

and thank them for their service to our country.

I would also like to take a moment to thank their families for their commitment to our country. America's military families say good-bye to their spouses, parents, children, and siblings for extended periods of time for the good of our Nation. They are unsung heroes, and they, too, deserve our recognition for their sacrifice.

So to the airmen of the 442nd, you and your families have our undying gratitude. You are truly heroes. Welcome home, and thank you for your service.

#### IT IS TIME TO FUND WILDFIRES

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

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, for the past few weeks, the country has tuned in to watch as catastrophic hurricanes pummel Texas and Florida, but out West we have been facing our own natural disaster, one that doesn't get nearly as much attention but one that can be equally devastating and destructive. I am talking, of course, about wildfires raging, burning a total of 7.8 million acres. In my home State of Oregon, we currently have 26 active fires.

As a member of this body, I have routinely supported emergency appropriations packages when national disasters strike this country. I have supported funding for Superstorm Sandy. I supported funding last week for Hurricane Harvey, and I will support funding for Hurricane Irma. I have done this because, as an American and as a Member of Congress, it is the right thing to do. I call on my colleagues, now, to also support us in the West. We need to change the way we pay to fight these wildfires.

My good friend from Idaho MIKE SIMPSON and I have once again introduced bipartisan legislation, H.R. 2862, the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act, that will begin to treat wildfires like the national disasters they are. The bill will create a fund dedicated to the costs of fighting wildfires so the Forest Service and BLM will no longer have to spend over 50 percent of their budget on fighting fires that should be spent on managing our forests and their sustainable health.

This is common sense, my friends. It is time to act, time for this body to recognize the importance of this issue, especially to those of us out West who face these infernos every year.

#### HUNGER ACTION MONTH

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, September is Hunger Action Month, a month where people all over America stand together with the nationwide network of food banks to fight hunger. Hunger can affect people from all walks of life.

Too many Americans are one job loss or one medical crisis away from food insecurity, and some people, like children and seniors, stand at a greater risk of facing hunger. That is why I am proud of the Bucks County Fresh Connect program, a free farmers market bringing fresh and healthy food to our hungry neighbors. The Fresh Connect program provides reliable and needed food to the 57,000 residents of Bucks County facing hunger, about a third of whom are children.

This month I participated in the Fresh Connect program at Solly Farm in Ivyland, where fresh produce was collected and delivered to the Bucks County Community College in Bristol for distribution.

I want to thank Philabundance, the Bucks County Opportunity Council, the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger, St. Mary Medical Center, United Way of Bucks County, Rolling Harvest Food Rescue, and Solly Farm for all of their hard work in making this program possible. Mr. Speaker, these organizations and all of their generous volunteers are a tribute to our community and to our Nation.

#### HONORING SCHOOL NUTRITION PROFESSIONALS

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor school nutrition professionals across the country and in my congressional district located in central and southwestern Illinois. From Monticello's Washington Elementary School, to Edwardsville's St. Boniface Catholic School, I have seen firsthand the great work they do in schools across my district.

Now, as summer comes to an end and children head back to school, these professionals will be working hard to ensure students receive healthy and appealing meals, which is not an easy task. Each schoolday, nearly 100,000 schools serve lunch to 30.4 million students. Nutritious meals at school are an essential part of the day and help to nourish children and enable them to learn.

This could never be possible without dedicated school nutrition professionals. School nutrition professionals are passionate about ensuring that students have access to the nutrition they need to succeed. I would like to take this opportunity to honor school nutrition professionals who should take pride in the work they do every single day.

Thank you, and keep up the great work.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) laid before

the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, September 11, 2017.

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 September 11, 2017, at 7:58 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3732.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by the Speaker on Monday, September 11, 2017:

H.R. 3732, to amend section 1113 of the Social Security Act to provide authority for increased fiscal year 2017 and 2018 payments for temporary assistance to United States citizens returned from foreign countries.

#### 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.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

□ 1215

#### JOINT COUNTERTERRORISM AWARENESS WORKSHOP SERIES ACT OF 2017

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3284) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3284

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series Act of 2017".

