

Mr. Speaker, at a time when U.S. ports, like the Port of Los Angeles in my district, are experiencing CBP staffing shortages, the C-TPAT program helps the supply chain be more efficient and safe. I support the program's reauthorization.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3551 is an important piece of legislation that has strong support on both sides of the aisle and a broad range of stakeholders.

C-TPAT offers importers and other partners a win-win situation where they voluntarily allow CBP to prescreen them in exchange for benefits, such as shorter wait times and dedicated services. The more we know about our supply chain, the safer we will be.

C-TPAT is a big way we stay informed. As such, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 3551, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support this legislation. I appreciate the bipartisan support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3551, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Ms. MCSALLY. 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.

□ 1700

ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUSINESS TRAVEL CARDS ACT OF 2017

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 504) to permanently authorize the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Card Program.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 504

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 "Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUSINESS TRAVEL CARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title IV of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 417 the following:

"SEC. 418. ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUSINESS TRAVEL CARDS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection is authorized to issue an Asia-Pacific Economic

Cooperation Business Travel Card (referred to in this section as an 'ABT Card') to any individual described in subsection (b).

"(b) CARD ISSUANCE.—An individual described in this subsection is an individual who—

"(1) is a citizen of the United States;

"(2) has been approved and is in good standing in an existing international trusted traveler program of the Department; and

"(3) is—

"(A) engaged in business in the Asia-Pacific region, as determined by the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection; or

"(B) a United States Government official actively engaged in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation business, as determined by the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

"(c) INTEGRATION WITH EXISTING TRAVEL PROGRAMS.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall integrate application procedures for, and issuance, renewal, and revocation of, ABT Cards with existing international trusted traveler programs of the Department.

"(d) COOPERATION WITH PRIVATE ENTITIES AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying out this section, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection may consult with appropriate private sector entities and nongovernmental organizations, including academic institutions.

"(e) FEE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall—

"(A) prescribe and collect a fee for the issuance and renewal of ABT Cards; and

"(B) adjust such fee to the extent the Commissioner determines necessary to comply with paragraph (2).

"(2) LIMITATION.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall ensure that the total amount of the fees collected under paragraph (1) during any fiscal year is sufficient to offset the direct and indirect costs associated with carrying out this section during such fiscal year, including the costs associated with operating and maintaining the ABT Card issuance and renewal processes.

"(3) ACCOUNT FOR COLLECTIONS.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States an 'Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Card Account' into which the fees collected under paragraph (1) shall be deposited as offsetting receipts.

"(4) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts deposited into the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Card Account established under paragraph (3) shall—

"(A) be credited to the appropriate account of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection for expenses incurred in carrying out this section; and

"(B) remain available until expended.

"(f) NOTIFICATION.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall notify the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate not later than 60 days after the expenditures of funds to operate and provide ABT Card services beyond the amounts collected under subsection (e)(1).

"(g) TRUSTED TRAVELER PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'trusted traveler program' means a voluntary program of the Department that allows U.S. Customs and Border Protection to expedite clearance of pre-approved, low-risk travelers arriving in the United States."

(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 417 the following new item:

"Sec. 418. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards."

SEC. 3. ACCOUNT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the repeal of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-54; 8 U.S.C. 1185 note) pursuant to section 4(b)(1), amounts deposited into the APEC Business Travel Card Account established pursuant to such Act as of the date of the enactment of this Act are hereby transferred to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Card Account established pursuant to section 418(e) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as added by section 2(a) of this Act), and shall be available without regard to whether such amounts are expended in connection with expenses incurred with respect to an ABT Card issued at any time before or after such date of enactment.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts deposited in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Card Account established pursuant to section 418(e) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, in addition to the purposes for which such amounts are available pursuant to such subsection, shall also be available for expenditure in connection with expenses incurred with respect to ABT Cards issued at any time before the date of the enactment of such section.

(c) TERMINATION.—After the completion of the transfer described in subsection (a), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Card Account established pursuant to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards Act of 2011 shall be closed.

SEC. 4. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS AND REPEAL.

(a) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 411(c) of section 411 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (17), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (18) as paragraph (19); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (17) the following:

"(18) carry out section 418, relating to the issuance of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards; and"

(b) REPEAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-54; 8 U.S.C. 1185 note) is repealed.

(2) SAVING CLAUSE.—Notwithstanding the repeal under paragraph (1), an ABT Card issued pursuant to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards Act of 2011 before the date of the enactment of this Act that, as of such date, is still valid, shall remain valid on and after such date until such time as such Card would otherwise expire.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MCSALLY. 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 gentlewoman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 504, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards Act of 2017.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, or APEC, has been an economic catalyst for the Asia-Pacific region since 1989. APEC facilitates increased trade and business cooperation among the 21 member countries in the region that promote innovation, inclusiveness, and sustainable growth.

Specifically, this bill reauthorizes the APEC Business Travel Card Program. The program began as a pilot in 2011, and this bill would implement best practices found throughout the 7-year pilot program.

