

Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4569.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SCREENING AND VETTING PASSENGER EXCHANGE ACT OF 2017

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4581) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop best practices for utilizing advanced passenger information and passenger name record data for counterterrorism screening and vetting operations, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4581

*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 "Screening and Vetting Passenger Exchange Act of 2017".

#### SEC. 2. PASSENGER SCREENING BEST PRACTICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall develop best practices for utilizing advanced passenger information and passenger name record data for counterterrorism screening and vetting operations.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall, to the greatest extent practicable—

(1) make available to certain countries, including visa waiver program countries under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187), the best practices required under subsection (a); and

(2) provide assistance to such countries in implementing such best practices.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today to voice my full support for H.R. 4581, the Screening and Vetting Passenger Exchange Act of 2017. This legislation directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop best practices for utilizing advanced passenger information, or API, and passenger names record data, or PNR, for

counterterrorism screening and vetting operations.

It also enables the Secretary to share those practices with our allies, including countries participating in the Visa Waiver Program, and to provide assistance in implementing these practices in those countries.

Having access to API, which is biographic information, and PNR data, which is data about reservation and itinerary information, allows our homeland security professionals to confirm the identities and travel patterns of potential criminals and terrorists before they enter the United States.

Allowing our men and women on the front lines to fight against terrorism, to work with Visa Waiver Program countries to make sure that they rise to the same standards only increases the safety of our Nation, the safety of all Americans traveling abroad, and the safety of all people across the globe. This legislation is a step in the right direction toward addressing further potential emerging threats.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support our Nation's Homeland Security by supporting my bill.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 4581, the Screening and Vetting Passenger Exchange Act of 2017.

Mr. Speaker, the Screening and Vetting Passenger Act of 2017 requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and share best practices for using data provided by passengers in screening and vetting operations with our allies around the world.

Since 2014, more than 75 million international travelers have come to the United States. In recent years, especially during the Obama administration, great strides were made to use the information furnished by these incoming travelers to advance security screening and vetting processes.

Building upon the Department's 2017 last point of departure security enhancements that sought to raise the bar in physical screenings at overseas airports with direct flights to the U.S., this bill will further reinforce security measures and seek to provide our overseas partners with the capabilities to advance their own vetting and screening.

No country is immune from terrorism, and this bill will ensure that the DHS can be a valued partner to nations that work with us.

By providing best practices on passenger screening, H.R. 4581 seeks to ensure that terrorists seeking to inflict harm are not allowed to travel without detection.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my House colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL),

the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Screening and Vetting Passenger Exchange Act. I want to thank Congressman FITZPATRICK for bringing this important legislation. The United States is currently experiencing one of the highest terror threat environments since 9/11.

Despite crushing the caliphate in Iraq and Syria, ISIS continues to demonstrate its capability to inspire attacks on the West, including in the homeland. The two terror attacks in New York City late last year are stark reminders of this reality and the threat facing the United States. Given the nature of this evolving threat, I established a task force on denying terrorists entry into the United States last year and I appointed Representative MIKE GALLAGHER to head up the effort.

I would like to thank all of the members of the task force for their hard work in making this effort a success. I charged this task force with examining how terrorists might infiltrate the homeland, identifying challenges with current U.S. Government information sharing and vetting procedures, and reviewing the screening agencies' structure and bureaucracy.

After completing its review, the task force issued a report outlining its findings and providing seven recommendations designed to address the identified gaps. These recommendations were the basis for several of the bills we are considering today. As evidenced by the recent spate of attacks, there is a large population of radicalized individuals in Europe who are willing to commit violence in the name of terrorist groups like ISIS. We must remain vigilant and cannot forget many of these individuals are just one flight away from the United States.

Given the seriousness of this threat, we must do more at home and abroad to screen and vet people seeking to enter the United States. The bills we are considering today will enhance our capabilities by improving information sharing and promoting efficiencies in the screening and vetting process, helping ensure the homeland is the best secured against terrorist infiltration.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill seeks to make international travel more secure and fosters a strong relationship between our country and our allies. All nations must increase their vigilance with respect to security screening. There are thousands of ISIL foot soldiers who may seek to enter the Western world and other nations to carry out their attacks. This legislation seeks to harness the United States' best practices and capabilities to advance the safety of the global aviation community as we face an agile and evolving enemy.

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

□ 1415

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4581.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### SECURING DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FIREARMS ACT OF 2017

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4433) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to achieve security of sensitive assets among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4433

*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 Department of Homeland Security Firearms Act of 2017” or the “Securing DHS Firearms Act of 2017”.

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security.

(2) LOST.—The term “lost” includes loss by theft.

