

Families Voices Act, legislation designed to ensure that immediate family members of servicemembers who are killed or missing in action or have died as a result of their service participate in the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project.

Congress created the project, as Mr. HARPER pointed out, to collect and catalog stories of American war veterans. We did this in 2000 to help preserve their memories so that current and future generations may hear and better appreciate the realities of war and the sacrifices borne by those who served in uniform.

The project is designed to turn their memories into our history to memorialize the lives of heroes whose selfless sacrifice has contributed, and continues to contribute, to our freedom and liberty and our collective understanding of who we are as a Nation.

It has been a great success. In fact, earlier this year, the Library announced that it reached a milestone, with 100,000 veteran stories archived. There are now more than 100,000 testimonies of veterans who served in military engagements since World War I in our permanent record.

However, conspicuously missing from the rich project's history are the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice. Currently—which this bill will correct—the project accepts only firsthand accounts of living veterans, unintentionally leaving out the men and women who did not return from the battlefield and can no longer speak for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, this issue was first brought to my attention by Vietnam veteran Terry Fearon and the New Jersey Gold Star Mothers organization. Its president, Judi Tapper, the proud mother of Petty Officer First Class David Tapper, a Navy SEAL who was killed in Afghanistan on August 20, 2003, recently told me: "Never in history has there been a forum to replace our heroes' silenced voices."

□ 1615

Enactment of this bill will help change that. It will ensure we record and remember the lives and sacrifices of all who have served by providing family members the opportunity to create a lasting narrative and living record of their fallen loved ones.

This bill is endorsed by the national organization known as the American Gold Star Mothers, whose second vice president, Becky Christmas, said:

The legislation gives our family, our children, a voice that they no longer have. The Gold Star Families Voices Act will ensure that the experiences and lives of all veterans, including our sons and daughters who fought and died for our country, are remembered, honored and preserved.

Mr. Speaker, during my quarter of a century of service on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, and as we crafted this bill, I have had the great privilege of working with the Gold Star Mothers. They are an incredibly inspir-

ing, committed, and dedicated group of women who have worked tirelessly and successfully to bring about meaningful change to better the lives of servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

So I urge my colleagues to pass this bill and honor the men and women who gave "the last full measure of devotion" in the service of our Nation by allowing their family members to tell their stories, so that all Americans can hear, appreciate, remember, and honor these patriots.

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

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

I ask my colleagues—urge them—to pass this bill. It is important that we understand the realities of war.

This past weekend, many of us participated in parades, earlier this year in the Memorial Day parade, later this year in the Veterans Day parade. But war is not just about parades. War is also about sacrifice, and the Gold Star families know that better than anyone else.

This bill gives us the opportunity to let Joe Nolan speak for his son, Joe; to let Mary Kight speak for her son, Michael; to let Ray and Sue Reich speak for their son, Stephen; and for tens of thousands of Americans to speak for their sons and daughters, to do what everyone in combat asks us when they come home, or if they do not: Don't forget us; please, remember.

This bill is a way of honoring that request of everyone who wears the uniform. Make sure that we remember them and that we honor them.

I am proud to cosponsor this bill, and I am very grateful to my colleagues for their support.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor to stand here today in support of this legislation. The inclusion of these accounts from the loved ones of those who have given their lives in service to our Nation will only enrich the Library's Veterans History Project and our Nation's narrative memorializing those who have served. The Veterans History Project has provided a wonderful opportunity to pay tribute to our Nation's veterans, ensuring that their actions and legacies live on for many generations to come.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4511, the "Gold Star Families Voices Act," which allows Gold Star families to submit to the Veterans History Project recordings of biological histories of a service member who was killed in action.

Gold Star family members are defined by law as parents, spouses, siblings, or children of members of the Armed Forces who died while serving their country.

Current law only allows the personal histories and testimonials from veterans them-

selves be included in the Veterans History Project archive, which excludes the biographies of veterans who were killed in action during war.

Since its passing in 2000, the Veterans History Project has collected the oral history records of over 100,000 veterans who have served in armed conflicts since World War I.

Extending the opportunity to participate in the Veterans History Project to Gold Star families would result in nearly 1,000 new collections for the Project.

