

A special thanks to my fellow Members—DON BEYER, MARIO DIAZ-BALART, and Chairman ROB BISHOP—for their support and helping me push this through. I urge support of the passage.

On a personal note, it has been my lifelong concern for the environment and involvement in water quality issues in my hometown of Bonita Springs, Florida, that led me to Congress on an unknown path really. So introducing this bill, to me, today is really special and personal.

A special note of thanks to those who helped—so many folks—particularly Bob and Jack for their perseverance. Perseverance paid off. Also, I thank Cherie for her abiding inspiration and to Yodi.

The CBRs was created by Congress with the 1982 Coastal Barrier Resources Act. This initiative preserves the ecological integrity of coastal areas while still protecting private property rights. This initiative preserves the ecological integrity of coastal areas that serve as important barriers against wind and tidal forces caused by coastal storms, and reduces further development in these sensitive areas. In other words, it creates a perpetual protected area for our wonderful Gulf wildlife.

These new maps have passed public review, OMB review, and have been released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This is the southern part of my district. The new maps correct errors from 40 years ago, which seriously hurt some 1,600 of our constituents and hurt their access to flood insurance, home mortgages, and refinancing.

These new maps also add 17,000 acres in perpetuity to CBRs, 17,000 acres principally in this zone right here, between Naples and Marco Island and also a little bit south. Keewaydin Island—that you see right here, just south of Naples—and Cape Romano are part of the pristine, picturesque Ten Thousand Islands chain that begins 20 miles of Naples. These newly preserved areas highlighted on these charts cover five geographical units, part of now over 40,000 continuous acres that will be permanently protected.

This is government doing something right for all stakeholders and for all the generations that will follow us.

H.R. 890, protecting 15 miles of natural coastal barriers, is sound economics. It is a piece of what needs to be done toward growing southwest Florida's multibillion dollar private and commercial real estate values and south Florida's tourism industry, which brings in over 5 million visitors to my district. It also employs one out of every five people in the local workforce.

I am proud to report that this bill will create the largest grouping of CBRs units nationwide, protecting our unique Florida Everglades and ecosystem, aquatic plants and animals, other wildlife, and also protecting private properties from storms and floods.

Keewaydin Island right here, just south of Naples, is one of the largest, if

not the largest, sea turtle nesting areas in Florida and in the United States. Depending on the time of year, these are the nests that we see throughout our district on the beach. Also in this area, we see lots of the beautiful spoonbill that you can't find in too many different places.

The Florida Everglades are a natural treasure. It is home to wildlife and plants that are unique in our Nation: fish, tortoises, reptiles, and insects. It is our duty to protect these species. This bill will have a permanent, positive impact on preserving this fragile ecological area and quality of life.

Three years ago, I waded into the Gulf of Mexico with my folks. They urged me to get involved in local politics, hoping that I could have just a small impact and make a small, positive difference in the health of the waters of southwest Florida. My mom is gone now, but she always hoped that a moment like this would come.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this is a moment that we can accomplish something positive for our constituents, positive for our economy, and positive for our waters of south Florida. I am very appreciative to have a small role, and I acknowledge that we have so much more to do to conserve the beauty of southwest Florida for generations to come.

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MACARTHUR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 890, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in Florida."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### EXPEDITED REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT TO STATE CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3894) to amend title 10, United States Code, to require the prompt notification of State Child Protective Services by military and civilian personnel of the Department of Defense required by law to report suspected instances of child abuse and neglect.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3894

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

#### SECTION 1. EXPEDITED REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT TO STATE CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES.

(a) REPORTING BY MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—Section 1787 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (a) and (b) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively; and

(2) by inserting before subsection (c), as so redesignated, the following new subsections:

“(a) REPORTING BY MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL.—A member of the armed forces, civilian employee of the Department of Defense, or contractor employee working on a military installation who is mandated by Federal regulation or State law to report known or suspected instances of child abuse and neglect shall provide the report directly to State Child Protective Services or another appropriate State agency in addition to the member's or employee's chain of command or any designated Department point of contact.

“(b) TRAINING FOR MANDATED REPORTERS.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that individuals referred to in subsection (a) who are mandated by State law to report known or suspected instances of child abuse and neglect receive appropriate training, in accordance with State guidelines, intended to improve their—

“(1) ability to recognize evidence of child abuse and neglect; and

“(2) understanding of the mandatory reporting requirements imposed by law.”.

(b) CONFORMING AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 1787 of title 10, United States Code, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (c), as redesignated by subsection (a)(1), by striking “IN GENERAL.—” and inserting “REPORTING BY STATES.—”; and

(2) in subsection (d), as redesignated by subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by striking “(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term” and inserting the following:

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) The term ‘State’ includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK) and the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 3894, Talia's law, which would require military and Department of Defense civilian personnel working on a military installation to report instances of child abuse and neglect to State Child Protective Services in addition to their designated Department of Defense point of contact.