#### SEC. 2. JOINT COUNTERTERRORISM AWARENESS WORKSHOP SERIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Homeland Security Act (6 U.S.C. 311 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“SEC. 529. JOINT COUNTERTERRORISM AWARENESS WORKSHOP SERIES.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, shall establish a Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series (in this section referred to as the ‘Workshop Series’) to address emerging terrorist threats and to enhance the ability of State and local jurisdictions to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks.

“(b) PURPOSE.—The Workshop Series established under subsection (a) shall include the following components:

“(1) Reviewing existing preparedness, response, and interdiction plans, policies, and procedures related to terrorist attacks of the participating jurisdictions and identifying gaps in such plans, operational capabilities, response resources, and authorities.

“(2) Identifying Federal, State, and local resources available to address the gaps identified in accordance with paragraph (1).

“(3) Providing assistance, through training, exercises, and other means, to build or sustain, as appropriate, the capabilities to close such identified gaps.

“(4) Examining the roles and responsibilities of participating agencies and respective communities in the event of a terrorist attack.

“(5) Improving situational awareness and information sharing among all participating agencies in the event of a terrorist attack.

“(6) Identifying and sharing best practices and lessons learned from each Workshop Series established under subsection (a).

“(c) DESIGNATION OF PARTICIPATING CITIES.—The Administrator shall select jurisdictions to host a Workshop Series from those cities that—

“(1) are currently receiving, or that previously received, funding under section 2003; and

“(2) have requested to be considered.

“(d) WORKSHOP SERIES PARTICIPANTS.—Individuals from State and local jurisdictions and emergency response providers in cities designated under subsection (c) shall be eligible to participate in the Workshop Series, including the following:

“(1) Senior elected and appointed officials.

“(2) Law enforcement.

“(3) Fire and Rescue.

“(4) Emergency management.

“(5) Emergency Medical Services.

“(6) Public health officials.

“(7) Private sector representatives.

“(8) Other participants as deemed appropriate by the Administrator.

“(e) REPORTS.—

“(1) WORKSHOP SERIES REPORT.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and officials from the city in which a Workshop Series is held, shall develop and submit to all of the agencies participating in such Workshop Series a report after the conclusion of each such Workshop Series that addresses the following:

“(A) Key findings about lessons learned and best practices from each such Workshop Series.

“(B) Potential mitigation strategies and resources to address gaps identified during each such Workshop Series.

“(2) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section and annually thereafter for the next five years, the Administrator, in consultation with the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a comprehensive summary report of the key themes, lessons learned, and best practices identified during the Workshop Series held during the previous year.

“(f) AUTHORIZATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022 to carry out this section.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 528 the following new item:

“Sec. 529. Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, as we gather this week and mark the 16th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, we remember the nearly 3,000 innocent people lost in that heinous act—including 18 from my home of Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Additionally, we honor the more than 400 first responders who perished and the countless more whose long-term health was impacted because of their courageous action. Each of us in this Chamber has heard stories of those brave firefighters, police officers, and EMTs who ran toward the danger and chaos on that Tuesday morning and made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their community and their country. Today we remember them, and we recommit to recognize their efforts and those efforts of all first responders around our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, since 9/11, we have seen the devastating impact of coordinated terrorist attacks on civilian targets. In these cases, first responders—including local police, fire, and emergency medical personnel—are the main response force. It is critical that these men and women have the training and tools to operate in these planned attacks.

That is why I have introduced H.R. 3284, the Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series Act of 2017, to authorize a vital workshop series allowing State and local jurisdictions to prepare for coordinated terrorist attacks.

H.R. 3284, as amended, authorizes the Joint Counterterrorism Awareness

Workshop Series for 5 years and delineates the activities that are required to be part of each workshop, including a review of current plans, policies and procedures, and an examination of the roles and responsibilities of each participating agency.

H.R. 3284 ensures that the whole community—from government officials, law enforcement, fire, EMS, and public health officials to the private sector—participates in the workshop.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, this bill allows the FEMA Administrator to select jurisdictions to participate in such workshops from jurisdictions that currently receive, or previously received, Urban Area Security Initiative funding and have requested to host a workshop.

Finally, H.R. 3284 requires the participants to develop a summary report after each workshop that includes the key findings and strategies to mitigate the identified gaps.

