

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Thank You, O Lord, for giving us another day.

In Scripture, we read:

"You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy . . . You shall give him his wages . . . lest he cry against you to the Lord. . . ." And then, "now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift, but as his due."

May Your spirit, O Lord, impel those who are empowered to do so, to bring resolution to the current shutdown.

In such a contentious time, may humility be manifest in the exchange of opposing positions, that all might find relief, and those charged with serving to secure our safe travel, and our borders, can be properly compensated in a timely fashion.

Lord, have mercy on us.

May everything we do be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr.

MCCARTHY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McCARTHY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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, January 18, 2019.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 18, 2019, at 12:59 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 259.

That the Senate agreed to Relative to the death of Richard Arvin Overton S. Res. 10.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at 4 p.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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, January 22, 2019.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 22, 2019, at 2:23 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 430.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION'S FEDERAL CHARTER AMENDMENTS ACT

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 439) to amend the charter of the Future Farmers of America, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 439

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 "National FFA Organization's Federal Charter Amendments Act".

SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION.

Section 70901 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "corporation" and inserting "FFA"; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking "corporation" and inserting "FFA".

SEC. 3. PURPOSES OF THE CORPORATION.

Section 70902 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "corporation" and inserting "FFA";

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as paragraphs (7) and (8), respectively;

(3) by striking paragraphs (3), (4), (6), and (7);

(4) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (11);

(5) by redesignating paragraphs (8) and (9) as paragraphs (12) and (13), respectively;

(6) by inserting before paragraph (7), as redesignated by paragraph (2), the following:

"(1) to be an integral component of instruction in agricultural education, including instruction relating to agriculture, food, and natural resources;

"(2) to advance comprehensive agricultural education in the United States, including in public schools, by supporting contextual classroom and laboratory instruction and work-based experiential learning;

"(3) to prepare students for successful entry into productive careers in fields relating to agriculture, food, and natural resources, including by connecting students to relevant postsecondary educational pathways and focusing on the complete delivery of classroom and laboratory instruction, work-based experiential learning, and leadership development;

"(4) to be a resource and support organization that does not select, control, or supervise State association, local chapter, or individual member activities;

"(5) to develop educational materials, programs, services, and events as a service to State and local agricultural education agencies;

"(6) to seek and promote inclusion and diversity in its membership, leadership, and staff to reflect the belief of the FFA in the value of all human beings;"

(7) in paragraph (7), as redesignated by paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking "composed of students and former students of vocational agriculture in

public schools qualifying for Federal reimbursement under the Smith-Hughes Vocational Education Act (20 U.S.C. 11–15, 16–28’); and

(B) by inserting “as such chapters and associations carry out agricultural education programs that are approved by States, territories, or possessions” after “United States’;

(8) in paragraph (8), as redesignated by paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “to develop” and inserting “to build’’;

(B) by striking “train for useful citizenship, and foster patriotism, and thereby” and inserting “and’’; and

(C) by striking “aggressive rural and” and inserting “assertive’’;

(9) by inserting after paragraph (8), as redesignated by paragraph (2), the following:

“(9) to increase awareness of the global and technological importance of agriculture, food, and natural resources, and the way agriculture contributes to our well-being;

“(10) to promote the intelligent choice and establishment of a career in fields relating to agriculture, food, and natural resources;’’;

(10) in paragraph (11), as redesignated by paragraph (4)—

(A) by striking “to procure for and distribute to State’’ and inserting “to make available to State’’;

(B) by inserting “, programs, services,” before “and equipment’’; and

(C) by striking “corporation” and inserting “FFA’’;

(11) in paragraph (12), as redesignated by paragraph (5), by striking “State boards for vocational’’ and inserting “State boards and officials for career and technical’’; and

(12) in paragraph (13), as redesignated by paragraph (5), by striking “corporation” and inserting “FFA’’.

SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP.

Section 70903(a) of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “corporation” and inserting “FFA’’; and

(2) by striking “as provided in the bylaws” and inserting “as provided in the constitution or bylaws of the FFA’’.

SEC. 5. GOVERNING BODY.

