

and Government Reform reported the bill favorably, but without a single vote from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

We all know an effective and functional MSPB is important to the health of our Federal workforce. MSPB's primary responsibility is to adjudicate appeals of Federal personnel actions. MSPB also plays a vital role in Federal whistleblower protections.

To be effective and issue decisions, MSPB needs at least a two-member quorum, but the Board has not had a quorum for over 2 years. In January 2017, Mark Robbins, as my friend mentioned, became the sole remaining member of MSPB.

Last year, Mr. Robbins' 7-year term came to an end, and he was granted a 1-year extension as authorized by law, but that extension ends this week. Starting Friday, the MSPB will be without a single Board member.

My colleagues claim this bill is an emergency measure to prevent the MSPB from extending this crisis of leadership, but I disagree. The real problem is the lack of a quorum.

Without a quorum for the last 2 years, a backlog of undecided appeals has grown to over 1,700 cases. Mr. Robbins cannot fix that problem on his own. His continued tenure will not resolve those cases.

In December, the President selected Mr. Robbins to serve as the general counsel at the Office of Personnel Management, so for the last 10 weeks, he has served in both capacities at OPM and MSPB. Mr. Robbins is planning to serve at OPM in his full capacity beginning this Friday.

Mr. Robbins has stayed at MSPB as long as he has out of a sense of duty to MSPB and its mission. I trust that my colleagues do not intend to use this bill to coerce Mr. Robbins to stay any longer than he wants to.

□ 1745

I urge my colleagues to join me in applauding Mr. Robbins for his dedication to MSPB, the Federal workforce, the President, and our country. I also urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Senate's confirmation of President Trump's nominees.

We owe it to our Federal workers to give MSPB a quorum so the board can do the important job that Congress gave it to do.

In the future, I certainly hope we can work together to provide certainty to Federal workers and whistleblowers by making MSPB operational once again.

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

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

Briefly, in responding to my friend: I agree with him. I think we need a full board. Our problem is the Senate. They didn't get around to acting in a timely fashion, and so we are faced with this.

I think it is also important to note that, although a quorum is necessary

for most work of MSPB, it isn't necessary for all of it.

So Mr. Robbins, in a caretaker, interim position, can still do some of the work of the board, including issuing stays, reviewing some of the work, and helping to avoid adding to the backlog.

He can't substitute himself fully, obviously, for a quorum in the board. My colleague is quite right about that.

What we are trying to do here is not to compel him or coerce him to stay against his wishes; it is to try to buy some time and have the board at least do some of its basic functions so that we don't come to a complete standstill. That would not be necessary, frankly, had the Senate acted.

I think my friend is right in suggesting that is the ultimate answer, and I would join him in calling on the Senate to act as swiftly as possible. But I think we have no choice but to act on this bill now.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1235, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "To provide that the term of office of certain members of the Merit Systems Protection Board shall be extended by a period of 1 year, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETERS) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 539, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 276, by the yeas and nays; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

INNOVATORS TO ENTREPRENEURS ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 539) to require the Director of the National Science Foundation to develop an I-Corps course to support commercialization-ready innovation companies, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 385, nays 18, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 88]

