

Criminal Court, which directly disrupts the peace process.

Unfortunately, the PLO's efforts to subvert the International Criminal Court were advanced when former President Barack Obama refused to stand up for Israel in the U.N. Security Council.

While the PLO condemns Israel, it is, shamefully, paying payments to families of suicide bombers and terrorists as rewards for mass murder. Hakim Abard, who murdered five members of an Israeli family, receives \$14,000 a year from the PLO. The family of the murderer of American Taylor Force received benefits as a reward for that murder.

The administration had provided the PLO the opportunity to remain when their waiver lapsed, but, unfortunately, the PLO continues to sponsor violence against innocent American and Israeli citizens. President Trump made the right decision.

Our prayers for the people threatened by Hurricane Florence, with our appreciation for the first responders who are protecting American families in the tradition of 9/11.

ETHICS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

(Mr. SCHNEIDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, President Trump campaigned to drain the swamp, but his administration has only accelerated the revolving door between the executive branch and industry lobbyists.

Last week, I introduced a bill to restore the rules surrounding executive appointee lobbying to the higher standards of the previous administration.

The Ethics in Public Service Act would make commonsense changes to make government more transparent and accountable. For example, it would close loopholes in the Trump administration's ethics pledge allowing former appointees to communicate with the agency where they worked and permitting former lobbyists to join an executive agency that they lobbied within the previous 2 years.

Government officials should not be shamelessly trading on their service for personal gain or to help out the special interests that previously employed them.

Our democracy will function more effectively, and the American people will be better served, by a stronger separation between public service and corporate lobbying. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation to clean up the system in Washington.

RECOGNIZING LAKE TRAVIS FIRE DEPARTMENT AND BEE CAVE POLICE DEPARTMENT

(Mr. WILLIAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, today I want to take a moment to recognize the Lake Travis Fire Department and the Bee Cave Police Department that are in the great 25th District of Texas.

As we all know, yesterday marked 17 years since our country was attacked on September 11, 2001. We lost thousands of lives when terrorists wreaked havoc on the United States.

While we can never forget the anger and heartbreak we all felt, we must also never forget the heroic actions by our first responders. While people were running down the stairs to escape, men and women were running up 110 flights of stairs toward danger to save lives.

That day, we lost 343 New York firefighters, 37 Port Authority officers, and 23 New York P.D. officers.

While we can never truly thank them for their sacrifice, we can honor them for their courage and valor.

Yesterday, the Lake Travis Fire Department and the Bee Cave Police Department put on full gear and climbed 110 flights of stairs to commemorate those who never made it out while climbing those steps.

Mr. Speaker, our first responders are vital to the safety of Americans, and we must never forget to thank them for all they do. We must continue to pray for all those affected, and thank those who selflessly gave their lives for our Nation.

God bless our first responders, and God bless America.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 2:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1430

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CALVERT) at 2 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION ACT OF 2018

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6198) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction

Office, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6198

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 "Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION OFFICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title XIX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 591 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in the title heading, by striking "DOMESTIC NUCLEAR DETECTION OFFICE" and inserting "COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION OFFICE";

(2) by striking section 1901 and inserting the following:

"SEC. 1900. DEFINITIONS.

"In this title:

"(1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term 'Assistant Secretary' means the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office.

"(2) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term 'intelligence community' has the meaning given such term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

"(3) OFFICE.—The term 'Office' means the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office established under section 1901(a).

"(4) WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION.—The term 'weapon of mass destruction' has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801).

"Subtitle A—Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office

"SEC. 1901. COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION OFFICE.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department a Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office.

"(b) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The Office shall be headed by an Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office, who shall be appointed by the President.

"(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Assistant Secretary shall serve as the Secretary's principal advisor on—

"(1) weapons of mass destruction matters and strategies; and

"(2) coordinating efforts to counter weapons of mass destruction.

"(d) DETAILS.—The Secretary may request that the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the directors of other Federal agencies, including elements of the intelligence community, provide for the reimbursable detail of personnel with relevant expertise to the Office.";

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"Subtitle B—Mission of the Office

"SEC. 1921. MISSION OF THE OFFICE.

"The Office shall be responsible for coordinating with other Federal efforts and developing departmental strategy and policy to plan for, detect, and protect against the importation, possession, storage, transportation, development, or use of unauthorized chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear materials, devices, or agents in the United States and to protect against an attack using such materials, devices, or agents against the people, territory, or interests of the United States.

