

its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future, and I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House—Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will include our letters on H.R. 5616 in the Committee report on this measure and in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration of this bill. I look forward to working with you on this legislation and other matters of great importance to this Nation.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,

Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5616, the DHS Basic Training Accreditation Improvement Act of 2021.

This legislation requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to report to Congress on an annual basis on the accreditation status for each basic training program within the Department. It also requires congressional notification within 30 days of a lapse of accreditation for any Department basic training program.

This legislation will help bring needed congressional oversight to DHS basic training programs by ensuring that DHS is transparent about any accreditation shortcomings and properly addresses them.

Madam Speaker, I urge members to join me in supporting H.R. 5616, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I have no more speakers, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I urge Members to support this bill, I think it is a good bill, and I commend my friend for bringing it to the floor.

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

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, our top priority, as Members of Congress, is protecting the safety and security of the American people.

We have no room for error when it comes to keeping Americans safe.

H.R. 5616 prioritizes the quality of training DHS offers its newest officers and ensures that State, local, and Tribal law enforcement entities have better access to trainings that will make American communities safer.

I thank my colleagues on the Homeland Security Committee for unanimously supporting H.R. 5616.

Madam Speaker, I urge the rest of my colleagues to support H.R. 5616, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5616, 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.

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

□ 1615

SHADOW WOLVES ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5681) to authorize the reclassification of the tactical enforcement officers (commonly known as the “Shadow Wolves”) in the Homeland Security Investigations tactical patrol unit operating on the lands of the Tohono O’odham Nation as special agents, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5681

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 “Shadow Wolves Enhancement Act”.

SEC. 2. RECLASSIFICATION OF SHADOW WOLVES AS GS-1811 SPECIAL AGENTS.

The Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is authorized—

(1) to reclassify the GS-1801 tactical enforcement officers (commonly known as “Shadow Wolves”) assigned to the Homeland Security Investigations tactical patrol unit operating on the lands of the Tohono O’odham Nation, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, as GS-1811 special agents, upon the successful completion of—

(A) the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center’s Criminal Investigator Training Program; and

(B)(i) Customs Basic Enforcement School, if the officer was hired before March 2003; or
(ii) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent Training, if the officer was hired during or after March 2003;

(2) to classify any Shadow Wolves who are assigned to the unit referred to in paragraph (1) after such date of enactment as GS-1811 special agents upon the successful completion of the training described in paragraph (1); and

(3) to classify as GS-1811 special agents upon the successful completion of the training described in paragraph (1) any Shadow Wolves who are hired as part of a comparable unit (regardless of location) established after such date of enactment with the approval and consent of the appropriate Indian tribe.

SEC. 3. EXPANSION OF SHADOW WOLVES PROGRAM.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Comptroller General of the United States, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a strategy for—

(1) retaining existing Shadow Wolves;
(2) recruiting new Shadow Wolves; and
(3) expanding comparable units referred to in section 2(3) to appropriate areas near the international border between the United States and Canada or the international bor-

der between the United States and Mexico, with the approval and consent of the appropriate Indian tribe.

SEC. 4. GAO REPORT.

Not later than 1 year after receiving the strategy required under section 3 and annually thereafter for the following two years, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives—

(1) an assessment of the effectiveness of such strategy; and

(2) any recommendations for improvements to the strategy that the Comptroller General determines to be appropriate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5681, the Shadow Wolves Enhancement Act.

This bipartisan legislation, sponsored by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO), the ranking member of the Homeland Security Committee, seeks to resolve limitations to career advancement and pay equity for Native American officers, a part of the Shadow Wolves program.

Shadow Wolves are officers that form ICE Homeland Security Investigations’ tactical patrol unit. These officers operate in the Tohono O’odham Nation, located in southern Arizona, and track human and drug smugglers along Tribal lands.

Since 1974, the Tohono O’odham Nation has allowed Shadow Wolves to patrol its lands to stem the flow of illicit activity within the region. This elite unit leverages both technology and the traditional art of tracking to detect footprints, tire tracks, and clothing associated with smuggling operations.

