for migrating operations to the site.

(2) A comprehensive assessment of the difference between the current real property and facilities needed by the Department in the National Capital Region in order to carry out the mission of the Department and the future needs of the Department.

(3) A current plan for construction of the headquarters consolidation at the St. Elizabeths campus that includes—

(A) the estimated costs and schedule for the current plan, which shall conform to relevant Federal guidance for cost and schedule estimates, consistent with the recommendation of the Government Accountability Office in the September 2014 report entitled "Federal Real Property: DHS and GSA Need to Strengthen the Management of DHS Headquarters Consolidation" (GAO-14-648); and

(B) any estimated cost savings associated with reducing the scope of the consolidation project and increasing the use of existing capacity developed under the project.

(4) A current plan for the leased portfolio of the Department in the National Capital Region that includes—

(A) an end-state vision that identifies which Department-wide operations, component operations, and support offices do not migrate to the St. Elizabeths campus and continue to operate at a property in the leased portfolio;

(B) for each year until the consolidation project is completed, the number of full-time equivalent employees who are expected to operate at each property, component, or office;

(C) the anticipated total rentable square feet leased per year during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which the consolidation project is completed; and

(D) timing and anticipated lease terms for leased space under the plan referred to in paragraph (3).

(5) An analysis that identifies the costs and benefits of leasing and construction alternatives for the remainder of the consolidation project that includes—

(A) a comparison of the long-term cost that would result from leasing as compared

to consolidating functions on Government-owned space; and

(B) the identification of any cost impacts in terms of premiums for short-term lease extensions or holdovers due to the uncertainty of funding for, or delays in, completing construction required for the consolidation.

(b) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.—

(1) REVIEW REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall review the cost and schedule estimates submitted under subsection (a) to evaluate the quality and reliability of the estimates.

(2) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the submittal of the cost and schedule estimates under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall report to the appropriate committees of Congress on the results of the review required under paragraph (1).

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

(3) The term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security.

(4) The term “National Capital Region” has the meaning given the term under section 2674(f)(2) of title 10, United States Code.

(5) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 1638.

Mr. Speaker, since construction began in 2006, the Department of Homeland Security’s consolidated headquarters on St. Elizabeth’s historic Washington, D.C. campus has been riddled with cost overruns and construction delays, at times estimated to be more than \$1 billion over budget and 12 years behind schedule.

As the former chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency, I conducted rigorous oversight of the project, including holding a hearing in September 2014. Having visited the site, I saw firsthand the immense challenges that lie ahead. While we are encouraged by the recently updated DHS St. Elizabeth’s plan, we still believe that increased oversight of the consolidation project

will help ensure accountability and the efficient use of taxpayer dollars, especially considering this project was fully funded through the fiscal year 2016 appropriations, and DHS alone has requested \$225 million for fiscal year 2017.

This bill that we are talking about today, the Department of Homeland Security Headquarters Consolidation Accountability Act, a companion to H.R. 1640, which was passed by the House unanimously in June of last year and of which I was a cosponsor, will require the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the administrator of General Services, to submit a report on the implementation of the updated plan for the headquarters consolidation, including estimated costs and occupancy plans of the project. With a project of this magnitude, improved oversight and increased transparency is paramount.

Mr. Speaker, Thomas Jefferson once said that an educated citizenry is “the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty.” Our constituents expect their representatives to hold government accountable. S. 1638 does just that.

I wish to thank Senators JOHNSON and CARPER for their hard work passing this bill through the Senate. I urge all Members to join me in supporting this important bipartisan legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of S. 1638, the Department of Homeland Security Headquarters Consolidation Accountability Act of 2015.

Mr. Speaker, since the 2006 decision to establish the Department of Homeland Security’s headquarters at the former site of St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in Washington, the project has experienced significant shortfalls in cost and schedule performance.

The Government Accountability Office reported that between the start of construction at St. Elizabeth’s in fiscal year 2009 through the fiscal year 2014 appropriation, the project received \$1.6 billion less than the funding amendments requested over this period. The impact of this funding gap is far-reaching. In fact, GAO has found this gap resulted in cost escalations exceeding \$1 billion and schedule delays exceeding 10 years for the project.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate bill we consider today is the companion to H.R. 1640, a bill that the House approved by voice vote last June.

S. 1638 directs DHS and GSA to provide information to Congress within 120 days of enactment of this bill to establish that the data has been collected and analyzed to support the current direction for this high-profile investment.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, S. 1638 specifies that the information provided to Congress by DHS and GSA include updated cost and schedule estimates for the project.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, S. 1638 directs GAO to report to Congress on the quality and reliability of these estimates, not later than 90 days after they have been submitted to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, DHS headquarters operations currently are dispersed around the national capital region, in facilities that, in many cases, are inadequate—as is the case with the Nebraska Avenue Complex.

To support the government’s effective stewardship of public resources and to deliver a headquarters that DHS desperately needs, I would urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

S. 1638 is virtually identical to the House-passed legislation that my subcommittee advanced last year.

The bill’s provisions acknowledge the need for GSA to be engaged at a high level, as the construction manager for the Department’s headquarters consolidation project, and to help DHS develop realistic and achievable outcomes.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that up to 69 percent of the Department’s commercial leases in the national capital region are slated to expire between fiscal years 2016 and 2020. As such, the Department will be forced to engage in the expensive process of recompeting and possibly relocating its operation and personnel.