(3) SENSITIVE ASSETS.—The term “sensitive assets” means any asset, regardless of value—

(A) that the Department of Homeland Security issues to a Department employee; and

(B) that either the Under Secretary for Management of the Department or a component head determines requires special control and accounting.

(4) UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT.—The term “Under Secretary for Management” means the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security.

#### SEC. 3. INCLUSION OF SECURING FIREARMS AND OTHER SENSITIVE ASSETS IN RE- SPONSIBILITIES OF UNDER SEC- RETARY FOR MANAGEMENT.

Section 701 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(6), by inserting “(including firearms and other sensitive assets)” after “equipment”;

(2) by redesignating the second subsection (e) (relating to the definition of interoperable communications) as subsection (f); and

(3) by amending such redesignated subsection (f) to read as follows:

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS.—The term ‘interoperable communications’ has the meaning given such term in section 7303(g) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (6 U.S.C. 194(g)).

“(2) SENSITIVE ASSETS.—The term ‘sensitive assets’ means any asset, regardless of value—

(A) that the Department of Homeland Security issues to a Department employee; and

(B) that either the Under Secretary for Management of the Department or a component head determines requires special control and accounting.”.

#### SEC. 4. MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE.

(a) SAFEGUARDING FIREARMS AND SENSITIVE ASSETS DIRECTIVE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Management shall develop and disseminate a Department-wide directive for achieving adequate security over firearms and other sensitive assets across the Department.

(2) CONTENTS.—The directive required under subsection (a) shall, at a minimum, include the following:

(A) Descriptions of what equipment, in addition to firearms, is classified as a sensitive asset for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

(B) Requirements for securing Department-issued firearms and other sensitive assets.

(C) A classification system for all categories of Department-issued badges and corresponding requirements for safeguarding such assets.

(D) Reporting requirements for lost firearms and other sensitive assets, including timelines for such reporting, to supervisors, local law enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s National Crime Information Center, and Department headquarters.

(E) Recordkeeping requirements for lost firearms and other sensitive assets in inventory systems, including a timeline for recording such losses.

(3) REVIEW AND UPDATE OF DIRECTIVE.—Not later than one year after the issuance of the directive required under subsection (a) the Under Secretary for Management shall review and update, as necessary, such directive, including adding a requirement relating to recording in the inventory systems maintained by each component of the Department the acceptance or transfer of a firearm or other sensitive asset by such component.

(b) PERSONAL PROPERTY ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM MANUAL.—Together with the issuance of the directive pursuant to subsection (a), the Under Secretary for Management shall disseminate a revised version of the Personal Property Asset Management Program Manual that includes the following:

(1) Requirements for component heads to develop procedures to safeguard firearms and other sensitive assets during on and off-duty time.

(2) Requirements for the issuance of safety locking devices and policies on the use of such assets, as applicable.

(3) Requirements for initial, recurrent, and remedial training on safeguarding such assets.

(4) Examples, with detail, of how to report and record lost sensitive assets across components of the Department, and an enforcement mechanism to ensure supervisors maintain such records.

(5) A requirement that the file maintained on a lost firearm or other sensitive asset

contains both the corresponding police report and the Department report detailing the circumstances surrounding such loss, including information on adherence to safeguarding procedures.

#### SEC. 5. COMPONENT RESPONSIBILITIES.

Department component heads shall—

(1) comply with Federal law, Federal regulations, executive branch guidance, and Department policy, including directives required by this Act, relating to the management and oversight of securing firearms and other sensitive assets;

(2) review the need for non-law enforcement badges;

(3) require component personnel to safeguard firearms and other sensitive assets in accordance with the directive issued by the Under Secretary for Management under section 4;

(4) require that component personnel adhere to the procedures and timelines for properly reporting to supervisors lost firearms and other sensitive assets;

(5) require that lost firearms and other sensitive assets are reported to local law enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s National Crime Information Center, and Department headquarters in the timeframe established in such directive; and

(6) require that lost firearms and other sensitive assets are recorded in inventory systems in the timeframe established by such directive.

#### SEC. 6. INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.

The Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall, on an ongoing basis, review implementation of this Act and, not later than 180 days after issuance of the directive under section 4, 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 review of the progress and effectiveness of such directive, including an assessment of the adequacy of such directive, as well as the level of compliance among the components of the Department to achieve adequate security of sensitive assets across Department components.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4433, the Securing Department of Homeland Security Firearms Act of 2017.

A recent report by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, entitled, “DHS’ Controls Over Firearms and Other Sensitive Assets,” found that, between fiscal year 2014 and fiscal year 2016, personnel from DHS and its components misplaced a total of 2,142 highly sensitive assets, including 228 firearms and 1,889 badges.