

vulnerabilities before they are publicly announced, and security researchers are assured that their voices will be heard.

ICS-CERT is to be commended for running a progressive program that recognizes that most security researchers want to help make the internet and the scary devices that connect to it a safer place. The coordinated vulnerability program does just that by helping critical infrastructure owners and operators who receive notices from ICS-CERT about discovered vulnerabilities and effective patches before malicious actors have a chance to exploit any flaws. Mr. Speaker, this bill would empower ICS-CERT to carry out this mission fully and effectively.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again commend the gentleman for his work on this important piece of legislation. I urge my colleagues to support the measure.

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say it has been a pleasure working with Mr. LANGEVIN not only on the Homeland Security Committee, but also on the Armed Services Committee. We have partnered on quite a few things, and it is wonderful to make a difference with him.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, there is no question that industrial control systems are a high-value target for our adversaries. Critical infrastructure owners and operators use these systems to deliver the services that underpin our day-to-day lives, and destruction to one of those systems could have tremendous economic ramifications or could even be the difference between life and death.

We know that our adversaries—most notably Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea—have all targeted U.S. critical infrastructure and the operational technology employed across these sectors. Mr. Speaker, it is important that we solidify DHS' longstanding leadership role in securing critical infrastructure, particularly with respect to industrial control systems.

It has been a pleasure working with my colleague Mr. BACON, the gentleman from Nebraska, on this bill. I deeply appreciate both his service to the country as well as his contributions both on the Armed Services Committee and on the Homeland Security Committee. Likewise, it has been a pleasure working with him over these years.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 5733, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, first, I again want to thank my colleague from Rhode Island for his partnership on this, and his comments were absolutely right. The

Russians and the Chinese are both working to be able to attack our energy grid, among other parts of our infrastructure, and we need to be prepared. And it doesn't start on day one of a war. It starts now, when we have the time to prepare.

The next December 7 will not be like Pearl Harbor with aircraft and torpedoes and bombs coming to attack our Pacific Fleet. It is going to be preceded by a cyber attack that is going to try to shut down our energy grid and other parts of our infrastructure, and the time to prepare is now. This bill starts that process, or continues that process, so that we are prepared.

Mr. Speaker, I urge 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 Nebraska (Mr. BACON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5733, 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.

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OFFICE OF BIOMETRIC IDENTITY MANAGEMENT AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5206) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Office of Biometric Identity Management, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5206

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 “Office of Biometric Identity Management Authorization Act of 2018” or the “OBIM Authorization Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF BIOMETRIC IDENTITY MANAGEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341 et. seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 710. OFFICE OF BIOMETRIC IDENTITY MANAGEMENT.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Office of Biometric Identity Management is established within the Management Directorate of the Department.

“(b) DIRECTOR.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office of Biometric Identity Management shall be administered by the Director of the Office of Biometric Identity Management (in this section referred to as the ‘Director’) who shall report to the Secretary, or to another official of the Department, as the Secretary may direct.

“(2) QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES.—The Director shall—

“(A) have significant professional management experience, as well as experience in the field of biometrics and identity management;

“(B) lead the Department’s biometric identity services to support anti-terrorism, counter-terrorism, border security, credentialing, national security, and public safety;

“(C) enable operational missions across the Department by receiving, matching, storing, sharing, and analyzing biometric and associated biographic and encounter data;

“(D) deliver biometric identity information and analysis capabilities to—

“(i) the Department and its components;

“(ii) appropriate Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies;

“(iii) appropriate foreign governments; and

“(iv) appropriate private sector entities;

“(E) support the law enforcement, public safety, national security, and homeland security missions of other Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies, as appropriate;

“(F) manage the operation of the Department’s primary biometric repository and identification system;

“(G) manage Biometric Support Centers to provide biometric identification and verification analysis and services to the Department, appropriate Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies, appropriate foreign governments, and appropriate private sector entities;

“(H) oversee the implementation of Department-wide standards for biometric conformity, and work to make such standards Government-wide;

“(I) in coordination with the Department’s Office of Policy, and in consultation with relevant component offices and headquarters offices, enter into data sharing agreements with appropriate Federal, State, local, and foreign agencies to support immigration, law enforcement, national security, and public safety missions;

“(J) maximize interoperability with other Federal, State, local, and foreign biometric systems, as appropriate;

“(K) ensure the activities of the Office of Biometric Identity Management are carried out in compliance with the policies and procedures established by the Privacy Officer appointed under section 222; and

“(L) carry out other duties and powers prescribed by law or delegated by the Secretary.

“(C) DEPUTY DIRECTOR.—There shall be in the Office of Biometric Identity Management a Deputy Director, who shall assist the Director in the management of the Office.

“(D) OTHER AUTHORITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may establish such other offices within the Office of Biometric Identity Management as the Director determines necessary to carry out the missions, duties, functions, and authorities of the Office.

