

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ROSENDALE. 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.

#### FEMA CASEWORKER ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5343) to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to submit a report to Congress on case management personnel turnover, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5343

*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 "FEMA Caseworker Accountability Act".*

#### SEC. 2. REPORT ON STAFF TURNOVER.

*Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report containing—*

*(1) the turnover rate for case management personnel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;*

*(2) the average and median length of employment for the personnel described in paragraph (1);*

*(3) the steps that the Agency is taking, or plans to take, to lower the rate of turnover for the personnel described in paragraph (1);*

*(4) the number of personnel of the Agency that is detailed to work disaster recovery and then return to such personnel's full time assignment after a disaster, disaggregated by full-time, part-time, temporary, and contract personnel; and*

*(5) the average time and median length of the rotations of personnel described in paragraph (4) and how often rotations and reassignment of personnel occur for each disaster recovery position and function, disaggregated by full-time, part-time, temporary, and contract personnel.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. WILLIAMS) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEBSTER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5343, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5343. This bill addresses the high rate of turnover for disaster case management personnel at FEMA.

FEMA's case management personnel are critical to the disaster recovery process. They help survivors access basic needs such as housing, childcare, and transportation assistance.

This legislation requires FEMA to provide a report to Congress with data on case management personnel turnover and any Agency plans to reduce turnover.

I urge my colleagues on both sides to join with me and support this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 5343, the FEMA Caseworker Accountability Act, requires the Federal Emergency Management Agency to examine their case management turnover rates and the average length of employment for employees detailed to disaster response cases.

The goal of H.R. 5343 is to reduce the turnover rates for FEMA employees who have been detailed to disaster recovery.

Consistent turnover only hurts disaster victims as it can prolong the recovery process, especially for small rural communities.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. RICE).

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 5343, the FEMA Caseworker Accountability Act.

South Carolina's Seventh District is still recuperating from disaster after disaster. We experienced four flooding events in 8 years.

Over the years, I have learned some tough lessons. We have continuously heard and seen how case management staff turnover rates at FEMA have extended the process for our communities to receive the assistance they need after a disaster.

Sometimes it takes 4 or 5 years for FEMA to get people back in their homes, and it is far too long because, unfortunately, the people who are disproportionately affected by these disasters are people of low income and minorities. They lose everything that they had, what little they had, and they can't wait for 5 years for the government to respond.

I have heard complaints from disaster victims to local officials about the lack of coordination due to the high turnover rates at FEMA. This disorganization causes significant delays in processing claims and reimbursement of essential funds.

This bill will increase the transparency at FEMA following a disaster by requiring a report on their employees' turnover rate. It also requires a report to include the average length of employment for staff who are assigned to work on disaster recoveries.

FEMA must be held accountable to our communities and our taxpayers who rely on them following a disaster.

I thank Representative MACE and Resident Commissioner Gonzalez-Colon for their support on this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, this bill will assist FEMA by providing data to reduce turnover and provide more consistency for communities recovering from disasters.

Madam Speaker, I support this legislation, and I urge others to do the same.

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

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5343, 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.

Mr. ROSENDALE. 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.

#### CARE IS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY ACT

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5547) to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to require eligible recipients of certain grants to develop a comprehensive economic development strategy that directly or indirectly increases the accessibility of affordable, quality care-based services, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5547

*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 "Care is an Economic Development Strategy Act" or the "CEDS Act".*

**SEC. 2. COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 302(a)(3)(A) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3162(a)(3)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” before “balances resources”; and

(2) by inserting “, and directly or indirectly increases the accessibility of affordable, quality care-based services, including child care, early childhood education, disability and long-term care, and elder care” after “sound management of development”.

(b) *GUIDANCE.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall issue guidance on implementing the amendments made by subsection (a), to include how to increase access to the affordable, quality care-based services described in section 302(a)(3)(A) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3162(a)(3)(A)) in a comprehensive economic development strategy developed under section 302 of such Act.