I introduced this bill with bipartisan support, and I am proud to have the backing of two first responder organizations that I trust when working on this type of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter of support from the International Association of Fire Chiefs and a letter of support from the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

OF FIRE CHIEFS,

Fairfax, VA, July 21, 2017.

Hon. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE FITZPATRICK: On behalf of the nearly 12,000 fire and emergency service leaders of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), I express our support for H.R. 3284, your legislation to authorize the Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series (JCTAWS). These multidisciplinary exercises help local jurisdictions prepare for the threat of complex, coordinated terrorist attacks.

The terrorist threat continues to evolve. As terrorist incidents in Mumbai in 2008, Paris in 2015, and Brussels in 2016 demonstrate, complex, coordinated terror attacks using multiple teams and a variety of tactics are a growing threat that local jurisdictions will have to address. Local jurisdictions must be prepared to respond to multiple incidents at the same time involving active shooter incidents, explosives and the use of fire as a weapon.

The JCTAWS exercises provide an environment where local fire service, law enforcement, emergency medical service, private sector and other disciplines can plan for joint response to these incidents. The JCTAWS allows federal, state and local partners to collaboratively evaluate their options and learn how to best protect their communities. The exercises also bring together resources from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the National Counterterrorism Center, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to leverage the strengths of these major agencies. After a jurisdiction hosts a JCTAWS exercise, key findings are communicated to the participants as well as mitigation strategies and resources to address gaps in preparedness.

The IAFC endorses this legislation and thanks you for authorizing funding for this critical exercise program. We look forward

to working with you to pass this legislation this year.

Sincerely,

Fire Chief JOHN D. SINCLAIR,  
*President and Chairman of the Board.*

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT  
OFFICERS ASSOCIATION,  
*Washington, DC.*

FLEOA COMMENDS FITZPATRICK, MURRAY,  
DONOVAN FOR FIRST RESPONDERS BILL

WASHINGTON, DC.—The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) applauds Representatives Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-08), Stephanie Murray (FL-07), Dan Donovan (NY-11), and the members of the House Homeland Security Committee for expanding the training and collaboration of emergency first responders through introduction of H.R. 3284, the Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series (JCTAWS) Act of 2017. FLEOA is the non-partisan, not-for-profit professional organization representing more than 26,000 federal officers and agents from over 65 agencies.

FLEOA President Nathan Catura stated, “The horrific damage and loss of life caused by terrorists 16 years ago reminds us of the devastation into which first responders insert themselves on a regular basis. Whenever state, local, federal, and tribal first responders react as one unified team, the public benefits in countless ways.”

“As a former federal agent, Congressman Fitzpatrick knows the benefits H.R. 3284 will have by expanding the unified training and communication of responders,” Catura continued. “It is because of the previous JCTAWS training and the additional training H.R. 3284 will generate that the public safety community has made considerable progress since the 9/11 attacks.”

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Throughout our Nation’s history, our first responders have always stood for peace, security, and ordered liberty that make our communities great and our country strong. For this we are eternally grateful. As we remember those who gave their lives on September 11, we, unfortunately, recall that the threats of coordinated terrorist attacks are not going away. Today it remains critical that our first responders have the resources and the tools needed to protect our communities. The Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series is one of these vital tools.

Mr. Speaker, as a first responder myself, I am proud to work with the House Committee on Homeland Security’s Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications on moving this meaningful legislation, and I urge all Members to join me in supporting our first responders by voting “yes.”

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3284, the Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series Act of 2017.

Mr. Speaker, in a crisis like the attacks of September 11, 2001, our Nation’s first responders—police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel—take on enormous responsibilities. They contain the situation, care for the injured, and keep people

safe while putting their own lives at risk. These weighty responsibilities are central in terrorism-related crises.

Today there is an appreciation of the importance of the whole-of-Nation response where efforts among diverse stakeholders, including nontraditional first responders, are well coordinated and thoroughly planned.

The Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series is a program where one-day events are hosted across the country that bring people together who play a critical role in keeping their city’s residents safe during a terrorist attack. The multicity series is a collaborative effort among Federal, State, local and private sector entities that empowers cities to provide the best response to an organized, coordinated, and multisite terrorist attack.

