

and individuals who seek to harm our country and people.

ICE special agents investigate transnational crime by conducting a wide range of criminal investigations, in coordination with our foreign and domestic partner agencies, targeting the illegal movement of people, merchandise, and monetary instruments into, within, and out of the United States.

Maintaining an overseas footprint is costly. In fact, the annual cost of deploying an ICE agent overseas can be four times the cost of deploying the agent domestically. As such, it is critical that DHS have a strategy for its overseas programs and execute it.

Congress has an important oversight role to play to ensure that DHS carries out these programs in a risk-based, strategic manner.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 4567, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, the starkness of the challenges facing the men and women of DHS to accomplish our mission was made clear to me and my committee colleagues on a recent trip to the Middle East and Western Europe. I hope they know just how much we appreciate all of their tireless efforts to protect the homeland.

Madam Speaker, I digress just for a moment before I close and note that, for the last 3 years on my committee, one of my colleagues, the main committee staff person, Krista Harvey, has worked on all these bills and worked on all these trips I have taken and has played a key role in the things we do to keep our country safe. In fact, I was just checking. Twenty-one bills that she helped author passed the House, and many were signed into law.

Ms. Harvey, regrettably, is leaving our service, but she is going to continue serving the government in working at the Department of Homeland Security in a senior capacity at the Transportation Security Administration. I thank her for her work and doing all she does as a public servant helping us keep our country safe.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important 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 New York (Mr. KATKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4567, 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. KATKO. Madam 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.

SECURITY ASSESSMENT FEASIBILITY FOR EQUIPMENT TESTING AND EVALUATION OF CAPABILITIES FOR OUR HOMELAND ACT

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4561) to provide for third party testing of transportation security screening technology, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4561

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 “Security Assessment Feasibility for Equipment Testing and Evaluation of Capabilities for our Homeland Act” or the “SAFE TECH Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term “Administration” means the Transportation Security Administration.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration.

SEC. 3. THIRD PARTY TESTING OF SECURITY SCREENING TECHNOLOGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security, shall develop a program to enable a vendor of transportation security screening technology to obtain testing, including as an alternative to the Administration’s testing process under paragraph (9) of section 114(f) of title 49, United States Code, by an appropriate third party, as determined by the Administrator, in consultation with the Under Secretary, of such technology before procurement or development of such technology.

(b) DETECTION TESTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The third party testing program authorized under subsection (a) shall include detection testing to evaluate the performance of a security screening technology relating to the probability of detection, the probability of false alarm, and other indicators that such technology is able to meet the Administration’s mission needs for detection of—

- (A) explosives; and
- (B) prohibited items.

(2) COORDINATION WITH FINAL PROCESSES.—To the extent practicable, and without compromising the integrity of the Administration’s testing process under paragraph (9) of section 114(f) of title 49, United States Code, or the Department of Homeland Security’s oversight of such testing process, or increasing costs to the Administration, the Administrator shall coordinate the third party detection testing under paragraph (1) with any associated subsequent final Department of Homeland Security testing.

(3) INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS.—To the extent practicable and permissible under law, and in accordance with national security interests of the United States, the Administrator shall—

(A) share with appropriate international partners detection testing information and standards; and

(B) coordinate with such appropriate international partners to align such testing information and standards to maximize the capability to detect explosives and other threats.

(c) ALTERNATIVE TESTING FACTORS.—Third party testing under subsection (a) may in-

clude as an alternative, at the discretion of the Administrator, the testing at the TSA Systems Integration Facility of the Administration, including testing for—

- (1) health and safety factors;
- (2) operator interface;
- (3) human factors;
- (4) environmental factors;
- (5) throughput;
- (6) reliability, maintainability, and availability factors; and
- (7) interoperability.

