

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Mrs. McCLAIN).

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support for my bill, the Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety Act, better known as the WIPPEs Act.

This commonsense, bipartisan bill addresses a costly and growing problem in our communities. Every year, Michiganders' water utilities spend over \$18 million responding to clogs and damage caused by nonflushable wipes. These products, when disposed of incorrectly, create massive blockages in our wastewater systems, which lead to backups, environmental hazards, costly repairs, and, ultimately, higher rates for our constituents.

The solution is simple: clear, honest labeling.

This bill does not ban wipes. It does not burden small businesses. It simply requires manufacturers to label packaging for wipes that aren't designed to be flushed.

This legislation isn't just about preventing clogged pipes. It is about protecting taxpayer dollars and ensuring our infrastructure can last for years to come.

The WIPPEs Act passed the House last Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support, and I am proud to lead this legislation alongside Congressman KEVIN MULLIN again this Congress and call on the Senate to take it up.

Functioning infrastructure and lower utility costs are not partisan issues. They are priorities we should all share.

Let's pass the WIPPEs Act. Let's give our local public works departments, utilities, and consumers the tools they need to keep our systems flowing and our communities safe.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this legislation. I do think that from an environmental point of view and to protect our waste treatment facilities this is important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I encourage a "yes" vote on this particular bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2269.

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.

AWNING SAFETY ACT OF 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1767) to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a mandatory consumer product safety standard with respect to retractable awnings.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1767

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 "Awning Safety Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARD FOR RETRACTABLE AWNINGS.

(a) CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARD REQUIRED.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Consumer Product Safety Commission shall promulgate, under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, a final consumer product safety standard for fixed and free-standing retractable awnings within the jurisdiction of the Commission to protect against the risk of death or serious injury related to the hazards associated with such awnings, including the risk of death or serious injury related to the awning unexpectedly opening and striking a person while removing the bungee tie-downs for the cover of the awning.

(b) CPSC DETERMINATION OF SCOPE.—The Consumer Product Safety Commission shall specify the types of retractable awning devices within the jurisdiction of the Commission that are within the scope of subsection (a) as part of a standard promulgated under this section, as reasonably necessary to protect against hazards associated with retractable awnings.

(c) TREATMENT OF STANDARD.—A consumer product safety standard promulgated under subsection (a) shall be treated as a consumer product safety rule promulgated under sections 7 and 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2056 and 2058).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on this particular bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1767, the Awning Safety Act of 2025, led by my good friend, Representative BALDERSON.

This legislation directs the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish a consumer product safety standard for retractable awnings to help prevent serious injuries and deaths.

Motorized awnings pose a known hazard to the public, so the CPSC issued a

recall covering 270,000 units following reports of injuries and one tragic death unfortunately. These preventable incidents occur when the tie-downs on the awning unexpectedly release, causing the awning to strike the consumer.

Coming from the State of Florida, I know how important this is, and I know how popular awnings are, but they have to be safe for consumers. Consumers should not have to fear that their awning might suddenly spring open and cause harm. This bill will make sure they won't have that problem.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this particular bill. I commend the primary sponsor, my good friend, Mr. BALDERSON, from the great State of Ohio.

H.R. 1767 should be passed by this body and sent over to the Senate.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 1767, the Awning Safety Act.

In 2019, the Consumer Product Safety Commission issued a recall of 270,000 motorized awnings sold in the United States that had caused six injuries and, tragically, one death. While I commend the CPSC for taking action to protect Americans from this hazardous product, we must do more to ensure that awning products available to consumers are safe, regardless of brand or manufacturer. American families should be able to enjoy the shade without fear of injury or death from the awning that they use.

Now, the Awning Safety Act would require the CPSC to create a safety standard for fixed and freestanding retractable awnings. While the CPSC has taken action through individual recalls on occasion, there is no voluntary or mandatory standard to these awnings, and injuries continue to mount.

In 2023, Dr. Michael Hnat was the father of a former committee Republican staffer, and I believe that she is in the gallery today with her mother. Dr. Hnat was tragically killed as the result of an accident involving a retractable awning. We must act to ensure that other American families do not suffer a similar tragedy because of problems with retractable awnings.

However, compliance with this bill depends on the existence of a strong, bipartisan, and independent CPSC to protect Americans from unsafe products. At the same time as my Republican colleagues praise this bill, they have continued to remain silent on President Trump's willingness to risk the safety of American children and families by attempting to unlawfully remove Democratic CPSC commissioners and planning to eliminate the CPSC altogether.