Over the last few years, Shadow Wolves have increasingly expanded their operation beyond tracking to investigative work and support response.

Under current law, Shadow Wolves can only be hired as tactical officers in a lower pay grade, although most of the officers have completed special agent training.

H.R. 5681 reclassifies Shadow Wolves as special agents upon successfully completing the law enforcement training requirements. H.R. 5681 also directs DHS to establish a strategy for preserving the Shadow Wolves and expanding comparable units with the consent of relevant Native American Tribes.

By passing this bipartisan bill today, this body is prioritizing the development of a diverse and equitable Federal workforce. I urge my colleagues to join with the Tohono O'odham Nation and the Shadow Wolves officers and support H.R. 5681. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5681, the Shadow Wolves Enhancement Act.

This bill authorizes adjustments to the job classifications of officers assigned to the Homeland Security Investigations unit operating in the Tohono O'odham Nation, also known as the Shadow Wolves.

The Shadow Wolves are the Department of Homeland Security's only tracking unit that is entirely composed of Native Americans. The Shadow Wolves were established by congressional mandate in 1974 to combat rampant smuggling that was occurring from Mexico into the United States through the Tohono O'odham Nation.

For the past 40 years, the Shadow Wolves have been patrolling a 76-mile stretch of the border, utilizing a combination of high-tech equipment and the traditional art of tracking passed down from generation to generation on the Nation.

The Shadow Wolves take their name from the way the unit operates, like a wolf pack, relying mostly on their ability to track. They use a technique called cutting for sign, which closely observes and analyzes any physical evidence left by smugglers. I was fortunate enough to personally observe this impressive technique during my visit to Arizona last year.

The Shadow Wolves' professionalism, skill, dedication, and presence have proven critical for border security and are essential in building Tribal stakeholder trust and engagement.

And for an elite unit, their operations couldn't be more impressive. Between 2010 and 2020, Shadow Wolves' efforts led to 437 criminal arrests, and the seizure of over 117,000 pounds of narcotics, 45 weapons, 251 vehicles, and over \$800,000 in U.S. currency.

In recent years, the Shadow Wolves' mission has evolved from tracking into more investigative work. Unfortunately, the current hiring authority for the Shadow Wolves' program does not allow current Shadow Wolves to be reclassified at the appropriate level for investigative work, even if they have all the prerequisite experience.

Further, this lack of authority has led to pay inequities and limited upward mobility for current Shadow Wolves officers. Without the passage of this critical legislation, the entire Shadow Wolves program is at risk of becoming nonoperational as current officers retire.

My bill, the Shadow Wolves Enhancement Act, allows current Shadow Wolves to be reclassified as GS-1811 special agents upon the successful com-

pletion of training. It also addresses pay equity for current Shadow Wolves and allows new Native American applicants to be added to the unit.

This bill also requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a strategy to retain existing Shadow Wolves and expand comparable units along the international land borders both north and south of our country with the approval of appropriate Tribal governments.

Every day, the Shadow Wolves carry out a difficult and dangerous mission under increasingly challenging circumstances. Every day, they report for duty and help secure the border across arduous desert terrain and rugged mountainous areas.

Today is the day that we in Congress honor their efforts and modernize the Shadow Wolves program. Passage of this legislation will provide long-term viability for a truly unique and necessary border security program and a pathway for future Native American applicants.

This act has strong bipartisan support in the House and the Senate, as well as support from the Department of Homeland Security and, of course, the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a resolution from the Tohono O'odham Nation Legislative Council in support of the Shadow Wolves Enhancement Act.

RESOLUTION OF THE TOHONO O'ODHAM
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SUPPORTING FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO RECLASSIFY HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS TACTICAL OFFICERS "SHADOW WOLVES" AS SPECIAL AGENTS

Whereas, the Constitution of the Tohono O'odham Nation vests the Legislative Council with the authority to "promote, protect and provide for public health, peace, morals, education and general welfare of the Tohono O'odham Nation and its members" and to "consult with the Congress of the United States and appropriate federal agencies regarding federal activities that affect the Tohono O'odham Nation . . ." (Constitution, Article VI, Section 1(c)(2) and Section 1(j)); and

Whereas, the Tohono O'odham Nation ("Nation") is a federally recognized Indian tribe located on approximately 4,500 square miles in southern Arizona, with approximately 65 miles of its border on the International Boundary with Mexico; and

Whereas, over many years, the Nation has cooperated with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to stem the flow of narcotics and undocumented immigrants while maintaining the Nation's opposition to a physical wall (Resolution No. 17-053); and

Whereas, since 1974, the Nation has allowed the U.S. Customs Service to staff a facility in Sells, and in return the U.S. Customs Service employed up to 25 Native Americans as Customs Patrol Officers; and

Whereas, around 1985, the U.S. Customs Service organized these Native American Customs Patrol Officers into a select unit which came to be known as the "Shadow Wolves," which utilized the unique knowledge and skill of Native Americans to track and interdict smugglers crossing the lands of the Nation; and

Whereas, the Shadow Wolves have gained an international reputation as a small but

highly effective interdiction unit of the U.S. Customs Service; and

Whereas, U.S. Senator Kyrsten Sinema is proposing a bill to authorize the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to reclassify the members of the Shadow Wolves unit from tactical officers to special agents; and

Whereas, this reclassification could improve the pay scale for Shadow Wolves, improve their ability to enforce immigration and customs laws, and better investigate and track cross-border illegal activity; and

Whereas, the Nation's chairperson, Border Security Delegation, Appropriations and Domestic Affairs Committees have reviewed the legislation and recommend support.

Now, therefore, be it Resolved that the Tohono O'odham Legislative Council supports federal legislation to reclassify Homeland Security Investigations Tactical Officers "Shadow Wolves" as special agents.

The foregoing Resolution was passed by the Tohono O'odham Legislative Council on the 06th day of MARCH, 2020 at a meeting at which a quorum was present with a vote of 3,175.7 FOR; -0- AGAINST; -0- NOT VOTING; and [02] ABSENT, pursuant to the powers vested in the Council by Article VI, Section 1(c)(2) and (j) of the Constitution of the Tohono O'odham Nation, adopted by the Tohono O'odham Nation on January 18, 1986; and approved by the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs (Operations) on March 6, 1986, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat.984).

Tohono O'odham Legislative Council:

TIMOTHY JOAQUIN,
Legislative Chairman,
6 day of March,
2020.

Attest:

EVONNE WILSON,
Legislative Secretary,
6 day of March,
2020.

Said Resolution was submitted for approval to the office of the Chairman of the Tohono O'odham Nation on the 6 day of March, 2020 at 4:54 o'clock, p.m., pursuant to the provisions of Section 5 of Article VII of the Constitution and will become effective upon his approval or upon his failure to either approve or disapprove it within 48 hours of submittal.

Tohono O'odham Legislative Council:

TIMOTHY JOAQUIN,
Legislative Chairman,
on the 06 day of
March, 2020 at 5:22
o'clock, p.m.

NED NORRIS, Jr., *Chairman,*
Tohono O'odham Nation.

Returned to the Legislative Secretary on the 6 day of March, 2020, at 5:32 o'clock, p.m.

EVONNE WILSON,
Legislative Secretary.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this critical legislation in support of our Native American friends and partners.

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

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

H.R. 5681 is about enhancing equity and career opportunities for Native American officers that currently serve as Shadow Wolves in Sells, Arizona.

These officers are currently limited in pay and opportunity by their classification, despite having the appropriate training for advancement. This legislation addresses that problem.

For this reason, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5681, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5681.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PREPAREDNESS CONSORTIUM ACT OF 2021

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 658) to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 658

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 Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PREPAREDNESS CONSORTIUM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may work with one or more consortia to support efforts to address cybersecurity risks and incidents.

(b) ASSISTANCE TO DHS.—The Secretary may work with one or more consortia to carry out the Secretary’s responsibility pursuant to section 2202(e)(1)(P) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 652(e)(1)(P)) to—

(1) provide training and education to State, Tribal, and local first responders and officials specifically for preparing for and responding to cybersecurity risks and incidents, in accordance with applicable law;

(2) develop and update a curriculum utilizing existing training and educational programs and models in accordance with section 2209 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659), for State, Tribal, and local first responders and officials, related to cybersecurity risks and incidents;

(3) provide technical assistance services, training, and educational programs to build and sustain capabilities in support of preparedness for and response to cybersecurity risks and incidents, including threats of acts of terrorism, in accordance with such section 2209;

(4) conduct cross-sector cybersecurity training, education, and simulation exercises for entities, including State and local governments and Tribal organizations, critical infrastructure owners and operators, and private industry, to encourage community-wide coordination in defending against and responding to cybersecurity risks and incidents, in accordance with section 2210(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 660(c));

(5) help States, Tribal organizations, and communities develop cybersecurity information sharing programs, in accordance with section 2209 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659), for the dissemination of homeland security information related to cybersecurity risks and incidents;

(6) help incorporate cybersecurity risk and incident prevention and response into existing State, Tribal, and local emergency plans, including continuity of operations plans; and

(7) assist State governments and Tribal organizations in developing cybersecurity plans.

(c) CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING SELECTION OF A CONSORTIUM.—In selecting a consortium with which to work under this Act, the Secretary shall take into consideration the following:

(1) Prior experience conducting cybersecurity training, education, and exercises for State and local entities.

(2) Geographic diversity of the members of any such consortium so as to maximize coverage of the different regions of the United States.

(3) The participation in such consortium of one or more historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, other minority-serving institutions, and community colleges that participate in the National Centers of Excellence in Cybersecurity program, as carried out by the Department of Homeland Security.

(d) METRICS.—If the Secretary works with a consortium under subsection (a), the Secretary shall measure the effectiveness of the activities undertaken by the consortium under this Act.

(e) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall conduct outreach to universities and colleges, including, in particular, outreach to historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, other minority-serving institutions, and community colleges, regarding opportunities to support efforts to address cybersecurity risks and incidents, by working with the Secretary under subsection (a).

(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize a consortium to control or direct any law enforcement agency in the exercise of the duties of the law enforcement agency.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “community college” has the meaning given the term “junior or community college” in section 312 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058);

(2) the term “consortium” means a group primarily composed of nonprofit entities, including academic institutions, that develop, update, and deliver cybersecurity training and education in support of homeland security;

(3) the terms “cybersecurity risk” and “incident” have the meanings given those terms in section 2209(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659(a));

(4) the term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security;

(5) the term “Hispanic-serving institution” has the meaning given the term in section 502 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a);

(6) the term “historically Black college and university” has the meaning given the term “part B institution” in section 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061);

(7) the term “minority-serving institution” means an institution of higher education described in section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a));

(8) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security;

(9) The term “State” means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any possession of the United States;

(10) the term “Tribal Colleges and Universities” has the meaning given the term in section 316 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c); and

(11) the term “Tribal organization” has the meaning given the term in section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304(e)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, now more than ever it is critical that State and local governments, along with the private sector, prioritize their cybersecurity preparedness. The threat of cyberattacks continues to grow, and with the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine, we are reminded yet again of the importance of stronger cybersecurity.

Since 2004, DHS has partnered with the National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium, a group of universities that conduct research and training to help entities better prepare for cyber risks. This legislation will authorize the consortium to help strengthen our Nation’s cybersecurity preparedness.

More specifically, S. 658 authorizes DHS to partner with a consortium of nonprofit entities to provide training to first responders, develop curriculums for training programs, conduct cross-sector exercises to defend and respond to cyber threats, and help incorporate cyber risk into State and local emergency plans.

Last year, Congress provided \$1 billion in new grants to State and local governments to strengthen their cybersecurity. Ensuring they have access to advice and support to develop their cybersecurity preparedness plans is an additional step we can take to enhance our Nation’s cybersecurity.

Additionally, Chairman THOMPSON offered an amendment during the committee markup that strengthened the bill by ensuring that DHS can partner with more than one consortium; adding the inclusion of HBCUs, MSIs, and community colleges as a factor in the selection of a consortium; and promoting greater geographic diversity among participating institutions.