

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, there is no question that the challenges in securing our homeland have become more complex and diverse in nature. As such, it is imperative that the DHS Secretary and any successors have a stable, codified mechanism for counterterrorism decisionmaking.

□ 1345

H.R. 769, the Counterterrorism Advisory Board Act of 2019 does just that. It would codify the Board into law, and ensure that it remains an integral part of counterterrorism policy recommendations and responses across the Department.

Since 2010, the Counterterrorism Advisory Board, or CTAB, which is comprised of top DHS officials, has synthesized counterterrorism programs and activities across the Department.

The CTAB helps keep America safe. H.R. 769 would authorize the CTAB to coordinate and integrate DHS' intelligence, policies, and activities related to counterterrorism. H.R. 769 also directs the Board to meet on a regular basis, to coordinate and integrate the Department's counterterrorism efforts, assess the current threat environment, and establish the leadership and composition of the Board. H.R. 769 also requires DHS to report to Congress on the board's status, activities, and progress.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, in 2015, I was selected to chair the Congressional Task Force on Combating Terrorist and Foreign Fighter Travel. After months of briefings, site visits, and hearings, it became clear that the Department of Homeland Security had to improve internal and external coordination and intelligence sharing to address a growing threat of foreign fighter travel, as well as other counterterrorism efforts.

As a result, I introduced legislation to authorize and enhance the Department of Homeland Security Counterterrorism Advisory Board. Established in 2010, the CTAB brings senior officials across the spectrum in the Department to share information and coordinate counterterrorism activities.

The CTAB has improved the Department's ability to respond to terrorism threats and harmonize counterterrorism programs and activities across DHS components.

Given that the CTAB has never been authorized in law, the Board could be dismantled at any time, and the counterterrorism gains achieved could be

lost. The bill ensures that the CTAB will be formally established in law. The bill also ensures the CTAB includes robust participation from DHS-component agencies in order to ensure all homeland security resources are utilized and the one DHS vision is realized.

With ISIS having lost nearly all of its territory and all of al-Qaida's senior leaders calling for unity among jihadist groups, it is more important than ever to ensure DHS is using all available resources to identify and prevent terrorists from coming to the United States.

The bill requires the Department of Homeland Security to establish a charter to govern the roles and responsibilities of the CTAB, and further requires that the charter be reviewed and updated at least every 4 years to ensure the Department of Homeland Security is keeping pace with the ever-evolving terrorist threats.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman THOMPSON and Ranking Member ROGERS for selecting this bill as a priority for floor consideration so early in a new Congress. I look forward to working with our Senate colleagues to move this legislation through the process, and as always, I look forward to working with my colleague, the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE).

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that this body is working to continue to strengthen our national security by debating the legislation before us today.

I introduced this bill in the 114th Congress and 115th Congress, and it passed the House by an overwhelming majority.

I urge my colleagues to again pass this measure and support the Department of Homeland Security's counterterrorism mission, and I hope the Senate will get it through this time.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, again, H.R. 769 will authorize within the Department of Homeland Security, the Counterterrorism Advisory Board to coordinate and integrate the Department's intelligence activities and policies as they relate to counterterrorism.

This Board already plays a central and necessary role within DHS, and H.R. 769 will ensure that the Counterterrorism Advisory Board will remain in place for decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague and friend and fellow New Yorker, Congressman KATKO. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 769, 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. 769.

The question was taken.

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

Miss RICE of New York. 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.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS
THAT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
SHOULD WORK PROACTIVELY
WITH CUSTOMERS AFFECTED BY
SHUTDOWN OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 77) expressing the sense of Congress that financial institutions and other companies should work proactively with their customers affected by the shutdown of the Federal Government who may be facing short-term financial hardship and long-term damage to their creditworthiness through no fault of their own, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 77

Resolved, That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) financial institutions and other entities, such as landlords, consumer reporting agencies and companies engaged in the production of consumer scores, should help consumers affected by any shutdown of the Federal Government, including the shutdown that began on December 22, 2018;