(d) TESTING FRAMEWORK.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security, shall—

(1) establish a framework for the third party testing under this section to determine if the security screening technology that is the subject of such testing satisfies the Administration’s requirements before such technology may enter or re-enter, as applicable, operational testing at an airport or other transportation facility; and

(2) use phased implementation to allow the Administration and the third party concerned to establish best practices.

(e) PRIORITIZATION OF THIRD PARTY TESTING.—The Administrator may prioritize, when appropriate, the field testing of security screening technology and equipment by third parties.

(f) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

(1) UNITED STATES OWNERSHIP.—An entity providing third party testing under the program developed pursuant to subsection (a) shall be owned and controlled by a citizen of the United States.

(2) WAIVER.—The Administrator may waive the requirement specified in paragraph (1) with respect to an entity that is a United States subsidiary of a parent company that has implemented a foreign ownership, control, or influence mitigation plan that has been approved by the Defense Security Service of the Department of Defense prior to seeking to engage in third party testing. The Administrator has complete discretion to reject any proposal from a company to provide testing under subsection (a) that requires a waiver under this paragraph.

(3) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—The Administrator shall ensure, to the extent possible, that an entity providing third party testing under this section does not have a contractual, business, or other pecuniary interest (exclusive of any such testing) in—

- (A) the security screening technology subject to such testing; or the
- (B) vendor of such technology.

SEC. 4. RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION OF SECURITY STANDARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in coordination with the European Civil Aviation Conference, shall continue development of a validation process for the reciprocal recognition of security validation processes for recognition of security screening technologies or certification authorities for deployment.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—The validation process under subsection (a) shall ensure that the certification process of each participating international security partner or recognized certification authority complies with Administration standards.

SEC. 5. GAO REVIEW.

Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a study on the third party testing program developed under this Act. Such study shall include a review of the following:

(1) Any efficiencies or gains in effectiveness achieved in the Administration’s operations as a result of such program.

(2) The degree to which the Administration conducts timely and regular oversight of entities engaged in such testing.

(3) The effect of such program on the following:

(A) The introduction of innovative detection technologies into security screening operations.

(B) The availability of testing for technologies developed by small to medium sized businesses.

(C) Any vulnerabilities associated with such program including with respect to the following:

(i) National security.

(ii) Conflicts of interest between entities carrying out such testing and entities with such technologies to be tested.

(iii) Waste, fraud and abuse.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may 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 New York?

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4561, the SAFE TECH Act, sponsored by my good friend and colleague and a knowledgeable alumnus of the Homeland Security Committee, Congressman BILIRAKIS, who recently participated in my subcommittee's overseas congressional delegation to examine airport security and the passenger screening technology in place at last point of departure airports with direct flights to the United States.

As part of our delegation, we visited Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam, where we saw the effective deployment of new and advanced computed tomography screening technology, as well as a number of other screening technologies aimed at making the passenger and employee screening checkpoints both more effective and more efficient.

Upon returning to the United States, the committee conducted rigorous oversight and found that the existing testing and evaluation processes in place at the Department of Homeland Security and the Transportation Security Administration are riddled with bureaucratic bottlenecks that serve to delay new technologies for years.

I will note that the technology in place at the airport in Schiphol was made in the United States, yet we are not taking advantage of that technology because of these bottlenecks.

Additionally, due to logjams at Homeland Security and TSA facilities, small businesses, as well as technology startups, are often prevented from participating in the acquisitions and pro-

curement processes. As a result, our aviation system is left with antiquated security technology that is incapable of adequately responding to new and ever-evolving threats.

Madam Speaker, this is simply unacceptable, and we must act to reform the Homeland Security and TSA acquisition processes. H.R. 4561 takes significant steps toward making these reforms by allowing new technologies to receive third-party testing and evaluation, while maintaining existing lines of authority for the TSA administrator to ensure such testing remains held to the highest standards of security and integrity.

This bill will not only drive innovation but will also save taxpayer dollars at Homeland Security and TSA, while reducing costs to companies developing new screening technologies. That is why we have received broad support, not only in a bipartisan manner here in Congress, but also from the private sector.