These veterans sacrificed more than can be imagined in order to protect the freedoms and rights that we take for granted every day.

Not only did these veterans miss birthdays, anniversaries, and many other holidays to defend the country they loved, but the veterans of these Gold Star families made the ultimate sacrifice by giving what President Lincoln called the "last full measure of devotion" so that their nation might remain free.

These brave souls left behind relatives, friends, and loved ones who continue on with memories of the loved and lost to comfort them and, in Lincoln's words, "the solemn pride that is theirs in having laid so costly a sacrifice on the altar of freedom."

This legislation provides Gold Star families a voice.

H.R. 4511 gives Gold Star families the opportunity to share that pride with the nation by telling the story of their fallen loved ones and in doing so ensure these heroes live on not only in the memories of family members but also in the national memory through the Veterans' History Project.

I ask all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 4511, the Gold Star Families Voices Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4511.

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.

SURVIVORS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2016

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5578) to establish certain rights for sexual assault survivors, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5578

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 "Survivors' Bill of Rights Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS' RIGHTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part II of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding after chapter 237 the following:

"CHAPTER 238—SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS' RIGHTS

"Sec.

"3772. Sexual assault survivors' rights.

"§ 3772. Sexual assault survivors' rights

"(a) RIGHTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS.—In addition to those rights provided

in section 3771, a sexual assault survivor has the following rights:

“(1) The right not to be prevented from, or charged for, receiving a medical forensic examination.

“(2) The right to—

“(A) subject to paragraph (3), have a sexual assault evidence collection kit or its probative contents preserved, without charge, for the duration of the maximum applicable statute of limitations or 20 years, whichever is shorter;

“(B) be informed of any result of a sexual assault evidence collection kit, including a DNA profile match, toxicology report, or other information collected as part of a medical forensic examination, if such disclosure would not impede or compromise an ongoing investigation; and

“(C) be informed in writing of policies governing the collection and preservation of a sexual assault evidence collection kit.

“(3) The right to—

“(A) upon written request, receive written notification from the appropriate official with custody not later than 60 days before the date of the intended destruction or disposal; and

“(B) upon written request, be granted further preservation of the kit or its probative contents.

“(4) The right to be informed of the rights under this subsection.

“(b) **APPLICABILITY.**—Subsections (b) through (f) of section 3771 shall apply to sexual assault survivors.

“(c) **DEFINITION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT.**—In this section, the term ‘sexual assault’ means any nonconsensual sexual act proscribed by Federal, tribal, or State law, including when the victim lacks capacity to consent.

“(d) **FUNDING.**—This section, other than paragraphs (2)(A) and (3)(B) of subsection (a), shall be carried out using funds made available under section 1402(d)(3)(A)(i) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601(d)(3)(A)(i)). No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section.”.

(b) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of chapters for part II of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“238. Sexual assault survivors’ rights 3772”.

(c) **AMENDMENT TO VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT OF 1984.**—Section 1402(d)(3)(A)(i) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601(d)(3)(A)(i)) is amended by inserting after “section 3771” the following: “or section 3772, as it relates to direct services.”.

SEC. 3. SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS’ NOTIFICATION GRANTS.

The Victims of Crime Act of 1984 is amended by adding after section 1404E (42 U.S.C. 10603e) the following:

“SEC. 1404F. SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS’ NOTIFICATION GRANTS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Attorney General may make grants as provided in section 1404(c)(1)(A) to States to develop and disseminate to entities described in subsection (c)(1) of this section written notice of applicable rights and policies for sexual assault survivors.

“(b) **NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS.**—Each recipient of a grant awarded under subsection (a) shall make its best effort to ensure that each entity described in subsection (c)(1) provides individuals who identify as a survivor of a sexual assault, and who consent to receiving such information, with written notice of applicable rights and policies regarding—

“(1) the right not to be charged fees for or otherwise prevented from pursuing a sexual assault evidence collection kit;

“(2) the right to have a sexual assault medical forensic examination regardless of

whether the survivor reports to or cooperates with law enforcement;

“(3) the availability of a sexual assault advocate;

“(4) the availability of protective orders and policies related to their enforcement;

“(5) policies regarding the storage, preservation, and disposal of sexual assault evidence collection kits;

“(6) the process, if any, to request preservation of sexual assault evidence collection kits or the probative evidence from such kits; and

“(7) the availability of victim compensation and restitution.