□ 1730

Our Nation is extremely proud of our military servicemembers and the sacrifices they endure to protect our national security. Members of our military's Active Duty Reserve component and the National Guard knit the blanket of freedom to keep us safe from those who wish to do us harm.

Standing beside our Nation's brave servicemembers are the spouses and children who bear constant challenges and maintain resiliency throughout the continuous moves and the strain deployments incur on families.

There are approximately 2 million children with one or both parents who serve in the U.S. military, and the support role these children fulfill is beyond significant and should be commended. Our Nation's military dependents face greater academic challenges and emotional stress due to relocation and attending multiple schools.

It is difficult enough growing up and enduring adolescence without having to move every couple of years, face new surroundings, make new friends, and all the while having a mother or father serving our Nation in harm's way.

Military children must rely on their loved ones, family, friends, and their parents to get through the struggles that only a military household can understand.

However, it is when those individuals, those adults who these children trust the most, hurt them in any way. It is inexcusable. Our children are truly our Nation's future, and anyone who abuses or neglects a child is appalling and must be held accountable.

That is why I stand here today in support of H.R. 3894, an imperative piece of legislation which would require a childcare provider located on a DOD installation to report any signs of child abuse or neglect directly to Child Protective Services and the provider's chain of command.

Not only does this bill enforce the reporting procedure, but it also requires those individuals who work with children on an installation receive the necessary training to recognize child abuse as well as fully understand the reporting requirements.

I applaud my Committee on Armed Services colleague and friend, Ms. GABBARD, for her leadership on this issue and encourage the rest of my House colleagues to support this important bill.

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

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

In 2005, 5-year-old Talia Williams was beaten to death by her own father, who

was stationed at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii at the time. Talia suffered through months and months of abuse from her father and her stepmother, which ultimately led to her death.

Why didn't someone do something? Why was this allowed to occur? Why didn't someone take action to stop this horrific abuse that was visible to so many who knew Talia? There were multiple reports that were made to military officials, but when it came right down to it, nothing was done to take Talia out of harm's way.

I am rising today to ask my colleagues to support my bill, H.R. 3894, Talia's Law, because more than 10 years after Talia's tragic death, the same gaps in the military's reporting requirements that failed to protect Talia remain unchanged. In fact, over the last decade, there have been 29,000 cases of child abuse and neglect in military homes.

Now, outside of the military, in the civilian world, doctors, psychologists, social workers, teachers, or other professionals who work closely with children are required to report any suspected cases of child abuse and neglect directly to that State's Child Protective Services.

But the military's reporting requirements do not require that direct reporting to State authorities. So reports of Talia's suspected abuse never reached the Hawaii Child Protective Services. Instead, they stayed within the Army's chain of command.

Now, I know there were a lot of people around Talia who had good intentions and who were gravely concerned about the abuse that they were seeing, but the fact remains that Talia was never removed from this abusive environment.

To close this gap and fix this problem, Talia's Law requires the same protections that exist for any other child, whether they are in a military household or not. This bill requires immediate and direct reporting to State Child Protective Services in cases of suspected abuse and neglect.

I recently spoke to Talia's mother, Tarshia, who knows that this bill will not bring Talia back, it cannot right the wrongs that failed to protect Talia.

But what she does know and what she does hope is that the passage of this bill will take an important step forward in helping to better protect the thousands of other children in military families who may be facing this same situation and get them the care and services that they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to honor Talia and all of our children in military families and support H.R. 3894.

I would also like to thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK) for her very thoughtful remarks on this and for championing Talia's Law to be able to help these children who are facing numerous challenges and who deserve better than to have this kind of abuse.

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

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. TAKAI), my friend and colleague, the distinguished gentleman representing Hawaii's First Congressional District.

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in favor of a bill my friend and colleague TULSI GABBARD and I have introduced.

H.R. 3894, Talia's Law, gets its name from a 5-year-old girl named Talia Williams who was beaten to death at the hands of her father, an Army soldier stationed at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii.

We in Hawaii and all across the country are so thankful for the sacrifices our servicemen and servicewomen make to protect our freedoms, but we also have a duty to protect the most vulnerable among us, our children. In Hawaii, we call them our keiki.

As a father myself, I am proud to stand up for Talia's Law, which would require prompt reporting of possible abuses not only to a military supervisor, but also prompt reporting of possible abuse and neglect to the State's Child Protective Services. It would strengthen reporting requirements for these allegations and make sure that they are properly investigated.

I hope that, as we deliberate this bill, we also draw attention to the fact that Congress can come together and should come together to provide better access to resources for those in uniform suffering from wounds that may not be visible to the eyes.

