

and urban areas in their outreach and how they get the word out that they are there to help them.

Thankfully, Representative PAPPAS and I have heard the message from GAO. It is loud and clear. We have the right answer, and it is the answer small businesses may be looking for. That answer, Madam Speaker, is the Rural Small Business Resilience Act.

I ask my colleagues to support small business and support small business owners by voting “yes” today on H.R. 7984. It could very well be a game changer for small business.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS), the sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member and Chairman WILLIAMS for bringing this piece of legislation to the floor.

I rise in support of bipartisan legislation that works to support our rural small businesses and entrepreneurs. In my State of New Hampshire, small businesses are our big business, and we must advance legislation that meets their needs and supports the economies of our local communities.

I introduced this bill alongside Representative BEAN, as well as Representatives GOLDEN and MANN, and I am grateful for their leadership on this issue.

This bipartisan bill would require the SBA to develop specific outreach policies and procedures for rural communities and ensure that rural small businesses have full access to SBA disaster assistance.

It would specifically tailor outreach and marketing plans for the SBA’s disaster loan program to address challenges rural communities face in accessing disaster relief. Rural small businesses face unique challenges, and we must ensure that we are taking every step possible to see that they have access to the full spectrum of resources and support, especially with regard to disaster preparedness and relief.

As we continue to see extreme weather events impacting our communities, this legislation couldn’t be more important.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill on the floor today.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, as witnessed over recent years, the number and cost of weather and climate disasters, such as tornadoes and wildfires, have been increasing across the United States.

Approximately 20 percent of the U.S. population lives in rural areas, representing 97 percent of land area, according to the 2020 Census. GAO has recommended the SBA distinguish between rural and urban communities in its outreach and marketing to disaster areas. Such targeted outreach and marketing to rural communities can make a significant difference.

□ 1600

I thank Mr. PAPPAS and Mr. BEAN for putting crazy town partisan antics aside and coming together to craft a bill that truly makes a difference for rural America.

Madam Speaker, I urge Members to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, national disasters are devastating, and it is important that Americans understand what resources are available regardless of where they live.

I, once again, thank Representatives PAPPAS and BEAN for their work on this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7984.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRANSPARENCY AND PREDICTABILITY IN SMALL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES ACT

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8014) to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to issue rules for cancelled covered solicitations, to amend the Small Business Act to provide assistance to small business concerns relating to certain cancelled solicitations, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8014

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 “Transparency and Predictability in Small Business Opportunities Act”.

SEC. 2. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION RULES FOR CANCELLED COVERED SOLICITATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall issue rules to carry out the following actions:

(1) Disclose information about a covered solicitation that was issued and cancelled that includes the following:

(A) A justification for the cancellation of such covered solicitation.

(B) Available information about any plans to reissue such covered solicitation and any associated timeframes for such reissuance.

(C) Available information about any plans to include the requirements such covered solicitation in another contract or task order of the Federal agency.

(2) With respect to a cancelled covered solicitation which the Federal agency does not intend to reissue, procedures for the referral

of a small business concern that prepared a bid for such covered solicitation to the Director of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (as defined in section 15(k) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(k))) of the Federal agency for assistance in identifying similar contracting opportunities.

(b) PUBLICATION.—The information required under subsection (a) shall be made publicly accessible on the single governmentwide point of entry described under section 1708 of title 41, United States Code.

(c) COVERED SOLICITATION DEFINED.—The term “covered solicitation” means a solicitation of a Federal agency for a procurement for which two or more small business concerns were eligible to submit a bid.

SEC. 3. DUTIES FOR DIRECTORS OF OFFICES OF SMALL AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS UTILIZATION RELATING TO CERTAIN CANCELLED SOLICITATIONS.

Section 15(k) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(k)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (21), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(22) shall, when notified by a small business concern that a Federal agency cancelled a solicitation for which such concern prepared a bid and such Federal agency does not intend to reissue, assist such concern with identifying similar contracting opportunities.”.

SEC. 4. COMPLIANCE WITH CUTGO.

No additional amounts are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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 the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8014, the Transparency and Predictability in Small Business Opportunities Act sponsored by Representatives MFUME and ALFORD.