It would behoove the Department and the GSA to move more of DHS’ headquarters activities to St. Elizabeth’s as soon as possible and, thus, avoid the costs associated with executing additional leasing in the expensive D.C. market.

Mr. Speaker, I do again urge the adoption of S. 1638.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I, once again, urge my colleagues to support S. 1638.

I thank the gentlewoman from New Jersey for her words of support. This is the right thing to do—being good stewards of taxpayer dollars and fulfilling our oversight role.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, I rise in strong support of S. 1638, the “Department of Homeland Security Headquarters Consolidation Accountability Act.”

I support this bipartisan legislation because it would move DHS forward in accomplishing the important objective of establishing a home for the Department’s many components and agencies.

Eleven days after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge was appointed as the first Director of the Office of Homeland Security in the White House.

In November 2002, I was proud to join my colleagues in voting to create a Department of Homeland Security.

On March 1, 2003, the Department of Homeland Security official became a Cabinet-level department charged with the responsibility of unifying national homeland security efforts.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was created through the integration of all or part of 22 different Federal departments and agencies into a unified, integrated Department.

S. 1638, directs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in coordination with the General Services Administration (GSA), to submit information on the implementation of the enhanced plan for the DHS headquarters consolidation project within the National Capital Region, approved by the Office of Management and Budget and included in the budget of the President for FY2016, that includes:

- a proposed occupancy plan with specific information about which DHS-wide operations, component operations, and support offices will be located at the site, the aggregate number of full time equivalent employees projected to occupy the site, the seat-to-staff ratio at the site, and schedule estimates for migrating operations to the site;

- a comprehensive assessment of the difference between the current real property and facilities needed by DHS in the Region to carry out its mission and its future needs;

- an analysis of the difference between the current and needed capital assets and facilities of DHS;

- a current plan for construction of the headquarters consolidation at the St. Elizabeths campus that includes the estimated costs and schedule for the current plan and any estimated cost savings associated with reducing the scope of the project and increasing the use of existing capacity developed under the project;

An important goal of S. 1638, is an evaluation of the current plan to determine the leased portfolio of DHS throughout the Region that includes an end-state vision that identifies which DHS-wide operations, component operations, and support offices do not migrate to the St. Elizabeths campus and continue to operate at a property in the leased portfolio.

The bill will result in real numbers regarding the total compliment of full-time equivalent employees who are expected to operate at each property, component, or office for each year until the consolidation project is completed.

S. 1638, identifies the costs and benefits of leasing and construction alternatives for the remainder of the consolidation project, including a comparison of the long-term cost that would result from leasing to the cost of consolidating functions on government-owned space and the identification of any cost impacts in terms of premiums for short-term lease extensions or holdovers due to the uncertainty of funding for, or delays in, completing construction required for the consolidation.

Mr. Speaker, since DHS initiated its headquarters consolidation in 2006, it has progressed despite changes in senior leadership and waning funding support from Congress.

As a result, in April 2015, DHS and GSA announced that the construction sequence and timetable for the headquarters consolida-

tion would be adjusted to reflect reduced funding by Congress.

DHS must now re-compete up to 69 percent of its commercial leases in the National Capital Region as they are scheduled to expire between 2016 and 2020.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in strong support of the suspension bill, S. 1638, the "Department of Homeland Security Headquarters Consolidation Accountability Act."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1638.

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.

SIDNEY OSLIN SMITH, JR. FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4618) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 121 Spring Street SE in Gainesville, Georgia, as the "Sidney Oslin Smith, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4618

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

SECTION 1. SIDNEY OSLIN SMITH, JR. FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Federal building and United States courthouse located at 121 Spring Street SE in Gainesville, Georgia, shall be known and designated as the "Sidney Oslin Smith, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Sidney Oslin Smith, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4618.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4618 would designate the Federal building and United

States Courthouse located at 121 Spring Street SE in Gainesville, Georgia, as the Sidney Oslin Smith, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse.

Following his service in the United States Army during World War II, Judge Smith received his law degree and went into the private practice of law. In 1965, he was appointed to the Federal bench as a judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia by President Johnson, and he served until his retirement in 1974.

Given his commitment and dedication to our Nation and the law, I think it is fitting to recognize his service by naming this courthouse after him.

I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) for his leadership on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I also support H.R. 4618, which designates the United States Courthouse in Gainesville, Georgia, as the Sidney Oslin Smith, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse.

Judge Smith served as a Federal district court judge in the Northern District of Georgia and was a World War II veteran. Judge Smith graduated from Harvard University and the University of Georgia Law School. After graduating from law school, Judge Smith went into private practice, as was noted, and he practiced until 1962, and was later elected as a superior court judge in Georgia.

In 1965, Mr. Speaker, Judge Smith was appointed as a district court judge and was later elevated to chief judge. Judge Smith stepped down from the Federal bench in 1974, as was noted, and returned to private practice as a partner at an Atlanta law firm.

In addition to his very long and distinguished career, Judge Smith was an active member of the educational community in Georgia, serving as chairman of the Gainesville Board of Education, the chairman of the State Board of Regents, and as a trustee of Brenau University for 35 years.

Judge Smith was well respected in his community. It is very appropriate to name the building in Gainesville, Georgia, the Sidney Oslin Smith, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse.

I also support this bill, Mr. Speaker, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this important piece of legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend from Florida for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4618, legislation that I introduced to name the Federal building and