

ensure that all government partners are equipped with the resources and information they need to tackle the ever-evolving threat of terrorism.

H.R. 449 will help further those efforts. This bill will ensure that our Nation's first responders at the State and local levels have easy and ready access to DHS' cutting-edge resources and training programs.

H.R. 449 would require the Department to disseminate such information in an annual catalog. In order to maximize the catalog's availability and readership, this bill also calls for the catalog to be accessible on the Department's website as well as on a secure information-sharing platform.

This measure is a great example of commonsense, bipartisan legislation that will help build safer communities from the ground up.

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

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is part of DHS' statutory mission to support State and local law enforcement, and the Office of State and Local Law Enforcement has the responsibility of proactively identifying ways in which the Department can support these important stakeholders.

The Pathways to Improving Homeland Security at the Local Level Act, sponsored by the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS), will ensure that State and local law enforcement receive vital information on available DHS resources and programs.

Under the bill, the Office of State and Local Law Enforcement will annually produce and disseminate a catalog that details the Department of Homeland Security training, publications, programs, and services available to non-Federal law enforcement agencies. The office must disseminate the catalog within 30 days of production to State and local law enforcement entities.

This catalog is currently being produced by the office, and the bill requires them to continue its production.

DHS also is required to share the catalog through the Homeland Security Information Network. Using this existing information-sharing platform will expand, hopefully, the number of State and local law enforcement partners who receive it.

This bill is intended to increase awareness of DHS tools and resources available to assist State and local law enforcement.

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

□ 1330

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS).

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I reintroduced H.R. 449 to enhance counterterrorism preparedness at the local level.

In recent years, we have seen acts of terrorism, especially in planning and execution, take place in cities throughout our Nation. Whether it occurs at a church in Charleston, a synagogue in Pittsburgh, or a nightclub in Orlando, local law enforcement is the front line of defense in protecting our communities from acts of violence. It is, therefore, necessary to equip our first responders with the tools to allow them to quickly adapt to the evolving terrorist threat landscape. This bill, H.R. 449, does just that.

Today, the Department of Homeland Security's training catalogue is a primary resource for State and local jurisdictions to find opportunities to enhance their counterterrorism and preparedness capabilities.

Specifically, H.R. 449 directs DHS' Office of State and Local Law Enforcement to produce, as you have heard, and distribute an annual catalogue of training programs and services to State, local, and Tribal law enforcement communities. To ensure that this information is shared throughout the law enforcement community with agencies large and small, H.R. 449 requires this comprehensive catalogue be posted on the DHS website, as well as on the Homeland Security Information Network.

Enactment of this bill will further strengthen the Department's partnership with State and local law enforcement to help better protect the homeland. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I am fully in favor of this bill. Particularly, last week, when my colleague ANDY BIGGS and I took a bunch of our colleagues down on the border, we were assailed by our Border Patrol not having adequate weapons and not having enough bulletproof vests and light armor. A lot of times, these guys are carrying shielding that is 35 pounds. In the hot summer, your body temperature can rise very quickly above that.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill. It is a good bill. I encourage my colleagues to vote for it.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for introducing this important bill to ensure State and local law enforcement are aware of the resources DHS can provide to them.

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

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 449, which passed the House of Representatives on suspension last Congress, will strengthen the Federal Government's relationship with our State and local law enforcement partners.

One of our top priorities on this committee is ensuring adequate training

for our first responders and creating collaborative partnerships between DHS and its local counterparts. This bill will help us accomplish that.

Mr. Speaker, I again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 449, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 449.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

DHS FIELD ENGAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 504) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security to develop an engagement strategy with fusion centers, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 504

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 "DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act".

SEC. 2. ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY WITH FUSION CENTERS.

Section 210A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124h) is amended by—

(1) redesigning subsections (j) and (k) as subsections (k) and (l), respectively; and

(2) inserting after subsection (i) the following new subsection:

“(j) FUSION CENTER INFORMATION SHARING STRATEGY.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall develop and update at least once every five years a strategy for Department engagement with fusion centers. Such strategy shall be developed and updated in consultation with the heads of intelligence components of the Department, the Chief Privacy Officer of the Department, the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the Department, officials of fusion centers, officers designated as Homeland Security Advisors, and the heads of other relevant agencies, as appropriate. Such strategy shall include the following:

“(1) Specific goals and objectives for sharing information and engaging with fusion centers—

“(A) through the direct deployment of personnel from intelligence components of the Department;

“(B) through the use of Department unclassified and classified information sharing systems, including the Homeland Security Information Sharing Network and the Homeland Secure Data Network, or any successor systems; and

“(C) through any additional means.

“(2) The performance metrics to be used to measure success in achieving the goals and objectives referred to in paragraph (1).

“(3) A five-year plan for continued engagement with fusion centers.”.

SEC. 3. OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS FIELD PERSONNEL SUPPORT TO FUSION CENTERS.

