

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

21ST CENTURY RESPECT ACT

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 995) to direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to amend regulations for racial appropriateness, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 995

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 "21st Century Respect Act".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS REQUIRED.

(a) SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall amend section 1901.202 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, for purposes of—

(1) replacing the reference to the term "Negro or Black" with "Black or African American";

(2) replacing the reference to the term "Spanish Surname" with "Hispanic"; and

(3) replacing the reference to the term "Oriental" with "Asian American or Pacific Islander".

(b) SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.—The Secretary of the Interior shall amend section 906.2 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, for purposes of—

(1) replacing the references to the term "Negro" with "Black or African American";

(2) replacing the definition of "Negro" with the definition of "Black or African American" as "a person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa";

(3) replacing the references to the term "Oriental" with "Asian American or Pacific Islander"; and

(4) replacing the references to the terms "Eskimo" and "Aleut" with "Alaska Native".

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments required by this Act, shall be construed to affect Federal law, except with respect to the use of terms by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior, respectively, to the regulations affected by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the United States is 241 years old. In that time, the country has seen an immense amount of change and growth. Over the course of history,

laws and policies have been updated to be able to reflect this growth. However, some decades-old statutes and regulations still contain antiquated terms.

Enacted in 2016, Public Law 114-157 modernized antiquated ethnic terms related to minorities found in the Office of Minority Economic Impact of the Department of Energy and section 106 of the Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act of 1976 for racial appropriateness.

H.R. 995 would make similar changes to terms found in certain regulations of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsor of this bill, Mr. JEFFRIES, and I urge adoption of the measure.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, November 20, 2017.

Hon. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: We thank you for agreeing to discharge the Committee on Agriculture from further consideration of H.R. 995, the 21st Century Respect Act, that the Committee on Natural Resources ordered favorably reported, as amended, on November 8, 2017.

This concession in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Agriculture represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and your response in the bill report and in the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and for the extraordinary cooperation shown by you and your staff over matters of shared jurisdiction. I look forward to further opportunities to work with you this Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman,
Committee on Natural Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, DC, November 20, 2017.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for the opportunity to review H.R. 995, 21st Century Respect Act. As you are aware, the bill was primarily referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, while the Agriculture Committee received an additional referral.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I agree to discharge H.R. 995 from further consideration by the Committee on Agriculture. I do so with the understanding that by discharging the bill, the Committee on Agriculture does not waive any future jurisdictional claim on this or similar matters. Further, the Committee on Agriculture reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees, if it should become necessary.

I ask that you insert a copy of our exchange of letters into the Congressional Record during consideration of this measure on the House floor.

Thank you for your courtesy in this matter and I look forward to continued cooperation between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill could not be more straightforward. H.R. 995 would require the USDA and the Department of the Interior to change the terminology used to describe the racial background or place of origin of people.

These very outdated and offensive racial terms have no place in our Federal regulations. Modernizing these terms should be a continuous effort across all agencies. I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) for his leadership on this issue by pushing this legislation forward.

Mr. Speaker, I want to include in the RECORD the phrases that this bill would change: replacing the references to the term "Negro" with "Black or African American;" replacing the definition of "Negro" with the definition of "African American" as "a person having origins;" replacing the references of the term "Oriental" with "Asian American;" and replacing the references to the terms "Eskimo" and "Aleut" with "Alaska Native."

I think it is only fair that we move to pass this bill and finally address people as we should. I also want to bring attention to the title of the bill, which is the 21st Century Respect Act.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to add that the bill was reported out of committee by unanimous vote.

I want to read into the RECORD Representative JEFFRIES' remarks on H.R. 995, the 21st Century Respect Act, a bipartisan bill that will remove outdated and offensive racial labels from the Code of Federal Regulations:

I thank Ranking Member Grijalva and Mrs. Torres and Chairman Bishop and Mr. LaMalfa for working with me to move this important bill expeditiously through committee. I also want to thank Congressman CHABOT for his support and partnership.

Words matter. They can cause great harm by making people feel lesser or other, and when words are rooted in bigotry in our Nation's laws, it signals that we, as a country, are legitimizing and normalizing bigotry.

Unfortunately, there are still laws on the books that use old offensive racial terms to refer to our fellow Americans. These terms come from areas where intolerance was acceptable, and they have no place in modern society.

For example, title 36 of this CFR still uses the term "Eskimo" to refer to certain indigenous Americans from Alaska. People in many parts of the arctic consider "Eskimo" a derogatory term because it was widely used to connote barbarism and violence. The 21st Century Respect Act replaces "Eskimo" with "Alaska Native," a modern term embraced by the people that it describes.

Title 7 also includes the terms "Oriental" and "Negro," which are terms that are disparaging today. H.R. 995 replaces those old labels with "Asian American" or "Pacific Islander" and "Black" or "African American," respectively. These new terms reflect America's growth and progress.

