

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1650

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida) at 4 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.

SUPPORTING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR FIRST RESPONDERS ACT

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4991) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4991

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 "Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL URBAN SECURITY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended—

(1) by redesignating the second section 319 (relating to EMP and GMD mitigation research and development) as section 320; and

(2) by inserting after section 320, as so redesignated, the following new section:

"SEC. 321. NATIONAL URBAN SECURITY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, shall designate the laboratory described in subsection (b) as an additional laboratory pursuant to the authority under section 308(c)(2). Such laboratory shall be used to test and evaluate emerging technologies and conduct research and development to assist emergency response providers in preparing for, and protecting against, threats of terrorism.

"(b) LABORATORY DESCRIBED.—The laboratory described in this subsection is the laboratory—

"(1) known, as of the date of the enactment of this section, as the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory;

"(2) previously known as the Environmental Measurements Laboratory; and

"(3) transferred to the Department pursuant to section 303(1)(E).

"(c) LABORATORY ACTIVITIES.—The laboratory designated pursuant to subsection (a), shall—

"(1) conduct tests, evaluations, and assessments of current and emerging technologies, including, as appropriate, cybersecurity of such technologies that can connect to the internet, for emergency response providers;

"(2) conduct research and development on radiological and nuclear response and recovery;

"(3) act as a technical advisor to emergency response providers; and

"(4) carry out other such activities as the Secretary determines appropriate."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by striking both items relating to section 319 and the item relating to section 318 and inserting the following:

"318. Social media working group.

"319. Transparency in research and development.

"320. EMP and GMD mitigation research and development.

"321. National Urban Security Technology Laboratory."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) and the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANDEVIN) 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 may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous materials 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. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4991, the Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act. H.R. 4991 authorizes the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory, NUSTL, within the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate.

Located in New York City, NUSTL has been a critical resource in protecting our homeland since 1947. Today, NUSTL is a one-of-its-kind test and evaluation laboratory for the first responder community.

I had the opportunity to visit NUSTL last year and saw firsthand the impressive work being done there on a daily basis. During my visit, I witnessed NUSTL's work to test and validate equipment used by our first responders to protect our communities. NUSTL has conducted more than 1,000 assessments on current and emergency first responder equipment.

I also learned about NUSTL's radiological and nuclear research and development, which focuses on response and recovery efforts.

Additionally, last November, Chief Timothy Rice from the New York City Fire Department testified before the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, which I chair, on the importance of NUSTL to FDNY's daily operations. Chief Rice highlighted that the fire department's relationship with NUSTL has "strengthened the department's ability to save life and property, and ultimately, make the people of New York and millions of visitors to the region safer each day."

Simply put, this bill will authorize the test and evaluation and research and development activities currently

being conducted at NUSTL. Given the current threat environment, we need to ensure that DHS continues to support our first responders, and this bill will do just that. H.R. 4991 will ensure that the valuable work being done at NUSTL will continue for years to come.

I want to recognize the tireless efforts of the staff at NUSTL to support first responders and secure our homeland.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that this bill is supported by the American Federation of Government Employees, and I include in the RECORD their letter dated June 15, 2018.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO,

Washington, DC, June 15, 2018.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE, On behalf of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO (AFGE), which represents more than 700,000 federal and DC government workers who serve the American people in 70 different agencies, including 20 employees at the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL), I am writing to indicate our support of H.R. 4991, the Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act. This bill would provide for the authorization of this important program.

The National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL) works primarily on testing technologies used by first responders. The scientists and engineers at NUSTL ensure first responders are safe and equipped to perform their duties. They support the training of first responders to use radiation detection equipment to interdict a terrorist act involving radiological dispersion devices (RDDs) or improvised nuclear devices (INDs). They also publish reports that allow first responders to purchase radiation and explosives detection equipment best suited for their needs. They ensure unmanned aerial vehicles or drones are not used as weapons.

NUSTL labs give police officers, fire fighters and other first responders the opportunity to test drive technological equipment and offer feedback for how to make it safer and more effective. NUSTL allows first responders to test prototypes of products in the pipeline at DHS to help improve them. They also offer training about how to respond to emergencies and natural disasters. NUSTL employees' work keeps first responders safe and up to date with the latest technologies. NUSTL ensures our communities are safe and thriving.

AFGE strongly supports H.R. 4991, the Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act.

Thank you,

THOMAS S. KAHN,

Director, Legislative Affairs Department.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in voting for the Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, June 14, 2018.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing concerning H.R. 4991, the "Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act," which your Committee ordered reported on June 6, 2018.