(a) **PERFORMANCE METRICS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security shall—

(1) consider the effectiveness of existing processes to identify and prepare field personnel for deployment to support fusion centers and internal mechanisms to ensure oversight and accountability of such field personnel, including field personnel assigned to one center and field personnel assigned to multiple centers; and

(2) publish and disseminate performance metrics, taking into account, as appropriate, regional and threat diversity, for—

(A) field personnel from the Office of Intelligence and Analysis assigned to an individual fusion center;

(B) field personnel from the Office of Intelligence and Analysis assigned to multiple fusion centers; and

(C) regional Directors of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis to ensure accountability for monitoring all field personnel under the supervision of such Regional Directors.

(b) **TRAINING.**—In consultation with the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Homeland Security, the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department shall develop and implement a formalized training module for fusion center personnel regarding the classified Homeland Secure Data Network of the Department, or any successor system.

(c) **FUSION CENTER DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “fusion center” has the meaning given such term in section 210A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124h).

SEC. 4. DHS COMPONENT USAGE OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY INFORMATION NETWORK.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Intelligence Officer of the Department of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Chief Information Officer of the Department, shall—

(1) develop policies and metrics to ensure effective use by components of the Department of the Department’s unclassified Homeland Security Information Sharing Network, or any successor system; and

(2) develop policies for posting unclassified products on the Homeland Security Information Sharing Network, or any successor system.

(b) **TECHNICAL ENHANCEMENTS.**—The Chief Information Officer of the Department of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Chief Intelligence Officer of the Department, shall assess and implement, as appropriate, technical enhancements to the Homeland Security Information Sharing Network (HSIN) to improve usability, including search functionality, data analysis, and collaboration capabilities.

SEC. 5. REPORT.

Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate a report on the implementation of the following:

(1) The fusion center information sharing strategy required under subsection (j) of sec-

tion 210A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124h), as added by section 2 of this Act, based on performance metrics developed pursuant to such strategy.

(2) Field personnel deployed to fusion centers (as such term is defined in section 210A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124h)) in accordance with section 3, based on performance metrics developed pursuant to such section.

(3) Policies that seek to ensure the effective use of the Homeland Security Information Sharing Network in accordance with section 4, based on the metrics developed pursuant to such section.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Miss **RICE**) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. **HIGGINS**) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Miss **RICE** of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Miss **RICE** of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague on the other side of the aisle, Mr. **BACON**, for reintroducing the DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act.

One of the core responsibilities of this committee is to ensure collaboration and information-sharing among Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial partners. That is how we protect our cities from any and all terrorist threats, whether it is one that comes from a foreign organization or a home-grown, lone-wolf attacker.

One example of our commitment to this comprehensive approach is the committee’s long history of bipartisan support for the Department of Homeland Security’s 79 fusion centers located across the country. These centers are meant to connect the dots at the local level. They are information-sharing hubs that facilitate coordination and the sharing of resources between Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials.

However, a 2016 review found that DHS does not have a strategic engagement plan for these 79 fusion centers. H.R. 504 will help fill that void. This important legislation will require DHS to develop a departmentwide strategy for engaging and sharing information with national fusion centers.

Additionally, this measure requires DHS to develop metrics that will help hold fusion center staff accountable for their performance.

This legislation also requires DHS to improve the classified and unclassified information-sharing systems that are used by fusion centers to ensure that information is shared properly and in

accordance with Department standards. Specifically, H.R. 504 would require that all information-sharing policies are developed and maintained by the Department’s experts on privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties.

The recent shooting in Pittsburgh and the spate of pipe bombs that were mailed across the country last year are potent reminders of how important it is for local law enforcement agencies to be equipped with the resources and information they need to combat urgent threats. In short, events like these exemplify the growing need for well-informed and well-maintained fusion centers.

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

Mr. **HIGGINS** of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 504, the DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act.

The Committee on Homeland Security has long supported the role and mission of locally owned fusion centers across the United States. These hubs for assessing and sharing threat information are important links for the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, and other Federal, State, and local stakeholders.

The legislation before us today directs the Department of Homeland Security to develop a forward-looking strategy to improve engagement efforts with fusion centers and establish metrics for both DHS personnel and technology deployed to fusion centers.

Clear performance metrics for fusion center personnel are needed to ensure fusion center directors understand what to expect from DHS personnel detailed to their centers. This effort will also allow DHS to better track the value fusion centers are providing to the national information-sharing environment.

Lastly, the bill addresses a need for improvements to DHS information sharing utilized by fusion centers and other stakeholders by requiring training modules and feedback mechanisms.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative **DON BACON** for his work on this legislation and his overall commitment to Federal, State, and local information sharing.

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

Miss **RICE** of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I am prepared to close after the gentleman from Louisiana closes.

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

Mr. **HIGGINS** of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. **BACON**), the cosponsor of this bill.

Mr. **BACON**. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana and I thank the gentlewoman from New York for their leadership today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill, H.R. 504, that I authored. It is called the DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act.

The purpose of this legislation is to provide transparency, predictability, and technology improvements to the 79 State and locally owned fusion centers across the United States. This bill fixes several shortfalls that were identified by recent inspection findings.

I was able to visit the Nebraska Information Analysis Center, known as NIAC, my home State's fusion center, in January of this last year. The NIAC was established in 2007 and serves as a critical information-sharing conduit between the State of Nebraska and the Federal Government to the benefit of all 93 counties in Nebraska.

While the NIAC currently has outside support from DHS, not all fusion centers are in the same situation throughout our country, and that needs to be fixed. To address this shortfall, H.R. 504 requires the Department to engage an engagement strategy for how to best coordinate information sharing, technology, and personnel resources with fusion centers. Additionally, the bill requires DHS to develop clear and robust performance metrics for the personnel assigned to fusion centers to provide needed accountability.

In addition to personnel, DHS also provides fusion centers with access to databases and information-sharing programs for classified and sensitive information. H.R. 504 includes several provisions to address improvements in training and technology needed for these systems, including a requirement that DHS components share appropriate intelligence products with fusion centers.

The sharing of counterterrorism and other homeland security information with State and local officials is vital in our efforts to protect the homeland. In the past few years, there have been significant improvements in DHS' support for key stakeholders. The DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act builds on this progress by holding DHS more accountable for supporting fusion centers and making the improvements needed to truly utilize them as a resource for the Federal Government.

This is a commonsense bill that passed the House last Congress. With another strong showing of bipartisan support from the House, I am confident that we will be able to work with our colleagues in the other Chamber to enact this legislation.

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

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman THOMPSON, Ranking Member ROGERS, and Congressman BACON for bringing this bill to the floor.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 504, to improve DHS' coordination and information-sharing activities with State and local fusion centers

across the country, thereby making the homeland security intelligence enterprise more robust.

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

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 504, which passed the House on suspension last Congress, would help ensure that fusion centers throughout the country have access to the resources necessary to keep our homeland safe and secure.

By directing the Department to develop a strategy for its fusion centers, the bill seeks to enhance DHS' overall ability to fulfill its core mission. Additionally, H.R. 504 would ensure that DHS' information-sharing policies include strong privacy and civil liberty safeguards.

Regardless of the target or the underlying ideology behind a terrorist plot, State and local law enforcement entities need a clear line of communication with their Federal counterparts.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 504, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 504.

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.

COUNTERTERRORISM ADVISORY BOARD ACT OF 2019

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 769) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security a board to coordinate and integrate departmental intelligence, activities, and policy related to counterterrorism, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 769

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 "Counterterrorism Advisory Board Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY COUNTERTERRORISM ADVISORY BOARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—At the end of subtitle A of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121 et seq.) insert the following new section:

"SEC. 210H. DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION ON COUNTERTERRORISM.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is in the Department a board to be composed of senior representatives of departmental operational components and headquarters elements. The purpose of the board shall be to coordinate and integrate departmental intelligence, activities, and policy related to the counterterrorism mission and functions of the Department.

"(b) CHARTER.—There shall be a charter to govern the structure and mission of the board. Such charter shall direct the board to focus on the current threat environment and the importance of aligning departmental counterterrorism activities under the Secretary's guidance. The charter shall be reviewed and updated every 4 years, as appropriate.

"(c) MEMBERS.—

"(1) CHAIR.—The Secretary shall appoint a Coordinator for Counterterrorism within the Department who will serve as the chair of the board.

"(2) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—The Secretary shall appoint additional members of the board from among the following:

- "(A) The Transportation Security Administration.
- "(B) United States Customs and Border Protection.
- "(C) United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement.
- "(D) The Federal Emergency Management Agency.
- "(E) The Coast Guard.
- "(F) United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.
- "(G) The United States Secret Service.
- "(H) The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.
- "(I) The Office of Operations Coordination.
- "(J) The Office of the General Counsel.
- "(K) The Office of Intelligence and Analysis.
- "(L) The Office of Policy.
- "(M) The Science and Technology Directorate.
- "(N) Other Departmental offices and programs as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

"(d) MEETINGS.—The board shall meet on a regular basis to discuss intelligence and coordinate ongoing threat mitigation efforts and departmental activities, including coordination with other Federal, State, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector partners, and shall make recommendations to the Secretary.

"(e) TERRORISM ALERTS.—The board shall advise the Secretary on the issuance of terrorism alerts pursuant to section 203 of this Act.

"(f) PROHIBITION ON ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—No additional funds are authorized to carry out this section."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 210G the following new item:

"Sec. 210H. Departmental coordination on counterterrorism."

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Coordinator for Counterterrorism, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the status and activities of the board established under section 210H of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to