“(c) **DISSEMINATION OF WRITTEN NOTICE.**—Each recipient of a grant awarded under subsection (a) shall—

“(1) provide the written notice described in subsection (b) to medical centers, hospitals, forensic examiners, sexual assault service providers, State and local law enforcement agencies, and any other State agency or department reasonably likely to serve sexual assault survivors; and

“(2) make the written notice described in subsection (b) publicly available on the Internet website of the attorney general of the State.

“(d) **PROVISION TO PROMOTE COMPLIANCE.**—The Attorney General may provide such technical assistance and guidance as necessary to help recipients meet the requirements of this section.

“(e) **INTEGRATION OF SYSTEMS.**—Any system developed and implemented under this section may be integrated with an existing case management system operated by the recipient of the grant if the system meets the requirements listed in this section.”.

SEC. 4. WORKING GROUP.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”), shall establish a joint working group (referred to in this section as the “Working Group”) to develop, coordinate, and disseminate best practices regarding the care and treatment of sexual assault survivors and the preservation of forensic evidence.

(b) **CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS.**—The Working Group shall consult with—

(1) stakeholders in law enforcement, prosecution, forensic laboratory, counseling, forensic examiner, medical facility, and medical provider communities; and

(2) representatives of not less than 3 entities with demonstrated expertise in sexual assault prevention, sexual assault advocacy, or representation of sexual assault victims, of which not less than 1 representative shall be a sexual assault victim.

(c) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Working Group shall be composed of governmental or nongovernmental agency heads at the discretion of the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary.

(d) **DUTIES.**—The Working Group shall—

(1) develop recommendations for improving the coordination of the dissemination and implementation of best practices and protocols regarding the care and treatment of sexual assault survivors and the preservation of evidence to hospital administrators, physicians, forensic examiners, and other medical associations and leaders in the medical community;

(2) encourage, where appropriate, the adoption and implementation of best practices and protocols regarding the care and treatment of sexual assault survivors and the preservation of evidence among hospital administrators, physicians, forensic examiners, and other medical associations and leaders in the medical community;

(3) develop recommendations to promote the coordination of the dissemination and

implementation of best practices regarding the care and treatment of sexual assault survivors and the preservation of evidence to State attorneys general, United States attorneys, heads of State law enforcement agencies, forensic laboratory directors and managers, and other leaders in the law enforcement community;

(4) develop and implement, where practicable, incentives to encourage the adoption or implementation of best practices regarding the care and treatment of sexual assault survivors and the preservation of evidence among State attorneys general, United States attorneys, heads of State law enforcement agencies, forensic laboratory directors and managers, and other leaders in the law enforcement community;

(5) collect feedback from stakeholders, practitioners, and leadership throughout the Federal and State law enforcement, victim services, forensic science practitioner, and health care communities to inform development of future best practices or clinical guidelines regarding the care and treatment of sexual assault survivors; and

(6) perform other activities, such as activities relating to development, dissemination, outreach, engagement, or training associated with advancing victim-centered care for sexual assault survivors.

(e) **REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Working Group shall submit to the Attorney General, the Secretary, and Congress a report containing the findings and recommended actions of the Working Group.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. 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 H.R. 5578, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

This summer, the harrowing account of the Stanford rape victim sparked outrage across the United States and around the globe. The survivor’s letter documented in graphic and painstaking detail the complicated, emotional, and overwhelming process facing victims of sexual assault.

In her letter, the victim writes:

“The next thing I remember I was in a gurney in a hallway. I had dried blood and bandages on the backs of my hands and elbow. I thought maybe I had fallen and was in an admin office on campus . . . Then, I felt pine needles scratching the back of my neck and started pulling them out of my hair. I thought maybe, the pine needles had fallen from a tree onto my head. My brain was talking my gut into not collapsing. Because my gut was saying, help me, help me.

"I shuffled from room to room with a blanket wrapped around me, pine needles trailing behind me, I left a little pile in every room I sat in. I was asked to sign papers that said 'Rape Victim' and I thought something has really happened. My clothes were confiscated and I stood naked while the nurses held a ruler to various abrasions on my body and photographed them. The three of us worked to comb the pine needles out of my hair."

