

all of the bipartisan cosponsors of H.R. 6032, the SMART IoT Act. I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 6032, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), and I ask unanimous consent that she may control that time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague from Ohio for introducing this legislation and shepherding it through committee and onto the floor.

The SMART IoT, Internet of Things, Act is a product of bipartisan cooperation. As I did during subcommittee markup, I want to thank Chairman LATTA and Congressman WELCH for their leadership on this issue, going back to the IoT Working Group in the 114th Congress.

This bill will require the Commerce Department to survey the varieties of connected devices available and examine the Federal role in this space. The study conducted under this bill should serve as the foundation for future legislative efforts as we work to ensure that Internet-connected devices are deployed to the benefit of the American consumer.

The SMART IoT Act is being considered under suspension of the rules after committee consideration under regular order. After a series of hearings on the Internet of things, Republican and Democratic staff worked together on a discussion draft of the bill.

Earlier this year, we held a legislative hearing where we heard testimony from the Center for Democracy and Technology, the Chamber of Commerce, and Intel. That hearing raised several issues that we should continue to examine; including privacy, security, and safety. We are leaving major consumer protection issues unresolved in this area and other areas.

Earlier this month, in Chicago, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the passage of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, which included provisions that I worked on to include and improve the safety of children's toys. Advocates there discussed how more work needs to be done to ensure that children's toys are safe.

Someone mentioned how smart toys are becoming more and more available, and questions were raised: Are these smart toys able now to track our kids and where they are? So, the technologies have changed the safety of toys, and we have to be sure that we are looking at that.

Our anger over misuse of consumer data has been bipartisan, but we have not yet come together on solutions. I am hopeful that we will be able to change that in the coming months.

As many Members of this body are aware, I have introduced the Secure and Protect America's Data Act, which

I believe is a good starting point to begin discussion.

□ 1700

I continue to urge my Republican colleagues to bring their ideas to the table so we can work together to find common ground. American consumers deserve action.

For now, I am pleased to move forward on legislation where we have reached consensus like this. I look forward to continuing our cooperation on this legislation as it moves to full committee in the weeks ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, again, I urge support of H.R. 6032, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6032, 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.

ADDING IRELAND TO E-3 NONIMMIGRANT VISA PROGRAM

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7164) to add Ireland to the E-3 nonimmigrant visa program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7164

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

SECTION 1. E-3 VISAS FOR IRISH NATIONALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(E)(iii)) is amended by inserting “or, on a basis of reciprocity as determined by the Secretary of State, a national of Ireland,” after “Australia”.

(b) EMPLOYER REQUIREMENTS.—Section 212 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182) is amended—

(1) by redesignating the second subsection (t) (as added by section 1(b)(2)(B) of Public Law 108-449 (118 Stat. 3470)) as subsection (u); and

(2) by adding at the end of subsection (t)(1) (as added by section 402(b)(2) of Public Law 108-77 (117 Stat. 941)) the following:

“(E) In the case of an attestation filed with respect to a national of Ireland described in section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii), the employer is, and will remain during the period of authorized employment of such Irish national, a participant in good standing in the E-Verify program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note).”

(c) APPLICATION ALLOCATION.—Paragraph (11) of section 214(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(g)(11)) is amended to read as follows:

“(11)(A) The Secretary of State may approve initial applications submitted for aliens described in section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii) only as follows:

“(i) For applicants who are nationals of the Commonwealth of Australia, not more than 10,500 for a fiscal year.

“(ii) For applicants who are nationals of Ireland, not more than a number equal to the difference between 10,500 and the number of applications approved in the prior fiscal year for aliens who are nationals of the Commonwealth of Australia.

“(B) The approval of an application described under subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be deemed for numerical control purposes to have occurred on September 30 of the prior fiscal year.

“(C) The numerical limitation under subparagraph (A) shall only apply to principal aliens and not to the spouses or children of such aliens.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 7164, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7164, a bill to add Ireland to the E-3 nonimmigrant program. The bill was introduced by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), the former chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and is a simple bill that recognizes the unique friendship and working relationship between the United States and Ireland.

H.R. 7164 allows nationals of Ireland to be eligible to apply for unused E-3 nonimmigrant visas, subject to Ireland providing reciprocal access to U.S. nationals.

Holders of E-3 temporary work visas must be working in a specialty occupation while in the United States. A specialty occupation is one that is defined in the Immigration and Nationality Act as requiring: One, “theoretical and practical application of a body of highly specialized knowledge;” and, two, “the attainment of a bachelor's or higher degree in the specific specialty, or its equivalent, as a minimum for entry into the occupation in the United States.”

The E-3 applicant must have a job offer from an employer in the U.S., and that employer must get foreign labor certification from the U.S. Department of Labor prior to filing a petition with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

H.R. 7164 also requires that employers using Irish E-3 visa holders in their workforce are and will remain participants in good standing in the E-Verify program. This means that such employers must use E-Verify to ensure that those they employ are eligible to work in the United States.

E-3 nonimmigrant visas are currently only available to nationals of Australia and are capped at 10,500 per year. Australian nationals have not ever used all of the 10,500 authorized visas in a given year, nor have they come close to doing so. In fact, the highest number used was during fiscal year 2017 when 5,657 were issued.

H.R. 7164 provides that nationals of Ireland can utilize those visas not used by Australians in a given year. For operational purposes, the visa can be issued the following year but will be counted against the previous year's cap. The bill does not increase the number of visas authorized, and allows Australia, for whose nationals the program was originally created, to have first access to the numbers.

H.R. 7164 is a simple bill that reflects the continued friendship between Ireland and the United States. I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) for his work and his leadership on this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7164, a bill to add Ireland to the E-3 nonimmigrant visa program.

In 2005, soon after the United States and Australia finalized the Australia-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, Congress created the E-3 program for Australian nationals. That program provides up to 10,500 temporary visas, similar to H-1B visas, for Australians seeking to work in the United States in what are known as specialty occupations.

As with the H-1B program, specialty occupations are those that require "theoretical and practical application of a body of highly specialized knowledge" in fields such as science, engineering, and computer programming.

Australia has never used more than a fraction of the 10,500 E-3 visas that are made available each year in the program. In light of this fact, this bill would add Ireland to the program, thus allowing Irish nationals to use some of those remaining, unused visas. As amended, the bill would take the number of E-3 visas left unused by Australia in a given fiscal year and make that same number available to Irish nationals the following fiscal year.

This is a commonsense bill that recognizes the important bond we share with two of our country's closest and most steadfast allies.

I congratulate my friends, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, former chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and Mr. NEAL, ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee—soon to be chairman of the Ways and Means Committee—for championing this bill. They both deserve credit for working across the aisle on this issue.

I would be remiss, however, if I did not also point out the continuing need to reform our immigration system in a more comprehensive and fundamental

manner. Small fixes such as this bill are fine, but this body also must find ways to come together to enact broader, more meaningful reforms of our immigration system for the good of the American people.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I recognize and thank the gentleman, Mr. NEAL, for his leadership, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7164. The United States was built on the hard work and the determination of immigrants, many of them who hailed from Ireland. Through their perseverance, they have enabled this country to grow and prosper.

I believe in the value and opportunity that comes with legal immigration. I am pleased to have authored this legislation to make the process more efficient for one of our oldest allies and add to the great legacy of cultural diversity celebrated in our country.

This modest proposal would give Irish nationals the opportunity to work in the United States under the nonimmigrant visa category of the E-3 visa, previously reserved only for Australian nationals. Ireland, in the meantime, has proposed a reciprocal work visa specific to U.S. nationals so that those wanting to live and work in Ireland can move easily to do so.

