

(1) fundamental research on digital forensic tools or other technologies for verifying the authenticity of information and detection of manipulated or synthesized content, including content generated by generative adversarial networks;

(2) fundamental research on technical tools for identifying manipulated or synthesized content, such as watermarking systems for generated media;

(3) social and behavioral research related to manipulated or synthesized content, including the ethics of the technology and human engagement with the content;

(4) research on public understanding and awareness of manipulated and synthesized content, including research on best practices for educating the public to discern authenticity of digital content; and

(5) research awards coordinated with other federal agencies and programs including the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Agency.

SEC. 4. NIST SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH AND STANDARDS ON GENERATIVE ADVERSARIAL NETWORKS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall support research for the development of measurements and standards necessary to accelerate the development of the technological tools to examine the function and outputs of generative adversarial networks or other technologies that synthesize or manipulate content.

(b) **OUTREACH.**—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall conduct outreach—

(1) to receive input from private, public, and academic stakeholders on fundamental measurements and standards research necessary to examine the function and outputs of generative adversarial networks; and

(2) to consider the feasibility of an ongoing public and private sector engagement to develop voluntary standards for the function and outputs of generative adversarial networks or other technologies that synthesize or manipulate content.

SEC. 5. REPORT ON FEASIBILITY OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO DETECT MANIPULATED OR SYNTHESIZED CONTENT.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Science Foundation and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall jointly submit to the Committee on Space, Science, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation a report containing—

(1) the Directors' findings with respect to the feasibility for research opportunities with the private sector, including digital media companies to detect the function and outputs of generative adversarial networks or other technologies that synthesize or manipulate content; and

(2) any policy recommendations of the Directors that could facilitate and improve communication and coordination between the private sector, the National Science Foundation, and relevant Federal agencies through the implementation of innovative approaches to detect digital content produced by generative adversarial networks or other technologies that synthesize or manipulate content.

SEC. 6. GENERATIVE ADVERSARIAL NETWORK DEFINED.

In this Act, the term “generative adversarial network” means, with respect to artificial intelligence, the machine learning process of attempting to cause a generator artificial neural network (referred to in this paragraph as the “generator” and a discriminator artificial neural network (referred to in this paragraph as a

“discriminator”) to compete against each other to become more accurate in their function and outputs, through which the generator and discriminator create a feedback loop, causing the generator to produce increasingly higher-quality artificial outputs and the discriminator to increasingly improve in detecting such artificial outputs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4355, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4355, the Identifying Outputs of Generative Adversarial Networks Act.

Deepfake technology, which manipulates photos, videos, or audio clips to produce content that seems real but is not, has become increasingly commonplace in recent years. This increase in prevalence has been spurred, in part, by increases in computing power, widespread availability of images and other data, and the use of artificial intelligence.

In many cases, the applications of this technology may be benign, but bad actors can also use this technology to spread disinformation and cause great harm to individuals, organizations, and society as a whole.

During the Science, Space, and Technology Committee hearing on online imposters and disinformation earlier this year, one of the witnesses showed us a demonstration of a deepfake video in which he swapped the likenesses of two Members of Congress at the hearing.

Despite the spread and potential harm of deepfake technology, there are currently no sure-fire methods of identifying and distinguishing manipulated content from authentic content. The ability to differentiate between manipulated and authentic content is essential to maintaining our national and economic security and protecting against malicious use of these technologies.

H.R. 4355 leverages the strengths of the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology by directing these agencies to support research on manipulated or synthesized content in order to help develop the standards and other tools necessary to detect this content.

I commend my colleagues Representatives GONZALEZ, STEVENS, and BAIRD

for their excellent leadership on this bipartisan legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to join in passing this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4355, the Identifying Outputs of Generative Adversarial Networks Act introduced by Representative ANTHONY GONZALEZ. This bill addresses the underlying technologies for digital content commonly referred to as “deepfakes.” This technology uses machine learning to manipulate videos and other digital content to produce misleading and false products.

These technologies are becoming more sophisticated and, in the wrong hands, present a serious security threat. As we know, bad actors are already using disinformation to disrupt civil society and try to sow divisions among Americans.

H.R. 4355 supports the fundamental research necessary to better understand the underlying technology, to develop tools to identify manipulated content, and to better understand how humans interact with this generated content.

The bill also tasks the National Institute of Standards and Technology with bringing together the private sector and government agencies to discuss how to advance innovation in this area responsibly.

I applaud Mr. GONZALEZ’ bipartisan work on this bill and his leadership on the issue of technology and security.

I thank the chairwoman and her staff for moving H.R. 4355 forward. There is a lot of fundamental research that needs to be done to better understand the technologies driving deepfakes and their impact on society. H.R. 4355 will help support that research.

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation for all the Members who have been working on this very important bipartisan legislation. I urge its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1545

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4355, 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.

VIRGINIA BEACH STRONG ACT

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4566) to accelerate

the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of the families of victims of the mass shooting in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on May 31, 2019.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4566

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 “Virginia Beach Strong Act”.

SEC. 2. SPECIAL RULES FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR RELIEF OF THE FAMILIES OF THE MASS SHOOTING IN VIRGINIA BEACH.

(a) CLARIFICATION THAT CONTRIBUTION WILL NOT FAIL TO QUALIFY AS A CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION.—A cash contribution made for the relief of the families of the dead or wounded victims of the mass shooting in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on May 31, 2019, shall not fail to be treated as a charitable contribution for purposes of section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 merely because such contribution is for the exclusive benefit of such families. The preceding sentence shall apply to contributions made on or after May 31, 2019.

(b) CLARIFICATION THAT PAYMENTS BY CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS TO FAMILIES TREATED AS EXEMPT PAYMENTS.—For purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, payments made on or after May 31, 2019, and on or before June 1, 2021, to the spouse or any dependent (as defined in section 152 of such Code) of the dead or wounded victims of the mass shooting in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on May 31, 2019, by an organization which (determined without regard to any such payments) would be an organization exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code shall—

(1) be treated as related to the purpose or function constituting the basis for such organization’s exemption under such section; and

(2) shall not be treated as inuring to the benefit of any private individual, if such payments are made in good faith using a reasonable and objective formula which is consistently applied with respect to such victims.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Virginia Beach Strong Act, a bill authored by my friend and colleague from Virginia, Congresswoman ELAINE LURIA, to ensure that donations to the victims of the Vir-

ginia Beach shooting are tax deductible.

Mr. Speaker, the Virginia Beach community experienced unspeakable tragedy earlier this year when a mass shooting at the Virginia Beach Municipal Center resulted in the deaths of 12 people.

In the face of this terrible tragedy, leaders throughout the city came together and quickly established a fund to support victims, survivors, and their families. The outpouring of support from the community was profound, with over \$4 million in donations to the fund.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, these donations are arguably not considered tax deductible charitable contributions because they are divided among specified individuals rather than an organization. A technical fix in the Tax Code would address this issue. This legislation before us today would fix this issue for the Virginia Beach Tragedy Fund and ensure that these donations are tax deductible.

While nothing can reverse the pain of this terrible tragedy, the bipartisan, commonsense bill before us today is an important step toward helping the victims and their families and incentivizing further contributions to the fund. I am proud to stand with the Virginia Beach community in support of this legislation.

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as we know, a senseless act of violence struck the Virginia Beach community on May 31 of this year. A disgruntled city employee, for no apparent reason other than he may have been offended by some negative reviews of his job performance, walked into a public works building in Virginia Beach an hour before closing and opened fire on innocent and defenseless people, killing 12 and injuring 6 others.

These kinds of events are hard to understand, but it is great to see the community reach out and help. We know that there are always many folks who help around these communities when it is so obvious, and, when confronted with tragedy, they always respond with bravery and generosity.

In acknowledging the bravery of helpers, we would be remiss if we do not honor the first police officers who arrived on the scene, who ran toward danger instead of away from it. They took down the mass murderer before he could cause even more bloodshed. In the process, one of their own was injured in the firefight, his life spared only by a bulletproof vest.

The bill we are considering and, hopefully, passing today is about another set of those who helped, those who also responded with generosity.

As was the case with many other tragic events in our history, a special

fund was set up to help the victims of the May 31 shooting. Under normal tax rules, a special fund like this raises at least three questions:

First, are the payments to these victims from the special fund subject to taxes?

Second, since charities are not supposed to operate for the benefit of special individuals, would payments to a relatively small number of individuals destroy the tax-exempt status of any charity or foundation administering the victims’ fund?

And third, are donations to the special fund for victims eligible for a charitable tax deduction?

The Virginia Beach Strong Act ensures the answers to these questions match what common sense tells us they should be:

No, victims of the Virginia Beach shooting and their families will not be taxed on these payments to provide some financial relief for the harm caused by horrors they suffered.

No, these payments will not threaten the tax-exempt status of organizations which make the payments to victims and their families.

And, lastly, yes, donations to the Virginia Beach Tragedy Fund will be eligible for the charitable tax deduction.

Mr. Speaker, this is our opportunity to be assisting those who need help, as well as by clarifying the tax questions of victims, donors, and charitable organizations. This should be actually considered as a no-brainer.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Virginia Beach Strong Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. LURIA).

Mrs. LURIA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of my bipartisan and bicameral bill, H.R. 4566, the Virginia Beach Strong Act.

Just over 6 months ago, our Virginia Beach community suffered a devastating tragedy. On May 31, 12 wonderful people lost their lives in a mass shooting in the Virginia Beach Municipal Center.

During our great city’s darkest hour, we showed the world the strength and resolve that makes us Virginia Beach Strong. We saw first responders heroically running into building 2, sacrificing their safety to save others; doctors working long hours to provide victims with expert care; and many other displays of courage.

May 31, 2019, was a day that will change Virginia Beach forever. We will always remember the 12 individuals we lost that day and their irreplaceable contributions to our Virginia Beach Strong community. My heart continues to grieve for those who lost their lives, their families, and everyone who loved them.

Today, many families of the victims are still facing financial hardships related to the shooting, in addition to the unfathomable loss of a loved one.

In the aftermath of May 31, the city of Virginia Beach established a fund to help victims, survivors, and their families. Unfortunately, a technicality in the Tax Code means that these donations will likely not be considered tax deductible. That is why I introduced the Virginia Beach Strong Act.

The Virginia Beach Strong Act would make it easier to help bring urgently needed support to our community's grieving families. This bipartisan bill would ensure that all donations made to immediate family members of the victims on or after May 31 will be considered tax deductible. It is narrowly written so it does not make any broader changes to our Tax Code or to the nonprofit status.

Today, we all have the opportunity to make a profound difference for the families that have been through unimaginable pain following the Virginia Beach mass shooting.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues in the Virginia delegation for their support, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote for H.R. 4566, the Virginia Beach Strong Act.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, just to add emphasis to the reason why we are here: We appreciate those around the community and, actually, probably around the country who want to help, certainly, victims in need, and I would hope that we would adjust our tax policy accordingly, certainly to perhaps meet expectations that could not otherwise be met, but also to encourage others to contribute as well.

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

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, in closing, we must take action to fix the tax deductibility of these donations to the Virginia Beach Tragedy Fund, which has done so much to help the community recover from this unspeakable tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my profound condolences and also congratulate Mrs. LURIA on this wonderful piece of legislation that will truly benefit those who were tragically lost and their families, as well as first responders.

Mr. Speaker, I urge every Member to support this important legislation. It is truly bicameral and bipartisan and deserves to pass. I support this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4566.

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.

□ 1600

COVERT TESTING AND RISK MITIGATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2019

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3469) to direct the Transportation Security Administration to carry out covert testing and risk mitigation improvement of aviation security operations, and for other purposes.

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

H.R. 3469

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 "Covert Testing and Risk Mitigation Improvement Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. TSA COVERT TESTING AND RISK MITIGATION IMPROVEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall implement the following:

(1) A system for conducting risk-informed headquarters-based covert tests of aviation security operations, including relating to airport passenger and baggage security screening operations, that can yield statistically valid data that can be used to identify and assess the nature and extent of vulnerabilities to such operations that are not mitigated by current security practices. The Administrator shall execute annually not fewer than three risk-informed covert testing projects designed to identify systemic vulnerabilities in the transportation security system, and shall document the assumptions and rationale guiding the selection of such projects.

(2) A long-term headquarters-based covert testing program, employing static but risk-informed threat vectors, designed to assess changes in overall screening effectiveness.

(b) MITIGATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall establish a system to address and mitigate the vulnerabilities identified and assessed pursuant to the testing conducted under subsection (a).

(2) ANALYSIS.—Not later than 60 days after the identification of any such vulnerability, the Administrator shall ensure a vulnerability described in paragraph (1) is analyzed to determine root causes.

(3) DETERMINATION.—Not later than 120 days after the identification of any such vulnerability, the Administrator shall make a determination regarding whether or not to mitigate such vulnerability. The Administrator shall prioritize mitigating vulnerabilities based on their ability to reduce risk. If the Administrator determines—

(A) to not mitigate such vulnerability, the Administrator shall document the reasons for the decision; or

(B) to mitigate such vulnerability, the Administrator shall establish and document—

(i) key milestones appropriate for the level of effort required to so mitigate such vulnerability; and

(ii) a date by which measures to so mitigate such vulnerability shall be implemented by the Transportation Security Administration.

(4) RETESTING.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which measures to mitigate a vulnerability are completed by the Trans-

portation Security Administration pursuant to paragraph (3)(B)(ii), the Administrator shall conduct a covert test in accordance with subsection (a) of the aviation security operation with respect to which such vulnerability was identified to assess the effectiveness of such measures to mitigate such vulnerability.

(c) COMPILATION OF LISTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after completing a covert testing protocol under subsection (a), the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall compile a list (including a classified annex if necessary) of the vulnerabilities identified and assessed pursuant to such testing. Each such list shall contain, at a minimum, the following:

(A) A brief description of the nature of each vulnerability so identified and assessed.

(B) The date on which each vulnerability was so identified and assessed.

(C) Key milestones appropriate for the level of effort required to mitigate each vulnerability, as well as an indication of whether each such milestone has been met.

(D) An indication of whether each vulnerability has been mitigated or reduced and, if so, the date on which each such vulnerability was so mitigated or reduced.

(E) If a vulnerability has not been fully mitigated, the date by which the Administrator shall so mitigate such vulnerability or a determination that it is not possible to fully mitigate such vulnerability.

(F) The results of any subsequent covert testing undertaken to assess whether mitigation efforts have eliminated or reduced each vulnerability.

(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a comprehensive document tracking the status of the information required under paragraph (1) together with the Transportation Security Administration's annual budget request.

(d) GAO REVIEW.—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall review and submit to the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the effectiveness of the Transportation Security Administration's processes for conducting covert testing projects that yield statistically valid data that can be used to assess the nature and extent of vulnerabilities to aviation security operations that are not effectively mitigated by current security operations.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CLARKE 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.