

This legislation is about strengthening the first line of defense in our Nation's cybersecurity. While we often focus on Federal networks and high-profile national systems, the reality is that many of the services Americans depend on every single day are run by State and local governments.

When a resident pays a utility bill online, when a police department dispatches an officer, or when a hospital connects to a county network, all of those activities rely on State and local systems that are now squarely in the sights of foreign adversaries and criminal groups.

As a former county executive in Tennessee, I saw firsthand how limited budgets, aging systems, and staffing constraints can leave local governments struggling to keep up with modern cyber threats.

Many smaller jurisdictions only operate with a handful of IT staff and, in some cases, with none at all. Yet, they are expected to defend against the same nation-state actors that target major corporations and Federal agencies. That is not a fair fight, and it is not a sustainable model for national security.

The State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program at the Department of Homeland Security was created to help close that gap by providing targeted assistance to those States, territories, and local governments so that they can assess the risk, modernize outdated systems, and build real cyber resilience.

The PILLAR Act reauthorizes and strengthens this program so that it reflects the threat environment we face today and the technological landscape that State and local partners are actually operating in.

This bill makes several important updates. It ensures that the program covers not only traditional information technology systems but also operational technology and systems that incorporate artificial intelligence. That means that we are recognizing the reality that cyber risk now extends to everything from industrial control systems at water treatment plants to connected devices at public safety networks to AI-enabled tools used by local agencies.

The bill encourages the adoption of basic but powerful best practices, such as multifactor authentication and stronger identity and access management tools across State and local networks.

It promotes continuous vulnerability assessment and monitoring so that jurisdictions can detect and mitigate threats before those threats turn into major incidents. It also emphasizes the importance of good cyber hygiene, modern configuration management, and alignment with frameworks developed by CISA and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Importantly, the PILLAR Act recognizes that not all communities start from the same place. It directs out-

reach and support to rural areas and jurisdictions with small populations, which are often the least resourced but still operate critical services.

It encourages partnerships with academic and nonprofit organizations, including cybersecurity clinics and other technical assistance providers that can help these communities develop and implement their cyber plans. This bill also guards against the use of Federal grant dollars on technology that introduces additional risk.

□ 1710

It prohibits the use of funds to purchase software or hardware from foreign entities of concern when those products do not align with CISA guidance, and it directs grantees to follow secure-by-design recommendations so that public money is not spent on tools that undermine security.

We also provide more predictability around cost share requirements so that States and local governments can plan over the long term.

The legislation maintains a strong Federal commitment while encouraging jurisdictions to invest in sustaining the improvements they make.

For those that implement multifactor authentication and related protections by a certain date, the bill provides additional flexibility in the Federal cost share to reward that proactive work.

This is a bipartisan bill. I am proud to have worked closely with Chairman GARBARINO and Representatives SWALWELL and EVANS on this critical legislation, and appreciate the support it has received from Members on both sides of the aisle.

We share the same goal, which is to help our communities defend themselves against increasingly sophisticated cyber threats and to ensure continuity of essential services for the American people.

Supporting the PILLAR Act is about more than technology. It is about public trust. When a local government falls victim to ransomware and emergency services are delayed, when a school district loses student records, or when basic services are interrupted, citizens lose confidence in those institutions.

This bill helps prevent those outcomes by equipping State and local leaders with the resources and tools they need to prepare.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5078 and to stand with the State, local, Tribal, and territorial partners who are on the front lines of our cyber defense every day.

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

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5078, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I, again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5078, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5078, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### BOTTLES AND BREASTFEEDING EQUIPMENT SCREENING ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. GARBARINO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 260) to amend the Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act to require hygienic handling of breast milk and baby formula by security screening personnel of the Transportation Security Administration and personnel of private security companies providing security screening, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 260

*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 "Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Enhancement Act".

#### SEC. 2. HYGIENIC HANDLING OF BREAST MILK AND BABY FORMULA DURING AVIATION SECURITY SCREENING.

The Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act (Public Law 114-293) is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

#### "SEC. 3. HYGIENIC HANDLING OF BREAST MILK AND BABY FORMULA DURING AVIATION SECURITY SCREENING.

"Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section and every five years thereafter, if appropriate, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall issue or update, as the case may be, guidance to minimize the risk for contamination of any breast milk, baby formula, purified deionized water for infants, and juice (as well as ice packs, freezer packs, frozen gel packs and other accessories required to cool breast milk, baby formula, and juice) that is subject to re-screening or otherwise subject to additional screening. Such guidance shall—

"(1) be developed in consultation with nationally recognized maternal health organizations;

"(2) ensure adherence to hygienic standards, as established by the Administrator, in consultation with nationally recognized maternal health organizations;

"(3) ensure that, when any such re-screening or additional screening requires additional testing, such testing so adheres to such standards, to so minimize such risk; and

"(4) apply to security screening personnel of the Administration and personnel of private security companies providing security screening pursuant to section 44920 of title 49, United States Code.