H.R. 8014 seeks to bring clarity to small business owners when an agency cancels a contract solicitation. Small businesses spend an incredible amount of time and resources preparing to bid on government contracts. When an agency cancels a contract solicitation, the small businesses that started preparing are left with nothing to show for their work. Furthermore, there is little clarity about what the agency will do with the products and services it originally intended to purchase.

H.R. 8014 will require agencies to share with the SBA its future plans with the canceled solicitation and a

justification as to why it was canceled all while providing assistance to small businesses who were impacted by the cancellation by helping them identify similar contracting opportunities.

Small businesses deserve to have a full understanding of what opportunities are available to them and deserve to know how agencies will fulfill their buying needs.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote for H.R. 8014, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 8014, the Transparency and Predictability in Small Business Opportunities Act introduced by Mr. MFUME and Mr. ALFORD.

This legislation requires the government to provide information to small business contractors when they cancel solicitations.

The government has flexibility to change requirements and solicitations as needed when their circumstances change. While this flexibility is necessary, the small businesses take on the risk and can incur losses when it happens.

Requiring an agency to disclose the reasons behind a cancellation and any plans for the work will provide small contractors with a little more information to adjust their business plans and operations accordingly.

This is a commonsense strategy to provide some relief to small contractors, and that is why I support this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD).

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to thank Chairman WILLIAMS and Majority Leader SCALISE for helping get H.R. 8014, the Transparency and Predictability in Small Business Opportunities Act, to this very House floor.

I am honored to serve on the Small Business Committee, especially having been a small business owner myself. The committee exists in Congress to champion Main Street and to make sure that the small businesses that employ about half of all Americans can continue to thrive.

Madam Speaker, our role is to help lower the barriers to creating small businesses and to support small businesses that already exist. It is quite simple, and I think this bill helps with that.

Major tools to help existing small businesses are government contracts specifically set aside for small businesses.

However, Federal agencies cancel contract solicitations often with no warning and no reason, leaving the small businesses that spent thousands or tens of thousands of dollars and a lot of time preparing these bids out in

the cold. They have no idea why their deal did not go through.

This bill, the Transparency and Predictability in Small Business Opportunities Act, will help address the problem.

This legislation would require agencies to provide to the SBA a justification for canceled contract solicitations. Additionally, this would require the agency canceling the contract solicitation to disclose available information about plans to reissue similar solicitations.

Finally, Madam Speaker, if the agency does not plan on reissuing solicitations, the agency's director of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization must assist the small business in identifying similar contracting opportunities.

I am proud to co-lead this legislation, along with Mr. MFUME of Maryland, and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill and supporting Main Street America.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. MFUME), the ranking member of the Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations Subcommittee.

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I thank Chair ROGER WILLIAMS and Ranking Member NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ for their cooperation in getting this piece of legislation to the floor.

This amendment represents, in many respects, the sort of amendments that are bipartisan that have come about under their leadership, first in this Congress and then in the previous Congress when their roles had been reversed. It is a good process to have, and I honestly hope that other committees can follow the example here.

The U.S. Federal Government, in case people don't know, is the largest customer in the entire world. The government spends more than \$690 billion every year on products and on services and is required by law to have those services meet the application, meet the solicitation, and then be considered properly. The government requires also by law that it gives equal consideration to businesses where applicable.

Once an agency has evaluated and assessed their needs, acquisition personnel will post a solicitation on the Federal Government's System for Award Management. It is also commonly known as SAM.gov.

That posting then is used to document and to track the eligibility of an individual or an entity to be able to receive Federal funds.

Now, winning a contract can secure for a small business tens of thousands of dollars for their products or their services where applicable, which also results, obviously, in huge financial gains, but the problem here is that this is not a simple feat.

Successfully securing a government contract requires fortitude and tenacity over and over again, day in and day out, as small businesses will need to do

in order to be able to take advantage of that solicitation.

Now, not only can it take a long time for a small business to win their first government contract, but it also requires a significant amount of financial resources. They have to be invested in the process.

Some businesses in this country spend on average \$80,000 to \$130,000 just to be able to earn their first contract. They have to get the right consultants. They have to put together the right teams. They need the right expertise that goes above and beyond what their capabilities are, and it is work, work, work.

Additionally, it can take small business owners up to 2 years to start making a return on that same investment, making the need for an adequate cash flow absolutely essential. You have to be able to ride that tide, as many small businesses will tell you, and cash flow is a huge part of that.

Now, despite the prospective award-ees' heavy lift, and it is a heavy lift, agencies on their own, unilaterally, without reason, can cancel the solicitation without ever disclosing why, leaving the small businessperson or the small minority business left on their own to recoup the money that they have put in and also being unable to bid right away on something else.

It leaves entrepreneurs in the dark. It causes them to be depleted of their resources and absent of any guidance on a path moving forward. The government doesn't say we have taken your solicitation, here is what you have to do. They just say we have canceled the solicitation, and then the small business entity has to figure out what they do next after that large investment.

Small business owners, in my opinion, deserve better allies in the Federal Government. That is why the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD) and I have put together in a bipartisan way the Transparency and Predictability in Small Business Opportunities Act. We think it is a remedy for a very serious problem.

The act requires the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to issue regulations that would provide for the disclosure of additional information when a small business solicitation is canceled.

In other words, if you are going to make a unilateral decision, you have to at least tell the small businesses who have invested money in trying to provide for that why you did it. We have a good SBA Administrator. I think that she just needs the right kind of language in a bill and the authority to be able to do just that.

The bill would also require the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization to help small businesses seek additional opportunities if a solicitation that they bid on is arbitrarily and unilaterally canceled.

It is my hope and the hope of the gentleman from Missouri as well that we are able to provide them with the

opportunities they need to be able to continue to grow and develop their businesses and the opportunity to be successful rather than to be in a punitive situation where we offer bait and then snatch it back after businesses are, in fact, vested on a course of winning a contract.

Small businesses, needless to say, really have been the driving force in our economy, and I know that Mr. WILLIAMS and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ will agree. After all the hard work these small businesses do, they deserve the courtesy of disclosure from the Federal Government and its contracting agencies.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor of this.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I am in support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, this bill will prevent small businesses from being left with nothing to show for contracting opportunities that never materialize for one reason or another. It is my hope that this will increase the number of small businesses willing to take the leap of faith to compete for government contracts.

Before I yield back, I thank Representative MFUME for this bill and all the work he has done for small businesses throughout the years. I appreciate it very much.

While he may no longer be serving on our committee for the remainder of the 118th Congress, I appreciate his contributions that he has made throughout the years to America's entrepreneurs, and he is my friend.

Madam Speaker, I urge all 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 gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8014.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1615

FORGOTTEN HEROES OF THE HOLOCAUST CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mr. FLOOD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 537) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 537