(2) even with the recent conclusion of the shutdown, the period of recovery has just begun and the negative impact the shutdown is having on millions of consumers and the U.S. economy is significant; for example, analysis from S&P Global Ratings estimates that the U.S. economy has already lost more than \$6 billion as of January 25, 2019, and if the shutdown were to resume in a few weeks, the analysis suggests there would be a further reduction of real Gross Domestic Product by \$1.2 billion each week the government is shutdown;

(3) financial institutions and other companies, such as consumer reporting agencies and companies engaged in the production of consumer scores, should provide opportunities for consumers affected by any shutdown—including Federal employees, government contractors, small businesses, and other individuals—who are or will be facing financial distress to easily contact and alert them of their situation immediately;

(4) affected consumers may face financial hardship and emotional distress in making timely payments on their debts, such as mortgages, student loans, car loans, credit cards, and other debt, as well as paying for rent, food, transportation, school and other basic necessities, due to the temporary delay or permanent loss of their income;

(5) to provide quick relief to their affected customers or tenants, financial institutions and other entities, such as landlords, respectively, should for the duration of any shutdown, as well as for a reasonable period of time following a shutdown, consider waiving or reducing penalty, late payment, and similar fees; ceasing evictions and foreclosures; and providing forbearance;

(6) consumers affected by the shutdown, whose income are directly or indirectly dependent on the full operation of the Federal Government, may be experiencing financial and emotional stress through no fault of

their own and their creditworthiness should not be impaired because of the shutdown;

(7) financial institutions and other companies, such as consumer reporting agencies and companies engaged in the production of consumer scores, should take steps to prevent adverse information being reported and utilized in any manner that harms affected consumers, including by preventing modified credit arrangements intended to help consumers fulfill their financial obligations from being reported to, and coded by, consumer reporting agencies on a person's credit report in a manner that hurts the creditworthiness of the affected consumers;

(8) new products, services, or prudent workout arrangements designed to help affected consumers that are consistent with safe and sound lending practices are generally in the long-term best interest of the financial institution, the consumer, and the economy;

(9) financial institutions should work proactively to identify their customers who have been affected by any shutdown and adopt flexible, prudent arrangements to help such customers meet their debt and other obligations; and

(10) prudent efforts to adopt flexible workout arrangements for affected consumers should not be subject to examiner criticism or negative examinations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. McHENRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 77, as amended. President Trump's historic 35-day shutdown of the Federal Government has had a deeply harmful impact on millions of Americans and the U.S. economy.

While this shutdown recently came to an end, we must not forget the recovery has just begun for a wide range of affected consumers, including Federal employees, contractors, small businesses, and other individuals.

Many of those people will not receive back pay. Many of them have various financial obligations, like a mortgage, or a student loan payment that they may have missed. However, they did not cause the shutdown and should not suffer any negative consequences from it.

Financial institutions and other entities, like landlords and consumer reporting agencies, can play a key role in helping these innocent people. Given the financial hardship and emotional distress these consumers face, through no fault of their own, I introduced H.

Res. 77 to send a strong message to the financial industry that they should do what they can to help these innocent consumers.

Specifically, the resolution expresses the sense of Congress that financial institutions and other entities should work proactively to help all consumers affected by the shutdown. This includes waiving fees, ceasing evictions and foreclosures, and otherwise providing forbearance for any affected consumer, as well as taking steps to ensure their creditworthiness is not impaired because of the shutdown.

Financial regulators agree that it is appropriate for financial institutions to offer prudent accommodations to help their affected customers. On January 10, I wrote to the regulators to encourage them to provide public guidance to financial institutions to underscore they could affirmatively make prudent workout arrangements consistent with safety and soundness without fear of being subject to examiner criticisms. I am glad that they made such a statement the very next day.

On January 18, I wrote a letter to various financial services trade organizations, as well as the three largest credit reporting agencies, to encourage their institutions and member companies to take all prudent and appropriate actions, including those outlined in the regulators interagency statement, to help any consumer who may be affected by the shutdown.