#### "SEC. 4. INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDIT.

"Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on

Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing an audit of compliance with the requirements of sections 2 and 3. Such audit shall also include information relating to the effect of various types of screening technologies, including bottled liquid scanners, on the screening of breast milk, baby formula, purified deionized water for infants, and juice (as well as ice packs, freezer packs, frozen gel packs and other accessories required to cool breast milk, baby formula, and juice) that is subject to re-screening or otherwise subject to additional screening, and the rate at which such items are denied entry into the sterile area (as such term is defined in section 1540.5 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations).”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO) and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. HERNÁNDEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GARBARINO. 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 S. 260.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 260, the Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Enhancement Act.

This legislation will require the administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to update guidance related to screening of infant feeding materials. It will make the airport experience more bearable for traveling families. I thank my Democratic colleague, Mr. SWALWELL, for leading the House version of this legislation, H.R. 820, through the committee earlier this year.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 260, the Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Enhancement Act.

This is a straightforward bill that directs the Transportation Security Administration to update or issue guidance to adhere to hygienic standards to reduce the risk of contamination of breast milk, baby formula, juice, and purified water during TSA screening.

The bill would also require TSA to consult with nationally recognized maternal health organizations to help develop guidelines and establish hygienic screening standards for these items.

Traveling with kids is a difficult, stressful experience for many parents and caretakers, one that I expect to undertake beginning in January.

For many new moms, in particular, TSA screening has proven a particularly challenging experience as well-meaning officers enforce inconsistent and opaque screening requirements.

Far too many parents have been left wondering if their breast milk or formula is still safe to give to an infant after TSA has handled and screened it.

This bill would help enforce hygienic practices and make screening less stressful for new parents while maintaining security standards.

Madam Speaker, I thank Senator DUCKWORTH for her leadership on this topic, as well as my colleague Congressman SWALWELL, who sponsored the House companion to this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL), the author of the House version of this bill.

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Enhancement Act.

Air travel with children is a nightmare, and I am just talking for the nonparents who have to deal with them at an airport. For parents, it is hell. It is like an Olympic sport. It is like going through a gauntlet dragging little kids who just want to be attached to tablets or anything but the directions that you are giving to them to hopefully get them from the entrance of the airport to the plane.

Oftentimes with little kids, you have, in transit with them, a mother who is breastfeeding. Many of us have experienced going through airport security where our TSA agents, who are good natured and just doing their jobs, can really slow down, jam up, clog, and delay this experience.

For practicality's sake, the last thing you want for your kids to experience when you are trying to move them from the gate to the plane, is any interruption or delay. For traveling moms, it is humiliating to have your breast milk sorted through by TSA agents. It doesn't feel very safe to have agents open up the breast milk. Too many moms have shared with me that working moms are often traveling on their own without their kids, but they are still pumping, pumping and dumping as they would call it, and are asked by TSA agents, what are you doing with breast milk if you don't have kids with you, which is another level of shame that is brought upon the mothers because they already feel guilty that they are not with their kids.

It doesn't have to be this way.

My friend from New York (Mr. GARBARINO), who has helped me shepherd this bill through the Homeland Security Committee, has given me a good snicker and a smirk over there because he probably sees me as the least likely person to bring this bill forward

and he is the least likely ally that I have on the other side, but the two of us are smart enough to listen to women and families.

Madam Speaker, I will share the origin of this bill because it is a success story for anybody who believes that they can write to their legislator and see a change in the laws that govern us. I thank scientist Emily Calandrelli, a Californian whose advocacy and personal testimony brought national attention to this issue. She wrote about the exact experience I described, traveling as a working mother without her kids and being asked why she had breast milk but no children. Her experience made it clear to many parents who have faced similar challenges.

I thank Senator DUCKWORTH for leading the charge in the Senate and sending us this bill so quickly as well as Representatives SALAZAR, PETTERSEN, and LUNA for their unwavering advocacy for traveling mothers.

I also thank my former colleague, KATIE PORTER of Orange County, who introduced this bill in prior Congresses. It is a commonsense bill, and it is rightfully a bipartisan effort.

Compounding the chaos with the anxiety that mothers face are TSA screeners who have inadequate or confusing guidelines as to what they are supposed to do with breast milk. The Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Enhancement Act strengthens and streamlines TSA's screening procedures so parents can travel with dignity, confidence, and peace of mind.

□ 1720

It requires TSA to work with maternal health experts to create clear, science-based guidelines for screening breast milk, formula, and pumping equipment. It ensures TSA officers receive proper training so that every parent can travel with confidence that they will not be forced to discard essential nutritional products.

Again, this is not a partisan issue. It is a parenting issue. Unsanitary handling of breast milk and formula puts kids at risk. Mothers who can't pump because TSA held up their equipment can suffer painful, preventable medical complications. Every parent who has traveled with young children knows the stress, as I mentioned, that this creates.

