

computing, communications, and cybersecurity.

These have real-world applications. Through basic research, NIST sets standards and facilitates the implementation and use of technologies that impact the lives of our constituents every day. Examples include providing the precise official time for the United States that we see on our computers and smartphones, to the thresholds for the smoke detectors that protect our families and homes.

For instance, NIST research and standards have improved the self-contained breathing apparatuses worn by more than a million American firefighters.

NIST also provides modeling techniques that allow scientists to develop and test cancer therapies using active viruses that cannot be studied using standard practices. And NIST's Smart Grid work is improving the reliability and capability of our electric grid.

These are just a handful of examples that illustrate why NIST's scientific and technical research and services are critical to American innovation and industrial competitiveness.

Chairwoman COMSTOCK's bill significantly increases NIST's research to facilitate commercial use of emerging technologies. Specifically, this legislation increases the core NIST laboratories account by \$125 million to transform more basic and early stage research into usable innovations and new technologies.

It accelerates basic quantum information science research and standards development, and provides funds to address fundamental research gaps, enabling the U.S. to take the lead in developing quantum standards and measurements.

Chairwoman COMSTOCK's bill allows NIST to expand its fundamental and applied cybersecurity research to address key questions relating to privacy, security, and vulnerability of software tools and communications networks.

It expands the research infrastructure and scientific staff needed to develop the Institute's capabilities in artificial intelligence and data science, including rigorous scientific testing to support the development of trustworthy AI systems.

It further directs NIST to expand its composites research and standards development to facilitate the adoption of composite technology in American infrastructure.

Finally, the legislation encourages NIST to continue to examine the Internet of Things and address measurement and security challenges created by the convergence of digital technologies with the physical world.

By supporting this bill, Congress ensures continued U.S. innovation leadership in quantum science, artificial intelligence, big data science, cybersecurity, the Internet of Things, and resilient infrastructure.

We can thank Chairwoman COMSTOCK for her work on this legislation. I urge

my colleagues to support H.R. 6229 and the critical work done by NIST.

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

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO).

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6229, the National Institute of Standards and Technology Reauthorization Act of 2018.

As a cosponsor of this legislation, I understand the importance of positioning the United States as a strong leader in scientific research and development. This bill supports basic quantum information science research and standards development, and provides funds to address fundamental research gaps, create a stronger workforce pipeline, and allow the United States to take the lead in developing global quantum standards and measures.

This bill also supports developments in our national security. As cybersecurity threats from across the globe increase, it is important the Federal Government have the guidelines in place to defend against potential cyber attacks and protect our sensitive information against foreign adversaries.

The bill also provides for the Institute to expand its fundamental and applied cybersecurity research to address key questions relating to measurement of privacy, security, and vulnerability of software tools and communications networks.

I want to thank Representative COMSTOCK for introducing this legislation to push the United States forward, and for Chairman SMITH's leadership in advancing the scientific position of the United States.

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

Mr. Speaker, NIST's expertise across many fields is critical to our economy, our research enterprise, and our manufacturing sector. This bill puts NIST in a strong position to carry out its work through the end of fiscal 2019.

I want to particularly highlight the strong support for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the Manufacturing USA programs, which receive a robust authorization under the Industrial Technology Services account, and I want to thank my majority colleagues on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee for working with me to match the agency request for fiscal year 2019.

I have a strong relationship with Manufacturing USA's Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation Institute located in Chicago, just outside my district. Through partnerships with universities, manufacturers, nonprofits, and government entities, they work to develop the technology-enabled manufacturing tools industry needs, pilot them on the factory floor, and train the manufacturing workforce.

The digital manufacturing hub is just 1 of 14 Manufacturing USA institutes across the country, each with its own technology focus. Together, they are

working to ensure that we have a competitive manufacturing sector in the U.S. into the future.

Manufacturing USA and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership play a key role in keeping our economy strong and creating the jobs of tomorrow.

Beyond manufacturing, I also want to highlight the critical position pay authority this bill gives NIST to hire talented cybersecurity and quantum information science professionals.

□ 2200

It is often difficult for Federal agencies to attract top-level talent in these fields, because the Federal pay scale cannot compete with the private sector.

This bill grants a limited exemption to the Federal pay scale to ensure that NIST will have access to the right people to lead the Nation and the world in cybersecurity and quantum information science.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairwoman COMSTOCK again for introducing this bill. I want to urge my colleagues to support it.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you again for the opportunity to speak on this important piece of legislation and to thank my colleagues and Ranking Member LIPINSKI for their support.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. COMSTOCK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6229, 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.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY VETERANS' HEALTH INITIATIVE ACT

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6398) to authorize the Department of Energy to conduct collaborative research with the Department of Veterans Affairs in order to improve healthcare services for veterans in 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. 6398

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 "Department of Energy Veterans' Health Initiative Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Energy.

(2) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term “National Laboratory” has the meaning given that term in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Energy.

SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are to advance Department of Energy expertise in artificial intelligence and high performance computing in order to improve health outcomes for veteran populations by—

(1) supporting basic research through the application of artificial intelligence, high performance computing, modeling and simulation, machine learning, and large scale data analytics to identify and solve outcome-defined challenges in the health sciences;

(2) maximizing the impact of the Department of Veterans Affairs’ health and genomics data housed at the National Laboratories, as well as data from other sources, on science, innovation, and health care outcomes through the use and advancement of artificial intelligence and high-performance computing capabilities of the Department of Energy;

(3) promoting collaborative research through the establishment of partnerships to improve data sharing between Federal agencies, National Laboratories, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit institutions;

(4) establishing multiple scientific computing user facilities to house and provision available data to foster transformational outcomes; and

(5) driving the development of technology to improve artificial intelligence, high performance computing, and networking relevant to mission applications of the Department of Energy, including modeling, simulation, machine learning, and advanced data analytics.

SEC. 4. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY VETERANS HEALTH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and carry out a research program in artificial intelligence and high performance computing, focused on the development of tools to solve big data challenges associated with veteran’s healthcare, and to support the efforts of the Department of Veterans Affairs to identify potential health risks and challenges utilizing data on long term healthcare, health risks, and genomic data collected from veteran populations. The Secretary shall carry out this program through a competitive, merit-reviewed process, and consider applications from National Laboratories, institutions of higher education, multi-institutional collaborations, and other appropriate entities.

(b) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—In carrying out the program established under subsection (a), the Secretary may—

(1) conduct basic research in modeling and simulation, machine learning, large scale data analytics, and predictive analysis in order to develop novel or optimized algorithms for prediction of disease treatment and recovery;

(2) develop methods to accommodate large data sets with variable quality and scale, and to provide insight and models for complex systems;

(3) develop new approaches and maximize the use of algorithms developed through artificial intelligence, machine learning, data analytics, natural language processing, modeling and simulation, and develop new algorithms suitable for high performance computing systems and large biomedical data sets;

(4) advance existing and construct new data enclaves capable of securely storing data sets provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, and other sources; and

(5) promote collaboration and data sharing between National Laboratories, research entities, and user facilities of the Department by providing the necessary access and secure data transfer capabilities.

(c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the program required under subsection (a), the Secretary is authorized to—

(1) enter into memoranda of understanding in order to carry out reimbursable agreements with the Department of Veterans Affairs and other entities in order to maximize the effectiveness of Department of Energy research and development to improve veterans’ healthcare;

(2) consult with the Department of Veterans Affairs and other Federal agencies as appropriate; and

(3) ensure that data storage meets all privacy and security requirements established by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and that access to data is provided in accordance with relevant Department of Veterans Affairs data access policies, including informed consent.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate, a report detailing the effectiveness of—

(1) the interagency coordination between each Federal agency involved in the research program carried out under this section;

(2) collaborative research achievements of the program; and

(3) potential opportunities to expand the technical capabilities of the Department.

(e) FUNDING.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall devote \$27,000,000 to carry out the activities authorized under this section during fiscal years 2019 through 2023, subject to the availability of appropriations, to come from amounts made available for medical and prosthetic research. This section shall be carried out using funds otherwise appropriated by law after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, DATA ANALYTICS, AND COMPUTATIONAL RESEARCH PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a pilot program to develop tools for big data analytics by utilizing data sets generated by Federal agencies, institutions of higher education, nonprofit research organizations, and industry in order to advance artificial intelligence technologies to solve complex, big data challenges. The Secretary shall carry out this program through a competitive, merit-reviewed process, and consider applications from National Laboratories, institutions of higher education, multi-institutional collaborations, and other appropriate entities.

(b) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—In carrying out the pilot program established under subsection (a), the Secretary may—

(1) establish a cross-cutting research initiative to prevent duplication and coordinate research efforts in artificial intelligence and data analytics across the Department;

(2) conduct basic research in modeling and simulation, artificial intelligence, machine learning, large scale data analytics, natural language processing, and predictive analysis in order to develop novel or optimized predictive algorithms suitable for high performance computing systems and large biomedical data sets;

(3) develop multivariate optimization models to accommodate large data sets with variable quality and scale in order to visualize complex systems;

(4) establish multiple scientific computing user facilities to serve as data enclaves capable of securely storing data sets created by Federal agencies, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, or industry at National Laboratories; and

(5) promote collaboration and data sharing between National Laboratories, research entities, and user facilities of the Department by providing the necessary access and secure data transfer capabilities.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program under subsection (a), including basic research discoveries achieved in the course of the program and potential opportunities to expand the technical capabilities of the Department through the development of artificial intelligence and data analytics technologies.

(d) FUNDING.—For purposes of carrying out this section, the Secretary of Energy shall devote \$52,000,000 to carry out this section, which shall include \$26,000,000 for each fiscal years 2019 and 2020, subject to the availability of appropriations. This section shall be carried out using funds otherwise appropriated by law after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6. SPENDING LIMITATION.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act, and this Act and such amendments shall be carried out using amounts otherwise available for such purpose.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 6398, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 6398, the Department of Energy Veterans’ Health Initiative Act.

This legislation authorizes the Department of Energy, DOE, to conduct collaborative research with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the VA, in order to solve complex, big data challenges in order to improve veterans’ healthcare and basic research in advanced computing and data analytics.

The VA hosts one of the world’s largest and most valuable health datasets. Through its voluntary data collection program entitled the Million Veterans Program, MVP, the VA has collected detailed health information and

genomic data volunteered by over 600,000 veterans.

In order to better use this data to provide better healthcare for our veterans, the VA needs more advanced computing capabilities, infrastructure, and expertise than it has in-house.

As a world leader in high performance computing, DOE is well suited to meet this need. In its national laboratory system, DOE possesses a unique set of cutting-edge research capabilities.

It hosts six of the world's top 10 fastest supercomputers, including the Summit computer in Oak Ridge National Laboratory, which is the world's fastest supercomputer. DOE also funds robust research in computational sciences and data analytics, which can be used to solve a range of complex big data challenges in the physical sciences.

The interagency partnership authorized in my bill combines the VA's clinical and population science expertise with DOE's big data science in advanced computing expertise in order to solve critical health challenges for our veterans while creating another path forward for the advancement of big data science tools for the American researchers.

This partnership, called the Million Veterans Program-Computational Health Analytics for Medical Precision to Improve Outcomes Now, or the MVP-CHAMPION program, will use DOE supercomputers to analyze VA health data and look for patterns that will help inform and improve medical treatment for heart disease, traumatic brain injury, and cancer.

Ultimately, the goal of this legislation is for the DOE national laboratories to provide the VA with information it can use to improve healthcare services for veterans.

The bill also requires the Department to establish data storage facilities to securely transmit and store data that the VA provides. This will make certain that privacy and security are maintained for veterans who volunteer for the program.

In addition, this legislation establishes a pilot program within DOE to create a cross-cutting research initiative in artificial intelligence, data analytics, and computational research.

This program will help American scientists stay on the cutting-edge as the computing landscape changes and international competition increases, and will promote the development of the computing tools needed to address big data challenges.

These tools will both help improve the existing MVP-CHAMPION partnership and will advance key DOE mission goals in nuclear security, energy technology, and innovative science research.

Our veterans should have access to better healthcare services and our scientists should remain leaders in advanced computing. The Department of Energy Veterans' Health Initiative Act promises to deliver on both fronts.

Once again, I would like to thank Chairman SMITH and the 15 other Science, Space, and Technology Committee members who cosponsored this legislation for supporting my bill.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 20, 2018.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Space, Science, and
Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 6398, as amended, the "Department of Energy Veterans' Health Initiative Act." As you know, there are provisions in the legislation that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

In the interest of permitting your committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this legislation, I am willing to waive this committee's right to sequential referral. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its jurisdiction. I also request that you urge the Speaker to name members of this committee to any conference committee which is named to consider such provisions.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 6398, as amended, and into the Congressional Record during consideration of this legislation on the House floor.

Sincerely,
DAVID P. ROE, M.D.,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY,
Washington, DC, September 20, 2018.

