

The United States Semiquincentennial Commission.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:15 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1617

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YOUNG of Iowa) at 4 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.

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 votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

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

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY ACT

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4258) to promote the development of local strategies to coordinate use of assistance under sections 8 and 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 with public and private resources, to enable eligible families to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4258

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 "Family Self-Sufficiency Act".

SEC. 2. FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 23 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437u) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking "public housing and"; and

(B) by striking "the certificate and voucher programs under section 8" and inserting "sections 8 and 9";

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

"(b) CONTINUATION OF PRIOR REQUIRED PROGRAMS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Each public housing agency that was required to administer a local Family Self-Sufficiency program on the date of enactment of the Family Self-Sufficiency Act, shall operate such local program for, at a minimum, the number of families the agency was required to serve on the date of enactment of such Act, subject only to the availability under appropriations Acts

of sufficient amounts for housing assistance and the requirements of paragraph (2).

"(2) REDUCTION.—The number of families for which a public housing agency is required to operate such local program under paragraph (1) shall be decreased by one for each family from any supported rental housing program administered by such agency that, after October 21, 1998, fulfills its obligations under the contract of participation.

"(3) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary shall not require a public housing agency to carry out a mandatory program for a period of time upon the request of the public housing agency and upon a determination by the Secretary that implementation is not feasible because of local circumstances, which may include—

"(A) lack of supportive services accessible to eligible families, which shall include insufficient availability of resources for programs under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.);

"(B) lack of funding for reasonable administrative costs;

"(C) lack of cooperation by other units of State or local government; or

"(D) any other circumstances that the Secretary may consider appropriate.";

(3) by striking subsection (i);

(4) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h) as subsections (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), and (i) respectively;

(5) by inserting after subsection (b), as amended, the following:

"(c) ELIGIBILITY.—

"(1) ELIGIBLE FAMILIES.—A family is eligible to participate in a local Family Self-Sufficiency program under this section if—

"(A) at least 1 household member seeks to become and remain employed in suitable employment or to increase earnings; and

"(B) the household member receives direct assistance under section 8 or resides in a unit assisted under section 8 or 9.

"(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The following entities are eligible to administer a local Family Self-Sufficiency program under this section:

"(A) A public housing agency administering housing assistance to or on behalf of an eligible family under section 8 or 9.

"(B) The owner or sponsor of a multifamily property receiving project-based rental assistance under section 8, in accordance with the requirements under subsection (1).";

(6) in subsection (d), as so redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking "public housing agency" the first time it appears and inserting "eligible entity";

(ii) in the first sentence, by striking "each leaseholder receiving assistance under the certificate and voucher programs of the public housing agency under section 8 or residing in public housing administered by the agency" and inserting "a household member of an eligible family"; and

(iii) by striking the third sentence and inserting the following: "Housing assistance may not be terminated as a consequence of either successful completion of the contract of participation or failure to complete such contract. A contract of participation shall remain in effect until the participating family exits the Family Self-Sufficiency program upon successful graduation or expiration of the contract of participation, or for other good cause.";

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the first sentence—

(aa) by striking "A local program under this section" and inserting "An eligible entity";

(bb) by striking "provide" and inserting "coordinate"; and

(cc) by striking "to" and inserting "for"; and

(II) in the second sentence—

(aa) by striking "provided during" and inserting "coordinated for";

(bb) by striking "under section 8 or residing in public housing" and inserting "pursuant to section 8 or 9 and for the duration of the contract of participation"; and

(cc) by inserting ", but are not limited to" after "may include";

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting "or attainment of a high school equivalency certificate" after "high school";

(iii) by striking subparagraph (G);

(iv) by redesignating subparagraphs (E), (F), and (J) as subparagraphs (F), (G), and (K) respectively;

(v) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

"(E) education in pursuit of a post-secondary degree or certification";

(vi) in subparagraph (H), by inserting "financial literacy, such as training in financial management, financial coaching, and asset building, and" after "training in";

(vii) in subparagraph (I), by striking "and" at the end; and

(viii) by inserting after subparagraph (I) the following:

"(J) homeownership education and assistance; and";