The E-3 visa is one of the most efficient U.S. visa options. The applicants outside the United States may apply directly at a U.S. consulate, thus avoiding the lengthy processing time with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The visas are granted for 2-year periods, renewable indefinitely, and the spouses of E-3 visa holders are permitted to apply for employment authorization documents.

Currently, 10,500 E-3 visas are allocated each year, yet only half of these are used. This legislation would allow Irish nationals to apply for those visas unused by Australian nationals.

This significant addition to the U.S. immigration system will not only benefit Irish nationals seeking employment in the United States but also ease restrictions on Americans wanting to live or retire in Ireland.

In conclusion, I would say that this does not increase the number of visas that are authorized in total. It merely allows Irish nationals to apply for the visas that Australian nationals do not want to use on a year-to-year basis.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL), the distinguished ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CHABOT and Mr. SENSENBRENNER, as

well as Mr. NADLER, for bringing this legislation to the floor.

Indeed, it is bipartisan in nature. It is not an effort here to go beyond what the rules currently allow in terms of the cap on visas. It would allow Irish nationals to utilize those visas that have not been exhausted by Australia.

It is, as Mr. NADLER said, not a substitute for immigration reform, however. We note today that the Pew Center has released new numbers on the issue of those who, in America, are undocumented. While these two issues are unrelated, it is important to point out that we still, in this Congress, have to come up with a solution to a long-awaited problem that we recognize across the Nation, and that is what to do about undocumented citizens.

As Mr. SENSENBRENNER also pointed out, I think with great accuracy, there are few stories of immigration that can be improved upon over what Irish immigration did in America. In the aftermath of an Gorta Mor, the Great Famine, that took place in the mid-1850s, more than a million people left Ireland and immigrated to the shores of the United States, and a million starved to death on the island of Ireland.

So when you consider that the population of Ireland at that time was about 8½ million people and today it is about 6 million people, it is understandable as to what that relationship has meant. And America, to its everlasting credit, land of the free and home of the brave, welcomed them.

The story that they told in succeeding generations—first, second, third generations—of which I enjoy that same privilege, it is pretty extraordinary. I call attention to that because I still think that the rest of the world desires to send many of its best to the United States.

It is still, for all of us, this notion that, today, because of the simplicity of travel, you can move back and forth. But what is, I think, a very important component of the story that we just related, when they left, whether it was in the 1850s or, in the case of one grandmother, no return, they were in with both feet. I think what we are pointing out today is that this is still an incredibly strong relationship.

I think Mr. SENSENBRENNER was right on target with the commentary that he offered about the reciprocal agreement here. We are not substituting anything. We are simply saying that, for those E-3s that are not utilized, Ireland will be able to take advantage of it.

I again point out that this relationship, for as long as I can remember, has been one of the great relationships in terms of allies that we have had in the history of America.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER).

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this bipartisan legislation spearheaded by my distinguished colleague from Wisconsin.

As a GALLAGHER in good standing, I am glad this bill will strengthen our Nation's ties with Ireland. But just as importantly, I take a minute to recognize the value of the underlying E-3 visa program to the U.S.-Australia alliance.

The E-3 visa program was negotiated in 2005 following the conclusion of the U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement. The visa is designed to give highly skilled and professional Australians access to U.S. employment in fields and trades that require specialized education and training.

It is good for both the United States and Australia. About 82,000 Americans are employed by Australian businesses in the United States, for example, with an average salary of \$98,000.

In just one example, the very first employee of the Movember Foundation in the United States was an Australian who came over on an E-3 visa. Movember is now one of the largest nongovernment investors in prostate cancer research and services in the world, growing its footprint here in the United States as it has created jobs while doing good.

This program is a tangible recognition of the close and enduring partnership, or mateship, as we say, between the United States and Australia, which we are celebrating the 100-year anniversary of this year.

Our alliance remains one that not only drives our prosperity but our security as well. As a pillar of a free and open Indo-Pacific, Australia is an indispensable ally in an increasingly contested region, and we would be wise to continue exploring new avenues to further strengthen our relationship.