Section 70904 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “corporation” and inserting “FFA” each place the term appears;

(B) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and inserting the following:

“(2) The board—

“(A) shall consist of—

“(i) the Secretary of Education, or the Secretary of Education’s designee who has experience in agricultural education, the FFA, or career and technical education; and

“(ii) other individuals—

“(I) representing the fields of education, agriculture, food, and natural resources; or

“(II) with experience working closely with the FFA; and

“(B) shall not include any individual who is a current employee of the National FFA Organization.

“(3) The number of directors, terms of office of the directors, and the method of selecting the directors, are as provided in the constitution or bylaws of the FFA.’’; and

(C) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking “bylaws” and inserting “constitution or bylaws of the FFA’’; and

(ii) in the third sentence, by striking “chairman” and inserting “chair’’;

(2) by striking subsection (b); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) OFFICERS.—The officers of the FFA, the terms of officers, and the election of officers, are as provided in the constitution or bylaws of the FFA, except that such officers shall include—

“(1) a national advisor;

“(2) an executive secretary; and

“(3) a treasurer.

(c) GOVERNING COMMITTEE.—

“(1) The board may designate a governing committee. The terms and method of selecting the governing committee members are as provided in the constitution or bylaws of the FFA, except that all members of the governing committee shall be members of the board of directors and at all times the governing committee shall be comprised of not less than 3 individuals.

“(2) When the board is not in session, the governing committee has the powers of the board subject to the board’s direction and may authorize the seal of the FFA to be affixed to all papers that require it.

“(3) The board shall designate to such committee—

“(A) the chair of the board;

“(B) the executive secretary of the board; and

“(C) the treasurer of the board.”.

SEC. 6. NATIONAL STUDENT OFFICERS.

Section 70905 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) COMPOSITION.—There shall be not less than 6 national student officers of the FFA, including a student president, 4 student vice presidents (each representing regions as provided in the constitution or bylaws of the corporation), and a student secretary.’’;

(2) by striking subsection (b);

(3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (b) and (c), respectively; and

(4) in subsection (b), as so redesignated, by striking “, except that” and all that follows through “(20 U.S.C. 11–15, 16–28’’).

SEC. 7. POWERS.

Section 70906 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “corporation” and inserting “FFA’’;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “corporate’’;

(3) in paragraph (4), by striking “corporation” and inserting “FFA’’;

(4) in paragraph (6), by striking “corporation” and inserting “FFA’’;

(5) by amending paragraph (8) to read as follows:

“(8) use FFA funds to give prizes, awards, loans, and grants to deserving members, local FFA chapters, and State FFA associations to carry out the purposes of the FFA.’’;

(6) by amending paragraph (9) to read as follows:

“(9) produce publications, websites, and other media’’;

(7) in paragraph (10)—

(A) by striking “procure for and distribute to State’’ and inserting “make available to State’’; and

(B) by striking “Future Farmers of America’’ and inserting “FFA’’; and

(8) in paragraph (12), by striking “corporation” and inserting “FFA’’.

SEC. 8. NAME, SEALS, EMBLEMS, AND BADGES.

Section 70907 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “corporation” and inserting “FFA” each place the term appears;

(2) by striking “name” and inserting “names’’;

(3) by striking “‘Future Farmers of America’’ and inserting “‘Future Farmers of America’ and ‘National FFA Organization,’”; and

(4) by inserting “education” before “membership’’.

SEC. 9. RESTRICTIONS.

Section 70908 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “corporation” and inserting “FFA’’;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “corporation or a director, officer, or member as such” and inserting “FFA or a director, officer, or member acting on behalf of the FFA’’;

(3) in subsection (c), by striking “corporation” and inserting “FFA” each place the term appears; and

(4) in subsection (d), in the first sentence, by striking “corporation” and inserting “FFA’’.

SEC. 10. RELATIONSHIP TO FEDERAL AGENCIES.

Section 70909 of title 36, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 70909. RELATIONSHIP TO FEDERAL AGENCIES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—On request of the board of directors, the FFA may collaborate with Federal agencies, including the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture on matters of mutual interest and benefit.

