

is a very good day of bipartisanship that has taken months to bring us to this type of conclusion.

I thank Chairwoman WATERS for her willingness. When you are in the majority, you have got more votes than the minority. That is obvious with being in the majority. It is not all the time that you reach across the aisle when you are in the majority; I understand that. But in this act, Chairwoman WATERS said it is imperative that we work together, and we have.

We have got a good result here today. I think it shows the Financial Services Committee, when brought together, can do big and important things. This is certainly a big and important thing that will have a lasting impact on the American economy.

We are hopeful that we will never have to use this piece of law in response to a terrorist attack; but, if we are, the work that we have done on the Financial Services Committee, the expertise that we have had on the committee, we believe, means that this act will work in response to some cataclysmic event.

We are hopeful, and we plan to ensure that no further terrorist attacks happen or befall our country and our people like happened on 9/11. However, we are also in the disaster planning business, as well, and it is important and imperative that Members of Congress are engaged in that.

So the Financial Services Committee in this House has come to a good conclusion on a good piece of law, and we have a very good reauthorization. Mr. Speaker, I encourage a “yes” vote by all Members, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased and so proud that we are on the floor today on a bipartisan bill, and I certainly expect the support from both sides of the aisle.

America stands united against terrorism and the hatred and violence that it represents, and we are stronger as a country when we take steps to ensure that our country can quickly respond to terrorism. By reauthorizing TRIA, we are helping to do just that.

Again, I thank Ranking Member McHENRY for working with me on this important bill, as well as all of the members on the committee who have shown real leadership on this issue. We heard from some of them today, particularly Representative MALONEY, who has worked for a long time on this legislation. This was so important to her.

Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. MEEKS have contributed mightily to the organizing of this bill, to work on any difficulties that we may have had, and I am very pleased about that.

Once again, I must say to Mr. McHENRY, we have shown that it is possible. Despite the fact that we may not agree on a lot of other things, we came together on this legislation. We

agreed, we worked together, and we provided leadership and inspiration to others, understanding that this was possible.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4634, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. WATERS. 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.

FOSTERING STABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 2019

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass bill (H.R. 4300) to provide Federal housing assistance on behalf of youths who are aging out of foster care, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4300

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 “Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF FAMILY.

Subparagraph (A) of section 3(b)(3) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(3)(A)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence—

(A) by striking “(v)” and inserting “(vi)”; and

(B) by inserting after “tenant family,” the following: “(v) a youth described in section 8(x)(2)(B);” and

(2) in the second sentence, by inserting “(or (vi))” after “clause (v)”.

SEC. 3. HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS FOR FOSTERING STABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES.

(a) ASSISTANCE FOR YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE.—Section 8(x) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(x)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “subject to paragraph (5),” after “(B)”; and

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking “(3) ALLOCATION.—The” and inserting the following:

“(3) ALLOCATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(B) ASSISTANCE FOR YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall, subject only to the availability of funds, allocate such assistance to any public housing agencies that (i) administer assistance pursuant to paragraph (2)(B), or seek to administer such assistance, consistent with procedures established by the Secretary, (ii) have requested such assistance so that they may

provide timely assistance to eligible youth, and (iii) have submitted to the Secretary a statement describing how the agency will connect assisted youths with local community resources and self-sufficiency services, to the extent they are available, and obtain referrals from public child welfare agencies regarding youths in foster care who become eligible for such assistance.”;

(3) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

“(5) REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSISTANCE FOR YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE.—Assistance provided under this subsection for an eligible youth pursuant to paragraph (2)(B) shall be subject to the following requirements:

“(A) REQUIREMENTS TO EXTEND ASSISTANCE.—

“(i) PARTICIPATION IN FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY.—In the case of a public housing agency that is providing such assistance under this subsection on behalf of an eligible youth and that is carrying out a family self-sufficiency program under section 23, the agency shall, subject only to the availability of such assistance, extend the provision of such assistance for up to 24 months beyond the period referred to in paragraph (2)(B), but only during such period that the youth is in compliance with the terms and conditions applicable under section 23 and the regulations implementing such section to a person participating in a family self-sufficiency program.

“(ii) EDUCATION, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, OR EMPLOYMENT.—In the case of a public housing agency that is providing such assistance under this subsection on behalf of an eligible youth and that is not carrying out a family self-sufficiency program under section 23, or is carrying out such a program in which the youth has been unable to enroll, the agency shall, subject only to the availability of such assistance, extend the provision of such assistance for two successive 12-month periods, after the period referred to in paragraph (2)(B), but only if for not less than 9 months of the 12-month period preceding each such extension the youth was—

“(I) engaged in obtaining a recognized postsecondary credential or a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent;

“(II) enrolled in an institution of higher education, as such term is defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)) and including the institutions described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 102(a)(1) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1002(a)(1)); or

“(III) participating in a career pathway, as such term is defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

Notwithstanding any other provision of this clause, a public housing agency shall consider employment as satisfying the requirements under this subparagraph.

“(iii) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding clauses (i) and (ii), a public housing agency that is providing such assistance under this subsection on behalf of an eligible youth shall extend the provision of such assistance for up to 24 months beyond the period referred to in paragraph (2)(B), and clauses (i) and (ii) of this subparagraph shall not apply, if the eligible youth certifies that he or she is—

“(I) a parent or other household member responsible for the care of a dependent child under the age of 6 or for the care of an incapacitated person;

“(II) a person who is regularly and actively participating in a drug addiction or alcohol treatment and rehabilitation program; or

“(III) a person who is incapable of complying with the requirement under clause (i) or (ii), as applicable, due to a documented medical condition.

“(iv) VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE.—The Secretary shall require the public housing agency to verify compliance with the requirements under this subparagraph by each eligible youth on whose behalf the agency provides such assistance under this subsection on an annual basis in conjunction with reviews of income for purposes of determining income eligibility for such assistance.

“(B) SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—

“(i) ELIGIBILITY.—Each eligible youth on whose behalf such assistance under this subsection is provided shall be eligible for any supportive services (as such term is defined in section 103 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102)) made available, in connection with any housing assistance program of the agency, by or through the public housing agency providing such assistance.

“(ii) INFORMATION.—Upon the initial provision of such assistance under this subsection on behalf of any eligible youth, the public housing agency shall inform such eligible youth of the existence of any programs or services referred to in clause (i) and of their eligibility for such programs and services.

“(C) APPLICABILITY TO MOVING TO WORK AGENCIES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the requirements of this paragraph shall apply to assistance under this subsection pursuant to paragraph (2)(B) made available by each public housing agency participating in the Moving to Work Program under section 204 of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note), except that in lieu of compliance with clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, such an agency may comply with the requirements under such clauses by complying with such terms, conditions, and requirements as may be established by the agency for persons on whose behalf such rental assistance under this subsection is provided.

“(D) TERMINATION OF VOUCHERS UPON TURNOVER.—A public housing agency shall not re-issue any such assistance made available from appropriated funds when assistance for the youth initially assisted is terminated, unless specifically authorized by the Secretary.

“(E) REPORTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall require each public housing agency that provides such assistance under this subsection in any fiscal year to submit a report to the Secretary for such fiscal year that—

“(I) specifies the number of persons on whose behalf such assistance under this subsection was provided during such fiscal year;

“(II) specifies the number of persons who applied during such fiscal year for such assistance under this subsection, but were not provided such assistance, and provides a brief identification in each instance of the reason why the public housing agency was unable to award such assistance; and

“(III) describes how the public housing agency communicated or collaborated with public child welfare agencies to collect such data.

“(ii) INFORMATION COLLECTIONS.—The Secretary shall, to the greatest extent possible, utilize existing information collections, including the voucher management system (VMS), the Inventory Management System/PIH Information Center (IMS/PIC), or the successors of those systems, to collect information required under this subparagraph.

“(F) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide such information and guidance to the Secretary of Health and Human Services as may be necessary to facilitate such Secretary in informing States and public child welfare agencies on how to correctly and efficiently implement and comply with the requirements of this subsection relating to assistance provided pursuant to paragraph (2)(B).”

(b) COORDINATION BETWEEN PHAS AND PUBLIC CHILD WELFARE AGENCIES.—

(1) APPLICABILITY TO FOSTERING STABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM.—Subparagraph (A) of section 8(x)(4) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(x)(4)(A)) is amended by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “and establishing a point of contact at public housing agencies to ensure that public housing agencies receive appropriate referrals regarding eligible recipients”.

(c) PHA ADMINISTRATIVE FEES.—Subsection (q) of section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(q)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) SUPPLEMENTS FOR ADMINISTERING ASSISTANCE FOR YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE.—The Secretary may provide supplemental fees under this subsection to the public housing agency for the cost of administering any assistance for foster youth under subsection (x)(2)(B), in an amount determined by the Secretary, but only if the agency waives for such eligible youth receiving assistance any residency requirement that it has otherwise established pursuant to subsection (r)(1)(B)(i).”

SEC. 4. EXCEPTIONS TO LIMITATIONS FOR PROJECT-BASED VOUCHER ASSISTANCE.

(a) PERCENTAGE LIMITATION.—The first sentence of clause (ii) of section 8(o)(13)(B) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(13)(B)(ii)) is amended by inserting before “or that” the following: “that house eligible youths receiving assistance pursuant to subsection (x)(2)(B).”

(b) INCOME-MIXING REQUIREMENT.—Subclause (I) of section 8(o)(13)(D)(ii) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(13)(D)(ii)(I)) is amended by inserting after “elderly families” the following: “, to eligible youths receiving assistance pursuant to subsection (x)(2)(B).”

SEC. 5. APPLICABILITY.

The amendments made by this Act shall not apply to housing choice voucher assistance made available pursuant to section 8(x) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(x)) that is in use on behalf of an assisted family as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) and the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in 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 gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4300, the Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act of 2019. This bill will help to ensure that our young adults aging out of foster care and at risk of homelessness have the housing assistance they need. In addition, this bill includes incentives for these young adults to participate in activities or programs to help them achieve self-sufficiency.

The young people who have aged out of the foster care system face many challenges as they abruptly face adulthood without many of the supports needed to help them make the transition. These young people have limited resources with which to secure safe and stable housing, which leaves them at heightened risk of experiencing homelessness.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4300, the Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act.

Each year, Mr. Speaker, roughly 20,000 youth age out of foster care. Young adults without families who exit the foster care system are incredibly vulnerable to homelessness. A number of studies show that between 11 and 36 percent of these young people who age out of our foster care system experience homelessness.

These foster youth need and deserve our support. A stable roof over their heads can allow these young men and women to pursue an education or a career. A home can be a bedrock from which they can build their lives and protect them from crimes like human trafficking.

It will also help these young adults by allowing up to 2 years of extensions if they enroll in HUD’s Family Self-Sufficiency program, pursue education or workforce development, or gain employment.

It is our duty, Mr. Speaker, to protect these young men and women from being jettisoned from our foster care system and onto the streets. This bill doesn’t just give them a roof over their heads; it gives them the ability to build a future.

I applaud the sponsors of H.R. 4300, Ms. DEAN and Mr. STIVERS, and I would like to acknowledge, in particular, the hard work that my good friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) has put into this bill over the last few years. He has been a true champion of this issue, and should be commended for his dedication.

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN), the sponsor of the bill.

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4300, the Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act, and I thank the manager, Mr. GREEN, and

Representative WAGNER for their wholehearted support.

The Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act is a bipartisan bill that addresses the needs of foster youth facing homelessness as they age out of the foster care system.

Every year, approximately 20,000 young people across this country age out of foster care. Studies show that between one-fifth to one-third of these young adults will become homeless in transition years.