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the first sentence, by inserting "the first recertification of income after" after "not later than 5 years after"; and

(ii) in the second sentence—

(I) by striking "public housing agency" and inserting "eligible entity"; and

(II) by striking "of the agency";

(D) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

"(4) EMPLOYMENT.—The contract of participation shall require 1 household member of the participating family to seek and maintain suitable employment."; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

"(5) NONPARTICIPATION.—Assistance under section 8 or 9 for a family that elects not to participate in a Family Self-Sufficiency program shall not be delayed by reason of such election.";

(7) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "whose monthly adjusted income does not exceed 50 percent" and all that follows through the period at the end of the third sentence and inserting "shall be calculated under the rental provisions of section 3 or section 8(o), as applicable.";

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking the first sentence and inserting the following: "For each participating family, an amount equal to any increase in the amount of rent paid by the family in accordance with the provisions of section 3 or 8(o), as applicable, that is attributable to increases in earned income by the participating family, shall be placed in an interest-bearing escrow account established by the eligible entity on behalf of the participating family. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an eligible entity may use funds it controls under section 8 or 9 for purposes of making the escrow deposit for participating families assisted under, or residing in units assisted under, section 8 or 9, respectively, provided such funds are offset by the increase in the amount of rent paid by the participating family.";

(ii) by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: "All Family Self-Sufficiency programs administered under this section shall include an escrow account.";

(iii) in the fourth sentence, by striking "subsection (c)" and inserting "subsection (d)"; and

(iv) in the last sentence—

(I) by striking “A public housing agency” and inserting “An eligible entity”; and

(II) by striking “the public housing agency” and inserting “such eligible entity”; and

(C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) **FORFEITED ESCROW.**—Any amount placed in an escrow account established by an eligible entity for a participating family as required under paragraph (2), that exists after the end of a contract of participation by a household member of a participating family that does not qualify to receive the escrow, shall be used by the eligible entity for the benefit of participating families in good standing.”;

(8) in subsection (f), as so redesignated, by striking “, unless the income of the family equals or exceeds 80 percent of the median income of the area (as determined by the Secretary with adjustments for smaller and larger families)”;

(9) in subsection (g), as so redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “public housing agency” and inserting “eligible entity”;

(ii) by striking “the public housing agency” and inserting “such eligible entity”; and

(iii) by striking “subsection (g)” and inserting “subsection (h)”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “public housing agency” and inserting “eligible entity” each place that term appears;

(ii) by striking “or the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training Program under part F of title IV of the Social Security Act”;

(iii) by inserting “primary, secondary, and post-secondary” after “public and private”; and

(iv) in the second sentence, by inserting “and tenants served by the program” after “the unit of general local government”;

(10) in subsection (h), as so redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “public housing agency” and inserting “eligible entity”;

(ii) by striking “participating in the” and inserting “carrying out a”;

(iii) by striking “to the Secretary”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “public housing agency” and inserting “eligible entity”;

(ii) by striking “subsection (f)” and inserting “subsection (g)”;

(iii) by striking “residents of the public housing” and inserting “the current and prospective participants of the program”; and

(iv) by striking “or the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training Program under part F of title IV of the Social Security Act”; and

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) by striking “subsection (c)(2)” and inserting “subsection (d)(2)”;

(II) by striking “provided to” and inserting “coordinated on behalf of participating”;

(III) by inserting “direct” before “assistance”; and

(IV) by striking “the section 8 and public housing programs” and inserting “sections 8 and 9”;

(ii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) by striking “subsection (d)” and inserting “subsection (e)”;

(II) by striking “public housing agency” and inserting “eligible entity”;

(iii) in subparagraph (E), by striking “deliver” and inserting “coordinate”;

(iv) in subparagraph (H), by striking “the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training Program under part F of title IV of the Social Security Act”; and

(v) in subparagraph (I), by striking “public housing or section 8 assistance” and inserting “assistance under section 8 or 9”;

(11) by amending subsection (i), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

“(i) **FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY AWARDS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to appropriations, the Secretary shall establish a formula by which annual funds will be awarded or as otherwise determined by the Secretary for the costs incurred by an eligible entity in administering the self-sufficiency program under this section.