“(2) NOTIFICATION.—If the Director exercises the authority provided by paragraph (1), the Director shall notify the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate not later than 30 days before exercising such authority.”

“(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by adding after the item relating to section 709 the following new item:

“Sec. 710. Office of Biometric Identity Management.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) and the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days 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 Arizona?

There was no objection.

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

Terrorists, transnational criminal organizations, and others seeking to do this Nation harm are constantly coming up with new ways to cross our borders.

We used to rely on biographic information, such as names and birthdays, to identify and prevent these threats from entering our country. But the development of biometric identity-matching technology allows us to more quickly and effectively confirm people that they are who they say they are.

The use of biometric technology to positively identify individuals who seek entry into the United States is a 21st century solution to multiple homeland security problems. The technology enhances the security of our citizens, facilitates legitimate travel and trade, and bolsters the integrity of our immigration system.

My bill authorizes the Office of Biometric Identity Management, or OBIM, the primary biometric repository for DHS and other Federal agencies that are vital to our national security. OBIM operates a database of more than 225 million unique identities that include fingerprint-based biometrics, as well as face and iris holdings that allow it to provide biometric matching, storing, and sharing services across the U.S. Government.

It processes more than 300,000 daily biometric transactions, reviewing more than 360 known or suspected terrorist records for resolution on a daily basis.

OBIM also supports DHS's efforts to complete a biometric exit program. Putting this biometric exit system in place is, as the 9/11 Commission noted, "an essential investment in our national security." More than 15 years later, large numbers of foreign nationals continue to overstay their visas or disappear into the United States, just as four of the 9/11 hijackers did.

Congress has passed multiple laws since 2004 mandating the creation of the biometric exit system, though we are still waiting for it to come to fruition.

OBIM is responsible for a key element of our national security, but has not been authorized by statute. This bill, the Office of Biometric Identity Management Authorization Act of 2018, will finally codify this into law.

In the current high-risk threat environment, it is vital that we place greater emphasis on biometric identity technology as a counterterrorism tool

and provide OBIM with the resources necessary to further protect the homeland in the face of an evolving threat.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5206, the OBIM Authorization Act of 2018.

First, I want to begin by commending the gentlewoman from Arizona for sponsoring this piece of legislation. It is very thoughtful and certainly very timely.

Of course, I am not surprised that she would come up with such a great idea, knowing that she originally hails from Rhode Island and comes from great roots. So I am not surprised that she would come up with a great idea like this.

Mr. Speaker, for the past decade, the Department of Homeland Security has collected biometric data from foreign nationals and U.S. citizens for a wide range of purposes, including counterterrorism, border security, credentialing, national security, and public safety.

Over that time, the Office of Biometric Identity Management, or OBIM, has become a repository for more than 240 million biometrics, such as fingerprints and photographs collected by DHS. OBIM is charged with analyzing biometric data, sending updates to critical terror watch lists, and sharing information with trusted partners inside and outside the Federal Government to support law enforcement, public safety, national security, and homeland security.

Given the sensitivity of this type of biometric data and its increasing integration into security programs, I am pleased that H.R. 5206 requires this office to comply with privacy policies and procedures established by the DHS privacy officer.

This is a good bipartisan bill.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5206 authorizes the department's existing Office of Biometric Identity Management, which is charged with collecting and using biometric data to enhance DHS's counterterrorism, border security, and national security operations.

Increasingly, Federal agencies see the value of adopting biometrics as an additional security measure. As more and more Federal programs make use of such personal data, it is absolutely vital that privacy be baked in from the start. Importantly, H.R. 5206 requires a privacy-forward approach to all that OBIM does.

For these reasons, I support this measure. This is a good, bipartisan bill, and, again, I commend the gentlewoman from Rhode Island, who is now from Arizona, for sponsoring this bill and getting it through committee.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague from Rhode Island's support on this bill and our longstanding relationship that we had since we grew up in a similar neighborhood before I fell in love with Arizona and never wanted to see another winter again. But anyway, I digress.

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge 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 gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5206, 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.

IMMIGRATION ADVISORY PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5207) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the immigration advisory program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5207

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 "Immigration Advisory Program Authorization Act of 2018" or the "IAP Authorization Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF THE IMMIGRATION ADVISORY PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title IV of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 419. IMMIGRATION ADVISORY PROGRAM.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized within U.S. Customs and Border Protection an immigration advisory program (in this section referred to as the 'program') for U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, pursuant to an agreement with a host country, to assist air carriers and security employees at foreign airports with review of traveler information during the processing of flights bound for the United States.

"(b) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the program, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers may—

"(1) be present during processing of flights bound for the United States;

"(2) assist air carriers and security employees with document examination and traveler security assessments;

"(3) provide relevant training to air carriers, security employees, and host-country authorities;

"(4) analyze electronic passenger information and passenger reservation data to identify potential threats;

"(5) engage air carriers and travelers to confirm potential terrorist watchlist matches;

"(6) make recommendations to air carriers to deny potentially inadmissible passengers