

oversight of representative payees by requiring State protection and advocacy programs to conduct reviews of payee performance.

Mr. Speaker, many Social Security beneficiaries require assistance in managing their benefits. I appreciate the work that the Ways and Means' Subcommittee on Social Security has done to improve the Social Security representative payee program, and I encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 4547.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES).

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, many Americans who are charged with managing Social Security benefits for their elderly parents or for their children struggle to make the system work. I have heard stories from my communities in Kansas of the burdensome process that can be involved with the representative payee program.

That is why I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4547, the Strengthening Protections for Social Security Beneficiaries Act of 2018. This important bipartisan piece of legislation reduces the burdens on families by eliminating the requirement to file an annual payee accounting form for spouses and for parents who live with their children.

In addition, the bill protects the most vulnerable beneficiaries through improved information sharing between the Social Security Administration and their respective States' adult protective services, such as KDADS in Kansas.

This will help identify whether a beneficiary is in foster care, reassess whether the payee is appropriate, and ensure the beneficiaries are provided for. The Social Security Administration has a great responsibility to ensure that Americans who need help managing their Social Security benefits get that help.

I would like to thank Chairman JOHNSON and Ranking Member LARSON for putting this bill together that will strengthen the representative payee program so that it better protects beneficiaries and reduces burdensome government paperwork that rarely provides any real value to families. Too many Americans are counting on the Social Security Administration to get this right.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank the distinguished chairman from Texas for the very bipartisan nature of which this bill has come together, and that doesn't happen by accident. It happens because of the hard bipartisan work across the aisle of the staffs whom we work so closely with.

It also means that we want to recognize Amy Shuart, Lara Rosner, Matt Russell, Anne DeCesaro; and from my staff, Kathryn Olson, Jason Kanter, Morna Miller; and Jill Hunter-Williams, who is with Danny Davis' staff; and the irreplaceable Sylvia Lee from my office as well.

It is always an honor and pleasure to work with Mr. JOHNSON. He is, first and foremost, a gentleman. I look forward, later in this year, to traveling to Plano, Texas, where I hope we can have a hearing on Social Security in general.

Mr. JOHNSON has a bill and I have a bill that both have the same goals in mind, and while there may be different approaches, I know that his great bipartisan spirit and his gentleman nature will provide the kind of debate and dialogue that is necessary around an issue so vitally important to all Americans as Social Security.

This is America's greatest program and one that has never missed a payment and is often confused as being an entitlement when, in fact, it is the insurance that people have paid for and richly deserve. It hasn't been changed or modified significantly since Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill sat down and did that back in the early 1980s.

It is long overdue, and what better person who epitomizes the values and virtues of Ronald Reagan and who comes from Texas and who also has a heart as big as that great State, and I know that we will be able to come to a resolution about this very important issue that we face.

Mr. Speaker, I close by saying that it is not often, or perhaps more often than people would surmise, that we see this bipartisan cooperation. But it was Hubert Humphrey who said:

The ultimate moral test of any government is the way it treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy, and the handicapped.

What Mr. JOHNSON has done today is to epitomize those very comments of then-Vice President Humphrey, and the Congress is responding. I encourage everyone to vote "yes" on H.R. 4547, the Strengthening Protections for Social Security Beneficiaries Act.

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

You know, without agreement from both sides, you can't get anything done; and without Mr. LARSON, I think we would have been in deep, serious trouble in Social Security, but he and I think alike. We are for the people, and everything we do is trying to improve the system over what it is today, and I thank him for his help.

Mr. Speaker, I again urge all Members of the House to vote "yes" and pass the Strengthening Protections for Social Security Beneficiaries Act today so that the Senate can take ac-

tion soon and that the President can sign it into law without delay.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4547, 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. LARSON of Connecticut. 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.

#### WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2371) to require the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration to establish a pilot project to provide increased transparency for customers, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2371

*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 "Western Area Power Administration Transparency Act".

#### SEC. 2. WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION PILOT PROJECT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration (referred to in this section as the "Administrator") shall establish a pilot project, as part of the continuous process improvement program and to provide increased transparency for customers, to publish on a publicly available website of the Western Area Power Administration, a database of the following information, beginning with fiscal year 2008, relating to the Western Area Power Administration:

(1) By power system and in a consistent format, rates charged to customers for power and transmission service.

(2) By power system, the amount of capacity or energy sold.

(3) By region, a detailed accounting, at the functional level and the budget activity level, of all expenditures, capital costs, and staffing costs, including—

(A) indirect costs, including overhead costs;

(B) direct charges and direct allocations;

(C) the number of contract staff;

(D) costs related to independent consultants;

(E) the number of full-time equivalents; and

(F) charges to the region from the headquarters office of the Western Area Power Administration for all annual and capital costs.