This bill is also about accountability. It directs an independent body to audit TSA's compliance with its own policies, ensuring that violations like those experienced by Ms. Calandrelli and by countless moms who shared their stories do not continue.

Madam Speaker, families deserve better than unnecessary stress at the airport. They deserve clarity, dignity, and a safe travel system that works for them, not against them.

Passing this bill now will send it to the President's desk. I can't promise that passing this bill will make your plane get there on time or give you the upgrade you are so desperately hoping

goes through or make sure that your kids behave, but it does finally make our airports a more welcoming place for parents.

I welcome my colleagues' support and encourage them to support this legislation by voting "yes" on S. 260.

Mr. GARBARINO. Madam Speaker, I have no more speakers and am prepared to close after the gentleman from Puerto Rico closes. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

This is a commonsense bill that will help make traveling a little bit easier for millions of parents.

On behalf of myself and my wife, a future mother, I thank all the Members who are part of this effort, especially Congressman SWALWELL.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I congratulate my colleague (Mr. SWALWELL) on this bill. I am happy to support it. I am very pro-family and pro-parent, and I urge my colleagues to support S. 260.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 260.

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.

#### STRENGTHENING OVERSIGHT OF DHS INTELLIGENCE ACT

Mr. GARBARINO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2261) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance the Department of Homeland Security's oversight of certain intelligence matters, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2261

*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 "Strengthening Oversight of DHS Intelligence Act".

#### SEC. 2. ENHANCED DHS OVERSIGHT OF CERTAIN INTELLIGENCE MATTERS.

The Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9) of section 201(d) (6 U.S.C. 121(d))—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking "and" after the semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting "and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(C) any intelligence information under this Act is shared, retained, and disseminated consistent with the protection of pri-

vacy rights, civil rights, and civil liberties, as determined, respectively, by the Chief Privacy Officer and the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.";

(2) in subsection (a) of section 222 (6 U.S.C. 142)—

(A) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking "and" after the semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting "and"; and

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

"(7) coordinating with the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis to—

"(A) ensure that any intelligence information under this Act is shared, retained, and disseminated in a manner consistent with the protection of the privacy rights; and

"(B) provide training to intelligence personnel on privacy rights, regulations, and information practices as specified in section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the 'Privacy Act of 1974') and other relevant laws, with a focus on personnel who have authority to disseminate information analyzed by the Department pursuant to paragraph (6) of section 201(d) or the responsibility to review information to be disseminated pursuant to such paragraph.";

(3) in subsection (a) of section 705 (6 U.S.C. 345)—

(A) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking "and" after the semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting "and"; and

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

"(7) coordinate with the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis to—

"(A) ensure that any intelligence information under this Act is shared, retained, and disseminated in a manner consistent with the protection of civil rights and civil liberties; and

"(B) provide training to intelligence personnel on civil rights and civil liberties, with a focus on personnel who have authority to disseminate information analyzed by the Department pursuant to paragraph (6) of section 201(d) or the responsibility to review information to be disseminated pursuant to such paragraph.";

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO) and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. HERNANDEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GARBARINO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2261, the Strengthening Oversight of DHS Intelligence Act.

The Department of Homeland Security's Office of Intelligence and Analysis has a distinct role within the intelligence community of gathering and sharing intelligence across State, local, Tribal, and territorial partners.

In recent years, the Office of Intelligence and Analysis has faced criticism for overreach in its handling of bulk data that raises privacy concerns for the sensitive information of U.S. citizens.

This legislation will mandate that all DHS intelligence products undergo comprehensive reviews to ensure compliance with constitutional protections.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of my bill H.R. 2261, the Strengthening Oversight of DHS Intelligence Act.

One of the lessons of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, was that the United States Government needed to improve coordination and information sharing between law enforcement and intelligence agencies. The 9/11 Commission found that prior to September 11, the United States Government failed to connect the dots between pieces of information it had that could have prevented the attacks of that fateful day. The Department of Homeland Security was created to fill the critical gaps identified by the 9/11 Commission.

To this day, DHS' Office of Intelligence and Analysis, or I&A, is the lone member of the intelligence community tasked with delivering homeland security information and intelligence to State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement.

Every day, our State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers work on the front lines to keep America safe. It is critical that they receive reliable intelligence to do the best job possible.

Just as critical as keeping Americans safe is upholding their constitutional rights. My bill ensures that the information and intelligence distributed by DHS to protect our communities does not infringe upon Americans' constitutional rights. It requires that all DHS intelligence products be reviewed by the DHS chief privacy officer and the DHS officer for civil rights and civil liberties.

Additionally, my bill would require training senior DHS intelligence personnel on privacy rights, civil rights, and civil liberties protections.

Put simply, under my bill, DHS intelligence information that is shared, retained, and disseminated must be done in a manner consistent with the protection of Americans' rights.

It is a principal duty for Congress to simultaneously protect our national security and preserve our privacy and our civil rights as well as our civil liberties.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Colorado, Congressman GABE EVANS, for his collaboration on this bipartisan bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.