(2) *EXISTING COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES.*—In issuing the guidance under paragraph (1), with respect to a grant recipient whose comprehensive economic development strategy has been approved under section 302 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3162) before the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall ensure that such grant recipient is only required to update such comprehensive economic development strategy to comply with the amendments made by this Act when a regularly scheduled update to such comprehensive economic development strategy is required.

**SEC. 3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION CARES ACT FUNDING.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not more than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the inspector general of the Department of Commerce shall submit to Congress a report on the activities and outcomes of economic adjustment assistance funding provided by the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136).

(b) *CONTENTS.*—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) each recipient that received economic adjustment assistance funding from such Act; and

(2) the corresponding project that received economic adjustment assistance funding from the CARES Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. WILLIAMS) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEBSTER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5547, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the Care is an Economic Development Strategy Act.

I would like to start by honoring my coauthor of this bill, who recently passed away unexpectedly, Congressman Don Young, the longest-serving Member of this body, the dean of the

House. As my partner on this bill, I got to see his dedication to serving the people up close.

Even though he is no longer with us in this Chamber, I know that Congressman Young would be proud that the full House is considering the bill we worked so hard on together to help our kids and our communities.

We authored this legislation with a simple idea in mind: Investing in care will help get people back to work, create good-paying jobs, and create a stronger economy for everyone.

I know this firsthand as the working mom of my 6-year-old son, my Carter Cakes. My ability to be standing before you today is dependent on making sure that my Carter Cakes is safe and cared for. Let me tell you all, it can even be difficult for families like mine.

When I was pregnant with Carter, we struggled to find childcare that was affordable and accessible. Today, it is up to my husband, Leslie, and me to make sure that Carter continues to be cared for so I can serve the people.

Just this month, my husband had to take a day off from his job so that I could make a last-minute trip to D.C. when school was closed for a teacher workday. Later that same week, it was my turn. It became “Bring Carter to Work Day.” So, in Atlanta, Leslie traveled to do his job, and I was home with Carter as he attended many Zoom sessions in Congress.

We have made it work, but unfortunately, during this pandemic, not everyone has been as lucky as my family.

Earlier this week, I visited Our House, a childcare center in my district that serves some of the most marginalized families, families experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. One of the providers told me that, during the height of the pandemic, a parent told her that she had to reopen because: “Corona may kill me, but poverty definitely will if I can’t go to work and provide for my family.”

□ 1245

Care is not a luxury; it is a lifeline. Women, especially women of color, have been forced to drop out of the labor market at record rates during the COVID pandemic. This impacts the prosperity of our families and our economy at large.

Care is an economic development strategy, and it is time that we treated it like one. My CEDS Act will ensure care accessibility is prioritized for all communities and all constituents.

Currently, economic development districts must consider transportation access, workforce development, technology use, and environmental protection when creating their comprehensive economic development strategies. Right now, there is no mention of considering quality, affordable care-based services. The CEDS Act would simply add this as a consideration.

This bill will treat childcare, early childhood education, disability, long-

term care, and eldercare as essential to communities’ economic development. When we do this, we can help folks return to work, provide for their families, and invigorate our economy while knowing that their loved ones are in good hands.

I bring this bill before you today for every caregiver who has been forced to leave the workforce, for every working parent who has given up on finding a solution that works, for every person who feels forced to choose between their loved ones and their livelihoods. It doesn’t have to be this way, y’all.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support this legislation, for our children, our seniors, and our families nationwide.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,

Washington, DC, March 7, 2022.

Hon. PETER DEFAZIO,  
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing concerning H.R. 5547, the “Care is an Economic Development Strategy Act.” In order to permit H.R. 5547 to proceed expeditiously to the House Floor, I agree to forgo formal consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Financial Services takes this action to forego formal consideration of H.R. 5547 in light of our mutual understanding that, by foregoing formal consideration of H.R. 5547 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward with regard to any matters in the Committee’s jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation that involves the Committee’s jurisdiction and request your support for any such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and I would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H.R. 5547.