Hon. DAVID P. ROE,
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding the Committee on Veterans' Affairs jurisdictional interest in H.R. 6398, the "Department of Energy Veterans' Health Initiative Act," and your willingness to forego consideration of H.R. 6398 by your committee.

I agree that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs has a valid jurisdictional interest in certain provisions of H.R. 6398, and that the Committee's jurisdiction will not be adversely affected by your decision to forego consideration of H.R. 6398. As you have requested, I will support your request for an appropriate appointment of outside conferees from your Committee in the event of a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation should such a conference be convened.

Finally, I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Committee Report and in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6398, the Department of Energy Veterans' Health Initiative Act, and I thank Mr. NORMAN for introducing this bill.

This bill authorizes the Department of Energy to conduct collaborative re-

search with the Department of Veterans Affairs to address large and complex data management challenges associated with veterans' healthcare issues.

H.R. 6398 also directs the DOE to carry out a 2-year research pilot program to advance research in artificial intelligence and data analytics for a broad range of applications.

These technologies have the potential to significantly improve the efficiency of the use and distribution of our Nation's resources.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the majority and minority members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee for working with the Science, Space, and Technology Committee to improve this legislation. Together, I believe we have ensured that this bill will be a positive step toward tackling some of the critical problems that the VA is currently facing in providing our veterans with the care they deserve when they come home.

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

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER), the chairman of the Energy Subcommittee.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6398, the Department of Energy Veterans' Health Initiative Act.

The DOE and VA national research program, housed within the agencies' Big Data Science Initiative, is called the Million Veterans Program-Computational Health Analytics for Medical Precision to Improve Outcomes Now, or MVP-CHAMPION. This initiative utilizes DOE's unique capabilities in big data analytics, artificial intelligence, and advanced computing by providing VA researchers access to DOE's research facilities and scientific expertise while the DOE receives access to a massive collection of data from the VA.

Through the MVP program, VA patients volunteer genomic and healthcare data that is transferred into the secure enclave at Oak Ridge National Lab. Part of the data includes the deepest levels of DNA sequencing, which allows for high quality genomic research.

With such a rich and expansive dataset, the VA MVP program provides an incredible opportunity to use DOE'S next-generation computing capabilities to solve complex healthcare challenges facing our veterans.

For the DOE, this application of computer science tools could transform basic and early-stage research. DOE's core mission areas are full of complex, big data challenges like physics, environmental systems, combustion, and nuclear weapons modeling. DOE is also working to enhance its expertise in biosciences and materials design.

Experience working with big datasets and applications in data science, Mr. Speaker, has the potential to improve

computational science methods for any big data problem. With the next generation of supercomputers, including the exascale computing systems DOE is expected to fill by 2021, DOE will be able to tackle even bigger challenges.

Mr. Speaker, increasing computing power will expand DOE's capabilities and improve the quality of computational tools for any big dataset or any complex problem.

Ultimately, the goal of MVP-CHAMPION is for the DOE national laboratories to provide the VA with useful information to improve healthcare services for our veterans. The access to the breadth, depth, and complexity of the VA dataset will also advance the next generation of data science tools.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the DOE is the right partner for this important research. I want to encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me thank the gentleman from South Carolina, Congressman RALPH NORMAN, for yielding me this time to speak in support of his bill, H.R. 6398, the Department of Energy Veterans' Health Initiative Act.

I also want to say, I appreciate his serving as vice chairman of the Environment Subcommittee on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

This important legislation was approved unanimously by the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and is cosponsored by 15 members of the committee.

H.R. 6398 authorizes the Department of Energy to conduct collaborative research with the Department of Veterans Affairs to address complex challenges in veterans' healthcare by using advanced computational tools.

Currently, DOE and the VA collaborate through the MVP-CHAMPION initiative. The VA collects genomic and healthcare data from veterans who have volunteered for the program and then securely transfers it to DOE, where it is stored and analyzed in a secure site at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

This partnership and exchange of data benefits both DOE and the VA and provides valuable services to our veterans.

DOE is the Nation's largest Federal supporter of basic research in the physical sciences. It funds programs in applied mathematics and computer and computational science.

Under this program, authorized by Mr. NORMAN's bill, VA researchers gain access to DOE's high performance computing research facilities and significant resources, including DOE's extensive expertise in data analysis and complex modeling.