“(b) AGENCY ASSISTANCE.—Those Federal agencies may make personnel, services, and facilities available to administer or assist in the administration of the activities of the FFA.

“(c) AGENCY COMPENSATION.—Personnel of the Federal agencies may not receive compensation from the FFA for their services, except that travel and other legitimate expenses as defined by the Federal agencies and approved by the board may be paid.

“(d) COOPERATION WITH STATE BOARDS.—The Federal agencies also may cooperate with State boards and other organizations for career and technical education to assist in the promotion of activities of the FFA.”.

SEC. 11. HEADQUARTERS AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE.

Section 70910 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking “of the corporation shall be in the District of Columbia. However, the activities of the corporation are not confined to the District of Columbia but” and inserting “of the FFA shall be as provided in the constitution or bylaws of the FFA. The activities of the FFA’’.

SEC. 12. RECORDS AND INSPECTION.

Section 70911 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “corporation” and inserting “FFA’’; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “entitled to vote’’; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “corporation” and inserting “FFA’’.

SEC. 13. SERVICE OF PROCESS.

Section 70912 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA” and inserting “IN GENERAL’’;

(B) by striking “corporation” and inserting “FFA” each place the term appears;

(C) by striking “in the District of Columbia” before “to receive’’; and

(D) by striking “Designation of the agent shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia’’; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “corporation” and inserting “FFA” each place the term appears; and

(B) by inserting “of the FFA” after “association or chapter’’.

SEC. 14. LIABILITY FOR ACTS OF OFFICERS OR AGENTS.

Section 70913 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking “corporation” and inserting “FFA’’.

SEC. 15. DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS IN DISSOLUTION OR FINAL LIQUIDATION.

Section 70914 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “corporation” and inserting “FFA”; and

(2) by striking “vocational agriculture” and inserting “agricultural education”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. 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 Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 439, a bipartisan bill to update and modernize the Federal charter of the National FFA Organization.

The FFA, formally known as the Future Farmers of America, is a dynamic youth organization that uses agricultural education and leadership training to promote the personal growth and career successes of its members. With chapters in every State of the Union, its members are the country’s future chemists, veterinarians, government officials, entrepreneurs, bankers, international business leaders, teachers, and other professionals across a wide array of career fields.

The bill simply updates the FFA’s charter to make it more consistent with the modern organization and to provide additional flexibility as it looks toward the future.

Among other things, the bill recognizes changes to the organization’s name. It modifies the organization’s purpose to better reflect trends in education and leadership training. It allows the FFA to publish materials in electronic form rather than in printed form and provides flexibility as to the location of the FFA’s headquarters.

These are important changes to the existing charter that will help the FFA better carry out its mission for years to come. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 439.

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 439, the National FFA Organization’s Federal Charter Amendments Act.

The Future Farmers of America was founded in 1928 to advance agricultural education and improve the quality of life of farming families across the country.

At the first National FFA Convention in Kansas City, there were 33 dele-

gates from 18 States. At the convention in 1929, 33 States were represented, and FFA had swelled to over 30,000 members nationwide. By 1939, FFA had become so large, it required a national headquarters, so it purchased part of George Washington’s estate in Alexandria, Virginia, and began construction.

During World War II, more than 138,000 FFA members were serving in the armed services. In 1949, the FFA introduced its first international exchange program with the Young Farmers Club of Great Britain.

In 1950, Harry Truman signed a bill to grant the FFA a Federal charter, directing that a Department of Education staff member be the national FFA adviser. In 1959, President Truman became the first of a long line of Presidents to speak at the FFA National Convention.

In 1969, the FFA created the Washington Leadership Conference to help students become more engaged citizens and to make a difference in their communities.

Following Hurricane Katrina, the National FFA launched Seeds of Hope to help rebuild the Gulf Coast agricultural programs. This effort, combined with the National FFA Foundation, raised over \$10 million for FFA’s programs and services.

Since its creation, FFA has grown to include more than 600,000 members across the country. It has built relationships with agricultural organizations around the world.

Under FFA, students between the ages of 12 and 21 can be enrolled in a systematic course of instruction in agricultural education.

Beyond the FFA’s rich national history, it has held a special place in my home State of Georgia for decades. Georgia has the third largest State association, with more than 42,000 members. There are more than 342 chapters and more than 475 agricultural education teachers in the State.

Georgia’s FFA has also expanded its scholarship awards to help students access these agricultural education programs and reward the hard work of students. The Georgia FFA Association has worked to improve career opportunities of its members through partnership programs with businesses, educators, and legislators.

Today’s legislation makes the necessary amendments to the National FFA Organization’s charter to allow for student officer vice presidents, to reflect the regional diversity of the United States. It also provides flexibility for national officers to reduce delays caused by vacant seats on the national board.

These amendments will ensure the FFA’s purpose matches the innovative and hands-on approach that many agriculture educations are implementing across the country.

I would like to thank Representative JAMES LANGEVIN and Representative GLENN THOMPSON for their work on this legislation and for their support of FFA and agricultural learning.

Mr. Speaker, I would also be remiss if I did not say that FFA is an organization that, when you see the blue jackets on, especially from my part of the world, it is something that also teaches young people leadership and vocal skills. It also is very special to my heart.

Mr. Sutton was the agricultural and FFA adviser in North Hall High School when my daughter attended. My daughter, as many of you know, has spina bifida, and many of her recreational activities and others were limited. She got into agriculture and joined the FFA. She got into their speaker’s program, and she would actually participate in the extemporaneous speaker’s program.

I watched this young lady take an FFA experience; I watched Mr. Sutton, a man of integrity and character who led the blue jackets in North Hall High School. When she would go, when they couldn’t get access to a handicap bus, he would actually physically pick her wheelchair up and take her onto the bus himself.

As a dad and as a Congressman, the blue jackets mean a lot; and when you see them coming, you know that there is good work being done. I could not be more proud to stand here today to ask for support for this legislation, for this charter to be renewed, for when we see agriculture in our economy, which is the most dominant industry we have, we know FFA stands behind it.

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

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, at this time, it is my privilege to yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

I share the chairman’s passion for FFA and in the leadership that emerges from that experience for our youth. And I know that, being someone who represents a very rural district, we think of the FFA as a rural enterprise; but, Mr. Speaker, the largest FFA chapter we have in Pennsylvania—and we have a lot—it is a robust program in the city of Philadelphia. This is a program that has tremendous impact in rural America and has tremendous ability to impact in urban America today.

So I rise in support of H.R. 439, the National FFA Organization’s Federal Charter Amendments Act. I am honored to work with my good friend, Mr. LANGEVIN, on this piece of legislation.

This bipartisan bill makes updates to allow the national FFA to be a self-governing organization, while maintaining its long-held relationship with the U.S. Department of Education.

FFA, formally called the Future Farmers of America, was organized in

1928. Congress recognized the importance of FFA as an integral part of vocational agriculture, and in 1950 granted it a Federal charter.

This charter provides Federal authority to create an interagency working agreement that is focused on strengthening FFA and school-based agriculture education.

However, the role of education in securing a skilled, sustainable workforce in agriculture is underscored through the required involvement of the U.S. Department of Education on the National FFA board of directors.

It is important to note that only about 100 organizations have charters with Federal agencies. Only six organizations require the respective government agencies to select one member for their board of directors. FFA is the only organization that requires a majority of its board of directors be chosen by its partner government agency.

Mr. Speaker, while we can all appreciate the integrated relationship between the Department of Education and the FFA, it must be our prerogative to determine the best path forward for both this Federal charter and the students it serves.

FFA functions through a network of local chapters that may be chartered in any public school with an agricultural education program.

Local chapters are run with student leadership. Students are elected each year by the chapter's members, with the agriculture teacher serving as adviser for the chapter.

Local chapters then make up State FFA associations, which operate within the bounds of the National FFA Organization but have the ability to create other individual leadership arrangements, competitions, awards, and programs.

In Pennsylvania alone, our State FFA association includes over 12,900 members, 210 agriculture science teachers, and they have raised \$179,000 to support the future of agriculture education and student leader growth.

It is important to understand this bill will allow the Secretary of Education to continue to serve on the National FFA board of directors but would no longer have the Department of Education's employees constituting the majority of the board.

Additionally, this bill will also shift the organization's purpose towards providing comprehensive career and technical education to strengthen the Nation's agriculture workforce.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation brings FFA, a great cornerstone of rural America—and, quite frankly, having a tremendous impact, today, on urban America—into the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 439, and I would ask for favorable consideration.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to acknowledge

the leadership and commitment of my colleagues, JIM LANGEVIN of Rhode Island and GLENN THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, for working together on a bipartisan bill to fashion this bill.

I support H.R. 439 even more after listening to the comments of my fellow Georgian about his daughter and the assistance and care that this organization has rendered to her and probably countless others even in more need of their support.

So, Mr. Speaker, I support organizations such as FFA. I support this legislation, I ask my colleagues to support it too, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 439, the "National FFA Organization's Federal Charter Amendments Act."

H.R. 439 updates the charter of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) to include the Department of Education on its board and governing committee in line with other Congressionally chartered organizations by changing the makeup of the board to consist of the Secretary of Education, or the Secretary of Education's designee who has experience in agricultural education, the FFA, or career and technical education and other individuals representing the fields of education, agriculture, food, and natural resources.

The changes will provide the National FFA Organization more autonomy while allowing it to collaborate with federal agencies on matters of mutual interest.

H.R. 439 also shifts the purpose of the FFA toward agriculture career and technical education, provides for online publications, and allows its headquarters to be located outside of Washington, D.C.

The shift in purpose of the FFA allows it to become an integral component of instruction in agricultural education, including instruction relating to agriculture, food, and natural resources, and helps prepare students for successful entry into productive careers in these fields.

This legislation helps to advance comprehensive agricultural education by supporting contextual classroom and laboratory instruction and work-based experiential learning.

With the changes promulgated by H.R. 439, the National FFA organization will be allowed to develop education materials, programs, services, and events as a service to State and local agricultural education agencies while being a resource and support organization that does not select, control, or supervise State association, local chapter, or individual member activities.

The FFA's mission, which remains the same, is to "make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education."

FFA has a strong and positive impact in the state I represent.

The Texas FFA was chartered in 1929, and boasts one of the largest state memberships with over 123,000 members of which more than a third are young women.

I am a strong supporter of educational organizations like the FFA.

For instance, each year the Texas FFA conducts career development events over topics

such as agricultural advocacy, food science and natural resources, entomology, land evaluation, and public relations.

In 2018, the Texas FFA awarded over \$2 million in scholarships to graduating seniors who are "the most capable and deserving FFA members" who will be pursuing a bachelor's degree from a Texas college or university.

The FFA gives its members the opportunity to discover their individual talents and values while discovering careers in agriculture and developing leadership skills.

Agriculture is the nation's largest employer, with more than 23 million jobs.

Updating the FFA's Federal Charter means that the 653,359 FFA members in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands will have a national organization that is in a better position to offer them the support and resources they need.

For these reason, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 439.

□ 1615

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 439.

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.

CLEAN UP THE CODE ACT OF 2019

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 498) to eliminate unnecessary sections of the United States Code, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 498

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 "Clean Up the Code Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. REPEALS.

The following provisions of title 18, United States Code, are repealed:

(1) Section 46 relating to transportation of water hyacinths.

(2) Section 511A relating to unauthorized application of theft prevention decal or device.

(3) Section 707 relating to 4-H club emblem fraudulently used.

(4) Section 708 relating to Swiss Confederation coat of arms.

(5) Section 711 relating to "Smokey Bear" character or name.

(6) Section 711a relating to "Woodsy Owl" character, name, or slogan.

(7) Section 715 relating to "The Golden Eagle Insignia".

(8) Chapter 89—Professions and Occupations.

(9) Section 1921 relating to receiving Federal employees' compensation after marriage.

SEC. 3. CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) TABLE OF CHAPTERS FOR PART I OF TITLE 18.—The table of chapters for part I of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to chapter 89.

(b) TABLE OF SECTIONS FOR CHAPTER 3.—The table of sections for chapter 3 of title 18,