“(2) **ELIGIBILITY FOR AWARDS.**—The award established under paragraph (1) shall provide funding for family self-sufficiency coordinators as follows:

“(A) **BASE AWARD.**—An eligible entity serving 25 or more participants in the Family Self-Sufficiency program under this section is eligible to receive an award equal to the costs, as determined by the Secretary, of 1 full-time family self-sufficiency coordinator position. The Secretary may, by regulation or notice, determine the policy concerning the award for an eligible entity serving fewer than 25 such participants, including providing prorated awards or allowing such entities to combine their programs under this section for purposes of employing a coordinator.

“(B) **ADDITIONAL AWARD.**—An eligible entity that meets performance standards set by the Secretary is eligible to receive an additional award sufficient to cover the costs of filling an additional family self-sufficiency coordinator position if such entity has 75 or more participating families, and an additional coordinator for each additional 50 participating families, or such other ratio as may be established by the Secretary based on the award allocation evaluation under subparagraph (E).

“(C) **STATE AND REGIONAL AGENCIES.**—For purposes of calculating the award under this paragraph, each administratively distinct part of a State or regional eligible entity may be treated as a separate agency.

“(D) **DETERMINATION OF NUMBER OF COORDINATORS.**—In determining whether an eligible entity meets a specific threshold for funding pursuant to this paragraph, the Secretary shall consider the number of participants enrolled by the eligible entity in its Family Self-Sufficiency program as well as other criteria determined by the Secretary.

“(E) **AWARD ALLOCATION EVALUATION.**—The Secretary shall submit to Congress a report evaluating the award allocation under this subsection, and make recommendations based on this evaluation and other related findings to modify such allocation, within 4 years after the date of enactment of the Family Self-Sufficiency Act, and not less frequently than every 4 years thereafter. The report requirement under this subparagraph shall terminate after the Secretary has submitted two such reports to Congress.

“(3) **RENEWALS AND ALLOCATION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Funds allocated by the Secretary under this subsection shall be allocated in the following order of priority:

“(i) **FIRST PRIORITY.**—Renewal of the full cost of all coordinators in the previous year at each eligible entity with an existing Family Self-Sufficiency program that meets applicable performance standards set by the Secretary.

“(ii) **SECOND PRIORITY.**—New or incremental coordinator funding authorized under this section.

“(B) **GUIDANCE.**—If the first priority, as described in subparagraph (A)(i), cannot be fully satisfied, the Secretary may prorate the funding for each eligible entity, as long as—

“(i) each eligible entity that has received funding for at least 1 part-time coordinator in the prior fiscal year is provided sufficient funding for at least 1 part-time coordinator as part of any such proration; and

“(ii) each eligible entity that has received funding for at least 1 full-time coordinator in the prior fiscal year is provided sufficient funding for at least 1 full-time coordinator as part of any such proration.

“(4) **RECAPTURE OR OFFSET.**—Any awards allocated under this subsection by the Secretary in a fiscal year that have not been spent by the end of the subsequent fiscal year or such other time period as determined by the Secretary may be recaptured by the Secretary and shall be available for providing additional awards pursuant to paragraph (2)(B), or may be offset as determined by the Secretary. Funds appropriated pursuant to this section shall remain available for 3 years in order to facilitate the re-use of any recaptured funds for this purpose.

“(5) **PERFORMANCE REPORTING.**—Programs under this section shall be required to report the number of families enrolled and graduated, the number of established escrow accounts and positive escrow balances, and any other information that the Secretary may require. Program performance shall be reviewed periodically as determined by the Secretary.