H.R. 4991 contains provisions within the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology's Rule X jurisdiction. As a result of

you having consulted with the Committee regarding revisions to the bill, and in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology will forego action on the bill. This is being done on the basis of our mutual understanding that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with respect to the appointment of conferees, or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, June 14, 2018.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4991, the "Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act." I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and accordingly, understand that the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology will not seek a sequential referral on the bill.

The Committee on Homeland Security concurs with the mutual understanding that by foregoing a sequential referral of this bill at this time, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this bill or similar legislation in the future. In addition, should a conference on this bill be necessary, I would support a request by the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology for conferees on those provisions within your jurisdiction.

I will insert copies of this exchange in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. McCAUL,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4991, the Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4991 would authorize the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory, also known as NUSTL, within the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate.

Established in 1947, NUSTL has a long, rich history of supporting the first responder community. This laboratory, located in New York City, is central to the research and development of technologies that give first responders the tools to mitigate, respond to, and recover from national security threats.

In recent years, NUSTL's work has fostered the emergence of thousands of innovative radiation detectors for use in the Securing the Cities program. NUSTL's engagement with homeland security stakeholders has ensured that

as technology is developed, the particular concerns of end users, such as first responders, are taken into consideration. With the homeland security threat evolving daily, the importance of this lab to national security cannot be overstated.

While the good work of NUSTL is evident to myself and my colleagues on the House Homeland Security Committee, President Trump, unfortunately, does not have the same level of appreciation. In the last two budget cycles, the Trump administration, in its efforts to free up resources to build a wall along the southern border, has proposed completely cutting funding for NUSTL. The elimination of this laboratory as a first responder resource is absolutely senseless.

I am glad to see that our committee worked in a bipartisan fashion to craft this legislation, which would ensure that the work being performed at NUSTL will continue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in advancing research development of technologies for first responders by supporting H.R. 4991.

Mr. Speaker, NUSTL's work is integral to protecting our Nation's first responders from threats.

On the one hand, it is unfortunate that the Trump administration's proposal to cut spending for NUSTL is what prompted the creation of H.R. 4991 in the first place; however, it has given this Chamber an opportunity to recognize the value of NUSTL and push for it to maintain its place at the Department of Homeland Security.

So I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 4991, and I thank my colleague across the aisle for his work on this important bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. LANGEVIN from Rhode Island, for his help in this matter. And I once again urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 4991, as amended, 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. DONOVAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4991, 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.

JOINT TASK FORCE TO COMBAT OPIOID TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2018

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5762) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize a Joint Task Force to enhance integration of the Department of Homeland Security's border security operations to detect, interdict, disrupt, and prevent narcotics, such as fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, from entering the United States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5762

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 "Joint Task Force to Combat Opioid Trafficking Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF JOINT TASK FORCE TO COUNTER OPIOIDS.

Section 708 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(A), by adding at the end the following new clause:

"(iv) Enhancing the integration of the Department's border security operations to detect, interdict, disrupt, and prevent narcotics, such as fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, from entering the United States."; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (9) through (13) as paragraphs (11) through (15), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (8) the following new paragraph:

"(9) ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director of a Joint Task Force may engage with representatives from a private sector organization for the purpose of carrying out the mission of such Joint Task Force, and any such engagement shall not be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

"(B) ASSISTANCE FROM PRIVATE SECTOR.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (b)(1), the Secretary, with the agreement of a private sector organization, may arrange for the temporary assignment of an employee of such organization to a Joint Task Force in accordance with this paragraph.

"(ii) AGREEMENT.—The Secretary shall provide for a written agreement between the Department, the private sector organization concerned, and the employee concerned regarding the terms and conditions of the assignment of such employee under this paragraph.

"(C) NO FINANCIAL LIABILITY.—Any agreement under this paragraph shall require the private sector organization concerned to be responsible for all costs associated with the assignment of an employee under this paragraph.

"(D) DURATION.—An assignment under this paragraph may, at any time and for any reason, be terminated by the Secretary or the private sector organization concerned and shall be for a total period of not more than two years.

"(10) COLLABORATION WITH TASK FORCES OUTSIDE DHS.—The Secretary may enter into a memorandum of understanding by which a Joint Task Force established under this section to carry out any purpose specified in subsection (b)(2)(A) and any other Federal, State, local, tribal, territorial, or international entity or task force established for a similar purpose may collaborate for the purpose of carrying out the mission of such Joint Task Force."

SEC. 3. NOTIFICATION; REPORTING.

(a) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall—