

authorizing an Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources and defining our energy security and diplomatic priorities.

This will ensure the State Department has adequate personnel to carry out its mandate and protect and advance the energy security interests of the United States, as well as those of our allies abroad.

Finally, this will advance U.S. energy exports by instructing our diplomats to work in tandem with U.S. energy companies operating abroad.

Combating Russia's maligned influence in Europe has been at the forefront of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs' agenda this year, and I firmly believe pushing back on Russia's energy dominance in Europe must be part of our strategy.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank, again, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), the chair, and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCaul), the lead Republican, for including the Energy Diplomacy Act in this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support the Department of State Authorization Act.

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

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

I just want to say, as I said at the beginning, how proud I am to work with Chairman ENGEL, to draft this critical and overdue authorization bill.

I think it was mentioned previously. I think this is the most bipartisan committee on the Hill, and it should be, because we shouldn't bring partisanship to this body on issues of importance like this.

I want to thank the staff on the majority side for working with my staff on the minority side, and particularly, I want to thank Grant Mullins on my staff for his excellent work on this bill.

This doesn't happen by accident. It happens by design, and it happens when the staff can work together because the chair and the ranking member send a message, a message of leadership, in a tone that we want to get this done in a bipartisan way. And the beauty of that is, Mr. Speaker, that will give this bill, this authorization, the first one we have seen since 2002, the best opportunity to pass the Senate and be signed into law.

And, Mr. Speaker, this will be a hallmark of this Congress, I believe, when that fine event happens. It is exercising our constitutional prerogatives under Article I and our oversight role on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for purposes of closing.

Mr. Speaker, once again, let me thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCaul), my friend and partner, for his partnership.

This legislation really does represent the product of close bipartisan work on

this committee since the start of this Congress. So I wish to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCaul) and other members of the committee, both Democrats and Republicans.

And, again, I hope with this bill's passage today, the House is turning over a new leaf. Mr. Speaker, I am committed to making sure authorizing legislation for the State Department is something we do regularly and is something that this body considers as a must pass.

I am proud of our work on this bill. I want to thank my staff. I want to thank the staff on the minority side, as well. I am very proud of all of us working together as a team.

I urge all Members to support this, and, again, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCaul).

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

□ 1600

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3352, 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.

#### SHORT-TERM DETENTION STANDARDS ACT

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3670) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure access to appropriate temporary shelter, food, and water for individuals apprehended by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3670

*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 "Short-Term Detention Standards Act".

#### SEC. 2. ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE TEMPORARY SHELTER, FOOD, AND WATER DURING SHORT-TERM DETENTION.

Paragraph (1) of section 411(m) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211(m)) is amended to read as follows:

"(1) ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE TEMPORARY SHELTER, FOOD, AND WATER.—The Commissioner shall make every effort to ensure the provision to an individual apprehended by U.S. Customs and Border Protection of appropriate temporary shelter with access to bathroom and shower facilities, water, appropriate nutrition, hygiene, personal grooming items, and sanitation needs."

#### SEC. 3. AUDIT AND INSPECTIONS OF DETENTION FACILITIES.

(a) OIG AND GAO.—The Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security and the Comptroller General shall carry out regular audits and inspections, including unan-

nounced audits and inspections, of processes (including recordkeeping) utilized by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to conduct intake and process individuals apprehended by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The Inspector General and Comptroller General shall, to the extent possible, share information and coordinate to ensure that Congress is provided timely audit and inspection information.

(b) CONGRESSIONAL ACCESS.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection may not—

(1) prevent a Member of Congress or an employee of the United States House of Representatives or the United States Senate designated by such a Member for the purposes of this section from entering, for the purpose of conducting oversight, any such facility; and

(2) make any temporary modification at any such facility that in any way alters what is observed by a visiting member of Congress or such designated employee, compared to what would be observed in the absence of such modification.

(c) PHOTOGRAPHS.—The Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security, Comptroller General, a Member of Congress, or an employee of the United States House of Representatives or United States Senate shall be authorized to take photographs or video or audio recordings of conditions in a facility but may not publish photographs or video or audio recordings with personally identifiable information without permission.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which 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 Michigan?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 3670, the Short-Term Detention Standards Act.

This legislation is very simple. It requires humane conditions for migrants detained in short-term detention facilities at our ports of entry.

This legislation is premised on a very simple idea that defending our country's security and upholding humanitarian standards are not mutually exclusive. Anyone who believes that we can have only one or the other misunderstands America's core values.

Under current law, the Homeland Security Act of 2002 only requires that migrants in short-term detention have "adequate access to food and water." But we know from the heart-wrenching images that we have seen on TV and in news reports, and the findings of the Department of Homeland Security's own inspector general, that, too often, migrants are going without basic necessities.

In the last 2 months alone, the DHS inspector general released two management alerts, detailing poor conditions

and extreme overcrowding in El Paso and in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, where I just visited.

That is why I have introduced this bill, which expands the current requirement under law so that Customs and Border Protection must also provide migrants not only food and water but bathroom and shower facilities, appropriate nutrition, hygiene, personal grooming items, and sanitation needs.

Based on the reports we have all seen and the outcry from constituents in my district, I traveled to the southern border last week in one of the only bipartisan trips to have made it to the border. What I saw, from beginning to end, was tragedy and misery for every link in the chain.

It was misery for migrants, who were fearing death and persecution at home and risked their lives to walk 1,000 miles, often with their children, in the heat to seek asylum in the United States.

It was misery for the thousands of additional migrants who were just seeking a better life and to come to work in this country but have no easy, legal way to do that.

It was misery for the Customs and Border Protection officials and the Border Patrol officials who were not stood up and set up to do this, who have been demonized in the press, many of whom are first-generation Americans, in a situation they were never trained for.

It is misery top to bottom. That misery, for me, turned to anger because it is because of the inability of Washington to produce comprehensive immigration reform that that misery is happening.

There is so much more to do to alleviate the crisis at our southern border. I think all of my bipartisan colleagues, when we traveled to the border, felt that it was our duty to work on bipartisan legislation so that we can create a situation where people who we need in this country can come here legally, people who are seeking asylum can do it legally, and we do not have to put our customs and border officials in this kind of stressful situation.

I thank my Republican colleagues on the Homeland Security Committee who voted unanimously with me on this bill. I believe this is the first bill on standards at our southern border to be bipartisan. I am very proud of that. It is a commonsense proposal that I think Democrats, Republicans, and independents can all support.

To my colleagues who have not yet made up their minds, the standards outlined in this bill are simply the same standards for our inmates in our prisons that the Bureau of Prisons upholds. They are the same standards under the Geneva Convention that any U.S. soldier must uphold when we take in a prisoner of war.

Those are our bare minimum standards that represent our values, and I offer they should also be the exact same standards we afford people coming over our southern border.

The number of migrants coming over our southern border is overwhelming. It would overwhelm any administration, any political affiliation, but it does not abrogate our responsibility to maintain basic humanitarian standards in alignment with our values.

The Department of Homeland Security must do better. From my own trip last week, I know they want to do better.

As I said, I am particularly grateful to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who voiced support for this bill and who came on as cosponsors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to do the right thing, help our country aspire to higher standards, and support H.R. 3670, 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 appreciate the gentlewoman from Michigan's efforts on this bill. I admire her for her compassion. I respect her intent and the spirit behind this bill, and I hope that we can work together to move forward.

My concern is with the letter of the law written within this bill. I know firsthand that showers are being provided and that personal hygiene products are immediately available to the unprecedented number of people in Customs and Border Protection custody, both from visits to the border myself and from regular communication with brothers and sisters of law enforcement who work the border, who are tasked with securing our border. I see regular emails, messages, videos, et cetera.

My concern with this bill is that it does not solve the problem, in my opinion.

Customs and Border Protection processing facilities are outdated. Many facilities were built decades ago. They were neither designed to process children and families nor the massive numbers of illegal immigrants arriving at our border on a daily basis.

Without providing funding for new Customs and Border Protection facilities, I am concerned that this bill would not fix the real problem, despite its obvious compassionate intent.

Instead of forcing Customs and Border Protection to provide a long list of amenities to illegal immigrants, we should be focused on quickly processing migrants and moving them out of Customs and Border Protection custody.

Unfortunately, many of my colleagues across the aisle have resisted providing funding for additional Immigration and Customs Enforcement bed space. People are being held at CPB much longer than was ever envisioned.

My colleagues across the aisle have supported policies that, in my opinion, have exacerbated the crisis by refusing to provide ICE with the resources it needs to get people out of short-term detention and into more suitable facilities for long-term holding.

This bill is attempting to solve problems that, some would argue, are caused by a Democratic policy decision to restrain funding for ICE and degrade its ability to hold illegal immigrants.

We should provide ICE the resources it needs to conduct its mission rather than imposing those responsibilities on Customs and Border Protection, men and women who are tasked with a completely different mission.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to address the specific points raised by the gentleman across the aisle.

The gentleman is correct. This bill is not meant to fix everything. It doesn't get to the root of the problem.

What it does is establish very basic humanitarian standards similar, almost exactly, to what we have for our prisoners of war and our prisoners. That is taken from the Geneva Convention. That is the international standard, and I want to meet those standards.

In many cases, the men and women of Customs and Border Protection and Border Patrol are absolutely meeting those standards. I think probably, at this point, most areas are. So, then, it shouldn't be a problem to enshrine it in actual law.

I also agree that we have a major problem in our immigration system. I believe that strongly and even more strongly after I went to the border this past week, and I look forward to my colleague working with us on bipartisan immigration reform.

I think this is a minimum standard. It is a humanitarian standard in line with our values. It is what our law enforcement officers and our uniform military already have to provide whenever they are in a position of detention.

I think this isn't difficult if we are already achieving, in most cases, these standards across the board.

Regarding the complaint that it doesn't solve every problem, it was never meant to. So let's focus on the bill at hand.

Mr. Speaker, 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 would like to share with the gentlewoman, for whom I have deep respect, that I believe that the humanitarian standards that the gentlewoman referred to are alive in the hearts of the men and women, the American men and women, who serve in Customs and Border Protection on the border. These Americans struggle to accomplish their mission despite overwhelming, almost impossible conditions and situations, masses of humanity, wave after wave of children of God.

Indeed, the role of this body, as envisioned by our Founders and supported

through the generations, is to allow the American spirit to manifest itself without regulation and enforced traditions and principles that are exhibited by the very Americans whom we serve.

I deeply respect the intent of this bill, although I have voiced my concern regarding the letter of the language of this bill and the purposes of my concern.

I would share with Congresswoman SLOTKIN that I am prepared to close. I have no further speakers.

Mr. Speaker, I deeply respect her effort, while standing in opposition, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

In closing, I appreciate the gentleman's comments and the spirit with which they were delivered.

Let me say, as someone who is from Michigan, we depend upon our Customs and Border Protection agents, our Border Patrol agents, every single day for our own security, for awareness of what is coming over our border.

Mr. Speaker, we are a border State, so you are never going to find a bigger fan of Customs and Border Protection and Border Patrol. I was visiting with them in the past 10 days. They are doing yeoman's work, and I asked for their advice before I went to the southern border.

But we know that, despite their best efforts, the overwhelming number of people, combined with the complete inability to be prepared for such numbers, means that people were going without showers, and people were going without access to medical care. People were going without.

That is not what anyone wanted. I do not believe at all that people wanted that, but that was the reality. So I felt it was important to lay down a clear standard. I think the vast majority are adhering to that standard, and I think it is the bare minimum.

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

□ 1615

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PAYNE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3670, 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.

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FAMILY FARMER RELIEF ACT OF  
2019

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2336) to amend title 11, United States Code, with respect to the definition of "family farmer", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2336

*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 "Family Farmer Relief Act of 2019".

**SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF FAMILY FARMER.**

Section 101(18) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking "\$3,237,000" each place that term appears and inserting "\$10,000,000".

**SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENENBRENNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CICILLINE. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2336, the Family Farmer Relief Act of 2019, would increase the current debt limit used to determine whether a family farmer is eligible for relief under chapter 12 of the Bankruptcy Code, a specialized form of bankruptcy relief specifically intended for family farmers, from approximately \$4.4 million to \$10 million.

Chapter 12 permits a family farmer who satisfies certain eligibility criteria to reorganize his or her debts pursuant to a repayment plan under the supervision of a bankruptcy trustee. The special attributes of chapter 12 make it better suited to meet the particularized needs of family farmers in financial distress than other forms of bankruptcy relief.

Under chapter 7, for example, the family farm and its assets would have to be liquidated to pay the claims of creditors, thus depriving the family farmer of his or her livelihood, which is completely unacceptable.

The chapter 11 process for reorganization, which is typically used by large corporations in economic distress to reorganize complex financial transactions, is also inappropriate due to its costly and time-consuming process that does not work for our Nation's small farming operations.

In light of these concerns with other avenues for reorganization under the

Bankruptcy Code, Congress created chapter 12 during the farm crisis of the mid-1980s in response to a series of economic catastrophes facing small farms, from grain embargoes, to high interest rates, to consolidation, and megafarms.

Unfortunately, many similar economic pressures are impacting family farmers today, who are also facing the devastating effects of climate change, including unprecedented weather events and catastrophic flooding, as well as stagnant or falling returns on investment.

H.R. 2336 takes into consideration the fact that modern farming operations entail greater costs and resulting debt than when chapter 12 was first enacted by raising the debt threshold to qualify for this type of bankruptcy relief to a level more consistent with today's operations.

Accordingly, I support H.R. 2336, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill.

The Family Farmer Relief Act of 2019 brings urgently needed help to a critical link in America's economy and a vital part of American community life, the family farmer.

In 2005, Congress permanently enacted chapter 12 of the Bankruptcy Code. Chapter 12 is specially designed to help family farmers reorganize their debts in time of need and keep their farms going. In the years since, chapter 12 and its streamlined procedures have worked well.

There has, however, been one problem. As time has passed, the cost of running a family farm have rapidly increased; the ceiling on chapter 12, on how much debt a family farm can reorganize, has lagged behind. Especially with the advent of modern, high-tech farming equipment, the chapter 12 ceiling is no longer high enough to let many farms with typical amounts of debt go into chapter 12.

The Family Farmer Relief Act of 2019 fixes this problem. It raises the ceiling from the old, roughly \$4.5 million limit to a more reasonable \$10 million limit. This means that more family farmers will be able to successfully reorganize when they need to, to the benefit of the economy and local communities across the land.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this bill. I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO), the author of the bill, a relentless advocate for this legislation, and a distinguished member of the freshman class.

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Chairman CICILLINE for those kind words.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, the Family Farmer Relief Act.