“SEC. 1922. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER DEPARTMENT ENTITIES AND FEDERAL AGENCIES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The authority of the Assistant Secretary under this title shall neither affect nor diminish the authority or the responsibility of any officer of the Department or of any officer of any other department or agency of the United States with respect to the command, control, or direction of the functions, personnel, funds, assets, and liabilities of any entity within the Department or any Federal department or agency.

“(b) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—Nothing in this title or any other provision of law may be construed to affect or reduce the responsibilities of the Federal Emergency Management Agency or the Administrator of the Agency, including the diversion of any asset, function, or mission of the Agency or the Administrator of the Agency.”;

(4) by striking section 1905;

(5) by redesignating sections 1902, 1903, 1904, 1906, and 1907 as sections 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, and 1927, respectively, and transferring such sections to appear after section 1922, as added by paragraph (3);

(6) in section 1923, as so redesignated—

(A) in the section heading by striking “MISSION OF OFFICE” and inserting “RESPONSIBILITIES”; and

(B) in subsection (a)(11), by striking “Domestic Nuclear Detection Office” and inserting “Office”;

(7) in section 1925, as so redesignated, in subsection (a), in the first sentence, by striking “section 1902” and inserting “section 1923”;

(8) in section 1926, as so redesignated—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “Director for Domestic Nuclear Detection” and inserting “Assistant Secretary”; and

(ii) by striking “paragraphs (6) and (7) of section 1902(a)” and inserting “section 1923”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “paragraphs (6) and (7) of section 1902(a)” and inserting “section 1923”;

(9) in section 1927, as so redesignated—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)(C), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “Director of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office” and inserting “Assistant Secretary”; and

(B) in subsection (c), by striking “section 1902” and inserting “section 1923”; and

(10) by inserting after section 1927, as so redesignated, the following new section:

“SEC. 1928. SECURING THE CITIES PROGRAM.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, through the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office, shall establish the ‘Securing the Cities’ (‘STC’) program to enhance the ability of the United States to detect and prevent terrorist attacks and other high consequence events utilizing nuclear or other radiological materials that pose a high risk to homeland security in high-risk urban areas. Through the STC program the Secretary shall—

“(1) assist State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments in designing and implementing, or enhancing existing, architectures for coordinated and integrated detection and interdiction of nuclear or other radiological materials that are out of regulatory control;

“(2) support the development of a region-wide operating capability to detect and report on nuclear and other radioactive materials out of regulatory control;

“(3) provide resources to enhance detection, analysis, communication, and coordination to better integrate into Federal operations State, local, Tribal, and territorial assets;

“(4) facilitate alarm adjudication and provide subject matter expertise and technical assistance on concepts of operations, training, exercises, and alarm response protocols;

“(5) communicate with, and promote sharing of information about the presence or detection of nuclear or other radiological materials among appropriate Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, in a manner that ensures transparency with the jurisdictions served by such program;

“(6) provide augmenting resources, as appropriate, to enable State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to sustain and refresh their capabilities developed under the STC program; and

“(7) provide any other assistance the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(b) DESIGNATION OF JURISDICTIONS.—In carrying out the STC program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall designate jurisdictions from among high-risk urban areas under section 2003, and other cities and regions, as appropriate.

“(c) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall notify the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate not later than three days before the designation of a new jurisdiction in accordance with subsection (b) or any other change to participating jurisdictions.”.

(b) REFERENCES AND CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any reference in any law, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to—

(A) the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office shall be deemed to be a reference to the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office; and

(B) the Director for Domestic Nuclear Detection shall be deemed to be a reference to the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office.

(2) CONSTRUCTION.—Sections 1923 through 1927 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as so redesignated by subsection (a), shall be construed to cover the chemical and biological responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office.

(3) AUTHORITY.—The authority of the Director of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office to make grants or enter into cooperative agreements is transferred to the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office, and such authority shall be construed to include grants for all purposes of title XIX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as amended by this Act.

(c) CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER.—

(1) REPEAL.—Title V of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 311 et seq.) is amended by striking section 516.

(2) AMENDMENT.—Title XIX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 591 et seq.), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“Subtitle C—Chief Medical Officer

“SEC. 1931. CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There is in the Office a Chief Medical Officer, who shall be appointed by the President. The Chief Medical Officer shall report to the Assistant Secretary.

“(b) QUALIFICATIONS.—The individual appointed as Chief Medical Officer shall be a licensed physician possessing a demonstrated ability in and knowledge of medicine and public health.