Now, more than ever, we need to be conscious of the signals and messages that our

words and actions are sending to our fellow citizens. As elected officials, it is our responsibility to lead by example and make sure that our laws and institutions reflect our best aspirations of unity and respect for Americans of all backgrounds.

Passing the 21st Century Respect Act is a demonstration of our commitment to ensuring that every person who pledges allegiance to our flag feels valued and included by the Nation it represents. I encourage all of my colleagues to support H.R. 995.

Mr. Speaker, these are words from Congressman HAKEEM JEFFRIES, who is on his way.

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

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I think the legislation that we are seeing on this floor today demonstrates addressing a variety of issues, be it on our public lands, needing that to be able to be updated, private property rights to be able to update it, but probably nothing is more personal than the legislation that we are addressing at this particular moment, to be able to be respectful of individuals and have that there to actually be able to be addressed.

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This legislation is a long time coming—much like Mr. JEFFRIES, coming to the floor—to be able to address this important piece of legislation, for the House to be able to consider, as we move forward with our business.

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

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS).

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 995, the 21st Century Respect Act, which we all know is a bipartisan bill that will remove outdated and offensive racial labels from the Code of Federal Regulations.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that words matter. They matter. We all stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance every day. Every day I take those words very, very seriously. Words do matter.

It is time that we remove outdated and offensive language from any code, policy, law, regulation: words like Eskimo, words like Oriental—my God—words like Negro. They matter. As elected officials, we have a responsibility.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, can you tell me how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California has 11 minutes remaining.

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES).

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from California for yielding and for her leadership as well as her support, in addition to Ranking Member GRIJALVA, Chairman BISHOP, Chairman LAMALFA, and the entire committee for moving

this bill expeditiously to the House floor and for their leadership and partnership in this regard. I also want to thank my good friend and fellow Judiciary Committee member, Congressman CHABOT, for his support, leadership, and cosponsorship of this legislation.

Words definitely matter. They can cause great harm and division, particularly when they are embedded in Federal statute.

So this step that we are taking today, as it relates to the 21st Century Respect Act, is important, as a symbol from this Congress, the people's House, to the Nation that we can come together, that we are all fellow Americans, and that outdated, antiquated, and racially stereotypical terms like Negro and Eskimo and Oriental are not appropriate at this time in America. They reflect a more divisive bygone era.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful to all of my colleagues for coming together in this regard, a small but meaningful step in an era otherwise characterized by great division, and perhaps an indication that we can come together as Democrats, as Republicans, and as people of diverse racial backgrounds to heal whatever divisions may remain in our society.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of my colleagues for their leadership and support.

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

Mr. TIPTON. 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 Colorado (Mr. TIPTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 995, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to modernize terms in certain regulations."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LAW ENFORCEMENT MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS ACT OF 2017

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2228) to provide support for law enforcement agency efforts to protect the mental health and well-being of law enforcement officers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. R. 2228

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 "Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. SUPPORT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

(a) INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION.—The Attorney General shall consult with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report, which shall be made publicly available, on Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs mental health practices and services that could be adopted by Federal, State, local, or tribal law enforcement agencies.

(b) CASE STUDIES.—The Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services shall submit to Congress a report—

(1) that is similar to the report entitled "Health, Safety, and Wellness Program Case Studies in Law Enforcement" published by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services in 2015; and

(2) that focuses on case studies of programs designed primarily to address officer psychological health and well-being.

(c) PEER MENTORING PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 1701(b) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (21), by striking ";" and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (22), by striking the period at the end and inserting ";" and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(23) to establish peer mentoring mental health and wellness pilot programs within State, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies."

SEC. 3. SUPPORT FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS.

The Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall develop resources to educate mental health providers about the culture of Federal, State, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies and evidence-based therapies for mental health issues common to Federal, State, local, and tribal law enforcement officers.

SEC. 4. SUPPORT FOR OFFICERS.

The Attorney General shall—

(1) in consultation with Federal, State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies—

(A) identify and review the effectiveness of any existing crisis hotlines for law enforcement officers;

(B) provide recommendations to Congress on whether Federal support for existing crisis hotlines or the creation of an alternative hotline would improve the effectiveness or use of the hotline; and

(C) conduct research into the efficacy of an annual mental health check for law enforcement officers;

(2) in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the head of other Federal agencies that employ law enforcement officers, examine the mental health and wellness needs of Federal law enforcement officers, including the efficacy of expanding peer mentoring programs for law enforcement officers at each Federal agency;

(3) ensure that any recommendations, resources, or programs provided under this Act protect the privacy of participating law enforcement officers; and

(4) not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, submit a report to Congress containing findings from the review and research under paragraphs (1) and (2), and final recommendations based upon those findings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.