

(9) Any entity included in Supplement No. 4 to part 744 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(10) Any subsidiary or successor to an entity specified in paragraphs (1) through (9).

(c) TREATMENT OF PRODUCTION.—For purposes of this section, a battery shall be treated as produced by an entity specified in subsection (b) if such entity—

(1) assembles or manufactures the final product that uses such battery; or

(2) creates or otherwise provides a majority of the components used in such battery.

(d) WAIVERS.—

(1) RELATING TO ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may waive the prohibition under subsection (a) if the Secretary assesses in the affirmative all of the following:

(A) The batteries to be procured do not pose a national security, data, or infrastructure risk to the United States.

(B) There is no available alternative to procure batteries that are—

(i) of similar or better cost and quality; and

(ii) produced by an entity not specified in subsection (b).

(2) RELATING TO RESEARCH.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may waive the prohibition under subsection (a) if the Secretary determines that the batteries to be procured are for the sole purpose of research, evaluation, training, testing, or analysis.

(3) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 15 days after granting a waiver under this subsection, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a notification relating thereto.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the anticipated impacts on mission and costs on the Department of Homeland Security associated with carrying out this section, including with respect to following components of the Department:

(1) U.S. Customs and Border Protection, including the U.S. Border Patrol.

(2) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, including Homeland Security Investigations.

(3) The United States Secret Service.

(4) The Transportation Security Administration.

(5) The United States Coast Guard.

(6) The Federal Protective Service.

(7) The Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(8) The Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers.

(9) The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. 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 H.R. 1166.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1166, the Decoupling from Foreign Adversarial Battery Dependence Act.

Our world continues to be incredibly reliant on battery technology. Currently, the People's Republic of China produces the vast majority of the world's batteries. Dependence on batteries that are largely manufactured in an adversarial nation presents a serious risk to national security.

H.R. 1166 will prohibit DHS from procuring battery technology from companies with known ties to the Chinese Communist Party.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague from Florida, Mr. GIMENEZ, for his strong work to address this issue, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

My fellow Democrats and I strongly support the intent of this bill, which is to confront our global adversaries and build up an industrial manufacturing base here at home in the United States. We can't give the Communist Party of China any opportunity to undermine our homeland security, and I support the goal of this legislation to prohibit DHS from buying batteries from certain Chinese companies.

Due to a Democratic amendment to this bill in the last Congress, this prohibition was expanded to include any company using Uyghur forced labor or companies identified by the Secretary of Defense as Chinese military companies and those companies engaged in activities contrary to U.S. national security or foreign policy interests against the United States, according to the Department of Commerce.

This bill also includes Democratic language requiring DHS to produce a report on the potential impacts and costs associated with carrying out the intent of this legislation before it becomes effective. That report will help the DHS and Congress manage any unanticipated negative consequences of this legislation.

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GIMENEZ).

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1166, the Decoupling from Foreign Adversarial Battery Dependence Act.

As Communist China seeks to gain influence in critical industries around the world, the United States must be at the forefront of combating and decoupling from the CCP. This includes battery technology.

As we become more and more dependent on battery technology, we need to ensure that these batteries are sourced

from nonadversarial countries. As it stands, Communist China produces approximately 80 percent of the world's batteries and roughly 70 percent of the world's lithium ion batteries. This dependence puts U.S. supply chains at risk and threatens our national security.

Our government should not be spending tax dollars to procure batteries from companies that profit from slave labor or provide another avenue for the CCP to expand their surveillance apparatus here in the United States. As an agency tasked with protecting the homeland, the Department of Homeland Security should not be procuring batteries from a geopolitical adversary.

H.R. 1166, the Decoupling from Foreign Adversarial Battery Dependence Act, is a critical first step in addressing this issue. Modeled after previous provisions included in the FY 2024 NDAA, my legislation builds off of these efforts and prohibits the Department of Homeland Security from procuring batteries from companies that have deep ties to the CCP and engage in human rights abuses.

H.R. 1166 helps our Nation take a step forward in advancing our efforts to decouple from the PRC and safeguard critical supply chains from exploitation.

I am proud that this bill passed out of the Committee on Homeland Security in a bipartisan manner last Congress and was passed on the House floor. I look forward to seeing it pass and becoming law in the 119th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Before I close, Mr. Speaker, I will note that, in the last Congress, the Senate made further improvements to this measure not reflected in this bill today. I support advancing H.R. 1166 today so that the Senate can continue to work on this measure. I also thank Mr. GIMENEZ for this legislation.