(4) For the headquarters office of the Western Area Power Administration, a detailed

accounting at the functional level and the budget activity level, of all expenditures and capital costs, including—

- (A) indirect costs, including overhead costs;
- (B) direct charges and direct allocations;
- (C) the number of contract staff;
- (D) costs related to independent consultants;
- (E) the number of full-time equivalents;

(F) a summary of any expenditures described in this paragraph, with the total amount paid by each region and power system; and

(G) expenses incurred on behalf of other Federal agencies or programs or third parties for the administration of programs not related to the marketing, transmission, or wheeling of Federal hydropower resources, including—

- (i) indirect costs, including overhead costs;
  - (ii) direct charges and allocations;
  - (iii) the number of contract staff; and
  - (iv) the number of full-time equivalents.
- (5) Capital expenditures, including—
- (A) capital investments delineated by the year in which each investment is placed into service; and
  - (B) the sources of capital for each investment.

(b) ANNUAL SUMMARY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the end of each fiscal year in which the pilot project is being carried out under this section, the Administrator shall make available on a publicly available website—

(A) updates to documents made available on the date of the initial publication of the information on the website under subsection (a);

(B) an identification of the magnitude of annual changes in the information published on the website under subsection (a);

(C) a description of the reasons for the changes identified under subparagraph (B);

(D) subject to paragraph (2), the total amount of the unobligated balances retained by the Western Area Power Administration at the end of the prior fiscal year within each marketing area and headquarters by—

- (i) purpose or function;
- (ii) source of funding;
- (iii) anticipated program allotment; and
- (iv) underlying authority for each source of funding; and

(E) the anticipated level of unobligated balances that the Western Area Power Administration expects to retain at the end of the fiscal year in which the annual summary is published, as delineated by each of the categories described in clauses (i) through (iv) of subparagraph (D).

(2) LIMITATION.—Amounts in the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund established by section 5(a) of the Act of April 11, 1956 (commonly known as the “Colorado River Storage Project Act”) (43 U.S.C. 620d(a)), shall not be considered to be an unobligated balance retained by the Western Area Power Administration for purposes of paragraph (1)(D).

(c) TERMINATION.—The pilot project under this section shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSAR. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their re-

marks and to include 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.

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

Today, we are considering my bill, H.R. 2371, the Western Area Power Administration Transparency Act. This bipartisan bill simply requires the Western Area Power Administration, known as WAPA, to establish a pilot project to allow for a more detailed understanding of how it uses both taxpayer and ratepayer dollars.

This bill is the result of calls from some of WAPA’s customers given rate increase trends and other financial discrepancies. H.R. 2371 requires WAPA to develop a publicly available website that contains a detailed accounting of its rates, expenditures, staffing, and other operational and financial dealings. Since cost increases are ultimately borne by its customers, WAPA needs to be more transparent about its business practices. That is exactly what this bill seeks to achieve. H.R. 2371 will increase transparency and afford ratepayers with the necessary information to positively engage with WAPA about its operation and spending decisions. I urge adoption of the measure.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2371, the Western Area Power Administration Transparency Act will help foster greater transparency and promote public confidence in the Western Area Power Administration, also called WAPA. WAPA is a critically important Federal agency that helps deliver power to nearly 40 million Americans across 15 States. This bill would establish a 7-year pilot project requiring WAPA to publish information online detailing the rates charged to customers for power and transmission service.

The legislation would also require WAPA to publish a detailed accounting of all expenditures, capital costs, and staffing costs by region and at WAPA’s headquarter office.

Finally, the legislation directs WAPA to publish information on the amount of unobligated balances the agency retains each year.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

□ 1630

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2371 will increase transparency and afford ratepayers with the necessary information to positively engage WAPA about its operations and spending decisions. Imagine that: getting back to what customers want.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2371.

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. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

## STE. GENEVIEVE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ESTABLISHMENT ACT

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2888) to establish the Ste. Genevieve National Historic Site in the State of Missouri, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2888

*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 “Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park Establishment Act”.

### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) HISTORIC DISTRICT.—The term “Historic District” means the Ste. Genevieve Historic District National Historic Landmark, as generally depicted on the Map.

(2) HISTORICAL PARK.—The term “Historical Park” means the Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park established by section 3(a).

(3) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map entitled “Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park Proposed Boundary”, numbered 571/132,626, and dated May 2016.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.—The term “special resource study” means the study entitled “Ste. Genevieve Final Special Resources Study and Environmental Assessment, Missouri” and dated May 2016.

(6) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of Missouri.

### SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STE. GENEVIEVE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), there is established the Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park in the State as a unit of the National Park System to preserve, protect, and interpret for the benefit of present and future generations the themes of French settlement, vernacular architecture, and community form and farming on the frontier associated with Ste. Genevieve.

(2) CONDITIONS FOR ESTABLISHMENT.—The Historical Park shall not be established until the date on which the Secretary determines that—

(A) sufficient land has been acquired for the Historical Park to constitute a manageable unit; and