YEAS—385

Adams	Cole	Gallego
Aderholt	Collins (GA)	Garamendi
Aguilar	Collins (NY)	García (IL)
Allen	Comer	Garcia (TX)
Allred	Conaway	Gianforte
Amodei	Connolly	Gibbs
Armstrong	Cook	Golden
Arrington	Cooper	Gonzalez (OH)
Axne	Correa	Gonzalez (TX)
Bacon	Courtney	Gooden
Baird	Cox (CA)	Gottheimer
Balderson	Craig	Granger
Banks	Crawford	Graves (GA)
Barr	Crenshaw	Graves (LA)
Barragán	Crist	Graves (MO)
Bass	Crow	Green (TN)
Beatty	Cuellar	Green (TX)
Bera	Cummings	Grijalva
Bergman	Cunningham	Guest
Beyer	Curtis	Guthrie
Bishop (GA)	Davids (KS)	Haaland
Bishop (UT)	Davidson (OH)	Hagedorn
Blumenauer	Davis (CA)	Harder (CA)
Blunt Rochester	Davis, Rodney	Harris
Bost	Dean	Hartzler
Boyle, Brendan F.	DeGette	Hastings
Brady	DeLauro	Hayes
Brown (MD)	DelBene	Heck
Brownley (CA)	Delgado	Hice (GA)
Buchanan	Demings	Higgins (LA)
Bucshon	DeSaulnier	Higgins (NY)
Budd	DesJarlais	Hill (AR)
Burchett	Deutch	Hill (CA)
Burgess	Diaz-Balart	Himes
Bustos	Dingell	Holding
Butterfield	Doggett	Hollingsworth
Byrne	Doyle, Michael F.	Horsford
Calvert	Duffy	Houlahan
Carbajal	Duncan	Hoyer
Cárdenas	Dunn	Hudson
Carson (IN)	Emmer	Huffman
Carter (GA)	Engel	Huizenga
Carter (TX)	Escobar	Hunter
Cartwright	Eshoo	Hurd (TX)
Case	Espaillat	Jackson Lee
Casten (IL)	Estes	Jayapal
Castor (FL)	Evans	Jeffries
Castro (TX)	Finkenauer	Johnson (GA)
Chabot	Fitzpatrick	Johnson (LA)
Cheney	Fleischmann	Johnson (OH)
Chu, Judy	Fletcher	Johnson (SD)
Cicilline	Flores	Johnson (TX)
Cisneros	Fortenberry	Jordan
Clark (MA)	Foster	Joyce (OH)
Clarke (NY)	Fudge	Kaptur
Clay	Fulcher	Keating
Cleaver	Gabbard	Kelly (IL)
Cloud	Gaetz	Kelly (MS)
Clyburn	Gallagher	Kelly (PA)

Kennedy	Napolitano	Simpson
Khanna	Neal	Sires
Kildee	Neguse	Slotkin
Kilmer	Newhouse	Smith (MO)
Kim	Norcross	Smith (NE)
Kind	Norman	Smith (NJ)
King (NY)	Nunes	Smucker
Kinzinger	O'Halleran	Soto
Kirkpatrick	Ocasio-Cortez	Spanberger
Krishnamoorthi	Olson	Spano
Kuster (NH)	Omar	Speier
Kustoff (TN)	Palazzo	Stanton
LaHood	Pallone	Stauber
LaMalfa	Palmer	Stefanik
Lamb	Panetta	Steil
Lamborn	Pappas	Stevens
Langevin	Pascrill	Stewart
Larsen (WA)	Payne	Stivers
Larson (CT)	Pence	Suozzi
Latta	Perlmutter	Takano
Lawrence	Perry	Taylor
Lee (CA)	Peters	Thompson (CA)
Lee (NV)	Peterson	Thompson (PA)
Lesko	Phillips	Thornberry
Levin (CA)	Pingree	Timmons
Levin (MI)	Porter	Tipton
Lewis	Posey	Titus
Lieu, Ted	Pressley	Tlaib
Lipinski	Price (NC)	Tonko
Loebssack	Quigley	Torres (CA)
Lofgren	Raskin	Torres Small (NM)
Long	Ratcliffe	Trahan
Loudermilk	Reed	Turner
Lowenthal	Reschenthaler	Underwood
Lucas	Rice (NY)	Upton
Luettkemeyer	Richmond	Van Drew
Lujan	Riggleman	Vargas
Luria	Roby	Veasey
Lynch	Rodgers (WA)	Vela
Malinowski	Roe, David P.	Velázquez
Maloney,	Rogers (AL)	Visclosky
Carolyn B.	Rogers (KY)	Wagner
Maloney, Sean	Rose (NY)	Walberg
Marchant	Rose, John W.	Walden
Marshall	Rouda	Walker
Mast	Rouzer	Walorski
McAdams	Royalb-Allard	Waltz
McBath	Ruiz	Wasserman
McCarthy	Ruppersberger	Schultz
McCaul	Rutherford	Waters
McCullom	Ryan	Watkins
McEachin	Sánchez	Watson Coleman
McGovern	Sarbanes	Weber (TX)
McHenry	Scalise	Webster (FL)
McKinley	Scanlon	Welch
McNerney	Schakowsky	Wenstrup
Meadows	Schiff	Westerman
Meeks	Schneider	Wexton
Meng	Schrirer	Wild
Meuser	Schweikert	Williams
Miller	Scott (VA)	Wilson (FL)
Mitchell	Scott, Austin	Wilson (SC)
Moolenaar	Scott, David	Wittman
Mooney (WV)	Sensenbrenner	Womack
Moore	Serrano	Woodall
Moulton	Sewell (AL)	Wright
Mucarsel-Powell	Shalala	Yarmuth
Mullin	Sherman	Young
Murphy	Sherrill	Zeldin
Nadler	Shimkus	