This legislation is an important opportunity to expand our partnership with Ireland, while preserving the original intent of the E-3 visa program with Australia, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

□ 1715

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

I again urge every Member on both sides of the aisle to vote for this bill. I applaud the bipartisan nature of it. I applaud Mr. SENSENBRENNER and Mr. NEAL and Mr. CHABOT for their roles in it, and this is a useful thing to do. I urge passage of the bill.

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

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

In closing, I just want to also thank all the folks who were previously mentioned by my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

This is, I think, a very good bill. It is great to see something bipartisan around here get passed; and as we are wrapping up this year and this Congress, it is good to see this good legislation being passed. I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7164, 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.

NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMBORN. 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 materials on the topic of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to come before the House and be on the floor tonight to commemorate National Bible Week. This is an opportunity to celebrate the tremendous influence of the Bible on the freedoms we enjoy today in America.

We are truly blessed to live in a nation where we are free to worship and read the Holy Scriptures without fear of persecution. There are many places throughout the world where such freedoms do not exist.

Americans have the right, under our wonderful system of government, to respect and study the Bible or any other system of belief if they so choose, or even none at all. That is the beauty of the American way, and I believe it all does go back to the Bible.

In 1941, as it says on the poster here, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt declared the week of Thanksgiving to be National Bible Week.

The National Bible Association and the U.S. Conference of Bishops have designated the specific days of November 18-24, this year, as National Bible Week. This is the week set aside to recognize the Bible as a foundational building block of American and Western civilization, the Judeo-Christian heritage, and the legacy that motivated and shaped the founding of the United States.

In this hour, we will hear from some of my colleagues here in Congress from various faith traditions and denominations speak about what the Bible means to them. We are here in keeping with tradition to recognize National Bible Week.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Representative LAM-

BORN, and I appreciate his intentionality in bringing us together each year to talk about this, having had that opportunity, now into my fifth term, each year to remind ourselves of the impact of the Bible.

It has had a rich heritage in this country, a country that is free, a country that offers liberty for all who would have personal beliefs, religious and otherwise. It even allows freedom in this country, a country that was truly established on Biblical principles, but, nonetheless, it allows freedom for people to not even have a belief or a religion.

I think that is the beauty of my understanding of the Bible in that it is a book that offers freedom to people to come to understand it, to read it, to have it impact their lives.

I can say for a fact that the Bible is more than just a book, a historical book, a book of tradition, a book of writings of religious perspective and spiritual nature; but, rather, it is a book that has changed my life. It is a book that I believe, and I believe the facts would bear it out as sincere people test it and search into the Bible to see that it is truly a book that is God-given.

I remember the inscription in one of the earliest Bibles that I ever had in my possession as a young boy. It was a book, as I recollect, a Bible that was given as a reward for attendance in Sunday school, given by my teacher. I had had other Bibles that I had gotten from my family, hand-me-down Bibles that I had carried, but this, I think, was my first Bible.

In that Bible inscription, it said: "This book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this book."

My friend and colleague, I think that was given by my Sunday school teacher as, really, a point to encourage me from doing the normal thing as a young boy would do. And that I wouldn't call sin. I would call it bad behavior. But I know, ultimately, the Bible called it sin.

I found it to be true, that as that book became part of my life, that it changed my life. While I have never achieved, to this very day—and I admit that to you—perfection yet, that Bible altered my existence. And when I did do those wrong things that the Bible calls sin, I was convicted of that and I was encouraged to change.

An early verse that I remembered from the Bible came from Psalms, the Book of Psalms, Psalms 119:11, that said: "Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You."

The Bible is a practical book that is meant to change lives, to alter the way we live, to impact others as well.

I think John Witherspoon, who signed the Declaration of Independence, one of our earliest officials, government officials, who happened to be a minister as well, but served his country well, said: "A republic once equally poised must either preserve its virtue or lose its liberty."