

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1252, the Department of Homeland Security Acquisition Authorities Act of 2017.

The Department of Homeland Security has been routinely criticized over the years by watchdogs at the Government Accountability Office and DHS Office of Inspector General for failing to responsibly manage its major acquisition programs. These programs, which secure our borders, safeguard our cyber networks, protect air travelers, defend our shores, among other critical missions, and cost taxpayers billions of dollars every year.

Watchdogs have previously reported how DHS leadership has failed to hold programs accountable to its own acquisition policies. In some cases, these programs have spent billions of dollars of American treasure without having to show what they will ultimately cost, when they will be complete, and what benefits they will deliver to frontline operators. DHS' Under Secretary for Management has not had the force of law to hold these programs accountable until now.

My bill establishes a top cop in the Under Secretary for Management as Chief Acquisitions Officer to oversee these billion-dollar programs. It requires thoughtful management of major acquisition programs based on private sector best practices. My bill requires strong accountability measures to oversee major acquisition programs so that these critical tools get into the hands of those defending our homeland on time and on budget.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, March 10, 2017.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL, Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing concerning H.R. 1252, the "DHS Acquisition Authorities Act of 2017," which your Committee ordered reported on March 8, 2017.

H.R. 1252 contains provisions within the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology's Rule X jurisdiction. In order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology will forego action on the bill. This is being done on the basis of our mutual understanding that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with respect to the appointment of conferees, or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,  
Washington, DC, March 10, 2017.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH, Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1252, the "DHS Acquisition Authorities Act of 2017." I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and accordingly, understand that the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology will not seek a sequential referral on the bill.

The Committee on Homeland Security concurs with the mutual understanding that by foregoing a sequential referral of this bill at this time, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this bill or similar legislation in the future. In addition, should a conference on this bill be necessary, I would support a request by the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology for conferees on those provisions within your jurisdiction.

I will insert copies of this exchange in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,  
Chairman.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 1252, the DHS Acquisition Authorities Act of 2017. The Department of Homeland Security has limited acquisition resources and must be effective stewards of taxpayer dollars. As such, DHS' procurement practices must be sound, effective, and adhered to throughout the organization.

Although DHS has come a long way since its inception in 2002, acquisition management remains a challenge for the Department. In fact, a 2015 assessment by the GAO of DHS' largest acquisition programs determined that only 2 of the 22 reviewed programs were on track to meet their initial schedule and cost parameters.

Responsibility for addressing weaknesses in acquisitions management and increasing effectiveness of DHS' major acquisitions begins at the top, with the DHS leadership. To that end, H.R. 1252 codifies that acquisition decision authority rests with the Under Secretary for Management as the Department's Chief Acquisition Officer.

H.R. 1252 authorizes the Under Secretary for Management to mandate acquisition policies, establishes the Under Secretary as lead of the Department's acquisition oversight body, and charges the Secretary regarding acquisition management activities.

To ensure greater oversight of the Department's procurement activities, H.R. 1252 also establishes acquisition management functions for DHS' Chief Financial Officer, Chief Information Officer, and the Program Accountability and Risk Management Office.

This legislation is intended to clarify roles and responsibilities within DHS acquisition management activities and

increase accountability of the Department's procedures, particularly those classified as underperforming.

H.R. 1252 was approved by the House in October 2015, and was approved unanimously by the Committee on Homeland Security just a few weeks ago.

Given the complexity of the organization, it is incumbent upon the Department to tackle its diverse procurement challenges from the top down.

H.R. 1252 codifies the acquisition management roles within the Department and supports enhanced accountability in management of DHS' acquisitions.

By passing this legislation, Congress can take another important step toward increasing efficiency and improving outcomes of DHS' major acquisition programs.

I join in congratulating the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) on the good work that he has done here.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of H.R. 1252, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New Jersey. I, once again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1252, as amended.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1252, as amended.

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. HIGGINS of Louisiana. 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.

## 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 4 o'clock and 37 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. WOMACK) 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. 1294, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1249, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1252, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

## REDUCING DHS ACQUISITION COST GROWTH ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1294) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for congressional notification regarding major acquisition program breaches, and for other purposes, 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 Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 408, nays 0, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 173]

YEAS—408

Abraham	Carson (IN)	Dingell
Adams	Carter (GA)	Doggett
Aderholt	Carter (TX)	Donovan
Aguilar	Cartwright	Doyle, Michael
Allen	Castor (FL)	F.
Amash	Castro (TX)	Duffy
Amodei	Chabot	Duncan (TN)
Arrington	Chaffetz	Dunn
Babin	Cheney	Ellison
Bacon	Chu, Judy	Emmer
Banks (IN)	Cicilline	Engel
Barletta	Clark (MA)	Eshoo
Barragán	Clay	Espallat
Barton	Clyburn	Esty
Bass	Coffman	Evans
Beatty	Cohen	Farenthold
Bera	Cole	Faso
Bergman	Collins (GA)	Ferguson
Beyer	Collins (NY)	Fitzpatrick
Biggs	Comstock	Fleischmann
Bilirakis	Conaway	Flores
Bishop (GA)	Connolly	Foster
Bishop (MI)	Conyers	Fox
Bishop (UT)	Cook	Frankel (FL)
Black	Cooper	Franks (AZ)
Blackburn	Correa	Frelinghuysen
Blum	Costa	Fudge
Blumenauer	Costello (PA)	Gabbard
Blunt Rochester	Courtney	Gaetz
Bonamici	Cramer	Gallagher
Bost	Crawford	Galleo
Boyle, Brendan	Crist	Garamendi
F.	Crowley	Garrett
Brady (PA)	Cuellar	Gibbs
Brady (TX)	Culberson	Gohmert
Brat	Cummings	Gonzalez (TX)
Bridenstine	Curbelo (FL)	Goodlatte
Brooks (AL)	Davidson	Gosar
Brooks (IN)	Davis (CA)	Gottheimer
Brown (MD)	Davis, Danny	Gowdy
Brownley (CA)	Davis, Rodney	Granger
Buchanan	DeFazio	Graves (GA)
Buck	DeGette	Graves (LA)
Bucshon	Delaney	Graves (MO)
Budd	DeLauro	Green, Al
Burgess	DelBene	Green, Gene
Bustos	Demings	Griffith
Butterfield	Denham	Grijalva
Byrne	Dent	Grothman
Calvert	DeSantis	Guthrie
Capuano	DeSaulnier	Hanabusa
Carbajal	DesJarlais	Harper
Cárdenas	Diaz-Balart	Harris

Hartzler	Marshall	Russell
Hastings	Massie	Rutherford
Heck	Mast	Ryan (OH)
Hensarling	Matsui	Sánchez
Herrera Beutler	McCarthy	Sanford
Hice, Jody B.	McCaul	Sarbanes
Higgins (LA)	McClintock	Scalise
Higgins (NY)	McCollum	Schakowsky
Hill	McEachin	Schiff
Himes	McGovern	Schneider
Holding	McHenry	Schrader
Hollingsworth	McKinley	Schweikert
Hudson	McMorris	Scott (VA)
Huffman	Rodgers	Scott, Austin
Huizenga	McNerney	Scott, David
Hultgren	McSally	Sensenbrenner
Hunter	Meadows	Serrano
Hurd	Meehan	Sessions
Issa	Meeks	Sewell (AL)
Jackson Lee	Meng	Shea-Porter
Jayapal	Messer	Sherman
Jeffries	Mitchell	Shimkus
Jenkins (KS)	Moolenaar	Shuster
Jenkins (WV)	Mooney (WV)	Simpson
Johnson (GA)	Moore	Sires
Johnson (LA)	Moulton	Smith (MO)
Johnson (OH)	Mullin	Smith (NE)
Johnson, E. B.	Murphy (FL)	Smith (NJ)
Johnson, Sam	Murphy (PA)	Smith (TX)
Jones	Nadler	Smith (WA)
Jordan	Napolitano	Smucker
Joyce (OH)	Neal	Soto
Kaptur	Newhouse	Speier
Katko	Noem	Stefanik
Keating	Nolan	Stewart
Kelly (IL)	Norcross	Stivers
Kelly (MS)	Nunes	Swalwell (CA)
Kelly (PA)	O'Halloran	Takano
Kennedy	O'Rourke	Taylor
Khanna	Olson	Tenney
Kihuen	Palazzo	Thompson (CA)
Kildee	Pallone	Thompson (MS)
Kilmer	Palmer	Thompson (PA)
Kind	Panetta	Thornberry
King (IA)	Pascrell	Tiberi
King (NY)	Paulsen	Tipton
Kinziger	Pearce	Tonko
Knight	Pelosi	Torres
Krishnamoorthi	Perlmutter	Trott
Kuster (NH)	Perry	Turner
Kustoff (TN)	Peters	Upton
Labrador	Peterson	Vargas
LaHood	Pingree	Veasey
LaMalfa	Pittenger	Vela
Lamborn	Pocan	Velázquez
Lance	Poe (TX)	Visclosky
Langevin	Poliquin	Wagner
Larsen (WA)	Polis	Walberg
Larson (CT)	Posey	Walden
Latta	Price (NC)	Walker
Lawrence	Quigley	Walorski
Lawson (FL)	Raskin	Walters, Mimi
Lee	Ratcliffe	Walz
Levin	Reed	Wasserman
Lewis (GA)	Reichert	Schultz
Lewis (MN)	Rice (NY)	Waters, Maxine
Lieu, Ted	Rice (SC)	Watson Coleman
Lipinski	Richmond	Weber (TX)
LoBiondo	Roby	Webster (FL)
Loebach	Roe (TN)	Welch
Lofgren	Rogers (AL)	Wenstrup
Long	Rogers (KY)	Westerman
Loudermilk	Rokita	Williams
Love	Rooney, Francis	Wilson (FL)
Lowenthal	Rooney, Thomas	Wilson (SC)
Lowe	J.	Wittman
Lucas	Ros-Lehtinen	Womack
Luetkemeyer	Rosen	Woodall
Lujan Grisham,	Roskam	Yarmuth
M.	Ross	Yoder
Lujan, Ben Ray	Rothfus	Yoho
Lynch	Rouzer	Young (AK)
Maloney,	Roybal-Allard	Young (IA)
Carolyn B.	Royce (CA)	Zeldin
Maloney, Sean	Ruiz	
Marino	Ruppersberger	

NOT VOTING—21

Barr	Gutiérrez	Rush
Clarke (NY)	Hoyer	Sinema
Cleaver	MacArthur	Slaughter
Comer	Marchant	Suozi
Deutch	Payne	Titus
Duncan (SC)	Renacci	Tsongas
Fortenberry	Rohrabacher	Valadao

□ 1851

Messrs. WELCH and AL GREEN of Texas changed their 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 PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intention 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 can be influenced by foreign entities and reveal any conflicts of interest;

Whereas, Article I, section 9 of the Constitution states that no person holding any office of profit or trust under them, shall, without the consent of Congress, accept any present, emolument, Office or Title, of any kind whatever from any King, Prince, or foreign State;

Whereas, disclosure of the President's tax returns is important towards investigating Russian influence in the 2016 election, understanding 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 Russian nationals, formally or informally associated with Vladimir Putin;

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”