

supported it when it passed in the House last week.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask today that You bless the Members of the people's House, to be the best and most faithful servants of the people they serve.

May they be filled with gratitude at the opportunity they have to serve in this place. We thank You for the abilities they have been given to do their work, to contribute to the common good.

As this second session of the 114th Congress draws near its end, and legislative business once again weighs heavily on this Hill, withhold not Your spirit of wisdom and truth from this assembly. Give each Member clarity of thought and purity of motive so that they may render their service as their best selves.

In this time of waiting, as people of faith prepare for holy celebrations, bless our Nation with peace and good will. May all Americans of whatever faith or background work together to build a commonweal, something which can only be accomplished by Your grace.

May all that is done this day in the people's House, be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause one, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HONORING AIR FORCE LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROCKO RODRIGUEZ

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, I am grateful to express my appreciation to Lieutenant Colonel Rocko Rodriguez, U.S. Air Force, of San Antonio, Texas.

For the past year, I have had the privilege of working alongside Rocko in the office as he served the people of South Carolina's Second Congressional District as a defense fellow on assignment from the Air Force.

Lieutenant Colonel Rodriguez was commissioned in 2001, through the Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. He distinguished himself early as a leader, holding various positions in special operations and cyber operations. Rocko has served honorably in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, Southern Watch, and Deny Flight.

Rocko is a dedicated member of the Air Force with academic achievements. He will graduate from the Air Force Legislative Fellowship program this Thursday and will receive his masters of science degree from Georgetown University Government Affairs Institute. Lieutenant Colonel Rodriguez will soon be transitioning to work at the U.S. Cyber Command Legislative Affairs Branch.

I wish Rocko, his wife, Sarah, and his four children, Kaitlyn, Natalie, Troy, and Timothy, all the best for continued success.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

RECOGNIZING EL DORADO SPRINGS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the El Dorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, which was honored among the 200 local chambers as the 2016 Missouri Small Chamber of Commerce of the Year.

The title is much deserved as the El Dorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, under Executive Director Jackson Tough, has been a leader in promoting economic development, community service, and tourism in the area.

I am honored to represent this distinguished organization.

With around 125 members, the chamber has created a number of initiatives to better its community, including the "Clean-Up ElDo Mo" project to keep the city pristine, a youth scholarship fund to make sure tomorrow's leaders

have the opportunities they need today, and a social media initiative "Be in the Know about ElDo Mo" to raise awareness about this wonderful city and its residents.

Communities like El Dorado Springs are the foundation of Missouri and our way of life. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of these chamber leaders, we continue to sustain and strengthen our communities.

I applaud the chamber's work to grow and sustain its community, recognizing its specific assets and opportunities, and I congratulate the chamber on all its accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING NEW DEMOCRAT COALITION LEADERSHIP

(Mr. PETERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the newly elected leadership of the New Democrat Coalition.

Our new chair, JIM HIMES, and newly elected co-chairs, JARED POLIS, SUZAN DELBENE, TERRI SEWELL, and DEREK KILMER, are strong, bipartisan pro-growth leaders. They bring the vision and experience to guide the New Democrat Coalition in the 115th Congress.

New Dems are pragmatic leaders who stand up for working families and work across the aisle to expand economic opportunity. They are focused on creating jobs and building an economy that leaves no one behind, a mission that will not change under the next administration.

I am eager to work with our new leadership—and our 54 members—as we continue to make the New Democrat Coalition the home for strong civil rights and sensible, bipartisan, pro-growth policy in Congress.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 2, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 2, 2016, at 1:35 p.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 1561.

That the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House S. 2577.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of

the resignation of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HAHN), the whole number of the House is 434.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 2, 2016.
Speaker PAUL D. RYAN,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN: I hereby tender my resignation from the U.S. House of Representatives effective midnight on December 31, 2016. It has been my distinct honor to serve the people of Michigan's Tenth Congressional District for the past 14 years and I look forward to continuing my life in public service.

Sincerely,

CANDICE S. MILLER,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 2, 2016.
Governor RICK SNYDER,
Lansing, MI.

DEAR GOVERNOR SNYDER: I hereby tender my resignation from the U.S. House of Representatives effective midnight on December 31, 2016. It has been my distinct honor to serve the people of Michigan's Tenth Congressional District for the past 14 years and I look forward to continuing my life in public service.