“(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Chief Medical Officer shall have the responsibility within the Department for medical issues related to natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters, including—

“(1) serving as the principal advisor on medical and public health issues to the Secretary, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Assistant Secretary, and other Department officials;

“(2) providing operational medical support to all components of the Department;

“(3) as appropriate, providing medical liaisons to the components of the Department, on a reimbursable basis, to provide subject matter expertise on operational medical issues;

“(4) coordinating with Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments, the medical community, and others within and outside the Department, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response of the Department of Health and Human Services, with respect to medical and public health matters; and

“(5) performing such other duties relating to such responsibilities as the Secretary may require.”.

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by striking the item relating to section 516.

(d) WORKFORCE HEALTH AND MEDICAL SUPPORT.—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. WORKFORCE HEALTH AND MEDICAL SUPPORT.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary for Management shall be responsible for workforce-focused health and medical activities of the Department. The Under Secretary for Management may further delegate these responsibilities, as appropriate.

“(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Under Secretary for Management, in coordination with the Chief Medical Officer, shall—

“(1) provide oversight and coordinate the medical and health activities of the Department for the human and animal personnel of the Department;

“(2) establish medical, health, veterinary, and occupational health exposure policy, guidance, strategies, and initiatives for the human and animal personnel of the Department;

“(3) as deemed appropriate by the Under Secretary, provide medical liaisons to the components of the Department, on a reimbursable basis, to provide subject matter expertise on occupational medical and public health issues;

“(4) serve as the primary representative for the Department on agreements regarding the detail of Commissioned Corps officers of the Public Health Service of the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department, except that components and offices of the Department shall retain authority for funding, determination of specific duties, and supervision of such detailed Commissioned Corps officers; and

“(5) perform such other duties relating to such responsibilities as the Secretary may require.”.

(e) TRANSFERS; ABOLISHMENT.—

(1) TRANSFERS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall transfer to—

(A) the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office all functions, personnel, budget authority, and assets of—

(i) the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, as in existence on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(ii) the Office of Health Affairs, as in existence on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, except for the functions, personnel, budget authority, and assets of such office necessary to perform the functions specified in section 710 of the Homeland

Security Act of 2002 (relating to workforce health and medical support), as added by this Act; and

(B) the Directorate of Management of the Department of Homeland Security all functions, personnel, budget authority, and assets of the Office of Health Affairs, as in existence on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, that are necessary to perform the functions of such section 710.

(2) **ABOLISHMENT.**—Upon completion of all transfers pursuant to paragraph (1)—

(A) the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office of the Department of Homeland Security and the Office of Health Affairs of the Department of Homeland Security are abolished; and

(B) the positions of Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs and Director for Domestic Nuclear Detection are abolished.

(f) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) **OTHER OFFICERS.**—Paragraph (4) of section 103(d) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 113(d)) is amended by striking “A Director for Domestic Nuclear Detection” and inserting “An Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office”.

(2) **NATIONAL BIOSURVEILLANCE INTEGRATION CENTER.**—Section 316(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 195b(a)) is amended by striking “Secretary shall” and inserting “Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office, shall”.

(3) **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.**—Section 317(f) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 195c(f)) is amended by striking “the Chief Medical Officer,” and inserting “the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office,”.

(4) **FUNCTIONS TRANSFERRED.**—Section 505(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 315(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (4);

(B) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (4); and

(C) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated, by striking “through (4)” and inserting “through (3)”.

(5) **COORDINATION OF DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY EFFORTS RELATED TO FOOD, AGRICULTURE, AND VETERINARY DEFENSE AGAINST TERRORISM.**—Section 528(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 321q(a)) is amended by striking “Health Affairs,” and inserting “the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office,”.

(g) **DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, AND NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES.**—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act and once every year thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide a briefing and report to the appropriate congressional committees (as defined in section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101) on—

(1) the organization and management of the chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear activities of the Department of Homeland Security, including research and development activities, and the location of each activity under the organizational structure of the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office;

(2) a comprehensive inventory of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear activities, including research and development activities, of the Department of Homeland Security, highlighting areas of collaboration between components, coordination with other agencies, and the effectiveness and accomplishments of consolidated chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear activities of the Department of Homeland Security, including research and development activities;

(3) information relating to how the organizational structure of the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office will enhance the development of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear priorities and capabilities across the Department of Homeland Security;

(4) a discussion of any resulting cost savings and efficiencies gained through activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2);

(5) information on how the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office is coordinating with the Under Secretary of Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security on research and development activities; and

(6) recommendations for any necessary statutory changes, or, if no statutory changes are necessary, an explanation of why no statutory or organizational changes are necessary.