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 "Forgotten Heroes of the Holocaust Congressional Gold Medal Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The following diplomats will be honored posthumously: Per Anger (Sweden), Jose Maria Barreto (Peru), Lars Berg (Sweden), Philippe Bernardini (Vatican / Italy), Hiram (Harry) Bingham IV (United States), Friedrich Born (Switzerland), Manuel Antonio Muñoz Borrero (Ecuador), Carlos de Liz-Texeira Branquinho (Portugal), Eduardo Propper de Callejón (Spain), Samuel del Campo (Chile), Aracy Moebius Carvalho de Guimarães Rosa (Brazil), José Arturo Castellanos (El Salvador), Carl Ivan Danielsson (Sweden), Luis Martins de Souza Dantas (Brazil), Georg Ferdinand Duckwitz (Germany), Harald Feller (Switzerland), Francis (Frank) Foley (United Kingdom), Jean-Edouard Friedrich (Switzerland), Carlos Almeida Afonseca de Sampaio Garrido (Portugal), Raymond Herman Geist (United States), Feng-Shan Ho (China), Constantin Karadja (Romania), Alexander Kasser (Sándor Kasza) (Sweden / Hungary), Elow Kihlgren (Sweden), Joseph Willem (Joop) Kolkman (Netherlands), Julius Kühl (Switzerland), Aleksander Lados (Poland), Valdemar Langlet (Sweden), Charles (Carl) Lutz (Switzerland), George Mandel-Mantello (El Salvador), Florian Manoliu (Romania), Aristides de Sousa Mendes (Portugal), Salomon Jacob (Sally) Noach (Netherlands), Giorgio (Jorge) Perlasca (Spain / Italy), Ernst Prodolliet (Switzerland), Franjo Punčuh (Yugoslavia / Slovenia), Sebastián de Romero Radigales (Spain), Konstany Rokicki (Poland), Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli (Vatican / Italy), Angelo Rotta (Vatican / Italy), Albert Emile Routier (Turkey), Stefan Ryniewicz (Poland), Gilberto Bosques Saldivar (Mexico), José Ruiz Santaella (Spain), Angel Sanz-Briz (Spain), Abdol-Hossein Sardari (Iran), Henryk Slawik (Poland), Robert Smallbones (United Kingdom), Ján Spišiak (Slovakia), Chiune (Sempo) Sugihara (Japan), Ireanaeus Typaldos (Spain), Alexander (Sándor) Újváry (Vatican / Hungary), Selahattin Ülkümen (Turkey), Gennaro Verolino (Vatican / Italy), Vladimir Vochoč (Czech Republic), Ernst Vonrufs (Switzerland), Raoul Wallenberg (Sweden), Guelfo Zamboni (Italy), Peter Zürcher (Switzerland), and Jan Zwartendijk (Holland).

(2) On September 1, 1939, Adolf Hitler and the Nazis began their invasion of Europe, which started World War II and threw the world into chaos. The Nazi plan of mass murder of the Jewish population was in full motion. As battles were being fought between countries, Jews were being rounded up and sent to concentration camps throughout Europe. This process began a mass exodus of people out of Europe, especially those in the Jewish community.

(3) During the war, members of the Jewish community used every tool and means at their disposal to flee Nazi tyranny. Thousands tried to flee on trains or boats to escape from Europe.

(4) While the armies of countries were fighting each other, a handful of diplomats, from around the world, stepped forward and took heroic actions to save Jews fleeing Europe. This was an incredibly dangerous process. If the Nazis discovered the actions of these diplomats they would be expelled, as a few of them were. Also, while worrying about the Nazis, diplomats had to worry about their careers and livelihoods back home. Many of them had strict orders from their home countries to not aid the Jewish population in any way.

(5) These diplomats used every means at their disposal to help Jews fleeing persecu-

tion. One of the most powerful tools the diplomats had to use was the issuing of passports and travel visas contrary to the instruction of the governments of the diplomats. This process alone is responsible for saving hundreds of thousands of Jewish families in Europe. This was not the only tool used as many of the diplomats were connected with the local populations and were great communicators for Jews trying to travel underground. They were able set up safehouses and getaways to hide Jews and especially Jewish children from Nazi authorities. In the most dangerous of times, several of these diplomats confronted the Nazis directly on behalf of the Jews and personally put themselves in grave danger.

(6) Every diplomat knew the dangers and knew what they were up against, and still pushed forward to save those in the most danger.

(7) The Congressional Gold Medal authorized under this Act will help remind humanity that when the diplomats were faced with terrible crises, they went beyond the fold, including risking their careers and the lives of themselves and their families, to engage in this humanitarian mission. The diplomats of today and future generations can look towards these heroes and be inspired by their lives of heroism and sacrifice.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the 60 diplomats identified in section 2(1), in recognition of their brave and vital service of saving Jews during World War II.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) PRESENTATION OF MEDAL.—The single gold medal presented under subsection (a) shall be presented collectively to the eldest next of kin of each of the 60 diplomats identified in section 2(1), who shall receive the medal as part of a delegation consisting of a senior official representative of the country that each diplomat served and the cochair of the Forgotten Heroes of the Holocaust Committee.

(d) UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal in honor of the 60 diplomats identified in section 2(1), the gold medal shall be given to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, where it will be available for display as appropriate and available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum should make the gold medal awarded pursuant to this Act available for display elsewhere, particularly at appropriate locations associated with Holocaust remembrance.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDAL.—Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United