“(6) **INCENTIVES FOR INNOVATION AND HIGH PERFORMANCE.**—The Secretary may reserve up to 5 percent of the amounts made available under this subsection to provide support to or reward Family Self-Sufficiency programs based on the rate of successful completion, increased earned income, or other factors as may be established by the Secretary.”;

(12) in subsection (j)—

(A) by striking “public housing agency” the first place such term appears and inserting “eligible entity”;

(B) by striking “public housing” before “units”;

(C) by striking “in public housing projects administered by the agency”;

(D) by inserting “or coordination” after “provision”; and

(E) by striking the last sentence;

(13) in subsection (k), by striking “public housing agencies” and inserting “eligible entities”;

(14) by striking subsection (n);

(15) by striking subsection (o);

(16) by redesignating subsections (l) and (m) as subsections (m) and (n), respectively;

(17) by inserting after subsection (k) the following:

“(l) **PROGRAMS FOR TENANTS IN PRIVATELY OWNED PROPERTIES WITH PROJECT-BASED ASSISTANCE.**—

“(1) **VOLUNTARY AVAILABILITY OF FSS PROGRAM.**—The owner of a privately owned property may voluntarily make a Family Self-Sufficiency program available to the tenants of such property in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary. Such procedures shall permit the owner to enter into a cooperative agreement with a local public housing agency that administers a Family Self-Sufficiency program or, at the owner's option, operate a Family Self-Sufficiency program on its own or in partnership with another owner. An owner, who voluntarily makes a Family Self-Sufficiency program available pursuant to this subsection, may access funding from any residual receipt accounts for the property to hire a family self-sufficiency coordinator or coordinators for their program.

“(2) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.**—Any cooperative agreement entered into pursuant to paragraph (1) shall require the public housing agency to open its Family Self-Sufficiency program waiting list to any eligible family residing in the owner's property who resides in a unit assisted under project-based rental assistance.

“(3) **TREATMENT OF FAMILIES ASSISTED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.**—A public housing

agency that enters into a cooperative agreement pursuant to paragraph (1) may count any family participating in its Family Self-Sufficiency program as a result of such agreement as part of the calculation of the award under subsection (i).

“(4) ESCROW.—

“(A) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—A cooperative agreement entered into pursuant to paragraph (1) shall provide for the calculation and tracking of the escrow for participating residents and for the owner to make available, upon request of the public housing agency, escrow for participating residents, in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (e), residing in units assisted under section 8.

“(B) CALCULATION AND TRACKING BY OWNER.—The owner of a privately owned property who voluntarily makes a Family Self-Sufficiency program available pursuant to paragraph (1) shall calculate and track the escrow for participating residents and make escrow for participating residents available in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (e).

“(5) EXCEPTION.—This subsection shall not apply to properties assisted under section 8(o)(13).

“(6) SUSPENSION OF ENROLLMENT.—In any year, the Secretary may suspend the enrollment of new families in Family Self-Sufficiency programs under this subsection based on a determination that insufficient funding is available for this purpose.”;

(18) in subsection (m), as so redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking “Each public housing agency” and inserting “Each eligible entity”;

(ii) in the second sentence, by striking “The report shall include” and inserting “The contents of the report shall include”;

and

(iii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) by striking “public housing agency” and inserting “eligible entity”;

(II) by striking “local”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and describing any additional research needs of the Secretary to evaluate the effectiveness of the program” after “under paragraph (1)”;

(19) in subsection (n), as so redesignated, by striking “may” and inserting “shall”;

and

(20) by adding at the end the following:

“(o) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means an entity that meets the requirements under subsection (c)(2) to administer a Family Self-Sufficiency program under this section.

“(2) ELIGIBLE FAMILY.—The term ‘eligible family’ means a family that meets the requirements under subsection (c)(1) to participate in the Family Self-Sufficiency program under this section.

“(3) PARTICIPATING FAMILY.—The term ‘participating family’ means an eligible family that is participating in the Family Self-Sufficiency program under this section.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Not later than 360 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall issue notice or regulations to implement this Act and any amendments made by this Act, and this Act and any amendments made by this Act shall take effect upon such issuance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4258, the Family Self-Sufficiency Act. This legislation will streamline a program designed to help those unable to purchase a home while reducing their dependency on welfare assistance and rental assistance provided by the government.

I want to thank my colleague and friend from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) for all of his bipartisan and helpful work on this legislation. It passed out of our committee 58–0, which is somewhat historic for the Financial Services Committee.