One of these workshops was conducted in Los Angeles, near my district. I represent the Port of Los Angeles—America’s port. It touches every congressional district and faces a variety of threats that require coordinated preparation and response from Federal, State, and local agencies.

Enactment of H.R. 3284, the Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series Act, would codify this important program in law. Specifically, H.R. 3284 requires the FEMA Administrator, in consultation with the Directors of the National Counterterrorism Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to establish a Joint Counterterrorism Workshop Series.

Importantly, this bill requires that, at the conclusion of each event, the FEMA Administrator, in consultation with the NCTC and FBI Directors and officials from the participant city hosting the workshop series, provide all participants with an after-action report that includes key findings about lessons learned and best practices from the event, and potential mitigation strategies and resources to address gaps identified during the event.

I strongly support this counterterrorism training program, and I believe that Congress should show its support for the program by enacting this legislation. I urge my House colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3284 is an important piece of legislation that has strong support on both sides of the aisle. It empowers officials and individuals on the local level to come together to make their communities more secure.

This workshop series helps address new, evolving terrorist threats. It also enhances the ability of State and local jurisdictions to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terror attacks here in the homeland.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3284, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I, once again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3284, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Committee on

Homeland Security, I rise in support of H.R. 3284, “Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series Act of 2017.”

This bipartisan bill would formally authorize the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to hold counterterrorism workshops with state and local officials in order to address emerging terrorist threats and to enhance the ability of state and local jurisdictions to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks.

The coordination program under the measure would include:

1. Reviewing existing preparedness, response, and interdiction plans, policies, and procedures related to terrorist attacks of the participating jurisdictions and identifying gaps in such plans, operational capabilities, response resources, and authorities;

2. Identifying Federal, State, and local resources available to address the gaps identified;

3. Providing assistance, through training, exercises, and other means, to build or sustain, as appropriate, the capabilities to close such identified gaps;

4. Examining the roles and responsibilities of participating agencies and respective communities in the event of a terrorist attack;

5. Improving situational awareness and information sharing among all participating agencies in the event of a terrorist attack; and

6. Identifying and sharing best practices and lessons learned from each Workshop Series.

I would like to take the time to thank FEMA for their response to Hurricane Harvey and their efforts with Hurricane Irma.

Since Hurricane Harvey, 617,000 individuals have registered for assistance through FEMA with 13,585 interactions with survivors taking place. FEMA is an integral part of security for survivors of catastrophes. By providing these workshops, we will continue to provide security when our country is most vulnerable.

The bill would authorize \$1 million a year from fiscal year 2018 through 2022 to establish the Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series.

This workshop series is intended to help local jurisdictions prevent and respond to coordinated terrorist attacks.

This bill would authorize funding for five years instead of the one-year authorization in the committee-approved version and would modify FEMA’s reporting requirements.

The series would provide training and other resources to close gaps in local counterterrorism preparedness plans, and to improve coordination among state and local agencies.

Participants would include state and local officials, law enforcement officers, first responders, public health personnel, and private-sector representatives.

The most chaotic times for first responders are in response to natural disasters, leaving little to no resources to respond to a potential terror attack.

Those who seek to do our nation harm can take advantage of the lack of available first responders trained to handle counterterrorism during a natural disaster, such as Hurricane Harvey and the flooding that took place in Houston.

During Hurricane Harvey, Texas first responders were facing double effort with both a hurricane and flood; preventing proper response to a homeland security event should it have happened.

It is important to include in their training, a resource for first responders to learn how to manage a terror threat during a catastrophic event such as Hurricane Harvey.

It is imperative to provide these resources to local law enforcement agencies in order to protect the United States when it is most vulnerable.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3284.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3284, 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. FITZPATRICK. 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.

#### DHS INTELLIGENCE ROTATIONAL ASSIGNMENT PROGRAM ACT OF 2017

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2453) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program in the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2453

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

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “DHS Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program Act of 2017”.

##### SEC. 2. INTELLIGENCE ROTATIONAL ASSIGNMENT PROGRAM.

Section 844 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 414) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(b) INTELLIGENCE ROTATIONAL ASSIGNMENT PROGRAM.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program as part of the Rotation Program under subsection (a).