This could help the VA make discoveries about the causes and warning

signs of various diseases. It will also speed up care for veterans' critical medical needs and help the VA develop more effective treatments in the future.

By giving DOE access to such a large database of information, the VA will help DOE researchers improve their ability to develop next-generation computing systems, algorithms, and models. These are capabilities that are critical to maintaining U.S. science and technology leadership.

H.R. 6398 also authorizes a 2-year research pilot program to advance basic research in artificial intelligence, data analytics, and computational science.

This pilot program supports DOE's efforts to improve the application of advanced data analysis techniques to big data challenges.

Congressman NORMAN's DOE Veterans' Health Initiative Act promotes improved healthcare for American servicemen and -women. It facilitates more high-yielding DOE collaborations, maximizes resources, and gives other Federal agencies, academia, and industry the opportunity to benefit from the Energy Department's R&D expertise.

We can thank Representatives RALPH NORMAN and NEAL DUNN for championing collaboration and basic research to support our veterans and American innovation.

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I also want to thank Chairman ROE of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee for his help and cooperation in bringing this bill before the House this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will support this bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues on both sides of the aisle agree that supporting technology to improve the lives of our veterans should be a high priority. Unfortunately, many face an uphill battle to overcome the physical and mental toll of war once they return home. Those who sacrificed so much for our country deserve our best efforts to provide them with the latest technologies to improve their quality of life.

There are almost 20 million veterans in our Nation today, and just under half are enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare system. The health records generated from decades of care provide a trove of information that may lead to more accurate diagnoses and treatment of certain conditions and diseases.

High-performance computing and machine learning can help analyze this massive amount of data to make it more useful for delivering better health outcomes, not only for veterans, but also the general population.

The Federal Government has made strategic investments over the years to advance data analytics in data science research and development. We have

also invested in supercomputing facilities at our national labs, including the Leadership Computing Facility at Argonne National Lab in my district.

The programs created by this bill will take advantage of these resources to improve health, deliver a high quality of life, and lower treatment costs while advancing American leadership and artificial intelligence and data analytics.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman SMITH, Representative DUNN, Representative HIGGINS, Representative LUCAS, Representative WEBER, Representative KNIGHT, Representative ROHRBACHER, Representative HULTGREN, Representative BABIN, Representative COMSTOCK, Representative ABRAHAM, Representative BIGGS, Representative MARSHALL, Representative LESKO, Representative LIPINSKI, Representative ROSEN, Representative BLIRAKIS, Representative GALLAGHER, Representative BILL JOHNSON, and Representative WALTER JONES for their continued leadership in providing support for our veterans and enabling critical science research.

I would also like to thank the stakeholders and researchers who have provided valuable feedback as we develop this legislation.

H.R. 6398 supports a program that will encourage innovation in basic science and big data research at DOE, and ensure that we as a Nation are doing everything we can to improve healthcare for our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this commonsense legislation and yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today we are considering three good bills from the Science Committee: H.R. 5509, the Innovation in Mentoring, Training, and Apprenticeships Act; H.R. 6229, the National Institute of Standards and Technology Reauthorization Act of 2018; and, H.R. 6398, the Department of Energy Veterans' Health Initiative Act. I support each of these bills, and look forward to their passage.

I want to thank Majority leader MCCARTHY for introducing H.R. 5509, the Innovations in Mentoring, Training, and Apprenticeships Act. This legislation directs the National Science Foundation to support research to improve STEM degree programs and apprenticeships in partnership with the private sector. H.R. 5509 also supports labor market research to draw upon lessons learned in countries already benefitting from an emphasis on apprenticeships and skilled-based learning. This is a good bill that will help to bring the education and training our students receive more in line with the skills employers value most. This will benefit those preparing to enter an ever-changing job market, employers seeking to innovate and increase production, and our economy as a whole. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

H.R. 6229, the National Institute of Standards and Technology Reauthorization Act of

2018, is a two-year, bipartisan reauthorization of programs and activities for the National Institute of Standards and Technology, or NIST. I am glad to see that this bill increases funding levels for the agency's laboratory programs and funds research and standards facilitation for important issues such as advanced communications, cybersecurity and privacy, internet of things, quantum information science, artificial intelligence research, and infrastructure resilience. I am glad to support this bill today, and furthermore, urge my colleagues to support increased funding in the future for crucial laboratory infrastructure enhancements on the NIST campuses.