Madam Speaker, I commend the dedication of Congressman BILIRAKIS to reforming the broken acquisitions process currently in place and for working with me and the committee on developing this bill. I also wish to thank Chairman MCCAUL for supporting this legislation and moving it quickly through the committee to address the serious concerns we found through our oversight efforts.

I also thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, who routinely support bills of ours, and we routinely support bills of theirs, because we both understand that homeland security is a very bipartisan issue.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4561, the Security Assessment Feasibility for Equipment Testing and Evaluation of Capabilities for Our Homeland Act, and I encourage my colleagues to support its passage, which would require the Department of Homeland Security to develop a new, third-party testing program for Transportation Security Administration screening technology.

We have heard, time and time again, from vendors that it takes far too long to get their technologies through TSA testing processes. TSA's testing and evaluation must be improved not simply to improve management efficiency, but to address the constantly evolving threat landscape.

In November, TSA Administrator David Pekoske testified before the Committee on Homeland Security about the need to accelerate deployment of innovative security enhancements, as terrorist groups are becoming more sophisticated. These bad actors are learning about our aviation security countermeasures and have even gone so far as to post instructions to build devices to evade screening technologies on the internet.

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As terrorist and criminal organizations become more sophisticated, we must remain one step ahead. H.R. 4561 seeks to do just that and move TSA forward in overcoming technology stovepipes that have hindered state-of-the-art security technology from being integrated into our Nation's transportation systems in a timely manner.

H.R. 4561 is predicated on the view that, by establishing alternative avenues to test transportation screening technologies, TSA will be positioned to introduce innovative security enhancements into checkpoints sooner, and businesses, regardless of their size, will be better positioned to compete.

The committee has repeatedly heard from small security manufacturers about how financially draining it is to wait out TSA testing in the hopes of a contract. H.R. 4561, if implemented effectively, has the potential to get innovative technology produced by small businesses in airport security checkpoints and enhance the effectiveness of TSA's screening operations.

During consideration of this measure in committee, the majority accepted amendments offered by committee Democrats to the bill to ensure that the third-party testing receives scrutiny from the Government Accountability Office and to build integrity into this new program.

Given the changes that were made to the legislation in committee and the potential positive impact this legislation could have on ensuring innovative technologies are integrated into TSA's security operations, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4561.

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

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, my good friend JOHN KATKO, and also the ranking member, my good friend FILO VELA, and also the chairman, the full chairman of the committee, Mr. MCCAUL, for their great work. I really appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 4561, Security Assessment Feasibility for Equipment Testing and Evaluation of Capabilities for Our Homeland, or the SAFE TECH Act. My legislation seeks to strengthen the safety of international air travel.

Specifically, this bill provides an avenue for third-party testing of innovative technology screening capabilities to enhance airport security. The testing program authorized under this act shall include evaluating the performance of detecting explosives and other prohibited items. Additionally, the SAFE TECH Act will look into alternative testing for other factors, including, health and safety concerns, operator interference, human error, environmental dynamics, reliability, and interoperability.

The bill also assesses the feasibility of linking compatible security technology utilized by the United States and international allies in order to augment screening checkpoints. The coordinated collaboration is an essential element of strengthening global security.

Currently, technical standards for safety and operating procedures at the international airports are set by international agreements. However, the standards in place are generally broad, leaving potential vulnerabilities through inconsistencies with international partners.

On a recent congressional delegation trip that I appreciated the chairman including me on to review screening procedures for inbound travel to the United States at major EU hubs, I was startled by the lack of consistency in international standards and gaps in technology that support precautionary measures to ensure passenger safety.

Today's bill—and I appreciate the work of the committee, and I thank you for making it an even stronger bill—will address this concern and improve the safety of our air travel for all passengers. I have always contended that, if we are not safe, nothing else matters.