The letter goes on to describe the rest of the forensic exam, her feelings about what happened to her, and her day in court. Her vivid and breath-taking account captured the national spotlight.

Unfortunately, she is but one of many who have to go through this ordeal, but what is abundantly clear from this account is the trauma and difficulty sexual assault victims face from the moment they are assaulted.

The Survivors' Bill of Rights Act of 2016 makes much-needed additions to Federal law to give victims of sexual assault additional rights in seeking justice and recovering from their experiences.

These additional rights include the right to not be prevented from accessing a medical forensic exam, the right not to be charged for that exam, and the right to know about the results of that exam. Furthermore, the bill requires that the medical exam be preserved throughout the length of the statute of limitations. Additionally, the bill requires that the government provide notice to the victim when it intends to dispose of the collection kit.

I continue to be deeply troubled by the number of untested rape kits that remain in this country, despite the Judiciary Committee's work to increase funding for rape kit testing to reduce this backlog. Nevertheless, these additional rights related to medical exams will ensure that forensic medical kits will, at the very least, be preserved for the length of the statute of limitations, and victims will have notice so they can contest the destruction of those kits.

This bill also clarifies that, under existing law, the Justice Department may make discretionary grants from the Crime Victims Fund to States to use those grants to notify victims of existing rights under State law. While this bill does much to address the rights of sexual assault victims under Federal law, States have different sets of applicable victims' rights that are particular to the State. This provision will ensure that victims will know what rights they have in their particular States.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. MIMI WALTERS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) for their leadership on this very important piece of legislation.

I urge passage of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, September 6, 2016.
Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: I write in regard to H.R. 5578, Survivors' Bill of Rights Act of 2016, which was recently ordered to be reported by the Committee on the Judiciary. As you are aware, the bill also was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. I wanted to notify you that the Committee on Energy and Commerce will forgo action on H.R. 5578 so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

This is done with the understanding that the Committee on Energy and Commerce's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered. In addition, the Committee reserves the right to seek conferees on H.R. 5578 and requests your support when such a request is made.

I would appreciate your response confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 5578 and ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, September 6, 2016.
Hon. FRED UPTON,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5578, the "Survivors' Bill of Rights Act of 2016," which the Judiciary Committee ordered reported favorably to the House on July 18, 2016.

I am most appreciative of your decision to forego formal consideration of H.R. 5578 so that it may proceed to the House floor. I acknowledge that although you are waving formal consideration of the bill, the Committee on Energy and Commerce is in no way waiving its jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in those provisions in the bill that fall within your Rule X jurisdiction. In addition, I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees on any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

Finally, I am pleased to include this letter and your letter in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 5578.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, passing the Survivors' Bill of Rights Act is an important step in enacting protections and ensuring access to justice for many Americans who are survivors of sexual assault.

In May, just this last May, I found myself meeting with Amanda Nguyen, Lara McLeod, and Marisa Ferri and their friends in my office as part of Assault Awareness Month. They had asked to meet with me, as the senior woman on the Judiciary Committee, and then they told me I was the first actual Member of Congress whom they had been able to meet with.

When I did listen to them, this is what I heard:

Amanda Nguyen told me about her rape, that every 6 months she was

faced with the choice of reliving her past trauma or having the State of Massachusetts destroy essential evidence that would assist in the prosecution of her rapist: her medical forensic examination, or rape kit.

When Amanda sought information on how to prevent her rape kit from being destroyed, police provided conflicting information. She was even told at one point that the kit would be stored indefinitely, which was not correct. She then had to go back and forth between police and State lab techs trying to locate her kit. And even when she found it and got the extension on storing it, the technicians moved her kit without telling her, and she now has to file an extension every 6 months just to preserve the evidence.

I listened to Marisa Ferri tell me that she thought her rape would be the most traumatic experience of her life, but what she found out was that even more traumatic, according to her, was the way she was further victimized by the system after being raped. When Marisa went to the hospital to seek medical treatment and requested a forensic exam, she was prevented from doing so until after she spoke with the detective.