H.R. 6398, The Department of Energy Veterans' Health Initiative Act, authorizes the Department of Energy (DOE) to conduct collaborative research with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in order to address complex, large data management challenges associated with veterans' health care issues. Specifically, it aims to leverage DOE's expertise in high performance computing in order to analyze VA-provided health and genomics data.

This bill also directs DOE to carry out a two-year research pilot program to advance research in artificial intelligence and data analytics for a broad range of potential applications. It provides the Secretary with the authority to establish user facilities capable of securely storing large data sets created by Federal agencies, academic institutions, or industry at DOE National Laboratories. I appreciate the need to utilize the entire resource base of the Federal government to address the needs of our veterans' health care. This bill provides an important tool to try and make our veterans lives better, and I strongly support the bill's passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6398, 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.

PRIVILEGED REPORT ON RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY TO THE PRESIDENT

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, submitted an adverse privileged report (Rept. No. 115-978) on the resolution (H. Res. 1017) of inquiry requesting the President, and directing the Secretary of State, to transmit to the House of Representatives copies of all documents, records, communications, transcripts, summaries, notes, memoranda, and read-aheads in their possession referring or relating to certain communications between President Donald Trump and President Vladimir Putin, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

HIZBALLAH INTERNATIONAL FINANCING PREVENTION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2018

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1595) to amend the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 to impose additional sanctions with respect to Hizballah, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1595

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ‘Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2018’.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—PREVENTION OF ACCESS BY HIZBALLAH TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Sec. 101. Mandatory sanctions with respect to fundraising and recruitment activities for Hizballah.

Sec. 102. Modification of report with respect to financial institutions that engage in certain transactions.

Sec. 103. Sanctions against certain agencies and instrumentalities of foreign states.

Sec. 104. Diplomatic initiatives to prevent hostile activities by Iran and disrupt and degrade Hizballah's illicit networks.

TITLE II—NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES OF HIZBALLAH

Sec. 201. Imposition of sanctions with respect to affiliated networks of Hizballah for transnational criminal activities.

Sec. 202. Report on racketeering activities engaged in by Hizballah.

Sec. 203. Modification of report on activities of foreign governments to disrupt activities of Hizballah; reports on membership in Hizballah.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Regulatory authority.

Sec. 302. Implementation; penalties; judicial review; exemptions; rule of construction; exception relating to importation of goods.

Sec. 303. Report consolidation and modification.

TITLE I—PREVENTION OF ACCESS BY HIZBALLAH TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS

SEC. 101. MANDATORY SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FUNDRAISING AND RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES FOR HIZBALLAH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101 of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-102; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 101. MANDATORY SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FUNDRAISING AND RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES FOR HIZBALLAH.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall, on or after the date of the enactment of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2018, impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any foreign person that the President determines knowingly provides signifi-

cant financial, material, or technological support for or to—

“(1) Bayt al-Mal, Jihad al-Bina, the Islamic Resistance Support Association, the Foreign Relations Department of Hizballah, the External Security Organization of Hizballah, or any successor or affiliate thereof as designated by the President;

“(2) al-Manar TV, al Nour Radio, or the Lebanese Media Group, or any successor or affiliate thereof as designated by the President;

“(3) a foreign person determined by the President to be engaged in fundraising or recruitment activities for Hizballah; or

“(4) a foreign person owned or controlled by a person described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3).

“(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

“(1) ASSET BLOCKING.—The exercise of all powers granted to the President by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (except that the requirements of section 202 of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a foreign person determined by the President to be subject to subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

“(2) ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

“(A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An alien who the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or designee of one of such Secretaries) determines is subject to subsection (a) is—

“(i) inadmissible to the United States;

“(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

“(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

“(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or designee of one of such Secretaries) shall revoke any visa or other entry documentation issued to an alien who the President determines is subject to subsection (a), regardless of when issued.

“(ii) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A revocation under clause (i) shall take effect immediately and shall automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the possession of the alien.

“(c) WAIVER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may, for periods not to exceed 180 days, waive the imposition of sanctions under this section if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that such waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

“(2) BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days after the issuance of a waiver under paragraph (1) with respect to a foreign person, and every 180 days thereafter while the waiver remains in effect, the President shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on the status of the involvement of the foreign person in activities described in subsection (a).

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms ‘admitted’ and ‘alien’ have meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

“(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—