Now, the Family Self-Sufficiency Act, or FSS program, is focused on helping families in public housing and the housing choice voucher program. The goal is to utilize a number of services coordinated through the program to help families with individual training to increase their employability and become less dependent on assistance.

These services can include basic education, childcare, transportation, education, financial literacy, mental health referrals, and homeownership counseling. While receiving services, an interest-bearing escrow account is established for the family that can be used for any purpose once the family has graduated from the program.

Currently, HUD operates one program for families served by the housing choice voucher program and a separate program for those families served by the public housing program. This legislation will combine those two separate FSS programs into one to streamline and reduce regulatory burdens.

The bill also broadens the scope of supportive services that may be offered to these families to include attainment of a GED, education in pursuit of a postsecondary degree or certification, and—I think this is important—training in financial literacy. Lastly, H.R. 4258 opens the FSS program to families that live in privately owned properties that are subsidized by project-based rental assistance.

Mr. Speaker, 4,793 families have successfully completed the program, with 1,557 graduates exiting rental assistance, within a year and another 606 graduates that eventually went on and were able to purchase a home. So more than 10 percent of the people who graduate from the program go on to buy a home.

I want to leave you with just a quick anecdote on written testimony that came to our committee from the Compass Working Capital Group. It is a

story about Tanya. She graduated from the FSS program in Lynn, Massachusetts.

Now, when Tanya enrolled in the FSS program, she had been receiving housing assistance for about 4 years. She was working full-time and raising two children, but she had bigger dreams. One of those dreams was to one day own a house. At the time, Tanya believed that owning a home was, in her words, “not for families like mine,” a low-income single mother who came from a family where no one has ever owned a home.

So when Tanya graduated from the program, she got the assistance, got the counseling, and in the end, she was able to increase her annual income by \$8,000, improve her credit score 140 points, pay down her debt, and save \$3,000. She graduated from the program in 2015 and achieved her dream of becoming a homeowner, the first person in her family to do so.

She said: But what makes me happiest of all is seeing my children love their new home. Thanks to the Compass FSS program, now I, too, believe that families like mine can get ahead, live better, and accomplish our big dreams and goals such as buying a home.

This is a remarkable story of a program that actually works, that helps people get from public assistance into self-sufficiency and hopefully into homeownership.

I think it is this kind of artful review of policy that our committee has done on a bipartisan level that brings us to reforms that can look at the successes of a program and build upon those successes and make them work for more families.

Again, I want to thank my colleagues and friends across the aisle for working on this legislation and, again, bringing it out with such a bipartisan vote.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4258, the Family Self-Sufficiency Act of 2017, makes several commonsense improvements to HUD’s Family Self-Sufficiency program, or FSS, which is the only asset-building program at HUD to help increase economic opportunities for its low-income households.

Anecdotally, Mr. Speaker, when I was a commissioner of a housing authority many years ago, I saw this program in action. It deals with one of the challenges of what happens to a family as their incomes go up and they find it increasingly hard to invest and save because their rents typically go up.

Mr. Speaker, this bill expands the scope of supportive services provided to residents to include GED training, education, and pursuit of a post-secondary degree or certification and training in financial literacy.

The bill also expands the program to include families who live in privately owned properties and ensures that low-

income families can continue to participate in this program as their incomes increase. This is a particularly important improvement since under current law, once a family reaches 50 percent of area median income, they no longer are able to accrue additional savings in their escrow accounts. This bill fixes that issue.

This bill is an important step in the right direction, and I hope we can continue to find ways to expand this very successful program beyond the current 72,000 households it can serve.

I am glad to see that my friend from Wisconsin and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle recognize the success of this voluntary program, and I hope we can work together to find ways to improve it and to give energy to other programs which allow people to lift themselves out of lower income circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, this bill was passed out of committee 58-0. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER).

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, let me, first of all, state the obvious. I am rising to support H.R. 4258, the Family Self-Sufficiency Act.

I would like to thank Chairman DUFFY for the spirit of bipartisanship that he has demonstrated on this and on other legislation as well; and Mr. HIMES, the gentleman from Connecticut, who is managing this piece of legislation. It is also appropriate to thank the chair and the ranking member of the committee for giving their support to this piece of legislation.