(h) **CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.**—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended—

(1) by inserting after the item relating to section 709 the following:

“Sec. 710. Workforce health and medical support.”;

and

(2) by striking the item relating to title XIX (including items relating to section 1901 through section 1907) and inserting the following:

“TITLE XIX—COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION OFFICE

“Sec. 1900. Definitions.

“Subtitle A—Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office

“Sec. 1901. Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office.

“Subtitle B—Mission of the Office

“Sec. 1921. Mission of the Office.

“Sec. 1922. Relationship to other department entities and Federal agencies.

“Sec. 1923. Responsibilities.

“Sec. 1924. Hiring authority.

“Sec. 1925. Testing authority.

“Sec. 1926. Contracting and grant making authorities.

“Sec. 1927. Joint annual interagency review of global nuclear detection architecture.

“Sec. 1928. Securing the Cities program.

“Subtitle C—Chief Medical Officer

“Sec. 1931. Chief Medical Officer.”.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) 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 have 5 legislative days 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, the Department of Homeland Security was created in response to the September 11th terrorist attacks and the threats to the homeland posed by al-Qaida and other terrorist groups.

As we pause this week to honor those we lost and the heroic first responders who answered the call that day, we recognize that the scope of the threat we face has changed dramatically since that time and has become much more diverse and diffuse.

We know that the terrorist groups have long strived to employ chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear materials in their attacks. There have been documented reports of ISIS using mustard gas in Syria, as well as sarin and chlorine gas used by the Syrian Government.

A plot to release hydrogen sulfide via an improvised chemical dispersion device was uncovered by the Australian Federal Police. A laptop, reportedly retrieved from an ISIS hideout in Syria in 2014, contained plans for bubonic plague and a document that discussed the advantages of using biological weapons.

The rapid evolution of new biological techniques, such as CRISPR CAS9, posed potential threats as the new techniques can be used for good or evil.

As the world of threats continues to evolve and becomes more complex, it is incumbent upon the Department of Homeland Security to continuously assess whether or not it is optimally organized to best confront the variety of threats it is expected to counter.

Last year, former Acting Secretary Elaine Duke determined that the Department was, in fact, not organized to best address these threats. As a result, on October 6, she notified the committee of her intent to use her 872 reorganization authority to establish a Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction, or CWMD, Office, headed by an Assistant Secretary for CWMD. This reorganization took effect last December.

However, the Secretary realized that the use of her 872 authority would only take her so far, and legislative changes are necessary to fully integrate the CWMD Office.

The bill we are considering today will take the Department the rest of the way in developing an integrated, effective organization to counter CBRN threats. The bill seeks to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security has the structure, authority, and tools it needs to counter the threat of weapons of mass destruction.

It consolidates the Office of Health Affairs and the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office into a new Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office to ensure coordination and unity of effort at the Department of Homeland Security on these threats.

Current DHS Secretary Nielsen has indicated that this bill is one of her top legislative priorities, noting that it will: “Provide DHS crucial, legal authorities to protect the homeland . . . and enable DHS to more quickly obtain, test, and deploy effective counter-WMD tactics and technologies.”

Mr. Speaker, I include in the **RECORD** a letter from Secretary Nielsen in support of this bill.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, August 30, 2018.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN: Thank you for your leadership addressing threats to the homeland and strengthening the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) ability to carry out its mission. I would like to highlight the work being done in Congress to close identified security gaps and better guard against the persistent and evolving threat from weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

As we saw with the Russian chemical weapon incidents in the United Kingdom, nation-states are using these capabilities for lethal attacks against civilians. At the same time, terrorist groups such as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) are developing and deploying their own WMD capabilities to use on the battlefield and in external operations in the West. Unfortunately, the U.S. Government—including the Department of Homeland Security—lacks the central focal point and authorities needed to decisively combat these dangers and adequately defend the U.S. homeland.

That is why I am seeking your assistance in authorizing the DHS Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD) Office. This is one of my top legislative priorities for DHS, in addition to authorizing DHS to counter the threat posed by the nefarious use of unmanned aircraft systems and authorization of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, as well as DHS itself. The CWMD legislation sponsored by Representative Donovan (R-NY) and cosponsored by Chairman McCaul (R-TX), H.R. 6198, the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Act of 2018, represents a critical step towards enabling the Department to mitigate WMD threats.

