

speakers. I urge passage of H.R. 6020, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6020, 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.

MOVING OUR DEMOCRACY AND CONGRESSIONAL OPERATIONS TOWARDS MODERNIZATION RESOLUTION

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 756) implementing recommendations adopted by the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 756

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This resolution may be cited as the “Moving Our Democracy and Congressional Operations Towards Modernization Resolution”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this resolution is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—STREAMLINING AND REORGANIZING HUMAN RESOURCES

- Sec. 101. Centralized human resources program.
- Sec. 102. Reports on operation of Office of Diversity and Inclusion.
- Sec. 103. Examining feasibility of updating staff payroll system.
- Sec. 104. Examining feasibility of adjusting the statutory limitation on number of employees of Member offices.
- Sec. 105. Employee orientation and separation processes.

TITLE II—IMPROVING ORIENTATION FOR MEMBERS-ELECT AND PROVIDING IMPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS

- Sec. 201. Plan for providing for designated staff to prepare for operation of offices of new Members-elect.
- Sec. 202. Improving the orientation experience of new Members.
- Sec. 203. Exploring the feasibility of establishing a Congressional Leadership Academy.
- Sec. 204. Requiring annual cybersecurity training for Members and employees.

TITLE III—MODERNIZING AND REVITALIZING TECHNOLOGY

- Sec. 301. Reforming House Information Resources.
- Sec. 302. Providing technologies to improve constituent engagement.
- Sec. 303. Streamlined approval process for outside technology vendors.

Sec. 304. Enabling early adoption of new technologies and applications by offices.

Sec. 305. Improving Member feedback regarding outside vendors and HIR services.

Sec. 306. Leveraging bulk purchasing power of the House.

Sec. 307. Requiring Congressional Research Service to provide rapid response short fact sheets.

Sec. 308. Establishing nonpartisan constituent engagement and services page on HouseNet.

TITLE IV—MAKING THE HOUSE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

Sec. 401. Ensuring accessibility of House websites.

Sec. 402. Close captioning of proceedings; captioning service for videos created by House offices.

Sec. 403. Comprehensive review of accessibility.

TITLE V—IMPROVING ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Sec. 501. Adopting standardized format for legislative documents.

Sec. 502. Legislation comparison project.

Sec. 503. Database of information on expiration of authorizations of programs.

Sec. 504. Database of votes taken in committees.

Sec. 505. Assignment of unique identifiers for reports filed by registered lobbyists.

Sec. 506. Public availability of reports.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this resolution, the following definitions apply:

- (1) The term “Chief Administrative Officer” means the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.
- (2) The term “Clerk” means the Clerk of the House of Representatives.
- (3) The term “HIR” means the Office of House Information Resources.
- (4) The term “Member” means a Member of the House of Representatives and a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.

TITLE I—STREAMLINING AND REORGANIZING HUMAN RESOURCES

SEC. 101. CENTRALIZED HUMAN RESOURCES PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF PROGRAM.—In order to improve recruitment and retention of a diverse workforce, develop best human resources practices, and take steps to improve competitive compensation and benefits for employees, the Chief Administrative Officer shall establish and operate a centralized human resources program to assist Member, committee, and leadership office staff.

(b) FEATURES OF PROGRAM.—The program established under this section shall provide the following services:

(1) Developing a centralized repository of practices collected from internal and external sources that have proven to be successful in hiring, promoting, and managing staff, updated from time to time.

(2) Improving diversity recruitment by implementing and promoting best practices for actively seeking out candidates of various backgrounds, experiences, and talents, including through outreach to under-represented colleges and universities, community colleges, historically black colleges and universities, and organizations for individuals with disabilities, and compiling a list of such candidates into the House resume portal.

(3) Reevaluating current Member, committee, and leadership office employee benefits (including the evaluation of the capacity

and costs of the House child care center and student loan repayment program) and submitting to the Committee on House Administration on a regular and ongoing basis recommendations for additions or improvements to such benefits which will improve recruitment and retention, exploring options such as telework, flex schedules, returnship programs, and sabbaticals.

(4) Conducting a biennial staff survey as well as offering an optional exit survey to Member, committee, and leadership office staff.

(5) Making improvements to the House resume portal, including making such portal into a user-friendly, searchable tool for Member, committee, and leadership offices to identify talent based on unique criteria, and including ways to promote and publicize the existence and availability of such portal to internal and external users.

(6) Providing Members-elect with information on the full range of services offered to their staff in an easily understandable and organized format immediately following the certification of their election results.

(c) OPERATION OF PROGRAM.—

(1) STAFF.—The Chief Administrative Officer shall designate an employee of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer who shall be responsible for the operation of the program established under this section, using existing staff and resources of the Office.

(2) LOCATION; AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES ONLINE.—The program shall be located in a physical location which is easily accessible to the offices using the resources of the program, and shall provide an online portal through which offices may obtain these services.

(d) REGULATIONS.—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations and take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 102. REPORTS ON OPERATION OF OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION.

In accordance with House Resolution 6 (agreed to January 9, 2019), the Office of Diversity and Inclusion of the House of Representatives shall submit the following plans and reports:

(1) Not later than 60 days after the appointment of the Director of the Office, the Office shall submit to the Committee on House Administration an operational plan for the Office that shall include, consistent with applicable House rules, regulations, and law, a plan for appointing and establishing duties for staff of the Office which shall set forth a proposed maximum number of staff.

(2) Not later than 90 days after submitting the operational plan under paragraph (1), the Office shall submit a diversity plan to the Committee on House Administration for the Committee's review and approval, and shall include in the plan the following:

(A) Policies to direct and guide House employing offices to recruit, hire, train, develop, advance, promote, and retain a diverse workforce, consistent with applicable House rules, regulations, and law.

