

is important that the Coast Guard continues to work diligently with relevant stakeholders to address these challenges.

This legislation would also ensure that Federal authorities are working in close partnership with their State, local, Tribal, territorial, and private sector partners to identify and address security issues related to America's inland waters.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative LESKO for her leadership on this bipartisan legislation. I urge my colleagues to support the bill; I urge adoption of the bill; and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, America is home to over 3 million miles of lakes, rivers, and streams, including more than 25,000 miles of navigable waters.

It is critically important that we have a complete picture of the security and criminal threats that inland waters face. H.R. 4402 would do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Arizona for introducing this 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 Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4402.

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.

WEATHERIZING INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE NORTH AND TERRORISM EMERGENCY READINESS ACT OF 2019

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3669) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a collective response to a terrorism exercise that includes the management of cascading effects on critical infrastructure during times of extreme cold weather, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3669

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 “Weatherizing Infrastructure in the North and Terrorism Emergency Readiness Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. EXERCISE ON TERRORIST ATTACK DURING EXTREME COLD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to, or as part of exercise programs currently carried out by the Department of Homeland Security, to enhance domestic preparedness for terrorism, promote the dissemination of homeland security information, and test the homeland security posture of the United States, the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through appropriate offices and components of the Department, shall develop and

conduct a collective response to terrorism exercise that includes management of cascading effects on critical infrastructure (as such term is defined in section 1016(e) of Public Law 107-56 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e))), such as an extreme cold weather event caused by a polar vortex.

(b) EXERCISE REQUIREMENTS.—The exercise required under subsection (a) shall include a scenario involving the following:

(1) An extreme cold weather event, such as an event caused by a polar vortex, with respect to access to critical services.

(2) Any cascading effects on critical infrastructure.

(3) How the effects of a successful terrorist attack against critical infrastructure could be mitigated by emergency managers, State officials, and appropriate private sector and community stakeholders.

(4) How the resilience of communities that could be impacted by such an attack could be bolstered.

(5) Coordination with appropriate Federal departments and agencies, and State, local, Tribal, and territorial agencies.

(6) Coordination with appropriate private sector and community stakeholders.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the completion of the exercise required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, consistent with the protection of classified information, submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate an after-action report presenting the initial findings of such exercise, any immediate and longer-term plans for incorporating lessons learned into future operations of the Department of Homeland Security, and any proposed legislative changes informed by such exercise.

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.

1700

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SLOTKIN. 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 Michigan?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my own bill, H.R. 3669, the Weatherizing Infrastructure in the North and Terrorism Emergency Readiness Act of 2019 or, as we like to call it, the WINTER Act.

Terrorism is a persistent threat to the United States. We need to be prepared to confront terrorism in all situations, even during extreme weather events. As climate change continues to change weather patterns, extreme winter storms will become more common.

The effects of climate change produce more snowfall during winter storms as a warmer planet evaporates more water into the atmosphere, and that moisture means heavier snowfall and worse storms.

Given what we know, we must make sure we are prepared to act if a terrorist attack were to take place during an extreme cold event. This is why I introduced H.R. 3669, the WINTER Act.

In recent years, the Nation has experienced several extreme cold weather events, such as the polar vortex during the winter of 2019. This one was very specific and personal to the State of Michigan.

Last winter, in my State, temperatures reached as low as negative 43 degrees Fahrenheit during the polar vortex. During that time we had a fire, an accidental fire at one of our gas facilities, causing it to shut down, and resulting in a gas shortage in our State. As a result, our Governor had to go on television and ask all Michiganders to turn down their thermostats below 65 degrees to ensure that we didn't lose power across the State and were able to keep our warming stations, our hospitals, our homeless shelters open.

The dangers that result from cold weather aren't unique to Michigan. Across the U.S., over 6,000 people died from hypothermia or exposure to cold between 2006 and 2010, equating to over 1,000 deaths per year.

During these extreme cold weather events, infrastructure and emergency services are critical, and any disruption poses a serious threat to the health and safety of Americans in the affected area.

Last winter's events made me realize that if we had a critical infrastructure attack in the middle of winter, particularly in places in the northern half of the country, we would be extremely vulnerable. If terrorists choose to take advantage of any of these circumstances to amplify the deadly impacts of an attack, our elderly, our families, and our first responders could be put in the most danger.

This bipartisan bill directs the Department of Homeland Security to develop and conduct a terrorism training exercise that addresses the effects of a successful terrorist attack on critical infrastructure during extreme cold weather.

This exercise will help determine the best way for emergency managers, State and local officials, and community stakeholders to mitigate the impacts of such an attack and help keep people safe.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 3669, the Weatherizing Infrastructure in the North and Terrorism Emergency Readiness Act—the WINTER Act—of 2019.

This legislation seeks to better position the United States government and relevant State, local, and private sector agencies to be able to respond to a terrorist attack during an extreme cold weather event.

An extreme weather event, such as a polar vortex, has the potential to severely impact our daily lives, damage

our critical infrastructure, and leave America incredibly vulnerable to terrorist attack.

H.R. 3669 requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and conduct an exercise to respond to terrorism during extreme weather events.

The bill also requires the Secretary to produce an after-action report to Congress, presenting the findings of the exercise and plans for quickly incorporating those lessons learned for future operations of the Department.

As the threat of terrorism continues to evolve, we must be prepared to respond to any scenario.

I thank the gentlewoman from Michigan for her leadership on this bill. I urge all Members to join me in supporting the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I am prepared to close after the gentleman from Louisiana closes.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like the Congresswoman to be aware that I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The passage of the WINTER Act would ensure that the Department of Homeland Security is doing its part to improve preparedness and response to terrorism in the event of extreme cold.

I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 3669; winter is coming; and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. 3669.

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.

ESTHER MARTINEZ NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES PROGRAMS REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 256) to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide flexibility and reauthorization to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 256

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 “Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act”.

SEC. 2. NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 803C of the Native American Programs Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 2991b-3) is amended—

- (1) in subsection (b)(7)—
 - (A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “10” and inserting “5”; and
 - (B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “15” and inserting “10”; and
 - (2) in subsection (e)(2)—
 - (A) by striking “or 3-year basis” and inserting “3-year, 4-year, or 5-year basis”; and
 - (B) by inserting “, 4-year, or 5-year” after “on a 3-year”.

SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 816(e) of the Native American Programs Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 2992d(e)) is amended by striking “such sums” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “\$13,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.”.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 816 of the Native American Programs Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 2992d) is amended in subsections (a) and (b) by striking “subsection (e)” each place it appears and inserting “subsection (d)”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support S. 256, the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act.

The United States has a trust responsibility to support indigenous peoples in this country. The survival of indigenous peoples’ languages is fundamental to the success of Native communities and the survival of traditional Native cultures.

The history of the United States tells us about the deliberate efforts to eliminate indigenous peoples’ languages and cultures through forced assimilation, boarding school forced attendance, treaties that have not been honored, and promises not kept.

According to UNESCO, 74 Native languages stand to disappear within the next decade. Scholars project that only 20 Native languages will be spoken by the year 2050. The linguistic and cultural genocide is real and demands action.

The Esther Martinez language program has been a tool that was created to address this stark reality. This language program is named in honor of a New Mexico Tewa teacher and storyteller, Esther Martinez, who is known and honored for her dedication and efforts in revitalizing her people’s language.

The Esther Martinez Initiative funds immersion programs that are success-

ful in preserving and revitalizing Native languages, both to indigenous communities, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian students.

Today, grants provided under Esther Martinez’ program have empowered Native communities to establish language immersion programs that are successfully reviving Native languages and improving Native economies.

This grant has been used to develop curriculums rooted in Native language based on traditional values and beliefs in subject areas that obviously include language, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Esther Martinez grants also support children’s books in Native languages, the development of language assessment tools, and the intergenerational programs to support regular use of Native language with children at home.

Importantly, they also provide funding to train Native language teachers to use the language immersion curriculum developed by the Tribe and/or school.

The powerful link between language and identity for Native people is essential in the development of successful students and communities. These language immersion programs have proven to be the best model for developing fluent speakers and successful students.

S. 256 reauthorizes the Esther Martinez program for \$13 million annually, increases the maximum duration of the grant, and reduces the number of program enrollees needed to qualify for a grant.

The survival of Native languages is fundamental to the success of Native communities and the survival of traditional Native cultures.

I would like to thank my colleagues Representative LUJÁN and Senator UDALL for leading the effort, and for the support of Representative HAALAND.

I urge my colleagues to support S. 256, the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Greetings, my relative, in Lakota is “How mitakuye.”

I am honored to join the chairman, my colleague from Arizona, to usher this important legislation through the House after its passage through the Senate.

Now, South Dakota and Arizona both have rich Native American history and culture, and we are here tonight to celebrate, to cherish, and, yes, to sustain that culture.

The Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act was introduced in 2006 by my friend Heather Wilson, who was a Congresswoman from New Mexico before she moved to South Dakota. This reauthorization of her bill will empower