

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

this bill, we draw a clear line on this issue and send a message to the world that we will hold countries who abide this practice accountable.

It should be pointed out that while prohibiting the killing of dogs and cats for food may be seen as a no-brainer, this legislation does take a sensitive approach to the issue with regard to the diverse cultural practices within our great Nation.

I appreciate the work of the two gentlemen from Florida, Messrs. BUCHANAN and HASTINGS, and their leadership on this issue. It is an opportunity to come together, and we should be united in our opposition to this unconscionable practice.

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK), my distinguished colleague.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today to voice my strong support for H.R. 6720, the Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act of 2018. It is critical that every single Member of this Chamber live up to our responsibilities to be a voice for the voiceless, and banning the individual sale of dog and cat meat is vital, clearly, to fulfilling that obligation.

Mr. Speaker, in my district of Bucks and Montgomery Counties, as is the case across this Nation, our pets are members of the family who contribute greatly to our society. In particular, dogs serve as invaluable partners in law enforcement, our military, and as service animals.

Today, we have before us bipartisan, commonsense legislation that protects these animals at the most basic level. It seems obvious that, in this day and age, dogs and cats are not edible species, period.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Florida (Mr. BUCHANAN) for introducing this vital legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it in a bipartisan fashion to show a united front against the horrors of the dog and cat meat trade.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), my very distinguished colleague.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague and good friend from the Virgin Islands as well as the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana for putting this measure forward today.

Obviously, I support H.R. 6720, to prohibit the slaughter of dogs and cats for human consumption. I was pleased to join my distinguished colleague and co-chairman of the Florida delegation, Congressman VERN BUCHANAN, in reintroducing the measure.

It might surprise you to learn that consumption of dogs and cats is still legal in 44 States, where there are no

laws prohibiting the purchasing, shipping, transporting, selling, or donating of dogs or cats to be slaughtered for human consumption. This bill would prohibit these actions and impose penalties to ensure that individuals involved in the dog or cat meat trade are held accountable.

The United States' position on this cruel and brutal practice should be unequivocal: Dogs and cats should not be killed in this country for the consumption of their meat. It is with the utmost importance that we unify our animal cruelty laws in all 50 States and explicitly ban the torture and killing of dogs and cats for human consumption.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BUCHANAN for his steadfast leadership in raising awareness on animal welfare issues in Congress, and I also give a big shout-out to all those who have helped us put this measure together in the United States, the number of people who have been involved.

I hope this body will expeditiously pass the measure. Doing so will reaffirm the United States' commitment to the humane treatment of our most beloved companions.

I might add, I misspoke a minute ago when I said the 50 States. I mean the 50 States and its territories should explicitly ban the torture.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on the bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, I simply urge all Members to join me in support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 6720, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCAUL). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6720.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FIGHTING FRAUD TO PROTECT CARE FOR SENIORS ACT OF 2018

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6690) to establish a smart card pilot program to combat fraud, waste, and abuse and to protect beneficiary identity under the Medicare program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6690

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 "Fighting Fraud to Protect Care for Seniors Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. MEDICARE SMART CARD PILOT PROGRAM.

Part E of title XVIII of the Social Security Act is amended by inserting after section 1866E the following new section:

"SEC. 1866F. SMART CARD PILOT PROGRAM.

"(a) IMPLEMENTATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 36 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish a pilot program (in this section referred to as the 'pilot program') to evaluate the feasibility of using smart card technology under this title.

"(2) SMART CARD TECHNOLOGY DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'smart card technology' means the following:

"(A) BENEFICIARY SMART CARD.—A machine readable, tamper-resistant card (in this section referred to as a 'smart card') that includes an embedded integrated circuit chip with a secure micro-controller (as defined by the National Institute on Standards and Technology) that enables the verification and secure, electronic authentication of the identity of a Medicare beneficiary at the point of service through a combination of the smart card and a personal identification number known by or associated with such beneficiary.

"(B) CARD READER TECHNOLOGY.—Information technology that enables a supplier and provider to authenticate the identity of a Medicare beneficiary through presentation of such a smart card and such components, with such authentication to be reflected through the use of a modifier or in another appropriate manner, as determined by the Secretary, in the claims adjudication process.

"(3) PROGRAM DESIGN ELEMENTS.—The pilot program shall be conducted for a period of 3 years consistent with the following:

"(A) SELECTION OF AREA.—In consultation with the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Secretary shall select at least 3 geographic areas in which the pilot program will operate.

"(B) SELECTION OF SUPPLIER AND PROVIDER TYPES.—In consultation with the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Secretary shall select supplier and provider types that will be required to participate in the pilot program (referred to in this section as 'participating suppliers and providers'). In selecting such supplier and provider types, the Secretary shall—

"(i) take into account the risk of fraud, waste, and abuse (as described in section 1866(j)(2)(B)) with respect to the category of provider or supplier) and other factors as determined appropriate by the Secretary; and

"(ii) limit the pilot program to no more than 2,000 suppliers and providers.

"(C) SUPPLIER AND PROVIDER HARDSHIP EXEMPTIONS.—The Secretary shall exempt from participation in the pilot program a supplier or provider that either—

"(i) does not have access to card reader technology (as described in paragraph (2)(B));

"(ii) does not have sufficient internet access;

or

"(iii) has a low volume (as determined by the Secretary) of Medicare claims for which payment is made under this title.

"(D) SMART CARD AND SMART CARD READER ISSUANCE.—

"(i) BENEFICIARY SMART CARD ISSUANCE.—The Secretary shall provide for, at no cost, the issuance (and, if necessary, replacement) of beneficiary smart cards described in paragraph (2)(A) to all Medicare beneficiaries residing in a geographic area in which the pilot program is conducted under subparagraph (A). Information that appears on Medicare cards used outside the pilot program may appear on the face of the beneficiary smart card.

"(ii) SUPPLIER AND PROVIDER SMART CARD READER ISSUANCE.—At the request of a participating supplier or provider, the Secretary shall provide for, at no cost, the issuance to such supplier or provider of smart card hardware and