

and court proceedings. Agencies would be required to provide information requested by the ACUS for the development of the database, but, importantly, the ACUS would be required to withhold information from the database if disclosure is prohibited by law or court order, the privacy that was just recently mentioned.

The Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act ensures that agencies are operating under the watchful public eye and that taxpayer dollars are being spent properly.

Our Federal Government is too big, in my opinion, and I believe it needs to be downsized; but until we make that happen, transparency should be the minimum requirement. That is why H.R. 1033 is important. It is common sense, plain and simple. When the Federal Government is spending money, Congress needs to exercise oversight to ensure it is being done the way the law requires.

For most people who are facing a lawsuit against the Federal Government, it is a once-in-a-lifetime challenge and a daunting suit to undertake, even if they are completely in the right. It is only fair that when the court rules in favor of an American in litigation against a Federal agency, the American should be permitted to recoup their legal costs from that Federal agency.

This act gave Americans the power to take on our vast and sprawling bureaucracy by removing barriers to justice for those with limited access to resources. However, since the original reporting requirements were halted by Congress, information on these payments under law is severely lacking. This tracking will ensure the integrity and the purpose in which the Congress had set forth.

It is past time we shine light on this issue. We owe transparency to the taxpayers who are financing the law, and we owe it to the citizens, the small businesses, the veterans, and the Social Security claimants, who rely on the law.

H.R. 1033 represents a bipartisan agreement that transparency over payments that were made under the Equal Access to Justice Act needs to be restored. The Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act will help ensure that taxpayer dollars are being spent as intended under this law. This will bring the transparency and accountability back to a program where it is sorely needed; and that is just as simple and plain as it can get. So I would urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Georgia has made a very powerful argument for a bipartisan push for transparency and accountability.

I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time, and I appreciate the kind words that Chairman GOODLATTE

and my friend, Mr. COLLINS, have tossed my way.

We do get along up here, amazingly enough. People think that we all just fight all the time and we have nothing in common. There are some big issues that do divide us, and that is why you have competitive elections with two parties and two different debates. But most folks up here get along, and are friends, and we do have legislation that we can work on, and this is one of those places where Mr. COLLINS and Mr. GOODLATTE and other members of the Judiciary Committee worked with me and others to bring this bill to the floor.

The Equal Access to Justice Act will allow Americans to recover attorneys' fees and costs when they win a lawsuit against the Federal Government. This will enable ordinary citizens, veterans, seniors, small business owners, advocates for clean air and clean water, et cetera, to fight unfair or illegal government actions without fear of having to pay court costs and without fear of having attorneys' fees that they otherwise might not be able to afford.

The law has been a success. However, in 1995, an important reporting requirement was removed from the law, and it made it harder for the public to see how much money the government had awarded. Our bill, H.R. 1033, the Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act, restores the law's tracking and reporting requirements of payments awarded so the American people can have access to this important information. It will do this by requiring the group called ACUS, an acronym, which we have too many of up here, but this one is the Administrative Conference of the United States, a highly respected nonpartisan agency which was greatly championed by Justice Scalia, to post in an online database the fees and costs awarded in these cases. The database would also include the number and nature of the claims involved. The availability of this information will help keep the public informed and help Congress to conduct better oversight.

I thank my Judiciary Committee colleague, DOUG COLLINS from Georgia, for his partnership on the bill. I would like to thank Representatives SCHRADLER and COLLIN PETERSON for their support for this bill on our side of the aisle, as well as JASON CHAFFETZ, LIZ CHENEY, PAUL GOSAR, and RAUL LABRADOR on the Republican side, as well as Chairman GOODLATTE.

And I would like to recall the work of our former colleague, Congresswoman Cynthia Lummis, who had this bill in the past, and we worked together to try to make it a bipartisan effort and pass it. She worked doggedly on the legislation for years, and I know that she will be pleased that we are building upon her efforts. And while she is no longer here, she is truly in a better place, Wyoming, I think it is, a nice place.

I urge the House to pass the Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act. And I was pleased the Cats won.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I do not believe I have any speakers remaining.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to recognize my colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

As Mr. COHEN has pointed out, this legislation has been a model of bipartisan collaboration, and the work product shows the investment of both sides in it. So I want to salute everybody for their diligence in helping to craft this important legislation. The gentlemen from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN), as well as our former colleague, the gentlewoman from Wyoming, Ms. Lummis, have cooperatively worked to effectuate a very effective, commonsense bill that will improve the accountability and the transparency of the Federal Government. This is a commendable accomplishment.