She asked if the interview could wait until the volunteer from the Rape Crisis Center arrived, but was told that she had to be interviewed then if she wanted to press charges. Alone and confused, Marisa underwent nearly hours of questioning by a detective who tried to discourage her from filing a report and blamed her, according to Marisa, for her own rape.

Marisa is, unfortunately, not alone in being misinformed about her rights, and being interrogated instead of being allowed the opportunity to undergo a rape kit procedure in an expedient manner and to ensure the maximum effectiveness that the evidence has been collected.

Marisa endured 6 weeks of repeated questioning by the detective about her behavior on the night of the rape. At times, she said she felt like she was the one under investigation.

Initially, her case was closed without the rape kit being tested. It was only after she filed a formal complaint that the case was reopened more than a year later and the rape kit was tested. Many survivors would have given up on a system that had failed them as much as the system failed her and would not have pursued reopening their closed case.

Lara McLeod suffered through further victimization after sexual assault. She reports that, at 19 years of age, she was raped by her sister's fiancé, but she did not want to report the crime. Instead, her family, who she told about her sexual assault, informed the police, and she was told to go to the station for a formal interview.

After a cursory investigation, she reports that the police accused her of lying about the rape and arrested her.

Her sister was charged with obstructing justice for aiding Lara's alleged deceit. The false charge against Lara and her sister were eventually expunged, but not before damage to reputation and her sister's savings being spent on dismissing the charges and, worse yet, her sister being denied full custody of her infant son because of the charge against her, which ultimately resulted in this son dying while in the custody of Lara's rapist.

I mention these terrifying stories because that is what this bill is all about. It is also about the power of individuals to change the law. After I heard their stories, within 2 hours, I talked to Judiciary Committee Chairman GOODLATTE on the House floor and told him about these stories.

To his credit, Chairman GOODLATTE immediately contacted his staff to make sure that we could work together on this bill. Only 2 short months later, the Judiciary Committee unanimously approved this legislation. The House version includes a small improvement on the text passed by the Senate; and it is my hope that, after passage in the House, the Senate will also approve this version so it can be sent to President Obama for his signature.

I want to thank all the members of the Judiciary Committee for their action. But even more, I want to thank the courageous victims of rape who formed the group RISE, who did rise and who exerted their power to take control of this situation, who would not accept being victimized but, instead, decided to take their trauma and change the law so that other victims will have more power than they had. The congratulations go to them.

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

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Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, it is now my great pleasure to yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. MIMI WALTERS), the chief sponsor of this legislation and a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, under current law, basic rights that protect survivors of sexual assault and allow them full access to justice vary greatly between each State and Federal statute. The uneven patchwork of laws across this country and the lack of substantive rights for sexual assault survivors prevent them from having full access to the justice system. Survivors of sexual assault have experienced unspeakable trauma, and they should not face unnecessary barriers to justice. These brave survivors deserve commonsense legal protections and clear procedures that ensure access to justice.

This bipartisan legislation will ensure that sexual assault survivors in Federal criminal cases have a right to a sexual assault evidence collection kit, a right to be notified in writing before the kit is destroyed, a right to request preservation of the kit, and a

right to be informed of important results from a forensic examination.

This legislation is so important because it ensures these rights in the Federal criminal justice system and, furthermore, it will set an example for States to adopt similar procedures and practices.

Additionally, this legislation will establish a joint working group formed by the Attorney General and the Department of Health and Human Services on best practices regarding the care and treatment of sexual assault survivors and the preservation of forensic evidence. It will also make the Victims of Crimes Act grant funding available for States to disseminate written notice of survivors' rights. The Senate has unanimously passed these reforms, and now we must do our part to ensure that sexual assault survivors have a fair chance at justice.

This legislation, which I have introduced with Ms. LOFGREN, has been endorsed by Rise; the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, more commonly known as RAINN; the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence; and the National Center for Victims of Crime, among other groups. I thank these groups, Chairman GOODLATTE, Ms. LOFGREN, and all other cosponsors working to advance the Survivors' Bill of Rights.

