

the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1736, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct annual assessments on threats to the United States posed by the use of generative artificial intelligence for terrorism, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR SCHOOL SECURITY ACT OF 2025

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2259) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the development of a national strategy to secure elementary and secondary schools against acts of terrorism, and ensure domestic preparedness for and the response to terrorism, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2259

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 "National Strategy for School Security Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL STRATEGY TO SECURE SCHOOLS FROM THREATS OF TERRORISM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XXII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 2220F. NATIONAL STRATEGY TO SECURE SCHOOLS FROM THREATS OF TERRORISM.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—To assist in the domestic preparedness for and response to acts of terrorism and to coordinate Federal efforts to secure elementary and secondary schools (as such terms are defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)), not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary, in consultation and cooperation with the Secretary of Education and the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies and departments, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Education and Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a national school security strategy (in this section referred to as the 'strategy'). The Secretary, in consultation and cooperation with the Secretary of Education and the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies and departments, shall brief such committees on the strategy.

"(b) UPDATES AND BRIEFINGS.—The Secretary, in consultation and cooperation with the Secretary of Education and the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies and departments, shall, if appropriate, annually through 2033 update the strategy, and brief the committees specified in subsection (a) concerning any such update. If there is no

such update for any given year, the Secretary shall submit to such committees a certification attesting thereto.

"(c) CONTENTS.—The strategy, including any updates thereto, shall—

"(1) account for and describe all Federal programs, projects, activities, and authorities including associated spending levels, to secure elementary and secondary schools from acts of terrorism;

"(2) identify specific school security vulnerabilities related to acts of terrorism within the United States, and delineate goals for closing such security vulnerabilities;

"(3) describe actions to be taken to achieve such goals and the means necessary to do so, including steps to reform, improve, and streamline existing efforts to align the current threat environment to elementary and secondary schools; and

"(4) build upon existing or ongoing evaluations and avoid unnecessary duplication by reviewing the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of other appropriate working groups, committees, commissions, or entities established by the Department related to efforts to secure elementary and secondary schools against terrorism within the United States, and ensure domestic preparedness for and the response to terrorism."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2220E the following new item:

"Sec. 2220F. National strategy to secure schools from threats of terrorism."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GOLDMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

□ 1230

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUEST. 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. 2259.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2259, the National Strategy for School Security Act. Despite rising attacks against our Nation's schools, there is currently no comprehensive Federal strategy to protect schools from acts of terror.

This bill closes this dangerous gap, requiring DHS to produce a school security strategy that identifies and works to mitigate vulnerabilities. In doing so, our schools will no longer be soft targets.

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

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2259, a bill directing the Department of

Homeland Security to develop a national strategy to help secure our elementary and secondary schools from acts of terrorism.

This bill moves us in the right direction. It acknowledges a painful truth, that the safety of our students and teachers cannot be taken for granted. It recognizes that schools need Federal support, coordination, and expertise to prepare for the threats they face, and it moves us on a bipartisan basis toward a more consistent, nationwide approach to keeping our children safe.

However, let me be clear. This is only a start. Creating a strategy is very important, but a strategy alone will not solve the problem. We owe it to every student, every educator, and every family to keep working to take meaningful, comprehensive action that matches the scale of the threats facing our communities.

I applaud my colleague Congressman GONZALES' efforts, and I encourage all my other colleagues to support H.R. 2259.

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

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TONY GONZALES).

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the founder and co-chairman of the Bipartisan School Safety and Security Caucus, I rise today to share a few words about my bill, the National Strategy for School Security Act.

As a father of six, I, too, share every parent and grandparent's worry when it comes to school safety. It is a sad reality that our Nation's schools have become soft targets for violence.

Across this Chamber, too many of our home districts have witnessed tragedies, including my own. In May of 2022, 19 children and two teachers were senselessly killed at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde. Our children, the most vulnerable among us, sit in schools without a national plan in place to protect them from acts of terror.

This bill closes that gap. It requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a strategy and place resources for securing our schools against acts of terrorism and best practices to prevent an act of violence from happening in the first place.

This bipartisan bill is a much-needed step toward safer classrooms across America.