NAYS—18

Amash	Foxx (NC)	Massie
Biggs	Gohmert	McClintock
Brooks (AL)	Gosar	Rice (SC)
Buck	Griffith	Roy
Cline	Grothman	Steube
Ferguson	Hern, Kevin	Yoho

NOT VOTING—28

Abraham	Frankel	Pocan
Babin	Gomez	Rooney (FL)
Bilirakis	Herrera Beutler	Rush
Bonamici	Horn, Kendra S.	Schrader
Brindisi	Katko	Smith (WA)
Brooks (IN)	King (IA)	Swalwell (CA)
Cohen	Lawson (FL)	Thompson (MS)
Costa	Lowey	Trone
Davis, Danny K.	Matsui	
DeFazio	Morelle	

□ 1900

Messrs. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, FERGUSON, RICE of South Carolina, GOSAR, STEUBE, BUCK, GRIFFITH, and BROOKS of Alabama changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. HICE of Georgia and PALMER changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RESIGNATION AS CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 25, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to inform you that I am resigning my position as Clerk of the House effective midnight on February 25, 2019. Thank you for the honor of nominating me to serve in the position of Clerk of the House in the 116th Congress.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

THANKING KAREN L. HAAS FOR HER SERVICE AS CLERK OF THE HOUSE, AND WELCOMING CLERK-DESIGNATE CHERYL L. JOHNSON

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank and congratulate Karen Haas, and say how very appreciative this House is for the extraordinary service that has been given to us for many years, and to the people of this country, by Karen Haas.

Karen, thank you so much.

She has been the Clerk of the House for a very long time. She was the Clerk of the House in the 109th and 110th Congresses as well.

Throughout her tenure, she served with distinction, working hard to ensure that the Office of the Clerk always acted in a nonpartisan, bipartisan way, which brought credit on this House and great service to every Member.

Thank you for that, Karen.

Many of us serving in the House have known her even longer, going back to her service on the staff of former Speaker Hastert and former Republican Leader Bob Michel.

I might say of the latter, Bob Michel was one of the finest human beings I have ever known and one of the best Members that I have ever served with. Karen was proud to serve with him, and he, I know, was so fond of Karen and her service to him and to the House.

Now, I may not be totally objective. Karen is a native Marylander. Karen is also a graduate of the University of

Maryland, so Karen and I share a lot in common. We live in Maryland; we graduated from Maryland; and we love this House.

I offer her the thanks of the House, its Members, and our staff, as she steps down from this position. I am not sure where Karen is going, but I guarantee you, our loss will be somebody else's gain, because she has the kind of talent, commitment, energy, and faithfulness that will make a real difference wherever she goes.

I also congratulate Cheryl Johnson for becoming the 36th Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Ladies and gentlemen of the House, Cheryl returns to the House where she served for 20 years with the Committee on Education and Labor, as well as the Committee on House Administration.

She will bring an extraordinary amount of experience to her job as the Clerk of the House. I know she will do an outstanding job, and I welcome her back to this House, which she has served so ably before.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the Republican whip.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland, the Terrapin from Maryland, for yielding.

I want to say, first, we are going to miss Karen Haas. Karen Haas served this body so well, as the majority leader talked about, and in such a fair way, treating all Members with the dignity and respect that they all deserve as we all carry out the work of the people's House.

When you think about the different roles that she has played, serving this Chamber, this body, for decades in a number of different roles, but, of course, most notably to all of us, twice as Clerk of the House. She was actually here once before, left, realized just how much fun it is to be in this House and work for this great body, and came back.

We thank you for coming back again and for your great service during these times.

So much work goes into the operations of the House. The things that we do on a daily basis, whether it is a Member filing a bill, when you go down to drop your bill in the hopper, it is Karen and the entire team that she has put together at the Office of the Clerk that receives the bills, that processes the bills.

When we all vote for and sometimes against the Journal, it is the Clerk that puts together the Journal of the House to make sure that the things that we do are properly recorded throughout time for people to go review.

It is an important job. But it is the work that she has done that we all see on a daily basis that we are going to miss.

As Cheryl Johnson takes her place, best of luck to you as well. We wish you all the best, but we are going to miss Karen.