I remain committed to ensuring that survivors of sexual assault can secure justice, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to advocate for victims of sexual assault and enact sensible reforms like this bipartisan bill. I encourage my colleagues to support the Survivors' Bill of Rights.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to celebrate our action today. I know that Lara McLeod and Marisa Ferri are watching this on C-SPAN. Amanda Nguyen is here in the Chamber. I just want to say to them: You are not weak victims. You are strong and powerful actors who turned tragedy into a triumph, and I commend you and honor you for your work.

I thank the gentleman, and I urge all Members to vote for this bill.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I just want to thank the gentlewomen from California, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS and Ms. LOFGREN, for their hard work, and the women who have spoken out about their own personal experiences with regard to sexual assaults because without their speaking out, we would not make the kind of progress that we have made in bringing this legislation this far to the floor of the House.

I urge my colleagues to support it. It is important legislation to protect women. It is important legislation to protect our judicial process, and it is important legislation to be sure that people are treated with respect and dignity as they go through this process.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5578, the "Survivors' Bills of Rights Act of 2016."

I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of this measure because this critical bill will eliminate barriers to the law faced by sexual assault survivors.

H.R. 5578 is an important bill intended to provide additional legal protections and support to survivors of the horrific crime of sexual assault.

An estimated 1 out of every 6 women in the United States will be the victim of a sexual assault or attempted sexual assault during their lifetime.

All too often, the victims of sexual abuse are children. According to a 2013 Department of Health and Human Services survey on child maltreatment, child protective service agencies estimated that for the period from 2009 through 2013, an average of 63,000 children were victims of sexual abuse each year.

Despite these statistics, the United States presently lacks standardized procedures for victims of sexual assault to gain full access to justice.

Basic rights and protections for survivors of sexual assault vary from state to state.

Moreover, not a single State gives sexual assault victims the right to require that critical forensic evidence in their case—the sexual assault evidence collection kit, or rape kit—be retained until the statute of limitations on the crime has expired.

As a result, critical evidence can be lost.

The Survivors' Bill of Rights Act will create a federal standard that states can model.

For example, Massachusetts has a 15-year statute of limitations on sexual assaults, but untested rape kits are required to be stored only for six months.

In another example, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department in North Carolina has destroyed more than 1,000 rape kits since 2000.

This bipartisan legislation would ensure sexual assault survivors in federal criminal cases have certain rights and serve as an example for States to adopt similar practices.

This bill will add to the existing rights for the survivors of sexual assault the following:

The right to not be prevented from, or charged for, receiving a medical forensic exam;

The right to be informed of any result of a sexual assault evidence collection kit;

The right to be informed in writing of policies governing the collection and preservation of their rape kit;

The right to have that rape kit preserved, without charge, for the statutory limitation period or 20 years, whichever is shorter;

The right to receive written notice, no later than sixty days before the intended date, if the government intends to destroy or dispose of their rape kit before the end of the statutory limitation period; and

The right to request, in writing, that their rape kit be preserved, rather than be destroyed or disposed of before the expiration of the statutory limitation period.

This bill also amends Victims of Crime Act to authorize the Attorney General to make grants for the development and dissemination of written notices of applicable rights and policies for sexual assault survivors.

Crime victim assistance programs that receive such grants will provide the notices to sexual assault survivors, as well as to medical facilities, law enforcement agencies, forensic examiners, sexual assault service providers, and other agencies that come in contact with sexual assault survivors.

Finally, this bill would create a working group under the Attorney General, with advice from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and participation by representatives of sexual assault prevention, advocacy, or victims groups, to develop best practices regarding the care and treatment of sexual assault survivors and the preservation of forensic evidence.

These changes will allow survivors access to vital medical information, improve communication between law enforcement and survivors, ensure survivors have information necessary to monitor aspects of the investigation, and help prevent evidence in their cases being destroyed without their knowledge.

This bill expands and strengthens the rights of survivors of sexual assault, and will help ensure that they are fully and timely informed of, and thus able to meaningfully exercise, those rights.

For these reasons, I support the Survivors' Bill of Rights Act.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill because this important and necessary measure will help ensure that sexual assault survivors are given full access to the justice system.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5578.

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. GOODLATTE. 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.