The APEC Business Travel Card is a travel document issued to business travelers who are citizens of APEC-participating economies. Valid for 5 years, the card eliminates the need for its holders to possess a visa when visiting other APEC-participating economies as long as preclearance has been obtained through a trusted traveler application process.

Our partnerships in the Asia-Pacific region are more important now than ever before. The APEC Business Card champions free and open trade, promotes economic integration, enhanced border security, and facilitates a sustainable global business environment. The program also helps to enhance border integrity and security in participating economies by prechecking each applicant against watch lists of other participating economies.

The program offers cost savings to travelers and moves frequent travelers who have been prescreened through the international travel process more efficiently.

The APEC Card is currently set to expire on September 30, 2018. Now is the time to reauthorize this important partnership between the United States and our friends in the APEC region.

I would like to thank my colleagues Miss RICE and Mr. DONOVAN for introducing the House version of this bill, as well as Ms. HIRONO and Mr. DAINES in the Senate for their part in moving this legislation forward.

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

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

I rise in support of S. 504, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, APEC, Business Travel Cards Act of 2017.

Mr. Speaker, the APEC Business Travel Cards Act permanently reauthorizes the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Card Program. This trusted-traveler program provides access to fast-track immigration lanes at airports for travelers who conduct verified business in the APEC region. APEC is a forum for 21 Pacific Rim countries, including the U.S. and Australia, to support sustainable eco-

nomics growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection started issuing cards to eligible Americans in 2014 after Congress passed the APEC Business Travel Cards Act in 2011. Today, the program facilitates travel for Americans working on behalf of 30,000 U.S. businesses. Under that law, the authority to issue these travel cards to Americans is set to expire on September 30, 2018.

S. 504, the APEC Business Travel Cards Act of 2017, is supported by a diverse range of stakeholders, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Asia-Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce, the U.S. Council for International Business, the U.S. Travel Association, and the American Hotel and Lodging Association.

On the House Homeland Security Committee, companion legislation to S. 504 was championed by Congresswoman KATHLEEN RICE of New York. With the leadership of Miss RICE and others, her bill was passed unanimously by our committee.

Allowing ABT cards to expire would be a mistake that puts American businesses at a disadvantage. I urge my House colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, S. 504 is an important piece of legislation that has strong support on both sides of the aisle. The ABT Card Program allows business travelers and government officials with business in APEC countries to access fast-track processing lanes at APEC airports.

The program saves an estimated 43 minutes per trip, according to U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, and operates entirely on user fees, costing taxpayers nothing. Importantly, it preserves authority for the Department of Homeland Security to revoke or suspend an individual's card for security reasons at any time.

This is a commonsense, bipartisan bill, and I encourage my colleagues to support S. 504 to ensure that the bill gets to the President's desk.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 504, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards Act of 2017, which is identical to bipartisan legislation I introduced in the House earlier this year along with Representatives DAN DONOVAN, RICK LARSEN and DAVE REICHERT.

This bill would permanently reauthorize the APEC Business Travel Card program, which provides access to fast-track immigration lanes at airports for travelers who conduct verified business in the APEC region.

The U.S. has been participating in this program and issuing cards to verified American business travelers since 2014, after Congress passed the APEC Business Travel Cards Act in 2011.

Under that law, the authority to issue these travel cards to Americans is set to expire on September 30, 2018—meaning that no new cards can be issued after that date, and all cards will expire by 2021, after which Americans will no longer be able to travel throughout the region as easily as business travelers from other APEC countries.

S. 504 will permanently extend that authority, while maintaining the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) authority to revoke or suspend an individual's card for security reasons at any time.

Mr. Speaker, this is a successful program that operates at absolutely no cost to taxpayers and makes American businesses more competitive in the global economy—including many businesses in my home state of New York, which is home to more than 2,300 cardholders.

Allowing these cards to expire would be a mistake that puts American business travelers at a disadvantage, and this legislation reflects a common-sense, bipartisan commitment to reauthorize the program permanently.

I'm grateful to my colleagues from both parties in the House and Senate for their efforts to help move this legislation forward, and I urge all our colleagues to give it their full support today so we can send this bill to the President's desk.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 504, legislation to permanently authorize the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Card Program.

Mr. Speaker, this is a common-sense measure to make permanent a program that has been successful since its inception in 2011.

More than 30,000 Americans currently hold fast-track cards that expedite business travel to Pacific Rim countries. The world economy is fast-paced and constantly evolving, and it's important to reduce bureaucratic obstacles for America to remain competitive.

The APEC Business Travel Card helps Americans travel faster and more efficiently throughout the Asia-Pacific region, allowing them to spend more time on business, and less time in airport lines. We must ensure that our business leaders have the resources they need to compete in an increasingly globalized economy, which is why I'm proud to support the permanent extension of this program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 504.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. MCSALLY. 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.

INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS
TRAFFICKING EMERGENCY RE-
SPONSE BY DETECTING INCOM-
ING CONTRABAND WITH TECH-
NOLOGY ACT

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