I am pleased a district court recently upheld the law and reinstated the Democratic commissioners to their posts, but the Trump administration is

fighting that ruling. I remain deeply concerned about this administration's attempt to eradicate the independence of the CPSC and other independent agencies like the CPSC.

I also strongly oppose the Trump administration's ongoing plans to fold the CPSC's mission into the Department of Health and Human Services with a smaller budget, fewer expert staff, and a narrower mission.

American consumers deserve to have peace of mind that the products they bring into their homes are safe. I commend Representatives CASTOR and BALDERSON for their work and leadership on this issue. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1767, the Awning Safety Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BALDERSON).

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BILIRAKIS for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the Awning Safety Act, which aims to enhance the safety of awnings commonly found in Ohio homes and households across the Nation.

A retractable awning can serve as a valuable source of shade and a gathering spot for families and friends. However, they can pose a significant risk to consumers.

This legislation directs the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish safety standards for fixed and free-standing awnings typically installed in homes.

My Energy and Commerce Committee colleagues and I learned of the serious risks surrounding awnings when tragedy struck the family of Olivia Shields, a staff member of the committee at the time.

As Ranking Member PALLONE said, she and her family are in the gallery today. Her father, Michael Hnat, was carrying out a routine household task of taking down the retractable awning from the family home in Ohio. He was on the ladder when the spring-loaded arm of the awning unexpectedly shot out at him, forcing his ladder to tip and causing him to fall. Michael suffered a severe spinal cord injury, and despite efforts to save him, he tragically passed away a few days later.

His passing affected his family profoundly and reverberated throughout the communities he touched.

Michael was renowned for his kindness, generosity, and selflessness, often going above and beyond to help others in need. He was a devoted family man, cherished husband to Jill, and loving father to their children, Annaliese, Olivia, Abbey, Seamus, Emma; his sons-in-law; and his grandchildren.

Michael's untimely death underscores the importance of ensuring the safety of household products like awnings, and by passing this legislation today, we can prevent further tragedies.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, obviously, this is an important bill from a

consumer safety point of view. I urge all my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this particular piece of legislation in memory of Dr. Michael Hnat, a cherished part of the Energy and Commerce Committee family, who tragically lost his life, as has been said, in an awning accident. I thank his family for joining us here today.

Mr. Speaker, let's pass this good bill in his memory, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1767.

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.

DEPLOYING AMERICAN BLOCKCHAINS ACT OF 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1664) to direct the Secretary of Commerce to take actions necessary and appropriate to promote the competitiveness of the United States related to the deployment, use, application, and competitiveness of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1664

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 "Deploying American Blockchains Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY OR OTHER DISTRIBUTED LEDGER TECHNOLOGY.**—The term "blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology" means a distributed digital database where data is—

(A) shared across a network of computers to create a ledger of verified information among network participants;

(B) linked using cryptography to maintain the integrity of the ledger and to execute other functions; and

(C) distributed among network participants in an automated fashion to concurrently update network participants on the state of the ledger and other functions.

(2) **COVERED NONGOVERNMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES.**—The term "covered nongovernmental representatives" means representatives as specified in the second sentence of section 135(b)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155(b)(1)), except that such term does not include representatives of non-Federal Governments.

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce.

(4) **STATE.**—The term "State" means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

(5) **TOKEN.**—The term "token" means a transferable, digital representation of information recorded on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology.

(6) **TOKENIZATION.**—The term "tokenization" means the process of creating a token.

SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE LEADERSHIP ON BLOCKCHAIN.

(a) **FUNCTION OF SECRETARY.**—The Secretary shall serve as a principal advisor to the President for policy pertaining to the deployment, use, application, and competitiveness of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization.

(b) **ACTIVITIES.**—The Secretary shall take actions necessary and appropriate to support the leadership of the United States with respect to the deployment, use, application, and competitiveness of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization, including by—

(1) developing policies and recommendations on issues and risks related to the deployment, use, application, and competitiveness of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization, including the issues of decentralized identity, cybersecurity, key storage and security systems, artificial intelligence, fraud reduction, regulatory compliance, e-commerce, health care applications, and supply chain resiliency;

(2) supporting and promoting the stability, maintenance, improvement, and security of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;

(3) helping to promote the leadership of the United States with respect to the deployment, use, application, and competitiveness of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization through the establishment of a Blockchain Deployment Program in the Department of Commerce;

(4) promoting the national security and economic security of the United States with respect to blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;

(5) supporting engagement with the public to promote the best practices described in subsection (c);

(6) considering policies and programs to encourage and improve coordination among Federal agencies with respect to the deployment of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;

(7) examining—

(A) how Federal agencies can benefit from utilizing blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;

(B) the current use by Federal agencies of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;