Accordingly, I would ask all of our colleagues to join us in supporting this legislation.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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. 1033.

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 31 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. HOLDING) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 699, by the yeas and nays; and

H.R. 863, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second

electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

MOUNT HOOD COOPER SPUR LAND EXCHANGE CLARIFICATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 699) to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify provisions relating to certain land exchanges in the Mt. Hood Wilderness in the State of Oregon, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. McCCLINTOCK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 1, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 100]

YEAS—415

Abraham	Cleaver	Foxx	Kelly (IL)	Moulton	Scott, David	Stated for:
Adams	Clyburn	Frankel (FL)	Kelly (MS)	Mullin	Sensenbrenner	Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably
Aderholt	Coffman	Franks (AZ)	Kelly (PA)	Murphy (FL)	Serrano	detained. Had I been present, I would have
Aguilar	Cohen	Frelinghuysen	Kennedy	Murphy (PA)	Sessions	voted "Yea" on rollcall No. 100.
Allen	Cole	Fudge	Khanna	Nadler	Sewell (AL)	
Amodei	Collins (GA)	Gabbard	Kihuen	Napolitano	Shea-Porter	
Arrington	Collins (NY)	Gaetz	Kildee	Neal	Sherman	
Babin	Comer	Gallagher	Kilmer	Newhouse	Shimkus	
Bacon	Comstock	Gallego	Kind	Noem	Shuster	
Banks (IN)	Conaway	Garamendi	King (IA)	Nolan	Simpson	
Barletta	Connolly	Garrett	King (NY)	Norcross	Sinema	
Barr	Conyers	Gibbs	Kinzinger	Nunes	Sires	
Barragán	Cook	Gohmert	Knight	O'Halleran	Slaughter	
Bass	Cooper	Gonzalez (TX)	Krishnamoorthi	O'Rourke	Smith (MO)	
Beatty	Correa	Goodlatte	Kuster (NH)	Olson	Smith (NE)	
Bera	Costa	Gosar	Kustoff (TN)	Palazzo	Smith (NJ)	
Bergman	Costello (PA)	Gottheimer	Labrador	Pallone	Smith (TX)	
Beyer	Courtney	Gowdy	LaHood	Palmer	Smith (WA)	
Biggs	Cramer	Granger	LaMalfa	Panetta	Smucker	
Bilirakis	Crist	Graves (GA)	Lamborn	Pascarella	Soto	
Bishop (GA)	Crowley	Graves (LA)	Lance	Paulsen	Speier	
Bishop (MI)	Cuellar	Graves (MO)	Langevin	Payne	Stefanik	
Bishop (UT)	Culberson	Green, Al	Larsen (WA)	Pearce	Stewart	
Black	Cummings	Green, Gene	Larson (CT)	Pelosi	Stivers	
Blackburn	Curbelo (FL)	Griffith	Latta	Perlmutter	Suozzi	
Blum	Davidson	Grothman	Lawrence	Perry	Swalwell (CA)	
Blumenauer	Davis (CA)	Guthrie	Lawson (FL)	Peters	Takano	
Blunt Rochester	Davis, Danny	Hananabusa	Lee	Peterson	Taylor	
Bonamici	Davis, Rodney	Harper	Levin	Pingree	Tenney	
Bost	DeFazio	Harris	Lewis (GA)	Pittenger	Thompson (CA)	
Boyle, Brendan F.	DeGette	Hartzler	Lewis (MN)	Pocan	Thompson (MS)	
Brady (PA)	Delaney	Hastings	Lieu, Ted	Poe (TX)	Thompson (PA)	
Brady (TX)	DeLauro	Heck	Lipinski	Poliquin	Thornberry	
Brat	DelBene	Hensarling	LoBiondo	Polis	Tiberi	
Bridenstine	Demings	Herrera Beutler	Loebsack	Posey	Tipton	
Brooks (AL)	Denham	Hice, Jody B.	Long	Price (NC)	Titus	
Brooks (IN)	Dent	Higgins (LA)	Loudermilk	Quigley	Tonko	
Brown (MD)	DeSantis	Higgins (NY)	Love	Raskin	Torres	
Brownley (CA)	DeSaulnier	Hill	Lowenthal	Ratcliffe	Trott	
Buchanan	DesJarlais	Himes	Luetkemeyer	Lucas	Renacci	
Buck	Deutch	Holding	Lujan Grisham, M.	Rice (NY)	Rice (SC)	
Bucson	Diaz-Balart	Hollingsworth	MacArthur	Richmond	Valadao	
Budd	Dingell	Hoyer	Maloney	Richmond	Vargas	
Burgess	Doggett	Hudson	Maloney, Sean	Roe (TN)	Veasey	
Bustos	Donovan	Huffman	Marchant	Marino	Vela	
Byrne	Doyle, Michael F.	Huizenga	Marshall	Ros-Lehtinen	Velázquez	
Calvert	Duffy	Hultgren	Massie	Rosen	Visclosky	
Capuano	Duncan (SC)	Hurd	Mast	Roskam	Wagner	
Carbajal	Duncan (TN)	Issa	Matsui	Ross	Walberg	
Cárdenas	Dunn	Jackson Lee	McCarthy	Rothfus	Walden	
Carson (IN)	Emmer	Jayapal	McCaull	Rouzer	Walker	
Carter (GA)	Engel	Jeffries	McCollum	Royal-Ballard	Waterson	
Carter (TX)	Eshoo	Jenkins (KS)	McEachin	Rutherford	Watson Coleman	
Cartwright	Espaillet	Jenkins (WV)	McGovern	Roybal-Allard	Weber (TX)	
Castor (FL)	Esty	Johnson (GA)	McHenry	Royce (CA)	Webster (FL)	
Castro (TX)	Evans	Johnson (LA)	McKinley	Rutherford	Wasserman	
Chabot	Farenthold	Johnson (OH)	McMorris	Ryan (OH)	Schultz	
Chaffetz	Faso	Johnson, E. B.	Rodgers	Russell	Titus	
Cheney	Ferguson	Jones	McNerney	Rutherford	Tonko	
Chu, Judy	Fitzpatrick	Jordan	McNerney	Ryan (PA)	Torres	
Cicilline	Fleischmann	Joyce (OH)	McSally	Rutherford	Trott	
Clark (MA)	Flores	Kaptur	Meadows	Ryan (TX)	Tuttle	
Clarke (NY)	Fortenberry	Katko	Meehan	Rutherford	Walberg	
Clay	Foster	Keating	Moore	Schakowsky	Walden	