MAKING TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO UPDATE STATUTORY REFERENCES TO TITLE 2, UNITED STATES CODE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2830) to make technical amendments to update statutory references to certain provisions classified to title 2, United States Code.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2830

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

SECTION 1. TITLE 2, UNITED STATES CODE.

(1) Section 701(c) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (2 U.S.C. 288(c)) is amended by striking “(2 U.S.C. 72a(i))” and inserting “(2 U.S.C. 4301(i))”.

(2) Section 716 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (2 U.S.C. 288m) is amended by striking “Act of October 1, 1888 (28 Stat. 546; 2 U.S.C. 68)” and inserting “Act of October 2, 1888 (25 Stat. 546; 2 U.S.C. 6503)”.

(3) Section 201(g) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 601(g)) is amend-

ed by striking “Act of October 1, 1888 (28 Stat. 546; 2 U.S.C. 68)” and inserting “Act of October 2, 1888 (25 Stat. 546; 2 U.S.C. 6503)”.

(4) Section 104(a) of the Congressional Operations Appropriations Act, 1997 (2 U.S.C. 605(a)) is amended by striking “(2 U.S.C. 111b)” and inserting “(2 U.S.C. 4103)”.

(5) Section 1101(a)(2) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111-8, division G, 2 U.S.C. 1824a(a)(2)) is amended as follows:

(A) Subparagraph (A) is amended by striking “(2 U.S.C. 117)” and inserting “(2 U.S.C. 6516)”.

(B) Subparagraph (B) is amended by striking “(2 U.S.C. 117e)” and inserting “(2 U.S.C. 5540)”.

(C) Subparagraph (C) is amended by striking “(2 U.S.C. 121f)” and inserting “(2 U.S.C. 2026)”.

(6) Section 104(c) of the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1965 (Public Law 88-454, 2 U.S.C. 1927 note) is amended by inserting “(2 U.S.C. 4507(b))” after “section 106(b) of the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1963”.

(7) Section 9A(a) of the Act of July 31, 1946 (2 U.S.C. 1966(a)) is amended by striking “(2 U.S.C. 60-1(b))” and inserting “(2 U.S.C. 4101(b))”.

(8) Section 2(c) of Public Law 96-444 (2 U.S.C. 2025 note) is amended by striking “(2 U.S.C. 60j)” and inserting “(2 U.S.C. 4507)”.

(9) Section 1(e) of Public Law 110-279 (2 U.S.C. 2051(e)) is amended as follows:

(A) Paragraph (1) is amended by striking “(2 U.S.C. 60q)” and inserting “(2 U.S.C. 4505)”.

(B) Paragraph (2)(A) (matter before clause (i)) is amended by striking “(2 U.S.C. 60q(e))” and inserting “(2 U.S.C. 4505(e))”.

(C) Paragraph (2)(A)(i) is amended by inserting “(2 U.S.C. 4505)” after “section 210 of that Act”.

(10) Section 312(e) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1992 (2 U.S.C. 2062(e)) is amended by striking “(2 U.S.C. 95b(a))” and inserting “(2 U.S.C. 5507(a))”.

(11) Section 316(a) of the Dire Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Assistance, Food Stamps, Unemployment Compensation Administration, and Other Urgent Needs, and Transfers, and Reducing Funds Budgeted for Military Spending Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 2107(a)) is amended by striking “(2 U.S.C. 102a)” and inserting “(2 U.S.C. 4107)”.

(12) Section 411(c) of the Capitol Visitor Center Act of 2008 (2 U.S.C. 2251(c)) is amended by striking “(2 U.S.C. 130e)” and inserting “(2 U.S.C. 2172)”.

(13) Section 412 of the Capitol Visitor Center Act of 2008 (2 U.S.C. 2252) is amended as follows:

(A) Subsection (a)(1) is amended by striking “(2 U.S.C. 130e)” and inserting “(2 U.S.C. 2172)”;

(B) Subsection (b)(1) is amended by—
(i) striking “section 310(b) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1990 (2 U.S.C. 130e)” and inserting “section 310(b) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1990 (2 U.S.C. 2172(b))”; and

(ii) striking “section 310(a) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1990 (2 U.S.C. 130e)” and inserting “section 310(a) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1990 (2 U.S.C. 2172(a))”.