I ask for the consideration of this bill and its urgent passage. These children, our keiki, and all the victims of abuse and neglect cannot wait.

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

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3894, legislation requiring military and civilian personnel of the Department of Defense required by law to report suspected instances of child abuse and neglect to do so promptly and directly to State child protective service agencies.

I support this legislation sponsored by Congresswoman TULSI GABBARD of Hawaii, a good friend and veterans of the Armed Services, because no child should have to bear the pain and suffering of abuse or neglect alone.

Mr. Speaker, the reason this important legislation is needed is illustrated by the tragic and heart breaking case of Talia Williams, an innocent and loving 5-year old girl who was beaten to death by her father, an active-duty infantryman stationed in Hawaii.

After investigation and through subsequent legal proceedings, it came to light that before being murdered, precious Talia had suffered through months of torture and abuse by both her father and stepmother.

Even worse, Mr. Speaker, it was revealed that multiple federal employees, including military police and workers at her on-base child

care facility, failed to report suspected signs of Talia's abuse.

But the shocking case of Talia Williams is not isolated; it is estimated that more than 29,000 children have been abused in military homes over the past decade.

The system failed Talia Williams but it is not too late to save other children at risk by passing H.R. 3894.

Under current law, Family Advocacy Programs operated by the Armed Forces are to identify individuals who are mandated to report known or suspected cases of child abuse to designated "points of contact," who then are to conduct an assessment investigation into the reported abuse and to communicate with State child protective services agencies.

H.R. 3894 amends current law and requires DoD professionals who come into contact with children such as physicians, psychologists, social workers, and teachers to report suspected instances of abuse or neglect directly to the State child protective services agencies in addition to Defense Department points of contact or chain of command.

H.R. 3894 also requires these "mandated reporters" to receive training in accordance with state guidelines in order to improve their ability to recognize evidence of child abuse and neglect and understand mandatory reporting requirements imposed by law.

Mr. Speaker, it is too late to save Talia Williams but out of the horrific tragedy that claimed her life, it is possible to identify and save other children from a similar fate.

H.R. 3894 will help ensure that instances of child abuse and neglect are recognized and reported immediately by empowering appropriate military and civilian personnel in the Department of Defense with the skills and training need to recognize evidence of child abuse and neglect and to place on them an affirmative duty to report instances of suspected abuse or neglect promptly and directly to child protective agencies.

I urge all Members to join me in voting to pass H.R. 3894.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3894.

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 38 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. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

## 9/11 MEMORIAL ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings

will resume on the motion to suspend the rules previously postponed.

The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3036), 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 New Jersey (Mr. MACARTHUR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 387, nays 12, not voting 34, as follows:

[Roll No. 64]

YEAS—387

Abraham	Davis, Danny	Huffman
Adams	Davis, Rodney	Hultgren
Aderholt	DeFazio	Hunter
Aguilar	DeGette	Hurd (TX)
Allen	Delaney	Hurt (VA)
Amodei	DeLauro	Israel
Ashford	DelBene	Issa
Babin	Denham	Jackson Lee
Barletta	Dent	Jeffries
Barr	DeSantis	Jenkins (KS)
Barton	DeSaulnier	Jenkins (WV)
Bass	DesJarlais	Johnson (GA)
Beatty	Deutch	Johnson (OH)
Becerra	Diaz-Balart	Johnson, E. B.
Benishek	Dingell	Johnson, Sam
Bera	Doggett	Jolly
Bilirakis	Dold	Jones
Bishop (GA)	Donovan	Jordan
Bishop (MI)	Doyle, Michael	Joyce
Bishop (UT)	F.	Kaptur
Black	Duckworth	Katko
Blackburn	Duffy	Keating
Blum	Duncan (TN)	Kelly (IL)
Blumenauer	Edwards	Kelly (MS)
Bonamici	Ellison	Kelly (PA)
Bost	Ellmers (NC)	Kennedy
Boustany	Emmer (MN)	Kildee
Boyle, Brendan	Engel	Kilmer
F.	Eshoo	Kind
Brady (PA)	Esty	King (IA)
Brady (TX)	Farenthold	King (NY)
Bridenstine	Farr	Kinzinger (IL)
Brooks (IN)	Fattah	Kirkpatrick
Brown (FL)	Fitzpatrick	Kline
Brownley (CA)	Fleischmann	Knight
Buchanan	Fleming	Kuster
Bucshon	Forbes	Labrador
Bustos	Fortenberry	LaHood
Butterfield	Foster	LaMalfa
Calvert	Frankel (FL)	Lamborn
Capps	Franks (AZ)	Lance
Cardenas	Fudge	Langevin
Carney	Gabbard	Larsen (WA)
Carson (IN)	Garamendi	Larson (CT)
Carter (GA)	Garrett	Latta
Carter (TX)	Gibbs	Lawrence
Cartwright	Gibson	Lee
Castor (FL)	Goodlatte	Levin
Chabot	Graham	Lewis
Chaffetz	Granger	Lieu, Ted
Chu, Judy	Graves (LA)	Lipinski
Cicilline	Graves (MO)	LoBiondo
Clark (MA)	Grayson	Loeback
Clarke (NY)	Green, Al	Loftgren
Clawson (FL)	Griffith	Long
Cleaver	Grijalva	Loudermilk
Clyburn	Grothman	Love
Coffman	Guinta	Lowenthal
Cohen	Guthrie	Lowey
Cole	Gutiérrez	Lucas
Collins (GA)	Hahn	Luetkemeyer
Collins (NY)	Hardy	Lujan Grisham
Comstock	Harper	(NM)
Conaway	Harris	Luján, Ben Ray
Connolly	Hartzler	(NM)
Conyers	Hastings	Lummis
Cook	Heck (NV)	Lynch
Cooper	Heck (WA)	MacArthur
Costello (PA)	Hensarling	Maloney,
Courtney	Hice, Jody B.	Carolyn
Crawford	Higgins	Marchant
Crenshaw	Hill	Matsui
Cuellar	Hinojosa	McCarthy
Culberson	Holding	McCaul
Cummings	Honda	McClintock
Curbelo (FL)	Hoyer	McCollum
Davis (CA)	Huelskamp	McDermott