(B) The development of a survey, in consultation with the Committee on House Administration, to evaluate diversity in House employing offices. The Office shall develop, conduct, and report the results of the survey in a bipartisan manner.

(C) A framework for the annual diversity report required under paragraph (3).

(D) A proposal for the composition of an Advisory Council that shall, as necessary, inform the work of the Office.

(E) Any additional components as determined by the Committee on House Administration.

(3) At the end of each session of Congress, the Office shall submit a House of Representatives diversity report to the Speaker, the

Majority Leader and Minority Leader, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration, and the chair and ranking minority member of the Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch of the Committee on Appropriations. The Office shall ensure that the contents of each such report are presented in a bipartisan manner.

SEC. 103. EXAMINING FEASIBILITY OF UPDATING STAFF PAYROLL SYSTEM.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of adoption of this resolution, the Chief Administrative Officer shall submit to the Committee on House Administration a report on the feasibility of updating the employee payroll system in order to address considerations of younger and lower-paid employees, as well as issues experienced generally by some employees regarding the current monthly pay schedule.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) The results of any employee surveys regarding the desirability of changing the employee payroll system or providing both a monthly or bimonthly system. The report shall present such results in a bipartisan manner.

(2) An analysis of any costs associated with making changes to the current employee payroll system, including providing additional options for the schedule of payments.

(3) An analysis of any impediments or concerns with making any changes to the current staff payroll system.

(c) **REGULATIONS.**—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 104. EXAMINING FEASIBILITY OF ADJUSTING THE STATUTORY LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES OF MEMBER OFFICES.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—The Chief Administrative Officer shall enter into a contract with an outside entity under which the entity shall work with the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare and submit a report examining the feasibility of adjusting the statutory limitation established in 1975 on the number of employees who may be employed in the office of a Member.

(b) **CONTENTS OF REPORT.**—The report described in subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Information regarding the size and demographic makeup of each congressional district, including the number and coverage area of each district office.

(2) The average number of employees for each district office, including common tasks by position.

(3) Recommendations regarding the optimal number of employees in both offices located in House office buildings and district offices to address common office workflows and constituent requests, including changes in technology that have occurred recently and are expected to occur in the near future that would have an effect on such number.

(4) Recommendations regarding employee salaries and costs, including recommendations for necessary changes to the Members' Representational Allowance that would be necessary to carry out such recommendations.

(c) **DEADLINES.**—

(1) **PROVISION OF DRAFT SOLICITATION FOR CONTRACT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of adoption of this resolution, the Chief Administrative Officer shall provide a draft of the solicitation for the contract described in subsection (a) to the Committee of House Administration.

(2) **SUBMISSION OF REPORT.**—Under the contract entered into pursuant to this section,

the entity shall submit the report not later than 180 days after the signing of the contract.

SEC. 105. EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION AND SEPARATION PROCESSES.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCESSES.**—The Committee on House Administration shall design and implement—

(1) a comprehensive and uniform orientation process for new employees (including interns) of the House to complete within a designated period of time after appointment; and

(2) a comprehensive and uniform separation process for employees (including interns) of the House to complete within a designated period of time prior to termination.

(b) **APPLICABILITY.**—The processes under subsection (a) shall apply only to employees and interns who have access to the House Network.

(c) **REGULATIONS.**—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

TITLE II—IMPROVING ORIENTATION FOR MEMBERS-ELECT AND PROVIDING IMPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS

SEC. 201. PLAN FOR PROVIDING FOR DESIGNATED STAFF TO PREPARE FOR OPERATION OF OFFICES OF NEW MEMBERS-ELECT.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Chief Administrative Officer shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration that contains a detailed plan for establishing a program under which, upon the recommendation of an individual by a Member-elect (other than a Member elected to fill a vacancy), the Chief Administrative Officer shall appoint the individual for a limited period of time to assist such Member-elect with administrative and other responsibilities pertaining to the preparation of the Member's congressional office for operation, and shall include in the plan a timetable for implementation, an estimate of expected costs, and the identification of any statutory or regulatory obstacles to the implementation of such a program.

(b) **REGULATIONS.**—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 202. IMPROVING THE ORIENTATION EXPERIENCE OF NEW MEMBERS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In providing orientation services for new Members, including in-person courses and sessions, the Committee on House Administration shall carry out the following:

(1) The Committee shall work to ensure that orientation services are made available to all new Members, including Members elected in a special election during a Congress.

(2) The Committee shall work to ensure that courses on the Rules of the House, decorum and debate, and other such courses on practices to promote civility and respect are made available to Members.

(3) The Committee shall work to ensure that archived audio and visual recordings of orientation sessions are made available for reference.

(4) The Committee shall work to provide a range of House training programs and support services, including courses to promote civility and encourage decorum, for new Members and the senior staff of new Members throughout the Members' first term.

(5) To the extent the Committee considers appropriate, the Committee shall examine

the feasibility of providing a “just in time” approach to orientation sessions under which information is provided at the time at which it will be most useful to the Members.

(b) **PROVIDING SERVICES IN NONPARTISAN MANNER.**—To the greatest extent practicable, the Committee on House Administration shall ensure that the orientation services provided to new Members, including in-person courses and sessions, are provided in a nonpartisan manner.

(c) **REGULATIONS.**—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 203. EXPLORING THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY.

(a) **SURVEY OF MEMBERS.**—The Chief Administrative Officer shall conduct a survey of Members to determine the level of interest in establishing a Congressional Leadership Academy to provide online and in-person continuing education opportunities that will promote professional development and institutional training, including the feasibility of setting up a pilot program to establish such an Academy.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Chief Administrative Officer shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration on the results of the survey conducted under subsection (a), and shall include in the estimates of costs of establishing and operating a Congressional Leadership Academy as well as any impediments to establishing such an Academy, including impediments relating to technology, security, or content.

SEC. 204. REQUIRING ANNUAL CYBERSECURITY TRAINING FOR MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES.

(a) **REQUIREMENT FOR TRAINING.**—The Chief Administrative Officer shall carry out a cybersecurity training program under which each individual who has access to the House Network (including each Member, officer, employee, intern, and vendor of the House) annually receives an appropriate amount of cybersecurity training.

(b) **DEADLINES FOR INDIVIDUALS NOT HAVING PRIOR ACCESS TO NETWORK.**—An individual described in subsection (a) who has not previously had access to the House Network shall complete the cybersecurity training program under such subsection not later than 30 days after the individual first has access to the House Network.

(c) **REGULATIONS.**—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

TITLE III—MODERNIZING AND REVITALIZING TECHNOLOGY

SEC. 301. REFORMING HOUSE INFORMATION RESOURCES.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Chief Administrative Officer shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration on the operations of the Office of House Information Resources. Such report shall include—

(1) the identification of solutions to address the challenges HIR faces in balancing the needs between network security and making available emerging technologies in a timely manner to satisfy the operational needs of Member offices, including a detailed marketing and communications plan to address gaps and disruptions that exist in the seamless delivery of services between HIR and the offices it supports;

(2) recommendations to improve the quality of HIR services, such as web design and information technology support;

(3) recommendations for changes to HIR's mission to better align it with the needs of Member offices;

(4) methods to reduce duplicative spending on information technology services; and

(5) the identification of steps and actions necessary to ensure that HIR establishes a single point-of-contact within HIR for each office of the House so that such point-of-contact is responsible for responding to requests from the office and coordinating the delivery of products and services to the office, as well as an analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of the use of a single point-of-contact for such purposes.

(b) **CONDUCTING OUTSIDE REVIEW.**—The Committee on House Administration may direct the Chief Administrative Officer to enter into a contract with an outside entity to provide the Committee with an independent review of the operations of HIR and to provide independent recommendations to the Committee regarding strategies and steps for reforming HIR's operations.

(c) **REGULATIONS.**—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations or take any other steps as may be required to address the report submitted by the Chief Administrative Officer under subsection (a) and, if applicable, the recommendations provided by an outside entity pursuant to the contract entered into under subsection (b).

SEC. 302. PROVIDING TECHNOLOGIES TO IMPROVE CONSTITUENT ENGAGEMENT.

The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations or take any other steps as may be required to ensure that Member offices have the necessary technology and software to improve the efficiency and operation of Member offices and to improve constituent engagement, including, as soon as practicable after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the implementation of the following:

(1) The ability of House offices to conduct video calls and video conferences.

(2) The ability of Members to sign legislation, correspondence, and constituent consent forms using electronic signatures, in accordance with guidance developed in coordination with the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

(3) The ability of Members and employees to securely and seamlessly access the House Network from any place and at any time.

(4) A plan and timetable to improve the correspondence management tools available to Member offices, including improving the ability of the constituents of a Member to upload requests for casework directly to the Member's official public website.

SEC. 303. STREAMLINED APPROVAL PROCESS FOR OUTSIDE TECHNOLOGY VENDORS.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, HIR shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration describing the steps necessary to create a streamlined process for the approval of outside technology, including a discussion of unique legal, statutory, or other considerations relating to the House environment, costs, obstacles to creating and operating such an approval process, and security or other issues relating to such a process.

(b) **REGULATIONS.**—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 304. ENABLING EARLY ADOPTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS BY OFFICES.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution,

HIR shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration on establishing a program under which Member, committee, and leadership offices may elect to participate in the early adoption of technologies or applications developed by an outside vendor prior to the final approval by the House of the use of such technology or application for such offices, and shall include in the report a description of the steps necessary to set up such a program, the operation of such program, the identification of additional costs that may be incurred by such a program, and the identification of the steps necessary to ensure security and steps necessary to protect against jeopardizing the House enterprise.

(b) **REGULATIONS.**—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 305. IMPROVING MEMBER FEEDBACK REGARDING OUTSIDE VENDORS AND HIR SERVICES.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, HIR shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration on the steps necessary to—

(1) in compliance with applicable Rules of the House of Representatives and other regulations and standards of the House, create an internal customer satisfaction portal on HouseNet that allows Members and employees to rate and review outside vendors and HIR services;

(2) annually survey district-level staff and district-specific technology concerns; and

(3) survey Members and employees on what technologies they would like to use.

(b) **REGULATIONS.**—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 306. LEVERAGING BULK PURCHASING POWER OF THE HOUSE.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Chief Administrative Officer shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration on the steps necessary to provide a standard suite of information technology (as described in subsection (b)) for the use of offices of Members of the House, including various packages and options, and shall include in the report an analysis of alternative methods for funding the purchase of such a suite, including increasing the Members' Representational Allowances or creating additional accounts. The report shall also include a detailed marketing and communications plan, including strategies to disseminate information regarding the standard suite to Member offices.

(b) **CONTENTS OF STANDARD SUITE.**—The standard suite of information technology described in this subsection consists of the following, in such quantity and with such features as the Chief Administrative Officer determines to be appropriate to enable offices of Members of the House to quickly and effectively carry out their operations in a cost-effective manner:

(1) Desktop and portable computers, including hardware, software, and related equipment and supplies.

(2) Mobile and stationary telephones, including related equipment and supplies.

(3) Printers, including hardware, software, and related equipment and supplies.

(4) Internet products and services, including website development and administration services.

(5) Related information technology and telecommunications services, including technical support and customer service.

(6) Subscriptions and subscription services.

(c) **REGULATIONS.**—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 307. REQUIRING CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE TO PROVIDE RAPID RESPONSE SHORT FACT SHEETS.

The Committee on House Administration shall work closely with the Congressional Research Service to ensure that the Service has the capability to rapidly provide short, nonpartisan fact sheets which may be disseminated by Member offices.

SEC. 308. ESTABLISHING NONPARTISAN CONSTITUENT ENGAGEMENT AND SERVICES PAGE ON HOUSENET.

The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations, or take any other steps as may be required, to establish a nonpartisan constituent engagement and services page on HouseNet which will better disseminate best practices and ideas regarding ways to optimize and improve constituent engagement and service.

TITLE IV—MAKING THE HOUSE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

SEC. 401. ENSURING ACCESSIBILITY OF HOUSE WEBSITES.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Chief Administrative Officer shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration detailing a plan to ensure that all House websites and applications are accessible. Such report shall include—

(1) a schedule for analyzing all House websites and applications to determine the accessibility level of each such website and application;

(2) an analysis of the resources and assistance necessary to ensure all relevant systems are compatible with common programs used by major disability groups; and

(3) a plan to ensure that all updates to such websites and applications, as well as new websites and applications, are accessible.

(b) **REGULATIONS.**—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 402. CLOSE CAPTIONING OF PROCEEDINGS; CAPTIONING SERVICE FOR VIDEOS CREATED BY HOUSE OFFICES.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Chief Administrative Officer and the Clerk shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration detailing a plan to ensure that all House proceedings that are broadcast on television or streamed on the Internet provide closed caption services, and provide a free captioning service for all web videos created by Member, committee, and leadership offices, as well as the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer and the Office of the Clerk. Such report shall include—

(1) a statement of the estimated costs of providing close captioning services for all such proceedings;

(2) a statement of the estimated costs of providing captioning service for all such web videos;

(3) an estimated timeline for carrying out the plan; and

(4) a discussion of any barriers to carrying out the plan, including statutory or regulatory impediments.

(b) REGULATIONS.—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 403. COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF ACCESSIBILITY.

(a) REPORT ON ACCESSIBILITY OF UNITED STATES CAPITOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Architect of the Capitol, the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives, and the Executive Director of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, shall provide a joint report to the Committee on House Administration identifying areas of the Capitol buildings and the United States Capitol Grounds that are not currently accessible, the estimated costs of making such areas accessible, including a timetable and plan for making accessibility modifications, and a discussion of future challenges to ensuring full accessibility.

(b) REPORT ON ACCESSIBILITY OF PRACTICES AND PROGRAMMING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Chief Administrative Officer, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Congressional Accessibility Services and the Librarian of Congress, shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration evaluating the accessibility of the practices and programming used by offices of the legislative branch to serve the needs of individuals with disabilities.

(c) REGULATIONS.—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

TITLE V—IMPROVING ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

SEC. 501. ADOPTING STANDARDIZED FORMAT FOR LEGISLATIVE DOCUMENTS.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Clerk shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration regarding the status of the overall implementation and adoption of a standardized format for drafting, viewing, and publishing legislation to improve transparency and efficiency throughout the lawmaking process, specifically including the status of the overall implementation of the Extensible Markup Language, or XML, schema known as United States Legislative Markup.

(b) INITIAL REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include a detailed plan for completing the overall implementation and adoption of the format described in such subsection, including a timeline, a statement of the costs incurred as of the date of such report, and a statement of the expected costs anticipated to be incurred in the future.

(c) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Not later than 15 days after the last day of each calendar quarter that begins after the submission of the report under subsection (a), the Clerk shall submit to the Committee on House Administration a status report on the progress made during that quarter regarding the overall implementation and adoption of the format described in such subsection, including any updates to the timeline and to the costs incurred during that quarter and expected to be incurred in the future, and a detailed account of actions taken to implement and adopt the format during the quarter covered by the report.

(d) REGULATIONS.—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in

the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 502. LEGISLATION COMPARISON PROJECT.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Clerk shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration regarding the status of the completion of the legislative comparison project required by clause 12 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(b) INITIAL REPORT.—The report required in under subsection (a) shall include a detailed plan for completing the legislative comparison project, including a timeline, a statement of the costs incurred as of the date of the report, and a statement of the expected costs anticipated to be incurred in the future.

(c) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Not later than 15 days after the last day of each calendar quarter that begins after the submission of the report under subsection (a), the Clerk shall submit to the Committee on House Administration a status report on the progress made during that quarter regarding the completion of the legislative comparison project, including any updates to the timeline and to the costs incurred during that quarter and expected to be incurred in the future, and a detailed account of actions taken to complete the legislative comparison project during the quarter covered by the report.

(d) REGULATIONS.—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 503. DATABASE OF INFORMATION ON EXPIRATION OF AUTHORIZATIONS OF PROGRAMS.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Clerk shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration regarding the establishment and maintenance, on its public website, of an up-to-date database that is searchable, sortable, and downloadable of the expiration dates of all Federal programs and the primary committee of subject matter jurisdiction over each such program.

(b) INITIAL REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include a detailed plan for the completion and implementation of such database, including a timeline and a statement of ongoing and expected costs of development and implementation, any necessary legal or legislative authorities, as well as any barriers or difficulties identified regarding the completion and operation of the database. Such report shall also include a discussion and recommendations on ensuring that such database—

(1) is updated on a continual and ongoing basis, including requiring that the Clerk posts all relevant all information not later than 30 days after receipt; and

(2) includes information provided by standing and select committees (except the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Ethics, the Committee on Rules, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence), as well as recommendations to ensure that such committees provide the required information on a timely and regular basis.

(c) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 15 days after the last day of each calendar year that begins after the submission of the report under subsection (a), the Clerk shall submit to the Committee on House Administration a report regarding the progress made regarding the establishment and maintenance of the database described in such sub-

section, including any updates to the timeline and to the costs incurred or expected to be incurred (as required under subsection (b)), and a detailed account of actions taken to establish and maintain the database during the year covered by the report.

(d) REGULATIONS.—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 504. DATABASE OF VOTES TAKEN IN COMMITTEES.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Clerk shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration regarding the establishment and maintenance, on its public website, of a separate database for the 116th Congress and each subsequent Congress of all recorded votes in committees (except for recorded votes taken by any committee in executive session or recorded votes which, under applicable rules of the committee, are not required to be made publicly available) that is sortable, up-to-date, and downloadable.

(b) INITIAL REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include a detailed plan for completion and implementation of the database described in such subsection, including a timeline and a statement of the ongoing and expected costs of development and implementation, any necessary legal or legislative authorities, as well as any barriers or difficulties identified regarding the completion and operation of the database. Such report shall also include a discussion and recommendations on ensuring that such database—

(1) is updated on a continual and ongoing basis; and

(2) requires each standing and select committee to provide to the Clerk with information respecting recorded votes taken in that committee (excluding votes which are not required to be included in the database) within 72 hours of such vote, to include a brief description of the matter on which the recorded vote was taken, the name of each Member of the committee voting on that matter, whether the vote was in the affirmative or the negative, and the total tally of the votes.

(c) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Not later than 15 days after the last day of each calendar quarter that begins after the submission of the report under subsection (a), the Clerk shall submit to the Committee on House Administration a report regarding the progress made regarding the establishment and maintenance of the database described in such subsection, including any updates to the detailed timeline and to the costs incurred or expected to be incurred (as required under subsection (b)), and a detailed account of actions taken to establish and maintain the database during for the quarter covered by the report.

(d) REGULATIONS.—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 505. ASSIGNMENT OF UNIQUE IDENTIFIERS FOR REPORTS FILED BY REGISTERED LOBBYISTS.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Clerk shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration regarding the status of assigning a unique identification number with respect to each person who files a registration statement or other report required to be filed with the Clerk

under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), to be used for all purposes under such Act (including the public availability of such statements and reports) with respect to each statement or report required to be filed by that person with the Clerk.

(b) INITIAL REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include a detailed plan for assigning the unique identification numbers described in such subsection, including a timeline, a statement of the ongoing and expected costs of carrying out such plan, and a description of any obstacles to carrying out the plan (including obstacles relating to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 or other laws).

(c) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Not later than 15 days after the last day of each calendar quarter that begins after the submission of the report under subsection (a), the Clerk shall submit to the Committee on House Administration a report regarding the progress made regarding the overall implementation of the assignment of the unique identification numbers described in such subsection, including any updates to the timeline and to the costs incurred or expected to be incurred as required under subsection (b) and a detailed account of actions taken to carry out the assignment of such unique identification numbers during for the quarter covered by the report.

(d) REGULATIONS.—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 506. PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS.

The Committee on House Administration shall take all steps practicable to make any report required under this resolution publicly available on the official public website of the Committee or in some other manner.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 756.

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

There was no objection.

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

The Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress was created by Speaker NANCY PELOSI on January 4, 2019, when the House adopted title II of H. Res. 6, the House Rules package.

The House voted an overwhelming 418-12 to create the committee. The Speaker was insistent that the committee's membership contains a diverse set of views, which is why its membership is evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats and is required to have two first-term Members among its ranks.

I am proud to serve on the Select Committee on the Modernization of

Congress, a committee whose guiding principle, in the words of Chairman DEREK KILMER, is to “make Congress work better so that the institution and its Members can better serve the American people.”

During its first year of work, the committee has heard from former Members, discussed making legislative information more transparent, and focused on cultivating diversity and improving retention among congressional staff. The committee has also worked to promote civility and collaboration and listened carefully to Members about the congressional schedule.

The committee is already having an effect. Shortly after a hearing on congressional mailing standards, the Franking Commission moved quickly to modernize their rules so Members could communicate with their constituents more directly.

The committee's success is the very reason that the Speaker decided to extend the life of the committee. Originally scheduled to conclude its work after the first session, the House agreed to extend its work for the balance of the 116th Congress.

I was pleased to work with the ranking member of the House Administration Committee to make sure that the select committee has the resources it needs to do its work.

H. Res. 756 incorporates the first two sets of recommendations made by the select committee. These recommendations focus on increasing transparency, improving human resources practices on the Hill, improving the onboarding process for new Members, addressing needed IT improvements, and making the proceedings and functions of the House more accessible to all Americans.

It has been a pleasure to work with Chairman KILMER, Vice Chairman GRAVES, and the ranking member on the Committee on House Administration as we have worked to translate recommendations into legislation.

Successful reform efforts in Congress are rare. For the most part, these efforts fade away and are forgotten. I am glad that this reform effort, spearheaded by the bipartisan work of the select committee, is moving forward and that we will all see tangible results in how the Congress operates as a result of this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) controls the time and is recognized.

There was no objection.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 756, the Moving Our Democracy and Congressional Operations Towards Modernization Resolution.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan resolution is an important one that I believe will improve the day-to-day operations of the House.

I first want to thank Chairman KILMER and Vice Chair GRAVES for their impressive leadership of the Select Committee on Modernization.

I also want to give a special moment of silence in honor of Vice Chair GRAVES' son, who was in a bad accident on a bicycle. If Members could bear with me to honor Mr. GRAVES and have a moment of silence to pray for his son's recovery.

Mr. Speaker, the tone that has been set at the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress has been a refreshing reminder that there is still a way to work in a truly bipartisan manner, respecting differing opinions across the aisle. Six Members of Congress from each party came together to work toward a common goal: to make this institution better.

Americans deserve an efficient and effective legislature. A modernized Congress will increase our ability to respond to the needs of communities; save taxpayer dollars; erase layers of bureaucracy; further professionalize the institution; and revitalize a transparent, understandable, and efficient legislative process.

H. Res. 756 is a package of 29 bipartisan recommendations from the select committee's findings on ways to improve Congress. These recommendations will increase public accessibility, modernize the information technology that offices use, streamline human resources, improve training offerings, enhance the ways we can communicate with our constituents, and create more transparency and access to public documents, among other necessary advancements.

Mr. Speaker, I am a proud member of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, and as the ranking member at the Committee on House Administration, I look forward to working toward implementing these vital recommendations.

While the passage of H. Res. 756 is crucial for improving how the House operates, I know the work is not done. I look forward to being a part of moving additional pieces of legislation the select committee puts forward.

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

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER) who chairs the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chair LOFGREN and Ranking Member DAVIS for their support in bringing this resolution to the floor.

H. Res. 756, the MODCOM Resolution, is the product of a bipartisan desire to make Congress work better for the American people.

Over the past year, the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress has taken a hard look at the many challenges this institution faces. Select committee members have listened closely to what their colleagues and staff have to say about how to improve Congress and listened to the American people.

Through a collaborative, bipartisan process, the select committee has so far passed 45 recommendations to make Congress work better so that Members can better serve their constituents.

Making recommendations to improve Congress is one thing, but making sure those recommendations are carried out is quite another.

The Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress is the first reform committee in recent history to turn its recommendations into legislation. The MODCOM Resolution ensures that the select committee's initial recommendations are implemented by the House of Representatives.

These recommendations cover a broad range of issues but share a common goal: making Congress work better for the American people.

Article I of the Constitution established Congress as the first among co-equal branches of government. Our Founding Fathers envisioned a strong legislative branch, but Congress' capacity to uphold its constitutional powers has been weakened. This resolution is a first step toward restoring capacity and strengthening Congress.

The resolution improves transparency so that the American people can easily access basic information about Congress, including following the bill through the process, seeing how Members vote in committee and on the floor, and tracking what bills Members sponsor.

The MODCOM Resolution also contains recommendations focused on attracting and retaining a diverse and highly qualified workforce, again, working on behalf of the American people. The resolution creates a one-stop HR shop to help Members and staff with questions about recruitment, retention, diversity, legal counsel, training, and benefits.

The select committee has heard a lot about how new Member orientation should do more to encourage civility and bipartisan collaboration. This resolution will overhaul the onboarding process for new Members and provide continuing education opportunities for all Members.

Select committee members also agree that trying to solve 21st century problems with 20th century technologies is a disservice to the American people, who rightfully expect timely action from their Representatives. This resolution will modernize House technologies and, ultimately, save taxpayer dollars.

□ 1245

Modernizing Congress also means making the proceedings and functions of the House accessible to all Americans. The MODCOM resolution addresses the equal access challenges that persons with disabilities face when working for, visiting, or interacting with Congress.

The bottom line is this: All Members want Congress to work better for the American people, and the MODCOM resolution serves that goal.

I am proud to lead this effort, but I want to emphasize that this is an entirely collaborative effort. Congressman TOM GRAVES, the select committee's vice chair, has been a great partner, and I want to thank him for his leadership, his partnership, and his commitment to the committee's success.

I thank the gentleman from Illinois for wishing Tom and his family well and wishing his son a speedy recovery.

Mr. Speaker, the experience and perspective of Chair LOFGREN and of Ranking Member DAVIS they have shared with the select committee has also been invaluable. I want to thank them and the Committee on House Administration and their staff for their help and their guidance and for their work in bringing this resolution to the floor today.

I also want to thank all of my colleagues on the select committee. We serve with such thoughtful and dedicated Members, and I look forward to our continued collaboration.

The CAO's office and the House Clerk's office have also been instrumental in this effort, and I want to thank the many people in both offices who have given of their time and expertise in working through a lot of these issues with the select committee.

This is the first step in trying to make Congress function better on behalf of the American people. There is more to come. The committee has additional recommendations that we hope to move forward.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support passage of H. Res. 756.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE), my good friend and another member of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend, Mr. DAVIS, for yielding and thank him also for all of his hard work bringing this resolution to the floor. I also want to thank him for being here in person himself to help us argue the good points of this resolution and its bipartisan nature.

Mr. Speaker, for over a year, the bipartisan Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress has worked together to discuss how Congress, as an institution, conducts business on behalf of the American people.

From broad subjects, like government transparency and congressional office payroll, to narrower topics, like formatting legislative documents, our goal is to bring Congress into the same century as the constituents whom we serve.

This resolution is a great first step in accomplishing that goal. It requires our technology offices to streamline the approval process for new and innovative technologies. It takes steps towards Housewide bulk purchasing of technology products and services and will save every Member money out of their MRAs.

Additionally, the resolution examines expanding or eliminating the cap on the number of employees for Member offices. Many Members, particularly in rural areas like my district in central Washington, have multiple district offices, and Members should be able to staff their offices as they see fit.

Empowering Members to adequately staff both district and D.C. offices can improve retention, but, more importantly, it can improve communication with our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to again thank Chairman KILMER and Ranking Member GRAVES for their leadership and their work in bringing this resolution to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues, all Members, to support the adoption of this resolution.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS), another member of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my fellow colleagues on the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress in support of H. Res. 756.

Over these past many months, under the incredible leadership of Representative KILMER and Representative GRAVES, the members of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress have worked diligently to address many, many issues that we believe in a bipartisan way have negatively impacted the ability of Congress to work effectively and efficiently for all Americans.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have heard time after time many concerns from my constituents who believe that Congress has become too mired in gridlock, that our current political process has devolved into a system that rewards bitter partisan divide rather than an effective, for-the-people governance. I think my constituents would be so pleased, and all of our constituents would be so pleased, to see how this committee has worked and how we have plodded together through many difficult subjects.

In the process of creating 2½ dozen recommendations, including this resolution, I think a couple of the most important the committee is focused on are how to foster that more civil discourse, beginning with new Member orientation.

I want to applaud the chair and the ranking member of the Committee on House Administration for being so open-minded about any ideas that our committee put forward, willing to make changes to many programs, beginning with new Member orientation; also, efforts to create a congressional workforce more representative of our country's diverse population through initiatives like making permanent the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and focusing on issues such as streamlining

and reorganizing human resource services for the House of Representatives.

We often operate as 435 different offices, but we can learn so much from each other. We can find, with collaboration and with a stronger H.R. office, better expertise in communications policies and constituent services.

So it is my firm belief that the recommendations being voted on will be an integral step in moving Congress forward in a direction that not only produces a more productive workforce and workplace, but a more productive legislative branch.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. TIMMONS), our freshman Member on our side of the aisle on the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

Mr. TIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 756, legislation implementing recommendations from the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

The Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, the only truly bipartisan committee in Congress, has worked diligently since it was created to produce recommendations that will make Congress more efficient, accountable, and transparent to the American people.

This resolution includes nearly 30 of the recommendations passed out of the committee. The legislation includes reforms in five areas, which are:

- Streamlining and reorganizing human resources;

- Improving orientation for freshman Members;

- Modernizing and revitalizing technology;

- Making the House accessible to all; and

- Improving access to documents and publications for the American people.

When I first arrived in Washington for new Member orientation, I remember having to get on a bus with only Republicans. I was shocked that new Members would not be briefed together, that this kind of partisanship was encouraged from the very start.

Now, I understand that a majority of the time Members will be meeting with their respective party, but to encourage this divide from the beginning was something I was not expecting—and I was really disappointed.

This contributes to the brokenness and lack of civility in Congress. This was a concern I heard from several Members from both sides of the aisle, including fellow colleagues on the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

I am proud that we are able to work together on this committee as both Republicans and Democrats to come to a solution that encourages more bipartisanship in these partisan and incredibly divided times.

I am truly thankful for Chair KILMER's and Vice Chair GRAVES' leadership on the committee, and I look forward

to continuing to work with them and my colleagues on the committee on other ways we can make Congress more efficient, such as addressing the House calendar and schedule, as well as the budget process.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues in the House to support H. Res. 756.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, at this point, while he meanders up to the microphone, I would like to say this is our last speaker, but another valued member of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, somebody whom not only the committee is going to miss when he leaves this institution after this term, but this institution is going to miss him.

I yield as much time as he would like to consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL).

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Illinois for yielding. I have so many things that I want to say now in light of that.

The truth is, Mr. Speaker, I just came over, had to walk out on some constituents to be here.

Hunter Pruett is in town. He is advocating on behalf of the Juvenile Arthritis Foundation, and he has been meeting with me every year for the 10 years I have been in Congress.

I said: Hunter, I am sorry. I have got to go to the floor. This is our bill today. I will see you back home.

He said: I just want to tell you one thing, ROB.

He said: Whatever is going on in politics, just forget it. What I want you to do for your next 9 months in Congress is just go and do the right thing for the right reasons, and we will be with you.

That is a pretty common message that we get, but our committee process doesn't always allow that to happen, and I want to thank the chairman for leading a process that has allowed exactly that to happen.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know if it has been mentioned, but I am looking at the chairman of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress sitting beside the chairwoman of the House Administration Committee.

Now, as you look through these 30 recommendations today, you will see that a lot of them have to do with House Administration jurisdiction. I am standing right beside the ranking member of the House Administration Committee.

It is extraordinary in this institution for a chairwoman and her ranking member to allow another committee to have any sort of input on what goes on, much less delegate some of that conversation and thinking. The lack of self-interest that has gone into this committee is something I haven't gotten to see much in the 10 years I have been here.

You won't see in these recommendations, Mr. Speaker, a recommendation to turn all of the committees into the exact same bipartisan 50/50 committee

that we have had the pleasure of working on. I don't think you will see that in the next round either.

But I will tell you that one of the favorite stories I get to tell back home to folks who feel like politics has taken over this town, for folks who feel like MSNBC and FOX News run this institution these days, that think Twitter is the be-all and end-all of in-depth political thought, I have gotten a chance to work with Members who have, time after time after time, put the institution first with one goal in mind.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain it has been said already, how can we serve our constituency better, every single conversation, how can we serve our constituency better; what can we do to better serve the American people; how is the institution broken, not so that it is not serving Members, but so that Members are not serving their constituents.

I know this isn't the most glamorous of topics, modernization of Congress, but I would just say to all of my colleagues, if you are feeling down, if you are feeling beaten by a political season, if you think that this is the time of the electoral cycle where folks are fussing with each other, more likely to tear each other down than build each other up, read these 30 recommendations.

Tune in to the next Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, Mr. Speaker, because what you are going to see is exactly what every single one of us wanted to see when we ran for Congress, and that is serious men and women sitting down in a collaborative way, putting the American people first.

It couldn't happen without the leadership of our chairman. It wouldn't happen without the chairwoman of the House Administration Committee and her willingness to be such a productive partner. It couldn't happen without Ranking Member DAVIS and his willingness to be so involved and so collaborative.

There should be recommendation No. 31, Mr. Speaker, and that is, let's do this again.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I can't add anything to what my good friend ROBERT "FRANK" WOODALL said, so I am going to yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to again acknowledge the bipartisan work of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

As a body, we haven't focused on the need for internal reforms to improve our work for the American people, and the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress has enabled us to focus on reforms and improvements that are necessary to better serve our constituents.

It may be true, if you read the reports, some of this is boring. Boring is good. To get these things done in a very thoughtful, collaborative way so the system works better, so we can serve our constituents better, it has

been a pleasure to work here, both as a member of the Select Committee and certainly as chair of the House Administration Committee charged with implementing many of these recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge that all of us support H. Res. 756, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as Vice Chair of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, I want to express my strong support for H. Res. 756, the Moving our Democracy and Congressional Operations Towards Modernization Resolution.

This resolution is the result of bipartisan collaboration and hard work by our committee members, who are committed to making Congress work better for the American people.

H. Res. 756 marks the first time in recent history a select committee like ours has turned recommendations into legislative action. This is a testament to the hard work of our members, and the support from our colleagues on both sides of the aisle has been instrumental throughout this process.

In the last year, the Select Committee has passed nearly four dozen recommendations crafted to make Congress more effective, efficient and transparent. Through conversations with our colleagues and listening sessions with congressional staff, we've worked to address everything from staff retention and recruitment to boosting bipartisanship and civility throughout the U.S. House of Representatives.

Today's resolution addresses five key sections of reform: streamlining and reorganizing human resources; improving orientation for Members-elect and providing improved continuing education opportunities for Members; modernizing and revitalizing technology, making the House accessible to all; and improving access to documents and publications. These sections include 29 recommendations that were unanimously passed by our committee on a rolling basis throughout last year—another first for a committee like ours.

We're committed to pushing boundaries and breaking the mold with our approach and the solutions we propose. Our chair, Rep. Derek Kilmer, has been a strong leader and bipartisan partner throughout this process. When the Select Committee first started, we chose to work together and combine our resources as one team, instead of separating the staff and office space by party line. This unique opportunity and approach has created a bond of trust unlike anything I've experienced in Congress.

We have more work to do before the year is over, and I can think of no better capstone to my career in public service than to leave Congress in better shape for the next generation of leaders. Together we are giving the House a roadmap for a brighter future.

I look forward to continuing our work as a bipartisan team and am grateful for the opportunity to help make a little history here in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 756, 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. LOFGREN. 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.

□ 1300

SUPPORT FOR VETERANS IN EFFECTIVE APPRENTICESHIPS ACT OF 2019

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 760) to enable registered apprenticeship programs to better serve veterans, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 760

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 "Support for Veterans in Effective Apprenticeships Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. IMPROVED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM COORDINATION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—The term "registered apprenticeship program" means an apprenticeship program registered under the Act of August 16, 1937 (50 Stat. 664; commonly referred to as the "National Apprenticeship Act").

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Labor.

(b) ADDITIONAL REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for any program applying to become a registered apprenticeship program on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) acquire from the program sponsor a written assurance that the sponsor—

(A) is aware of the availability of educational assistance for a veteran or other individual eligible under chapters 30 through 36 of title 38, United States Code, for use in connection with a registered apprenticeship program;

(B) will make a good faith effort to obtain approval for educational assistance described in subparagraph (A) for, at a minimum, each program location that employs or recruits a veteran or other individual eligible for educational assistance under chapters 30 through 36 of title 38, United States Code; and

(C) will not deny the application of a qualified candidate who is a veteran or other individual eligible for educational assistance described in subparagraph (A) for the purpose of avoiding making a good faith effort to obtain approval as described in subparagraph (B);

(2) in accordance with paragraphs (5) and (12) of section 29.5(b) of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), require the program sponsor, to the extent practicable, to provide standards that contain provisions to grant advanced standing or credit, and provide increased wages commensurate to such standing or credit, for any veteran or other individual eligible for educational assistance under chapters 30 through 36 of title 38, United States Code, who—

(A) is enrolled in the registered apprenticeship program; and

(B)(i) has a demonstrated competence applicable to the apprenticeship occupation; or (ii) has acquired experience, training, or skills through military service that is applicable to the apprenticeship occupation; and

(3) when the Secretary approves the registered apprenticeship program, provide a copy of the program's certificate of registration to the State approving agency designated under chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, in the State where the program is located.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. WATKINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks, and insert extraneous material on S. 760, the Support for Veterans in Effective Apprenticeships Act of 2019.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 760, Support for Veterans in Effective Apprenticeships Act. This legislation is a commonsense approach to helping men and women who have laid their life on the line for our freedom.

So many of our veterans transition to civilian life and need to develop a skill to get good-paying jobs. Yet, many are not suited for traditional education pathways. This is where registered apprenticeship programs are so important, and this legislation takes important steps to increasing veterans' access to complete financial assistance they can use to connect to a registered apprenticeship program.

Registered apprenticeships are our Nation's most successful federally funded workforce development with a 94 percent placement rate for workers who complete a registered apprenticeship, and an average starting salary of \$70,000 a year. The bill would ensure more veterans access to these high-quality programs by:

One, requiring the Department of Labor, DOL, to ensure employers are working with their State veterans affairs agencies to obtain education benefits available for veterans;

Two, improving the coordination between the DOL and the VA, requiring the DOL to provide information to the VA on newly registered apprenticeship programs to enable the VA to be more proactive in outreach to registered apprenticeship programs not yet approved for GI bill benefits; and

Three, ensuring that employers grant advanced standing or credit, and provide increased wages commensurate to such standing or credit to veterans or