I strongly support this bill's movement under suspension of the rules at the earliest possible opportunity. Once enacted, the legislation will permanently establish the CWMD Office as the nucleus of DHS efforts to guard the homeland against chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats, and it will provide DHS crucial legal authorities to protect the homeland. DHS currently has broad authorities related to the radiological and nuclear detection mission space, but the lack of similar authorities for chemical and biological missions constrains our ability to address threats comprehensively. This legislation would address that disparity and will enable DHS to more quickly obtain, test, and deploy effective counter-WMD tactics and technologies.

Similar bill language has been reported out of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs committee as part of the DHS Authorization bill, H.R. 2825, so I am hopeful that near-term House passage will bring this legislation closer to reaching the President's desk. Thank you again for your attention to this important matter, and for your continued support of the men and women at DHS, who are committed to protecting this Nation.

Best Regards,

KIRSTJEN M. NIELSEN,
Secretary.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, the bill we are considering today is similar in intent to the Department of Homeland Security CBRNE Defense Act, which passed the House by voice last Congress. Similar legislation was approved by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs earlier this year, and I am hopeful we will work together to swiftly get this

important bill to the President for his signature.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman WALDEN of the Energy and Commerce Committee for working with me to bring this bill to the floor. I urge all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 6198, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, September 10, 2018.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: I am writing to notify you that the Committee on Energy and Commerce will forgo action on H.R. 6198 so that it may proceed to the House floor for consideration. This is done with the understanding that the Committee's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered. In addition, the Committee reserves the right to seek conferees on the bill and expects your support when such a request is made.

Please include a copy of this letter outlining our mutual understanding with respect to H.R. 6198 in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

Sincerely,

GREG WALDEN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, September 11, 2018.

Hon. GREG WALDEN,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WALDEN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 6198, the "Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Act of 2018." I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and accordingly, understand that the Committee on Energy and Commerce will forego further consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Homeland Security concurs with the mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of this bill at this time, the Committee on Energy and Commerce 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 your request to have the Committee represented on the conference committee.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6198, the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Act of 2018. This bill authorizes the Department of Homeland Security to reorganize itself in order to prevent, prepare for, and respond to a biological, chemical, radiological, or nuclear attack.

Yesterday, we came together to mark the 17th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. As a proud New Jerseyan, I carry those images of that day in the work that I do in Congress and on the Committee on Homeland Security.

Today, in a small way, we are here to honor the loss and sacrifice Americans felt that day by positioning DHS to better address emerging terrorist threats. Plans to reorganize DHS' biological, chemical, radiological, and nuclear programs first surfaced in the Obama administration.

In December 2017, then-Acting DHS Secretary Elaine Duke exercised her statutory authority to reorganize elements within the Department to establish a new Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office. The CWMD Office merged the functions of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, DNDO; the majority of the Office of Health Affairs, OHA; parts of Science and Technology Directorate, S&T; parts of DHS Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans, SPP; and DHS Office of Operations Coordination, OPS.

Though many of us in Congress were disappointed that DHS acted without explicit congressional authorization to make this major operational change, the reorganization appears to have been effective in harmonizing efforts within DHS.

I am pleased that the legislation before you today contains language authored to ensure that CWMD Office leverages research and development resources and capabilities by coordinating with the Science and Technology Directorate.

H.R. 6198 also contains language, already passed by the House, to authorize the Securing the Cities program. Securing the Cities is an important tool to protecting New York City and other major metropolitan areas.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Act to help protect our homeland from the world's most dangerous weapons.

Yesterday, we observed the 17th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks. On that day in 2001, 19 Islamist terrorists turned airplanes into cruise missiles and crashed them into the Twin Towers, the Pentagon, and a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Had it not been for the heroic passengers on United Airlines flight 93, this very building, the Capitol, could have been destroyed.

Almost 3,000 innocent people were killed and thousands more injured. It was the most devastating attack on our homeland in our Nation's history, targeting our military, economic, and political symbols of power.

While attending a memorial service at the Pentagon yesterday, many of us remembered the images from 9/11 and they returned to me: the towers falling, the Pentagon on fire, and our brave first responders running into

harm's way to save their fellow citizens.

I also remembered that in the aftermath of the attack, we pledged to never forget: never forget the pain we felt, never forget the victims, and never forget that our enemies will search for new ways to attack our country.