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. I again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1166, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1166.

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Matthew Hanley, one of his secretaries.

PRODUCING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES FOR HOMELAND SECURITY ACT

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1692) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enable secure and trustworthy technology through other transaction contracting authority, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1692

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 “Producing Advanced Technologies for Homeland Security Act” or the “PATHS Act”.

SEC. 2. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACQUISITION PILOT PROGRAM EXTENSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 831 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Until September 30, 2024, and subject to subsection (d)” and inserting “Until September 30, 2028, and subject to subsection (c)”;

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

“(3) OTHER TRANSACTION AUTHORITY INVOLVING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—Not later than 72 hours after the use or extension of the transaction authority authorized under paragraph (1) involving artificial intelligence technology, the Secretary shall notify the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and offer a briefing explaining the reason for the use or extension.”;

(2) in subsection (c)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “September 30, 2024” and inserting “September 30, 2028”.

(b) REDUCTION IN AMOUNT OF COVERED CONTRACT AWARD.—Subparagraph (A) of section 7113(d)(1) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (6 U.S.C. 112 note; Public Law 117-263) is amended by striking “\$4,000,000” and inserting “\$1,000,000”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1692.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 1692, the PATHS Act.

DHS other transaction agreement, or OTA, authority is an incredibly important tool in the Department’s limited arsenal of mechanisms to acquire new research and prototypes. This bill reauthorizes the Department’s OTA authority and also includes some common-sense transparency reforms to DHS’ use of OTAs.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST), for his work on this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

H.R. 1692 would once again allow the Department of Homeland Security to use other transaction authority, or OTA, for 3 years.

Despite the efforts of Democrats in the House and Senate, DHS lost its OTA authority last year because one Senator allowed it to lapse. OTA was a vital tool that enabled DHS to work with nontraditional government contractors to more quickly obtain cutting-edge emerging technologies that addressed evolving threats.

Since September 2024, the lapse in OTA, 50 projects have been disrupted, including 1 that led to identifying fraudulent documents, improving passenger screening, and enhancing disaster response.

Furthermore, 26 projects with approximately \$20 million invested in them, taxpayer-invested money, are at the risk of being terminated by OTA at this time. These projects include projects such as border security, cybersecurity, counternarcotic security, and a few others.

The expiration of DHS’ other transaction authority essentially will mean inefficiency and waste, things that will impede the Department’s ability to develop solutions to keep our homeland safe.

It is past time, Mr. Speaker, to advance this legislation and bring back DHS’ ability to develop novel homeland security technologies.

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST).

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1692, the Producing Advanced Technologies for Homeland Security Act, which I am proud to have introduced along with Congressman SHRI THANEDAR.

The Department of Homeland Security has a constantly evolving mission. To meet those threats, the Department was previously granted the authority to enter into other transactional agreements, commonly known as OTAs.

These legally binding agreements allowed the Department to engage with nontraditional contractors that would not normally do business with the Federal Government. This includes small business innovators, public universities, and other cutting-edge technological incubators that help meet the

research and development needs of the Department of Homeland Security.

These entities have produced technology that serves as a force multiplier to our Border Patrol agents and include technology that assists agents in cargo and vehicle screening that can detect illegal substances attempting to be smuggled into the United States.

The applicability and usefulness of this authority has been demonstrated recently in my home State of Mississippi, as the University of Southern Mississippi played a leading role in developing sensors for unmanned vehicles for use by both DHS and the United States Coast Guard. Unfortunately, this was allowed to expire on September 30, 2024.

My bill would reauthorize and extend the program’s OTA authority by 3 years, to 2028, while also providing additional safeguards for the American taxpayer.

The bill would also require advanced notification to Congress should the authority be used in advancement of artificial intelligence technology. Given the rapid advancement in AI, it is critical that Congress remain informed and aware of how Federal agencies are utilizing AI to advance their mission.

To ensure greater transparency, the safeguards in this bill would require DHS to report on its website any contract in excess of \$1 million, reducing the amount that was previously required to be reported from \$4 million to \$1 million.

As we look to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse, this legislation has increased transparency requirements to ensure maximum accountability to the American people.

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Again, I thank Mr. THANEDAR for his work on this important legislation, and I appreciate Chairman GREEN and the committee staff for their work on this issue. I urge all Members to support H.R. 1692.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives MICHAEL GUEST and SHRI THANEDAR for sponsoring this legislation. I urge all Members to restore other transaction authority to the Department of Homeland Security, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, again, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1692, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1692.

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. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground