

how we are going to convince landlords to be more open to accepting voucher choice participants. We have got to think about what public housing programs can do. Most, of course, public housing is in poor neighborhoods. But certainly, if we have those who are in stronger neighborhoods, better neighborhoods, perhaps there can be the kind of collaboration that can see to it that people in some of the poorer neighborhoods and public housing would have an opportunity for moving into these better neighborhoods.

So, again, I think we must be hopeful. We don't always know how it is going to be done, but to give it a try is certainly worthwhile.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, there is an old adage: If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Well, guess what, folks; this is kind of broke. We need to look for different ways of fixing it.

This bill today that my colleague from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) and my colleague from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY) have been working on is that attempt to look for those answers. We do truly have common goals. They are common goals of opportunity, reward, and upward mobility for all Americans and to give them that opportunity.

Whether you are watching on C-SPAN or maybe in the gallery right now, what you are seeing on the floor may not compute with what you are seeing in the news all the time. We actually are agreeing on things. We actually are trying to move ahead and trying to better our citizens and our constituents in a way that will ultimately benefit not just them and their families individually, but their communities, our collective State, and, by extension, our country. That is what we are trying to do here today.

I just, again, want to commend the gentlemen from Wisconsin and Missouri for their work on this and for the leadership of the ranking member and Chairman HENSARLING, as well, on this.

As we move forward to try to provide that opportunity to provide that upward mobility, to give citizens the real choice of what to do with their lives and how to live their lives, I can think of no better way than starting off with this pilot program.

And, hopefully, as I share the confidence with my friend from Wisconsin, I believe this will work. When it works, we will have that proof to go back and to use things like that Harvard study and others that have shown that upward mobility is achievable and that people aren't locked into one location or one mindset or one community. They can choose to be a part of that, but if they know they are going to have greater opportunity somewhere else, then the Federal Government shouldn't stand in the way of that opportunity. This bill does exactly that.

Mr. Speaker, I want to suggest to my colleagues that they vote for this very important piece of 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 Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5793.

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. HUIZENGA. 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.

MODERNIZING DISCLOSURES FOR INVESTORS ACT

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5970) to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to implement rules simplifying the quarterly financial reporting regime, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5970

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 "Modernizing Disclosures for Investors Act".

SEC. 2. FORM 10-Q ANALYSIS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Securities and Exchange Commission shall conduct an analysis of the costs and benefits of requiring reporting companies to use Form 10-Q for submitting quarterly financial reports. Such analysis shall consider—

(1) the costs and benefits of Form 10-Q to emerging growth companies;

(2) the costs and benefits of Form 10-Q to the Commission in terms of its ability to protect investors, maintain fair, orderly, and efficient markets, and facilitate capital formation;

(3) the costs and benefits of Form 10-Q to other reporting companies, investors, market researchers, and other market participants, including the costs and benefits associated with—

(A) the public availability of the information required to be filed on Form 10-Q;

(B) the use of a standardized reporting format across all classes of reporting companies; and

(C) the quarterly disclosure by some companies of financial information in formats other than Form 10-Q, such as a quarterly earnings press release;

(4) the costs and benefits of alternative formats for quarterly reporting for emerging growth companies to emerging growth companies, the Commission, other reporting companies, investors, market researchers, and other market participants; and

(5) the expected impact of the use of alternative formats of quarterly reporting by emerging growth companies on overall market transparency and efficiency.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall issue a report to Congress that includes—

(1) the results of the analysis required by subsection (a); and

(2) recommendations for decreasing costs, increasing transparency, and increasing efficiency

of quarterly financial reporting by emerging growth companies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

□ 1630

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Mrs. WAGNER, from Missouri for her work on this very important bill. This is part of a series of bills that we have seen, not just today but throughout the time that we have put forth on the Capital Markets Subcommittee, as well as the Financial Services Committee overall, because we know that there is no one thing that has ground the gears of our economy to a halt or to slow it down, and there is also no one magic thing that can happen or be passed that will suddenly spring it to life. It is a little like throwing sand in the gears of a machine. Over time, it just gets harder and harder and harder for that machine to grind on.

We are here through a whole series of bills, both today and at other times, to add a little oil to the machine, to try to make sure that our capital markets are continuing to move and to be the envy of the world. We know, Mr. Speaker, that our capital markets here in the United States have been and continue to be the envy of the world, and they are a vibrant ecosystem fueling America's economic growth and generating millions of private sector jobs.

These capital markets provide financing and needed resources to the smallest startups and to the very largest of the international companies that we have here in the United States. However, smaller companies have often been penalized for their size.

As we have talked about in previous bills, the number of IPOs, or initial public offerings, that have occurred in the United States have plummeted. We have tried to fix that or tried to help improve that through things like the JOBS Act, but these small companies still face significant regulatory and market impediments that disincentivize them from accessing capital via the public markets.

The Federal securities laws require that most SEC registrants disclose certain information on an ongoing basis, including a quarterly report on what is called the form 10Q. Form 10Q includes condensed financial information and

other data prepared by a company and reviewed, though generally unaudited, by its independent auditor.