Today, the most serious threats to our national security come from biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons. Over the last few decades, North Korea has been developing nuclear weapons and intercontinental ballistic missiles to deliver them.

The terror-sponsoring regime in Iran has also been building a nuclear program, and Bashar al-Assad's evil dictatorship in Syria has used chemical weapons to kill innocent civilians, including women and children.

Russia recently used a chemical weapon in an assassination attempt in Great Britain, and reports of terror groups like al-Qaida have been in pursuit of weapons of mass destruction for many, many years.

These weapons are real and lethal. A WMD attack in the United States could kill millions of people and bring economic mayhem. We cannot allow these weapons to be used on our soil.

To prevent this from happening, we must give the Department of Homeland Security the authority it needs to counter the threat. This legislation will consolidate the Office of Health Affairs and the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, along with other department programs, into a Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office.

I personally talked to the Secretary who strongly supports this legislation. I believe DHS is making good progress in this direction, but this legislation will ensure that they have the necessary authorities to counter these dangerous threats.

This is an opportunity, I believe, for both parties on the day after 9/11—both Republican and Democrat, as we do so many times on this committee—to come together and pass legislation that will strengthen our homeland.

I would like to thank Congressman DONOVAN from New York, where this awful, tragic event happened 17 years ago, for all of his hard work on this issue, and Congressman PAYNE, who has always been a team player, if you will, on the other side of the aisle, for working together to get good things done for the country which will better protect the American people.

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Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, in closing, the ultimate success of the CWMD Office rests with the dedicated men and women who have served at the Department.

The threat landscape is diverse, with conventional and nonconventional threats emerging daily. It is critical that we stay vigilant and do all we can to ensure that the Federal Department we established in response to the 9/11

attacks is positioned to meet the demands of the current threat landscape. By passing H.R. 6198, we can do our part to set the CWMD Office on a positive course.

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

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6198, 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. 6198, 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.

DOG AND CAT MEAT TRADE PROHIBITION ACT OF 2018

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6720) to prohibit the slaughter of dogs and cats for human consumption, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6720

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 “Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON SLAUGHTER OF DOGS AND CATS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (c), no person may—

(1) knowingly slaughter a dog or cat for human consumption; or

(2) knowingly ship, transport, move, deliver, receive, possess, purchase, sell, or donate—

(A) a dog or cat to be slaughtered for human consumption; or

(B) a dog or cat part for human consumption.

(b) SCOPE.—Subsection (a) shall apply only with respect to conduct—

(1) in interstate commerce or foreign commerce; or

(2) within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States.

(c) EXCEPTION FOR INDIAN TRIBES.—The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to an Indian (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) carrying out any activity described in subsection (a) for the purpose of a religious ceremony.

(d) PENALTY.—Any person who violates subsection (a) shall be subject to a fine in an amount not greater than \$5,000 for each violation.

(e) EFFECT ON STATE LAW.—Nothing in this section—

(1) limits any State or local law or regulation protecting the welfare of animals; or

(2) prevents a State or unit of local government from adopting and enforcing an animal welfare law or regulation that is more stringent than this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) and the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ABRAHAM. 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 under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6720, to prohibit the slaughter of dogs and cats for human consumption, and for other purposes.

While this practice is completely unacceptable in the United States, only four States explicitly ban it. This patchwork of State laws does not signal the appropriate protection we Americans expect for our beloved pets and companions.

To credibly condemn the international dog and cat meat trade, including the Yulin Dog Meat Festival in China, the United States must send a clear message that this practice is completely unacceptable. This overwhelmingly bipartisan legislation is a crucial step in doing just that.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 6720, the Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act of 2018.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my colleague, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) and this bipartisan legislation. The Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act calls for an end to the global dog and cat meat trade.

Sixty-eight percent of Americans own pets. We treat our pets as members of the family. That is why I am surprised to learn that we don't already have a law on the books that prevents the killing of dogs and cats for their meat.

While this remains an extremely rare issue in the United States, the practice does occur elsewhere in the world. By passing this bill, Congress will outlaw the slaughter and transfer of dogs and cats for human consumption in the United States.

The farm bill currently in conference includes similar language from both the House and the Senate, so regardless of what our colleagues across the Hill do on this important issue, we can send an important message today.

With this legislation, we have the chance to be a leader and set an example for those countries in which the cat and dog meat trade is most prevalent, including South Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, China, and elsewhere. By passing