Sincerely,

MAXINE WATERS,  
Chairwoman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington DC, March 7, 2022.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,  
Chairwoman, Committee on Financial Services,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN WATERS: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5547, the Care is an Economic Development Strategy Act. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that by foregoing formal consideration on H.R. 5547, the Committee on Financial Services does not waive any future jurisdictional claims to provisions in this or similar legislation, and that your Committee will be consulted and involved on any matters in your Committee’s jurisdiction should this legislation move forward. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number

of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving provisions within this legislation on which the Committee on Financial Services has a valid jurisdictional claim.

I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation, and I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 5547.

Sincerely,

PETER A. DEFazio,  
Chair.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 5547, the Care is an Economic Development Strategy Act, will ensure that recipients of Economic Development Administration grants consider the availability of childcare, early childhood education, disability, and eldercare in their comprehensive economic development strategy.

This helps ensure that the children, the elderly, and those with disabilities who live in rural and distressed communities are rightfully included in economic development planning.

Our friend and colleague from Alaska, the late Don Young, cosponsored this legislation as the Republican champion for this bill. It is an example of the commitment he had to bipartisanship and to supporting efforts to help distressed communities not only in Alaska, but throughout the Nation.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, in closing, H.R. 5547 ensures childcare and early childhood education, as well as disability and eldercare are components of local comprehensive economic development strategies.

I thank the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. Young) for championing this issue on our side of the aisle and note our deepest appreciation for his work.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation as care is an economic development strategy.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CHU). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5547, 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.

Mr. ROSENDALE. 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.

#### JOSEPH WOODROW HATCHETT UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE AND FEDERAL BUILDING

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2938) to designate the United States Courthouse and Federal Building located at 111 North Adams Street in Tallahassee, Florida, as the "Joseph Woodrow Hatchett United States Courthouse and Federal Building", and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2938

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. JOSEPH WOODROW HATCHETT UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE AND FEDERAL BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States Courthouse and Federal Building located at 111 North Adams Street in Tallahassee, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Joseph Woodrow Hatchett United States Courthouse and Federal Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States Courthouse and Federal Building referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Joseph Woodrow Hatchett United States Courthouse and Federal Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. WILLIAMS) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEBSTER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 2938.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2938, which designates the Federal Building at 111 North Adams Street in Tallahassee, Florida, as the Joseph Woodrow Hatchett United States Courthouse and Federal Building.

Born during the days of segregation, Judge Hatchett grew up in Clearwater, Florida. He graduated from Florida A&M University in 1954 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. He entered Howard University School of Law in 1956, and when he took the Florida Bar Exam in 1959, Jim Crow regulations prevented him from staying in the hotel where the test was administered.

After admission to the Florida Bar, Judge Hatchett entered private prac-

tice in Daytona Beach, practicing criminal, civil, administrative, and civil rights law in State and Federal courts.

A series of judicial appointments that began in 1971 ultimately led to his placement on the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals by President Jimmy Carter in 1979, making Judge Hatchett the first Black man appointed to a Federal appeals court in the Deep South. Judge Hatchett retired from the bench in 1999 and passed away in April of 2021 at the age of 88.

A House companion to this bill, H.R. 4771, was introduced by Congressman LAWSON and had the support of the entire Florida Congressional delegation. The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure passed H.R. 4771 in 2021.

Madam Speaker, I support S. 2938, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of bill, S. 2938, which designates the Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Tallahassee, Florida, as the Joseph Woodrow Hatchett United States Courthouse and Federal Building.

I am an original cosponsor of the companion bill, H.R. 4771, as well as the entire Florida delegation. Judge Hatchett served as the first African-American Justice on the Florida Supreme Court. Later, he was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the United States Fifth District Court of Appeals where he served as Chief Judge from 1996 to 1999 when he retired.

He was a good man, a good friend, and someone I knew very, very well. This is a well-deserved appointment and naming.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, in closing, I again recognize Joseph Woodrow Hatchett and his service to our country. He was a great man, and it will be a great honor for the Federal building and U.S. courthouse to be named after him.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2938.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ROSENDALE. 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.