While I appreciate that many financial institutions have already announced various accommodations for affected consumers, I believe it is important that there be a robust effort by all financial institutions, consumer reporting agencies, and others to do what they can to help in the weeks and months to come which H. Res. 77 seeks to encourage.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 77, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 800,000 Federal employees impacted by the partial government shutdown and express my sincere agreement that banks and Federal regulators should do the compassionate and the sensible thing, to support customers in need of assistance.

Mr. Speaker, whether it was a missed credit card payment or an unexpected medical expense, many furloughed Federal employees have faced economic hardships over the last 35 days, through no fault of their own. A string of dead-end and dead-on-arrival bills and nonstarter negotiations thrust hardworking Federal employees into the middle of a political fight, all over commonsense border security measures that I support, and that many Democrats have supported previously.

Our only course of action at that time and now is to try and provide some relief to those who are in need, and most importantly, find a solution

to ensure that the government doesn't shut down again on February 15. But those are larger political issues, and we are trying to be of substance as to what we can do to be of assistance to those who were affected by the government shutdown within our committee of jurisdiction, the Financial Services Committee.

I appreciate Chairwoman WATERS' efforts to provide support for hard-working Federal employees by introducing this resolution and encouraging banks to assist their customers in need.

Thankfully, many financial institutions are already doing exactly what is suggested in this resolution, and that, as Chairwoman WATERS said in her statement, is at the urging of Members of Congress, but also their understanding of the needs in their communities, like waiving late fees for furloughed employees, or the other over 100 banks that took it upon themselves for loan modifications and payment deadline extension, payroll advances, low-rate and zero-rate loans, as well as other accommodations, and those are wonderful things, positive things.

Unfortunately, we now find ourselves in a situation where the financial regulatory regime has left banks trying their best under a cloud of uncertainty on how regulators will react to their efforts during the government shutdown.

While I agree with my colleague across the aisle that we should encourage banks to work more proactively with customers affected in the shutdown, we must also encourage our financial regulators to provide clarity to our financial institutions that they are permitted to provide that type of relief.

I have no doubt this issue will be a part of a larger conversation I hope that we can have on the Financial Services Committee about what regulators are doing to help individual taxpayers and also what they are doing that hurts the American people as well.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is a good bill that I encourage my colleagues to support.

Mr. HARRIS. Will the gentleman yield for a question?

Mr. McHENRY. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, my reading of the bill is not furloughed employees. It is anyone affected. It has a very broad definition. Without putting any guardrails on it, one could argue that every American was probably affected in some way. Is that true? Is my reading of the bill that this extends way beyond furloughed employees? It affects any consumer affected. Is that correct?

Mr. McHENRY. Reclaiming my time, I did not write the legislation. The intention here is the encouragement of Federal regulators to take a new look. I think that is the broad understanding of what this resolution gets to. I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1400

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), who is a senior member of the Financial Services Committee and chairwoman of the Small Business Committee.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman, MAXINE WATERS, and the ranking member, Mr. MCHENRY, for this important resolution.

Last week, Democrats stood united and ended the longest government shutdown in history. We should be clear: This shutdown was caused solely by President Trump's personal obsession with the border wall.

Roughly 800,000 Federal workers were either furloughed or forced to work without pay. More than 1 million contractors were forced to miss multiple paychecks.

Now, Donald Trump may not relate to this, but for these workers, this means bills piling up. It means choosing between putting gasoline in your car or groceries in your refrigerator.

Throughout the shutdown, my office was in contact with several financial institutions and companies that were offering forbearance options, waiving late fees, and providing short-term, no-interest loans for affected workers. That is admirable, and I thank them.

However, the media also reported on numerous workers who were forced to take out personal loans and cash advances on credit cards, or who even turned to predatory payday loans to make ends meet.

For example, NBC News recently reported on one company offering personal installment loans that had seen an uptick in customers looking to use their products. It is perhaps no coincidence that this uptick coincided with a nearly 19 percent rise in the company's stock since the shutdown began.