McGovern	Price, Tom	Stefanik
McHenry	Quigley	Stewart
McKinley	Rangel	Stivers
McMorris	Ratcliffe	Swalwell (CA)
Rodgers	Reed	Takai
McNerney	Reichert	Takano
McSally	Renacci	Thompson (CA)
Meadows	Ribble	Thompson (MS)
Meehan	Rice (NY)	Thompson (PA)
Meeks	Rice (SC)	Thornberry
Meng	Rigell	Tiberi
Messer	Roby	Tipton
Mica	Roe (TN)	Titus
Miller (FL)	Rogers (AL)	Tonko
Miller (MI)	Rogers (KY)	Torres
Moolenaar	Rohrabacher	Trott
Mooney (WV)	Rokita	Tsongas
Moore	Rooney (FL)	Turner
Moulton	Ros-Lehtinen	Upton
Mulvaney	Roskam	Valadao
Murphy (FL)	Ross	Van Hollen
Murphy (PA)	Rothfus	Vargas
Nadler	Rouzer	Veasey
Napolitano	Roybal-Allard	Velázquez
Neal	Royce	Visclosky
Neugebauer	Ruiz	Wagner
Newhouse	Ruppersberger	Walberg
Noem	Russell	Walden
Nolan	Ryan (OH)	Walker
Norcross	Salmon	Walorski
Nugent	Sánchez, Linda	Walters, Mimi
Nunes	T.	Walz
O'Rourke	Sarbanes	Wasserman
Olson	Scalise	Schultz
Palazzo	Schakowsky	Waters, Maxine
Pallone	Schiff	Watson Coleman
Pascrell	Schrader	Weber (TX)
Paulsen	Schweikert	Webster (FL)
Payne	Scott (VA)	Welch
Pearce	Scott, Austin	Wenstrup
Pelosi	Scott, David	Westerman
Perlmutter	Serrano	Whitfield
Perry	Sessions	Williams
Peters	Sewell (AL)	Wilson (FL)
Peterson	Sherman	Wilson (SC)
Pingree	Shimkus	Wittman
Pittenger	Shuster	Womack
Pitts	Simpson	Woodall
Pocan	Sinema	Yoder
Poe (TX)	Slaughter	Young (AK)
Poliquin	Smith (MO)	Young (IA)
Polis	Smith (NE)	Young (IN)
Pompeo	Smith (NJ)	Zeldin
Posey	Smith (TX)	Zinke
Price (NC)	Speier	

NAYS—12

Amash	Burgess	Massie
Brat	Duncan (SC)	Palmer
Brooks (AL)	Fox	Sanford
Buck	Gosar	Sensenbrenner

NOT VOTING—34

Beyer	Gohmert	Richmond
Byrne	Gowdy	Rush
Capuano	Graves (GA)	Sanchez, Loretta
Castro (TX)	Green, Gene	Sires
Clay	Hanna	Smith (WA)
Costa	Herrera Beutler	Stutzman
Cramer	Himes	Vela
Crowley	Hudson	Westmoreland
Fincher	Huizenga (MI)	Yarmuth
Flores	Maloney, Sean	Yoho
Frelinghuysen	Marino	
Galleo	Mullin	

□ 1850

Ms. CLARKE of New York and Mr. HINOJOSA changed their 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. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 64, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I was absent today to attend the funeral of a family member. Had I been present, on rollcall No. 64, I would have voted "yes."