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the reality is that school shootings and acts of targeted violence continue to devastate towns and communities across this country. They leave lasting trauma in classrooms, in families, and in the hearts of children who should never have to wonder whether they are safe at school.

H.R. 2259 deserves our support. It shows that even in a deeply divided

Congress, we can still find common ground when it comes to protecting our children, but our work cannot end here with this bill. We must continue pushing for stronger, more comprehensive solutions that address the full range of threats to our schools and communities.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2259. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, as a Representative of a school that was once subject to an act of violence, I fully support this legislation, and I thank Representative GONZALES for his introduction of H.R. 2259.

I urge my colleagues to please support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2259, 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.

PROVIDING EMOTIONAL ASSISTANCE WITH RELIEF AND LOVE ACT

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3965) to establish in U.S. Customs and Border Protection a pilot program to adopt dogs from local animal shelters to be trained as support dogs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3965

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 "Providing Emotional Assistance with Relief and Love Act" or the "PEARL Act".

SEC. 2. CBP SUPPORT DOG PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), shall establish in CBP a pilot program to adopt dogs from local animal shelters to be trained as support dogs for CBP's Support Canine Program.

(b) DURATION.—The pilot program under subsection (a) shall terminate three years after the date of its establishment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GOLDMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUEST. 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. 3965.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3965, the Providing Emotional Assistance with Relief and Love Act, or the PEARL Act.

As the men and women of the United States Customs and Border Protection work under incredibly stressful conditions to protect our borders, providing a mechanism to boost their well-being will improve the mental health of our frontline officers and agents.

This legislation would enhance CBP's Support Canine Program by creating a pilot program to adopt dogs from local animal shelters to serve as therapy dogs for CBP officers and agents.

I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TONY GONZALES) for his leadership on this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in my time serving on the Committee on Homeland Security, I have seen the importance of effective mental health services for the Department's workforce, and I thank Representative GONZALES for introducing this bill.

Individuals within the U.S. Customs and Border Protection work in high-stress environments, protecting our air, land, and sea borders. One way to help address the stressors that they face and support their mental health needs is by using therapy dogs.

That is why I do support this piece of legislation, which will create a pilot program to adopt dogs from local animal shelters to be trained as therapy dogs for the CBP workforce.

Not only will this bill provide additional mental health services to CBP personnel, but it will help the dogs in need of homes in our communities, certainly something everyone can support.

I know my colleagues and I are committed to improving the mental health services offered to the men and women who work on our front lines every day. I support this legislation, and I ask my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TONY GONZALES).

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the PEARL Act.

With over 800 miles of the Texas-Mexico border, I represent the largest border district in the country. From Eagle Pass to Del Rio to the Big Bend region to El Paso, many of America's hardworking Border Patrol agents call Texas 23 home.

Protecting our Nation's border is no easy feat. It is long hours, late nights, and time away from home. The PEARL Act, named after a special canine that helped our Border Patrol agents through some tough times, gives our law enforcement one more tool to improve mental health outcomes at CBP.

In 2023, CBP launched the Support Canine Program, which aims to improve mental health resources for CBP personnel.

Here in Washington we have a saying: If you want a friend, get a dog. That is exactly what this bill is doing. My bill builds upon this goal by establishing a pilot program through the Department of Homeland Security to adopt dogs from local animal shelters to enhance the Support Canine Program.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to seeing this legislation to support the men and women who defend our borders every day in the United States pass.

□ 1240

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, we should do all that we can to provide the men and women of U.S. Customs and Border Protection with effective mental health services, and this bill is a significant step in the right direction. I speak from personal experience.

Mr. Speaker, I got my children a dog a couple of years ago after they were struggling from the aftereffects and trauma of being in Tel Aviv on October 7. It has done wonders for their mental health. I know personally how important therapy dogs can be.

The fact that this bill also helps dogs in need by getting them out of shelters and finding them good homes is something that we can and should all get behind.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bipartisan piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3965, the PEARL Act.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3965.

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.

TREN DE ARAGUA BORDER SECURITY THREAT ASSESSMENT ACT

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4070) to require a homeland security border threat assessment on Tren de Aragua and associated strategic plan, and for other purposes.