“(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Chief Human Capital Officer, in conjunction with the Chief Intelligence Officer, shall administer the Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program established pursuant to paragraph (1).

“(3) ELIGIBILITY.—The Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be open to employees serving in existing analyst positions within the Department’s Intelligence Enterprise and other Department employees as determined appropriate by the Chief Human Capital Officer and the Chief Intelligence Officer.

“(4) COORDINATION.—The responsibilities specified in paragraph (3)(B) of subsection (a) that apply to the Rotation Program under such subsection shall, as applicable, also apply to the Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program under this subsection.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER) and the gentleman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Homeland Security currently has nine designated component intelligence programs with trained analysts who could benefit from an authorized, better organized rotation program. In order to truly develop homeland security intelligence expertise, the DHS has to develop and expand programs to cross-train their broad cadre of analysts.

One of the major lessons we learned from the September 11 terror attacks was the vital need to connect the dots by sharing information across analytical silos and across agencies. The bill we are considering today builds upon this foundation by authorizing a rotation program for intelligence analysts across the Department.

Having served as an intelligence analyst in the Marine Corps and in the intelligence community, including at the National Counterterrorism Center and the Drug Enforcement Agency, I know firsthand the value of analysts gaining experience in different mission areas and broadening their analytical skills.

H.R. 2453, the DHS Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program Act of 2017, supports the effort to develop an integrated workforce of analysts that will ultimately develop a homeland security intelligence expertise. The bill authorizes the Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program, or IRAP, and directs the Department to promote and reward participation.

There is an existing IRAP, but based on oversight efforts over the past year, it is clear the DHS needs a more integrated, coordinated, and transparent rotation program. For example, numerous intelligence components are not aware of the IRAP’s existence, and it is not being coordinated with other rotational programs offered by the Department or the intelligence community at large.

Moreover, a recent joint inspector general review involving IGs from the intelligence community, the DHS, and the Department of Justice specifically referenced the creation of the IRAP as an important step to help unify the DHS intelligence enterprise, but noted the lack of incentives to encourage participation in this initiative. So this legislation seeks to address these

shortcomings by authorizing the IRAP and providing the program with a management structure and participation incentives.

Having a robust analyst rotation program is important for a number of reasons. First, it offers key professional development opportunities to analysts by exposing them to the legal authorities, collection capabilities, and data sets associated with different intelligence offices across the DHS. It also is an important building block in the development of homeland security intelligence as a core competency above and beyond individual mission areas at the Department.

Finally, the IRAP enhances the cohesion of the DHS intelligence enterprise by exposing intelligence analysts to their counterparts in one of the eight other intelligence components, thus encouraging them to see themselves as part of the larger DHS intelligence enterprise.

In short, this bill promotes a more robust intelligence analyst rotation program to ensure the Department is building a network of employees with a true homeland security intelligence expertise.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will make the country more safe. I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,

Washington, DC, September 8, 2017.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: I understand H.R. 2453, 2468, and 2470 are slated for consideration on the suspension calendar next week. All three bills amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Homeland Security by requiring the Secretary, acting through the Chief Intelligence Officer of the Department, to perform specific intelligence-related functions. All three bills are virtually identical to specific provisions contained in H.R. 2825, the House-passed “Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act of 2017” for which I wrote to you about on June 27, 2017. Accordingly, since H.R. 2453, 2468, and 2470 implicate National Intelligence Program (NIP)-funded activities, I expect that they would be sequentially referred to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (the Committee).

As discussed in previous correspondence regarding H.R. 2825, we signed a Memorandum Regarding Authorization of the Department of Homeland Security and exchanged letters on January 11, 2017 (January 2017 Exchange of Letter), to clarify the Committee’s exclusive jurisdiction over NIP-funded elements of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The January 2017 Exchange of Letters affirmed that, consistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Intelligence Authorization Act (IAA) is the vehicle that through which Congress authorizes annual appropriations for the NIP, including NIP-funded elements of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Moreover, those Letters made explicit that the Committee on Homeland Security would not report to the House any bill that authorizes any elements of DHS funded through the NIP, and that if any such bill is reported by the Committee