That sudden and permanent transition from foster care to adulthood—including the loss of financial, educational, and social supports that the child welfare system provides—places these vulnerable youth at risk of homelessness and housing instability.

In my home State of Pennsylvania, for example, 32 percent of foster youth surveyed in fiscal year 2018 reported that they had been homeless by the age of 21. That is nearly a third of the young people coming out of the foster care system.

The Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act will address this problem by reforming and extending the current voucher system. It provides vouchers from HUD on demand to foster youth who are at risk of becoming homeless, rather than forcing them to spend years on waiting lists.

Furthermore, this bill incentivizes young people to participate in self-sufficiency activities by extending their assistance for up to an additional 2 years. Qualifying activities include pursuing an education, workforce development, or employment.

Finally, the Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act builds upon the current Family Unification Program under the foster youth portion to better align the child welfare and affordable housing systems and to coordinate and improve the lives of foster youth.

This bill is endorsed by more than 40 organizations, including the National Alliance to End Homelessness, National Low Income Housing Coalition, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and the Child Welfare League of America.

I thank my colleague on the Financial Services Committee in particular, Congressman STIVERS, for his leadership on this bipartisan bill; as well as Congresswoman BASS, founder and co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth; and Congressman TURNER, who has been a leader on this issue for many years.

Finally, I thank the Financial Services Committee chair, Chairwoman WATERS, for her support on this legislation.

The Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act passed the Financial Services Committee unanimously, and I urge Members of the full House to pass it as well.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER).

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania (Ms.

DEAN) for pushing this legislation with me, as well as Congresswoman BASS of California. Congressman STIVERS of Ohio has been an incredible champion. I thank Congressman WAGNER for her work on this bill.

And I want to thank, particularly, Ranking Member MCHENRY. I am not a member of this committee, and I thank Chairwoman WATERS and, of course, Ranking Member MCHENRY for taking this up and allowing me to advocate for this bill.

This is a bill of the heart. Everyone who has worked on this bill knows that we are remedying a wrong that shouldn't exist.

Mr. Speaker, several years ago, a group of Ohio foster youth, foster care alumni, and advocates came to me and explained to me the struggles that they endure as a result of the government's failure as foster parents. We fail to provide housing for these young people when they age out of foster care.

Currently, when youth age out of the foster care system, they are often placed at the back of the line to receive housing assistance, despite some targeted interventions available. Essentially, many of these youth, when they age out of foster care, age into federally created homelessness.

Now, part of this problem is that foster care is under HHS and adult housing is under HUD. Even though we know these kids are coming because we are providing them funding and we are providing them care under the foster care system under HHS, HUD acts like they have shown up for the very first day when they become adults and age out of the system.

It is our responsibility to fix this. As Congresswoman WAGNER was saying, studies show that 37 percent of foster care alumni have experienced homelessness. What a failure of a program.

The program under HHS is graduating 37 percent of its kids into homelessness; 20 percent struggle with chronic homelessness. This is after we have made a significant investment in these children's lives. It is the time that they start to go forward into adulthood that they face homelessness.

The government can and should remedy this. This bill will help with that and will give these kids, as they go into adulthood, an opportunity to jump in the front of the line—because we know they are coming; we have known they are coming for years—and give them the assistance for federally created housing so they can look toward self-sufficiency and become independent members of society.

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Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all of the Dayton, Ohio, area foster kids and the alumni who helped work on this. Congratulations to each and every one of them. We did it, Mr. Speaker. I encourage everyone to vote for this.

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I simply want to thank Mrs. WAGNER for working with me and the other members of the committee. I would like to also thank Ms. DEAN and Mr. STIVERS for introducing this important piece of legislation that is aimed at protecting some of our most vulnerable young people who too often fall into homelessness after they age out of foster care.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do so, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4300, 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.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO THE BILL (H.R. 3055) COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020

Mr. HASTINGS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-297) on the resolution (H. Res. 708) providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3055) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 3702,
H.R. 4634; and
H.R. 4344.

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.

REFORMING DISASTER RECOVERY 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