(14) Section 107(b)(4) of the Congressional Operations Appropriations Act, 1996 (Public Law 104-53, title I, 2 U.S.C. 4131 note) is amended by striking “(2 U.S.C. 123b(g))” and inserting “(2 U.S.C. 4131(g))”.

(15) Section 105(a) of the Congressional Operations Appropriations Act, 1996 (Public Law 104-53, title I, 2 U.S.C. 4301 note) is amended by striking “(2 U.S.C. 72a(b))” and inserting “(2 U.S.C. 4301(b))”.

(16) Section 10(a) of the Congressional Operations Appropriations Act, 1999 (2 U.S.C. 4336(a)) is amended as follows:

(A) Paragraph (5) is amended by inserting “(2 U.S.C. 4301(i))” after “section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946”.

(B) Paragraph (6) is amended by inserting “(2 U.S.C. 4301(j))” after “section 202(j) of such Act”.

(17) Section 146 of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-46, 2 U.S.C. 4501 note) is amended by striking “section 610(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 31)” and inserting “section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501)”.

(18) Section 802 of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-240, 2 U.S.C. 4501 note) is amended by striking “(2 U.S.C. 31)” and inserting “(2 U.S.C. 4501)”.

(19) Section 1 of Public Law 111-165 (2 U.S.C. 4501 note) is amended by striking “(2 U.S.C. 31)” and inserting “(2 U.S.C. 4501)”.

(20) Section 103 of division J of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111-8, 2 U.S.C. 4501 note) is amended by striking “(2 U.S.C. 31(2))” and inserting “(2 U.S.C. 4501(2))”.

(21) Section 115 of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (Public Law 109-289, division B, 2 U.S.C. 4501 note) is amended by striking “(2 U.S.C. 31)” and inserting “(2 U.S.C. 4501(2))”.

(22) Section 7(a) of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Amendments of 1993 (Public Law 103-6, 2 U.S.C. 4501 note) is amended by striking “(2 U.S.C. 31(2))” and inserting “(2 U.S.C. 4501(2))”.

(23) Section 106 of the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1963 (2 U.S.C. 4507) is amended as follows:

(A) Subsection (a)(1)(A) is amended by striking “(2 U.S.C. 74b)” and inserting “(2 U.S.C. 6538)”.

(B) Subsection (b)(2) is amended by inserting “(2 U.S.C. 4571)” after “section 4 of the Federal Pay Comparability Act of 1970”.

(C) Subsection (b)(3)(B) is amended by inserting “(2 U.S.C. 6538)” after “section 244 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946”.

(24) Section 310 of the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1979 (2 U.S.C. 4508) is amended by inserting “(2 U.S.C. 4507)” after “section 106 of the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1963”.

(25) Section 107 of the Congressional Operations Appropriation Act, 1984 (2 U.S.C. 4509) is amended by striking “(2 U.S.C. 60j)” and inserting “(2 U.S.C. 4507)”.

(26) Section 107 of the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1977 (2 U.S.C. 4572) is amended by inserting “(2 U.S.C. 4571)” after “section 4 of the Federal Pay Comparability Act of 1970”.

(27) Section 105 of the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1968 (2 U.S.C. 4575) is amended as follows:

(A) Subsection (b) is amended by striking “(2 U.S.C. 60j)” and inserting “(2 U.S.C. 4507)”.

(B) Subsection (d)(1)(B)(ii) is amended by inserting “(2 U.S.C. 6314)” after “section 506 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1973”.

(C) Subsection (d)(1)(B)(iv) is amended by inserting “(2 U.S.C. 6314(b)(2)(A)(iii))” after “section 506(b)(2)(A)(iii) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1973”.

(D) Subsection (d)(1)(C)(ii) is amended by inserting “(2 U.S.C. 6314)” after “section 506 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1973”.

(E) Subsection (d)(1)(C)(iv) is amended by inserting “(2 U.S.C. 6314(b)(3))” after “section 506(b)(3) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1973”.

(28) Section 10 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2004 (Public Law 108-83, 2 U.S.C. 4575 note) is amended as follows:

(A) Subsection (a) is amended by striking “(2 U.S.C. 61-1(d)(2))” and inserting “(2 U.S.C. 4575(d)(2))”.