

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 Under Secretary with advising 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	Hartzler	Marshall	Russell
Adams	Carter (GA)	Doggett	Hastings	Massie	Rutherford
Aderholt	Carter (TX)	Donovan	Heck	Mast	Ryan (OH)
Aguilar	Cartwright	Doyle, Michael	Hensarling	Matsui	Sánchez
Allen	Castor (FL)	F.	Herrera Beutler	McCarthy	Sanford
Amash	Castro (TX)	Duffy	Hice, Jody B.	McCaul	Sarbanes
Amodei	Chabot	Duncan (TN)	Higgins (LA)	McClintock	Scalise
Arrington	Chaffetz	Dunn	Higgins (NY)	McCollum	Skakowsky
Babin	Cheney	Ellison	Hill	McEachin	Schiff
Bacon	Chu, Judy	Emmer	Himes	McGovern	Schneider
Banks (IN)	Cicilline	Engel	Holding	McHenry	Schrader
Barletta	Clark (MA)	Eshoo	Hollingsworth	McKinley	Schweikert
Barragán	Clay	Espaillat	Hudson	McMorris	Scott (VA)
Barton	Clyburn	Esty	Huffman	Rodgers	Scott, Austin
Bass	Coffman	Evans	Huizenga	McNerney	Scott, David
Beatty	Cohen	Farenthold	Hultgren	McSally	Sensenbrenner
Bera	Cole	Faso	Hurd	Meadows	Serrano
Bergman	Collins (GA)	Ferguson	Issa	Meehan	Sessions
Beyer	Collins (NY)	Fitzpatrick	Jackson Lee	Meeks	Sewell (AL)
Biggs	Comstock	Fleischmann	Jayapal	Meng	Shea-Porter
Bilirakis	Conaway	Flores	Jeffries	Messer	Sherman
Bishop (GA)	Connolly	Foster	Jenkins (KS)	Mitchell	Shimkus
Bishop (MI)	Congers	Foxx	Jenkins (WV)	Moolenaar	Shuster
Bishop (UT)	Cook	Frankel (FL)	Johnson (GA)	Mooney (WV)	Simpson
Black	Cooper	Garrison	Johnson (LA)	Moore	Sires
Blackburn	Correa	Gallagher	Johnson (OH)	Moulton	Smith (MO)
Blum	Costa	Galligan	Johnson, E. B.	Mullin	Smith (NE)
Blumenauer	Costello (PA)	Garcia	Johnson, Sam	Murphy (FL)	Smith (NJ)
Blunt Rochester	Courtney	Garcia	Jones	Murphy (PA)	Smith (TX)
Bonamici	Cramer	Garcia	Jordan	Nadler	Smith (WA)
Bost	Crawford	Gallagher	Joyce (OH)	Napolitano	Smucker
Boyle, Brendan F.	Crist	Frelinghuysen	Kaptur	Neal	Soto
Brady (PA)	Crowley	Fudge	Katko	Newhouse	Speier
Brady (TX)	Cuellar	Foster	Keating	Noem	Stefanik
Brat	Culberson	Garcia	Kelly (IL)	Nolan	Stewart
Bridenstine	Cummings	Garcia	Kelly (MS)	Norcross	Stivers
Brooks (AL)	Curbelo (FL)	Garcia	Kelly (PA)	Nunes	Swallow (CA)
Brooks (IN)	Davidson	Garcia	Kennedy	O'Halleran	Takano
Brown (MD)	Davis (CA)	Garcia	Kihuen	O'Rourke	Taylor
Brownley (CA)	Davis, Danny	Garcia	Kilmer	Palazzo	Tenney
Buchanan	DeFazio	Garcia	Kind	Pallone	Thompson (CA)
Buck	DeGette	Graves (GA)	King (IA)	Palmer	Thompson (MS)
Bucson	Delaney	Graves (LA)	King (NY)	Panetta	Thompson (PA)
Budd	DeLauro	Graves (MO)	Kinzinger	Pascarella	Thornberry
Burgess	DelBene	Green, Al	Knight	Pearce	Tiberi
Bustos	Demings	Green, Gene	Krishnamoorthi	Pelosi	Tipton
Butterfield	Denham	Griffith	Kuster (NH)	Perlmutter	Tonko
Byrne	Dent	Grijalva	Kustoff (TN)	Perry	Trotter
Calvert	DeSantis	Grothman	LaBrador	Peters	Turner
Capuano	DeSaulnier	Guthrie	LaHood	Peterson	Upton
Carbajal	DesJarlais	Hanabusa	LaMalfa	Pingree	Vargas
Cárdenas	Díaz-Balart	Harper	Lamborn	Pittenger	Veasey
		Harris	Lance	Pocan	Vela
			Langevin	Poliquin	Velázquez
			Larsen (WA)	Polis	Visclosky
			Larson (CT)	Posey	Wagner
			Latta	Price (NC)	Walberg
			Lawrence	Ricardo (SC)	Walder
			Lipinski	Richmond	Walker
			LoBiondo	Raskin	Walorski
			LoBiondo	Ratcliffe	Walters, Mimi
			LoBiondo	Reed	Walz
			Lowey	Reichert	Wasserman
			Long	Ronald (PA)	Schultz
			Luján, Ben Ray	Rice (NY)	Waters, Maxine
			Luján, Ben Ray	Rice (SC)	Watson Coleman
			Luján, Ben Ray	Rothfus	Weber (TX)
			Luján, Ben Ray	Rothfus	Webster (FL)
			Maloney	Rouzer	Welch
			Maloney	Rosen	Wenstrup
			Maloney	Roskam	Westerman
			Maloney, Carolyn B.	Rokita	Williams
			Maloney, Sean	Roosey, Francis	Wilson (FL)
			Marino	Roosey, Thomas	Wilson (SC)
				J.	Wittman
				Ros-Lehtinen	Womack
				Rosen	Woodall
				Roskam	Yarmuth
				Rothfus	Yoder
				Rothfus	Yoho
				Rouzer	Young (AK)
				Roybal-Allard	Young (IA)
				Royce (CA)	Zeldin
				Ruiz	
				Ruppersberger	

#### NOT VOTING—21

Barr	Gutiérrez	Rush
Clarke (NY)	Hoyer	Sinema
Cleaver	MacArthur	Slaughter
Comer	Marchant	Suozzi
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”