H.R. 4258 would make important updates to the Department of Housing and Urban Development Family Self-Sufficiency program, the FSS program, which is a voluntary program that encourages residents who use housing vouchers or who live in public housing to connect with program coordinators to create self-sufficiency plans, obtain educational resources, and pursue work opportunities.

This program also creates an interest-bearing escrow account for participants that can be accessed upon graduation from the program. Money from this account can be used for job-related expenses or as savings for a home.

I deviate from my written comments to say that there are a number of great stories like Tanya's that Mr. DUFFY shared. As a 5-year resident of public housing when I was growing up, during that time my father was working on three jobs trying to save money for a house and to buy what became his first car. Our first car was an Oldsmobile Rocket 88—Rocket 88 I want emphasize—and it was the pride of our family and our community, frankly, when that happened. But it would have been infinitely easier if there had been some kind of escrow account that my father could have moved money into to save so that when he found that lot and the house that he lives in today, that

would have been money right there available for him to pay down on it or pay it off. It seems like a lot of money then, but the lot was \$5,000, and the money that he could have saved over that period of time could have been so significant. We managed to do it anyway.

This program would help countless numbers of people who want to take advantage of the help that the Federal Government can give them with housing but at the same time work and strive toward independence. That is what I think the great value of this program is.

I don't want to repeat what has already been said, so I want to just give you a list of the organizations supporting this legislation: the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Preservation of Affordable Housing, the National Leased Housing Association, the National Low Income Housing Coalition, Compass Working Capital, National Association of Housing Redevelopment Officials, Housing Partnership Network, the National Housing Trust, and Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future.

A similar version of this bill was introduced by Senator REED and Senator BLUNT from my home State of Missouri over in the Senate, and I am encouraged by this bipartisanship and the bicameral process.

I am also hopeful that we can continue to work, as Mr. HIMES said, on further improvements of housing resources all across the country, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to briefly say in closing that we oftentimes find people who get stuck in a cycle of poverty. I think the goal of the program should be to help people get out of poverty and get to self-sufficiency.

□ 1630

If you look at this program, it takes an initiative by the person in FSS to say: I am going to raise my hand; I want to take advantage of these opportunities. It is about helping them get an education.

I have 8 kids, and I have a wife. For a single mom with a couple of kids who is trying to go to school or do job training or get a job, without some help on child care, that can't work. You can't make that happen. That is offered in this program.

Again, it offers additional education, financial literacy training, and counseling on home ownership. If you have some mental health issues, you can get training in that.

It is what is right about government, in the sense we don't want people to get stuck. We don't want people to get caught in a cycle of poverty, we want to help lift them up, and it is this kind of a program with these kinds of re-

forms that I think we have worked together on that accomplishes that goal: help people live the American Dream, which is get a job that allows them to eventually save enough money and buy a house. On the escrow part of this, when you get out of the program, you might have a small, little nest egg that you can use as a deposit for that home.

So I think this is a great program that does the right thing. If you are a Liberal or a Conservative, no matter what side of the political spectrum you sit on, this program is making the government work for people.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4258, 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. DUFFY. 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.

AMERICAN INNOVATION \$1 COIN ACT

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 770) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of American innovation and significant innovation and pioneering efforts of individuals or groups from each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the United States territories, to promote the importance of innovation in the United States, the District of Columbia, and the United States territories, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 770

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 "American Innovation \$1 Coin Act".

SEC. 2. AMERICAN INNOVATION \$1 COIN PROGRAM.

Section 5112 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after subsection (v) the following new subsection:

"(w) REDESIGN AND ISSUANCE OF \$1 COINS HONORING INNOVATION AND INNOVATORS FROM EACH STATE, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND EACH TERRITORY.—

"(1) REDESIGN BEGINNING IN 2019.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (d)(1) and subsection (d)(2) and in accordance with the provisions of this subsection, during the 14-year period beginning on January 1, 2019 (or such later date as provided under subparagraph (B)(ii)), the Secretary of the Treasury shall mint and issue \$1 coins to be known as 'American Innovation \$1 coins', that—