The purpose is to provide a continuing view of the company's financial position during the year. The report must be filed for each of the first three fiscal quarters of the company's fiscal year.

The SEC's current corporate disclosure system imposes a number of outdated, duplicative, burdensome, and unnecessary requirements on U.S. companies diverting private sector resources toward regulatory compliance and away from innovation, growth, and job creation, where it really should be. Moreover, this outdated disclosure regime leads to unnecessarily long, complicated, and often immaterial public company disclosures, resulting in widespread investor confusion and, potentially, suboptimal investment decisions.

While the SEC has often recognized the need to study and streamline the corporate disclosure regime, it has recently been Congress that has actually spurred them on in this regard. Through provisions such as the JOBS Act and the FAST Act, the SEC is required to study current regulations and then eliminate these outdated, duplicative, and unnecessary disclosure obligations.

Form 10Q can create extreme administrative costs. A 2011 report of the IPO Task Force found that 92 percent of public companies said that "administrative burden of public reporting" was a significant challenge to completing an IPO and becoming a public company.

We have talked about, Mr. Speaker, earlier, that lack of ability for retail investors, the Joe and Jane investor, to have the same opportunity that some sort of well-financed, professional investor or fund that is out there is going to have.

We need to allow them to have access into these pools of companies so that they may catch the upside of so many of these companies that are seeing extreme growth. That is the reason why we need to have these IPOs.

In addition to filing forms 10K annually and 10Q quarterly, companies must file current reports on form 8K, often within 4 business days after the occurrence of specified events; these are things that could move their stock price, for example, and is relevant disclosure that needs to happen. They are then required to file these form 8Ks.

In other words, by the time a quarterly report is filed, many material events have already been reported by a company through these 8Ks; and according to widespread economic views regarding efficiency of markets, that information has then been priced into the cost of an equity. Granting early growth companies the option of issuing a press release or other short form that includes earnings results, as opposed to a full 10Q form, would provide investors with important quarterly financial in-

formation but reduce unnecessary burdens and complexities associated with the current quarterly reporting system.

Again, it is extremely important that investors have access to that information. This bill does nothing to diminish that. In fact, it makes it more approachable and more accessible to the average investor.

Nonetheless, this bill does not require any action by the SEC to change the 10Q reporting regime. It simply requires the SEC to consider the issue and report back to Congress on it. In doing so, the SEC can consider the substantial costs of these financial disclosures and aim to modernize the disclosure process in a manner that encourages investors to make more efficient use of the information filed with the SEC.

Specifically, H.R. 5970, the Modernizing Disclosures for Investors Act, would require the SEC to provide a report to Congress with a cost-benefit analysis for emerging growth companies' use of the SEC form 10Q and recommendations for decreasing costs, increasing transparency, and increasing efficiency of quarterly financial reporting by emerging growth companies within 180 days after enactment of this bill.

I would like to commend my colleagues, Representative WAGNER and Representative GOTTHEIMER, for their bipartisan work on this very important bill. This bill, it is important to note, Mr. Speaker, passed the Financial Services Committee by a vote of 56-0. That is very important information because I believe that this is bipartisan and should be a bicameral step toward maintaining the health of our capital markets.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote for H.R. 5970, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, robust and regular disclosures by public companies, such as the detailed quarterly financial information filed on a form 10Q, make our markets more attractive to investors by enabling informed investment decisions and ensuring shareholders can hold corporate boards accountable for practices that may undermine the value of the company.

Standardized quarterly financial reporting on form 10Q also provides a means for regulators to conduct efficient and effective oversight of public companies and protect investors from fraud and other corporate misconduct.

When investors have faith in the integrity of our markets, they are more likely to entrust their capital to public companies, thereby providing opportunities for economic growth and job creation.

The benefits of quarterly reporting are well recognized by the investor community. In a June 2016 letter to the SEC's Division of Corporate Finance,

the SEC's Investor Advisory Committee wrote, "The current degree, quality, and frequency of disclosure for U.S. issuers overall is appropriate and a source of strength for the U.S. capital markets. The current system greatly benefits retirees, pension funds, endowments, and households that are directly and indirectly market participants."

Additionally, in May and June of this year, investors and investor advocacy groups wrote to the Financial Services Committee expressing their support for the SEC's current quarterly reporting regime, including the form 10Q.

According to CalPERS, the largest public pension fund in the United States with more than \$350 billion in global assets, "10Qs provide substantial and important information and serve as a great historical resource. Any modification of standard quarterly filings should be preceded by significant study with ample opportunity for investor input."

While some business groups have called for the elimination of the 10Q as a cost-saving measure for corporations, I agree that any attempt to alter the existing quarterly reporting requirements first requires a careful and balanced study that considers the impact of any changes on investors and our markets.

H.R. 5970, as amended, requires the SEC to conduct such a study, to include consideration of the benefits of form 10Q reporting to the SEC, public companies, investors, market researchers, and other market participants.

I support the bill as amended, and I thank Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mrs. WAGNER for working together to develop a bipartisan approach to the study. I hope that the SEC takes this study as an opportunity to hear from investors about the disclosures they find important and ensure that our public markets and the companies which seek to access them continue to enjoy the benefits of comprehensive and standardized financial disclosure.