NAYS—1

Amash

NOT VOTING—14

Barton	Gutiérrez	Rohrabacher
Butterfield	Hunter	Rush
Crawford	Lofgren	Wilson (FL)
Ellison	Meng	Zinke
Grijalva	Reed	Zeldin

□ 1852

Mr. HIGGINS of New York changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intent to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President shall immediately disclose his tax return information to Congress and the American people.

Whereas, in the United States' system of checks and balances, Congress has a responsibility to hold the executive branch of government to the highest standard of transparency to ensure the public interest is placed first;

Whereas, according to the Tax History Project, every President since Gerald Ford has disclosed their tax return information to the public;

Whereas, tax returns provide an important baseline disclosure because they contain highly instructive information including whether the candidate paid taxes, what they own, what they have borrowed and from whom, whether they have made any charitable donations, and whether they have taken advantage of tax loopholes;

Whereas, disclosure of the President's tax returns could help those investigating Russian influence in the 2016 election understand the President's financial ties to the Russian Federation and Russian citizens, including debts owed and whether he shares any partnership interests, equity interests, joint ventures or licensing agreements with Russia or Russians;

Whereas, The New York Times has reported that President Trump's close senior advisers, including Carter Page, Paul Manafort, Roger Stone, and General Michael Flynn, have been under investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for their ties to the Russian Federation;

Whereas, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told Interfax, a Russian media outlet, on November 10, 2016 that "there were contacts" with Donald Trump's 2016 campaign, and it has been reported that members of President Trump's inner circle were in contact with senior Russian officials throughout the 2016 campaign;

Whereas, according to his 2016 candidate filing with the Federal Election Commission, the President has 564 financial positions in companies located in the United States and around the world;

Whereas, against the advice of ethics attorneys and the Office of Government Ethics, the President has refused to divest his ownership stake in his businesses;