This is unconscionable. Financial institutions and companies should not be preying on Federal employees or contractors who went nearly a month without pay. Instead, they should be working with those affected to get them back on track and rebuild their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chair WATERS for offering this important resolution to further that goal, and I urge all my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY).

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Actually, Mr. Speaker, I have a point of clarification for the chairman.

Is this bill affecting all furloughed Federal workers, anyone furloughed, or anyone affected by the furlough in any way? Any consumer, any American that is affected?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, this resolution is intended not only to help Federal employees as such, but contractors, small businesses, and others that

are connected to government in ways that you may not be able to absolutely identify here. You may have folks who are consultants who are not considered contractors. You may have others who will be affected by this who maybe had a contract with the Federal Government that is now in litigation that has to be dealt with.

That is what we are intending to do, not just have a blanket, blanket, blanket, but some connection to the Federal Government.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, in West Virginia's Second District, we have a lot of Federal workers and contractors who are affected.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for clarifying that.

Of course, there are a lot of folks in my district who are affected by the shutdown and also affected indirectly because they are contractors and such. I have had them approach me over the last few weeks, wondering if their backlogged projects were going to get funded. It is important to clarify that.

Of course, we should backpay people, and the good, hardworking Americans who make this country go around need to get paid.

I understand a little bit of an obsession on the other side against a border wall that was mentioned by the previous speaker, when this is really about how government should function and appropriate funds in the appropriate way, and the power of the purse. Frankly, getting bills through the House and the Senate has become quite a problem, particularly with the other Chamber, which doesn't seem to pass anything and then wants us to do just whatever the Senate does.

We have a lot of dysfunction, particularly on the other side, and that is what has cost the workers, not this wall. The wall is something the President said he would do. It is not the wall; it is the dysfunction of passing bills around here that has caused these problems.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the leader for the extra minute.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, let me say this: I know that we all want to help all of those who have been affected by the shutdown, and so I hope I was able to clarify that, so that people can help the constituents in their districts even in ways they may not have understood.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LAWSON).

Mr. LAWSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 77. This resolution expresses the sense that financial institutions should do everything within their power to ensure that

their customers who were impacted by the Trump shutdown receive the resources they need to get back on track.

Nearly 800,000 Federal workers across this Nation were impacted by the shutdown, 13,000 of which are in my district. Throughout my district in Florida, from Quincy, Tallahassee, Jacksonville, and even in the rural areas, constituents expressed to me the challenges of not receiving their paychecks. This meant not paying their mortgage or rent, not paying for childcare, hardships purchasing gas and groceries, or having to miss a car note. Some of these individuals even relied on their banks for loans.

These are hardworking Americans who did not ask for the shutdown, should not have had to suffer as a pawn in the shutdown, or did not deserve to be furloughed because of a shutdown. That is unacceptable.

Because of the shutdown, these employees made difficult financial decisions. That is why it is necessary for our financial institutions to step up and provide relief to those impacted. That means extending payment deadlines, reducing the interest rate on short-term loans, and providing financial and customer education that will help Federal employees prepare for the potential of other financial hardships.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Congresswoman WATERS for introducing this resolution and for standing up for Federal workers, and I ask that all of my colleagues in this House vote in favor.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this House resolution. I think this resolution truly expresses the sense of Congress that we should provide relief that, voluntarily, over 100 financial institutions have already committed to do publicly over the course of the shutdown. But I think it shows that we are a compassionate group of folks here in the House of Representatives and that we want to be sensible in every way possible, even in the midst of these major political fights that do occur from time to time, perhaps, here on this House floor.

Those disagreements notwithstanding, what we want to do is work in a proactive way and in a bipartisan way to convey to the public that there are sensible things that we are about, and that Republicans and Democrats still can get things done here on the House floor, here doing the people's business and the people's work.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support Chairwoman WATERS' resolution here today, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, this shutdown has inflicted tremendous harm on consumers and the U.S. economy. The Congressional Budget Office estimated the initial cost for the recent shutdown is more than \$11 billion and wrote: "Among those who experienced the