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, it has been a long afternoon. We have covered a lot of territory, eight different bills, I think, today. As I had said earlier, there is no magic bill that is going to somehow cure or remedy some of the challenges that our capital markets have seen over the last number of years, but this is a step towards that.

H.R. 5970 and so many of these other bills are important steps that this House is taking on a very bipartisan basis. I commend everybody who has worked on this—Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mrs. WAGNER in this particular case—and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues across the aisle to search for true solutions in policy and to set aside the politics of what needs to happen.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 5970, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5970, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to carry out a cost benefit analysis of the use of Form 10-Q and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION INFORMATION ACT OF 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5626) to amend the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 to require the Secretary of State to report on intercountry adoptions from countries which have significantly reduced adoption rates involving immigration to 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. 5626

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 "Inter-country Adoption Information Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN ANNUAL REPORT ON INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS.

(a) REPORT ELEMENTS.—Section 104(b) of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14914(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(9) A list of countries that established or maintained a law or policy that prevented or prohibited adoptions involving immigration to the United States, regardless of whether such adoptions occurred under the Convention.

"(10) For each country listed under paragraph (9), the date on which the law or policy was initially implemented.

"(11) Information on efforts taken with respect to a country listed under paragraph (9) to encourage the resumption of halted or stalled adoption proceedings involving immigration to the United States, regardless of whether the adoptions would have occurred under the Convention.

"(12) Information on any action the Secretary carried out that prevented, prohibited, or halted any adoptions involving immigration to the United States, regardless of whether the adoptions occurred under the Convention."

(b) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF REPORT.—Section 104 of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14914) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF REPORT.—The Secretary shall make the information contained in the report required under subsection (a) available to the public on the website of the Department of State."

(c) PRIVACY CONCERNS.—In complying with the amendments made by subsections (a) and (b), the Secretary shall avoid, to the max-

imum extent practicable, disclosing any personally identifiable information relating to United States citizens or the adoptees of such citizens.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 104(a) of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14914(a)) is amended by striking "International Relations" and inserting "Foreign Affairs".

(e) APPLICATION DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to reports required to be submitted under section 104 of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14914) beginning on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this measure. It is the Intercountry Adoption Information Act, H.R. 5626.

Here in Congress, I have been honored, as has my friend here, DOUG COLLINS, the author of this measure, to help bring families together through overseas adoptions.

□ 1645

These children are deeply loved by American parents from all different backgrounds who give them incredible care and give them opportunity. Sadly, international adoptions do not always go as planned.

Over the years, I have met with countless families who were matched with a child, bonded with that child, financially supported that child, only to have their child's adoption stalled or, worse, stopped completely due to policy changes in the child's birth country. Obviously, this is devastating, devastating to the child, devastating to the families involved.

In September of 2013, President Joseph Kabila of Congo suspended exit permits for more than 1,000 children already adopted by international couples, mainly from the United States and France. These adoptions had already been approved by the Congolese courts. The children had been issued passports from their new countries. Parents had come to spend time with those children, but without the exit visas from the Congolese Government, they could not leave. The children could not leave.

Families were forced to spend thousands of dollars, travel across oceans,

and navigate foreign courts to fight to bring those adopted children home. Making matters worse, many children had serious medical issues. Tragically, I have to report to you that 25 died while stuck in this bureaucratic chokehold. They were living in horrid conditions, lacking the most basic care.

Thankfully, through a coordinated push by the previous administration and Congress, hundreds of children in the DRC were freed to come home to the United States. It took multiple trips to get the job done. I personally traveled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to raise these issues at the highest levels of the Congolese Government. Within 60 days afterward, more than 400 children were released to their adoptive American families.

But still, many children remain at risk worldwide. We do not know exactly how many children are waiting to be united with their families in the U.S. and elsewhere. The Intercountry Adoption Information Act introduced by our colleague from Georgia, DOUG COLLINS, seeks to lessen this problem by enhancing the information available to families who are adopting.

Those families wish to adopt overseas, and they need to know. They need to know the situation. This bill requires the State Department to include in its existing annual report information on countries that have enacted new laws or policies that would impact intercountry adoptions.

This information would have been helpful, for example, when the Congo and Ethiopia imposed sweeping new policies that put a hold on adoptions for American families.

With the passage of this legislation, families could see not only how many children are being adopted by American families from certain countries and how long these adoption proceedings are taking, but if the country has recently changed its laws or if policies have been changed by a head of state that could make adoption more difficult or shut it down completely.

Just as importantly, this legislation would also require that the annual report include what positive steps the U.S. Government is taking to reduce the burdens or barriers on stalled adoptions to unite children with their families.

I urge my colleagues to support the passage of the Intercountry Adoption Information Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume as I rise in support of this measure.

First of all, let me thank Congressman DOUG COLLINS and Congresswoman BRENDA LAWRENCE for their work in bringing this bill forward.

This bill before us, the Intercountry Adoption Information Act of 2018, will create more transparency in the adoption process.

Mr. Speaker, the adoption process can be long, emotional, and expensive