The protection and security of our homeland and its citizens is our responsibility, Mr. Speaker, which is why I introduced the SAFE TECH Act. We must ensure those entrusted with the care of our citizens have the best resources and technology available to combat the growing threat of terrorism.

Passage of this bill today makes air travel safer for everyone entering the United States and for our citizens, and it represents a step forward in ensuring the cooperation needed to improve global security. I urge my colleagues to support this good bill and its passage in the House.

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to point out that this series of bills that we have presented today has been worked on in a strong bipartisan fashion.

I would like to thank Chairman KATKO and Ranking Member WATSON COLEMAN for their strong leadership on this subcommittee, Mr. BILIRAKIS for his hard work, and, of course, Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON for their leadership on the Homeland Security committee.

On behalf of both Members and staff on this side of the aisle, we also wish Krista Harvey the best of luck in her future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4561 is common-sense legislation. This bill promotes the incorporation of innovative technology in airport screening capabilities. It does so by requiring DHS to stand up a third-party testing program to accelerate the evaluation of promising transportation security technologies, including 3D-imaging computer tomography, or CT technology.

CT scan technology holds great promise in enhancing the effectiveness of TSA screening operations insofar as transportation security officers would have the benefit of seeing a full 3D multicolor image of whatever the screener is inspecting and getting better detail about any suspect items.

Presently, TSA is testing a number of systems in the lab and in the field and has said that it expects to be able to begin deployment of this new tool to airports by early 2019.

Given the known ongoing terrorist threat posed by electronic devices, CT technology should be introduced into the airport environment in an expedited fashion. If done right, the establishment of a third-party testing program within TSA has the potential of getting innovative technologies into our transportation security systems quicker and improving the overall effectiveness of security screening. As such, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 4561.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the time is long overdue to apply strong oversight and reform to the manner in which TSA develops and deploys new screening technologies across our aviation system.

With persistent threats facing the aviation sector, H.R. 4561 makes much-needed improvements to the innovation and procurement process at TSA. I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4561, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SECURING AMERICAN NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AGAINST TERRORISM ACT OF 2017

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1486) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide funding to secure non-profit facilities from terrorist attacks, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1486

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 "Securing American Non-Profit Organizations Against Terrorism Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. NON-PROFIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C.

601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 2009. NON-PROFIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department a program to be known as the 'Non-Profit Security Grant Program' (in this section referred to as the 'Program'). Under the Program, the Secretary, acting through the Administrator, shall make grants to eligible nonprofit organizations described in subsection (b), through the State in which such organizations are located, for target hardening and other security enhancements to protect against terrorist attacks.

"(b) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—Eligible nonprofit organizations described in this subsection (a) are organizations that are—

"(1) described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code; and

"(2) determined to be at risk of a terrorist attack by the Administrator.

"(c) PERMITTED USES.—The recipient of a grant under this section may use such grant for any of the following uses:

"(1) Target hardening activities, including physical security enhancement equipment and inspection and screening systems.

"(2) Fees for security training relating to physical security and cybersecurity, target hardening, terrorism awareness, and employee awareness.

"(3) Any other appropriate activity, including cybersecurity resilience activities, as determined by the Administrator.

"(d) PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE.—The Administrator shall make funds provided under this section available for use by a recipient of a grant for a period of not less than 36 months.

"(e) REPORT.—The Administrator shall annually for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022 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 report containing information on the expenditure by each grant recipient of grant funds made under this section.

"(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022 to carry out this section.

"(2) SPECIFICATION.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1)—

"(A) \$35,000,000 is authorized for eligible recipients located in jurisdictions that receive funding under section 2003; and

"(B) \$15,000,000 is authorized for eligible recipients in jurisdictions not receiving funding under section 2003."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (a) of section 2002 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 603) is amended by striking "sections 2003 and 2004" and inserting "sections 2003, 2004, and 2009".

(c) 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 2008 the following new item:

"Sec. 2009. Non-profit security grant program."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members