Sincerely,

CANDICE S. MILLER,
Member of Congress.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:30 p.m. today.

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

□ 1630

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROTHFUS) at 4 o'clock and 30 minutes 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.

ENHANCING WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION FOR CONTRACTOR AND GRANTEE EMPLOYEES

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(S. 795) to enhance whistleblower protection for contractor and grantee employees.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 795

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

SECTION 1. ENHANCEMENT OF WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION FOR CONTRACTOR AND GRANTEE EMPLOYEES.

(a) PROTECTION FOR EMPLOYEES OF GRANTEES AND SUBGRANTEES.—

(1) DEFENSE GRANTS.—Section 2409(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting “or personal services contractor” after “subgrantee”.

(2) CIVILIAN GRANTS.—Section 4712(a)(1) of title 41, United States Code, is amended by striking “or grantee” and inserting “grantee, or subgrantee or personal services contractor”.

(3) PERMANENT EXTENSION OF PILOT PROGRAM FOR ENHANCEMENT OF CONTRACTOR PROTECTION FROM REPRISAL FOR DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 4712 of title 41, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in the section heading by striking “Pilot program for enhancement” and inserting “Enhancement”; and

(ii) by striking subsection (i).

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 47 of title 41, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 4712 and inserting the following new item:

“4712. Enhancement of contractor protection from reprisal for disclosure of certain information.”

(b) PROHIBITION ON REIMBURSEMENT FOR LEGAL FEES ACCRUED IN DEFENSE AGAINST REPRISAL CLAIMS.—

(1) DEFENSE CONTRACTS.—Section 2324(k) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by inserting “or subcontractor, or personal services contractor” after “contractor” each place it appears;

(B) by inserting “, subcontract, or personal services contract” after “contract” each place it appears; and

(C) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or to any other activity described in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 2409(a)(1) of this title” after “statute or regulation”.

(2) CIVILIAN CONTRACTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 4310 of title 41, United States Code, is amended—

(i) by inserting “, subcontractor, or personal services contractor” after “contractor” each place it appears;

(ii) by inserting “, subcontract, or personal services contract” after “contract” each place it appears; and

(iii) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “or to any other activity described in section 4712(a)(1) of this title” after “statute or regulation”.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 4304(a)(15) of title 41, United States Code, is amended by inserting “or subcontractor, or personal service contractor” after “contractor”.

(c) INCLUSION OF CONTRACT CLAUSE IN CONTRACTS AWARDED BEFORE EFFECTIVE DATE.—At the time of any major modification to a contract that was awarded before the date of the enactment of this Act, the head of the contracting agency shall make best efforts to include in the contract a contract clause providing for the applicability of the amendments made by this section and section 827 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 1833).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. 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 materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill, S. 795, a bill to enhance whistleblower protection for contractor and grantee employees. It is a bill with good bipartisan support in both Chambers of Congress.

I really do applaud and thank, in particular, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), the ranking member on our committee, who has helped champion this and point this out and lead our efforts in the House on this.

In the House, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform considered an identical bill, the Whistleblower Protections for Contractors Act, introduced by Ranking Member CUMMINGS and myself, and the committee reported this legislation by unanimous consent. In the Senate, it has been Senators McCASKILL and RON JOHNSON who have worked arm in arm on this and are also very supportive of it. Today we bring up the Senate version of this bill to expedite its approval to get this bill to the President's desk.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, whistleblowers are invaluable to the oversight work of Congress. We rely on people who are on the front lines seeing things as they truly are to provide information and blow the whistle when they see something going awry. They are one of our best sources of information about waste, fraud, and abuse within the Federal Government.

As an institution, we should try to do everything we can to encourage them to come and speak with us, and when they do, to make sure that they have the proper and adequate protections. That is exactly what this bill does, by recognizing that not all whistleblowers are Federal employees. We have robust Federal recognition and whistleblower protection for Federal employees, and we believe that contractors and others should have that as well.

It makes permanent a successful pilot program that extended whistleblower protections to civilian contractor and grantee employees. It also ensures whistleblower protections are extended to subgrantees and personal services contractors for both defense and civilian contractors. It is important because the Federal Government