

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my legislation, H.R. 2066, the Investing in All of America Act of 2025. This legislation will incentivize greater investment from small business investment companies, SBICs, to small businesses located in rural or low-income areas, as well as small businesses in the manufacturing and national security technology sectors.

SBICs are privately owned and managed investment funds that are licensed and regulated by the SBA. These companies raise private capital, which is then matched with additional leverage by the SBA, capped at \$175 million.

SBICs then invest both their private capital and SBA leverage into small businesses in communities across the country. Importantly, the SBIC program operates at zero subsidy cost to the American taxpayer.

Over the last 5 years, SBICs have invested over \$130 billion in small businesses across America, including \$1.3 billion in my home State of Pennsylvania's small businesses.

Though the SBIC program is successful, recent studies have shown that less than 20 percent of SBIC investment reaches low- to middle-income communities, especially rural communities.

The Investing in All of America Act encourages additional private capital investments in parts of America that are often overlooked by not counting dollars invested in these areas against an individual SBIC's \$175 million leverage cap. By creating this incentive, my bill will increase investment for these currently underserved communities.

It is important to note that the bonus leverage included in this legislation does not change the costs or risks of the SBIC program. The existing model operates at no cost to the taxpayer and will remain the same.

The Trump administration and SBA Administrator Kelly Loeffler are focused on fueling small business growth and reinvigorating domestic manufacturing throughout the United States. This legislation supports that effort by encouraging increased private investment in the manufacturing sector.

By expanding access to capital and reducing barriers to entry, this legislation helps manufacturers scale operations and create high-quality American jobs.

I thank Representative SCHOLTEN for her continued partnership, as well as the support from the Democratic leadership, on this legislation and the bipartisan group of all Members, Republican and Democrat, who have cosponsored it. This legislation will have tangible, positive impacts on our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support passage of this important piece of legislation.

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by once again thanking Mr. MEUSER and Ms. SCHOLTEN for their leadership on this bill and their efforts to extend additional capital to

rural and underserved entrepreneurs, as well as the critical technology industry.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this bill and encourage all of my colleagues to do the same. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation to increase access to capital for America's small businesses. 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. 2066, 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.

### TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS RELIEF ACT

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4323) to provide for the vacating of certain convictions and expungement of certain arrests of victims of human trafficking, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4323

*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 "Trafficking Survivors Relief Act".*

#### SEC. 2. FEDERAL EXPUNGEMENT FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Chapter 237 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### **"§3771A. Motion to vacate; expungement; mitigating factors**

*"(a) DEFINITIONS.*—In this section—

*"(1) the term 'child' means an individual who has not attained 18 years of age;*

*"(2) the term 'covered prisoner' means an individual who—*

*"(A) was convicted of a level A offense or level B offense;*

*"(B) was sentenced to a term of imprisonment for the offense described in subparagraph (A); and*

*"(C) is, or was previously, imprisoned or incarcerated under such sentence for a term of imprisonment;*

*"(3) the terms 'employee' and 'officer' have the meanings given the terms in section 2105 of title 5;*

*"(4) the term 'Federal offense' means an offense that is punishable under Federal law;*

*"(5) the term 'level A offense' means a Federal offense that is not a violent crime;*

*"(6) the term 'level B offense'—*

*"(A) means a Federal offense that is a violent crime; and*

*"(B) does not include a Federal offense that is a violent crime of which a child was a victim;*

*"(7) the term 'victim of trafficking' has the meaning given that term in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102); and*

*"(8) the term 'violent crime' has the meaning given the term 'crime of violence' in section 16(a) of this title.*

*"(b) MOTIONS TO VACATE CONVICTIONS OR EXPUNGE ARRESTS.—*

*"(1) IN GENERAL.—*

*"(A) CONVICTIONS OF LEVEL A OFFENSES.—A person convicted of any level A offense (or an attorney representing such a person) may move the court that imposed the sentence for the level A offense to vacate the judgment of conviction if the level A offense was committed as a direct result of the person having been a victim of trafficking.*

*"(B) ARRESTS FOR LEVEL A OFFENSES.—A person arrested for any level A offense (or an attorney representing such a person) may move the district court of the United States for the district and division embracing the place where the person was arrested to expunge all records of the arrest if the conduct or alleged conduct of the person that resulted in the arrest was directly related to the person having been a victim of trafficking.*

*"(C) ARRESTS FOR LEVEL B OFFENSES.—A person arrested for any level B offense (or an attorney representing such a person) may move the district court of the United States for the district and division embracing the place where the person was arrested to expunge all records of the arrest if—*

*"(i) the conduct or alleged conduct of the movant that resulted in the arrest was directly related to the movant having been a victim of trafficking; and*

*"(ii) (I) the movant was acquitted of the level B offense;*

*"(II) the Government did not pursue, or the Government moved to dismiss, criminal charges against the movant for the level B offense; or*

*"(III)(aa) the charges against the movant for the level B offense were reduced to an offense that is a level A offense; and*

*"(bb) the movant was acquitted of the level A offense, the Government did not pursue, or the Government moved to dismiss, criminal charges against the movant for the level A offense, or any subsequent conviction of the level A offense was vacated.*

*"(2) CONTENTS OF MOTION.—A motion described in paragraph (1) shall—*

*"(A) be in writing;*

*"(B) describe any supporting evidence;*

*"(C) state the offense; and*

*"(D) include copies of any documents showing that the movant is entitled to relief under this section.*

*"(3) HEARING.—*

*"(A) MANDATORY HEARING.—*

*"(i) MOTION IN OPPOSITION.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which a motion is filed under paragraph (1), the Government may file a motion in opposition of the motion filed under paragraph (1).*

*"(ii) MANDATORY HEARING.—If the Government files a motion described in clause (i), not later than 15 days after the date on which the motion is filed, the court shall hold a hearing on the motion.*

*"(B) DISCRETIONARY HEARING.—If the Government does not file a motion described in subparagraph (A)(i), the court may hold a hearing on the motion not later than 45 days after the date on which a motion is filed under paragraph (1).*

*"(4) FACTORS.—*

*"(A) VACATING CONVICTIONS OF LEVEL A OFFENSES.—The court may grant a motion under paragraph (1)(A) if, after notice to the Government and an opportunity to be heard, the court finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that—*

*"(i) the movant was convicted of a level A offense; and*

*"(ii) the participation in the level A offense by the movant was a direct result of the movant having been a victim of trafficking.*

*"(B) EXPUNGING ARRESTS FOR LEVEL A OFFENSES.—The court may grant a motion under paragraph (1)(B) if, after notice to the Government and an opportunity to be heard, the court*

finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that—

“(i) the movant was arrested for a level A offense; and

“(ii) the conduct or alleged conduct that resulted in the arrest was directly related to the movant having been a victim of trafficking.

“(C) EXPUNGING ARRESTS FOR LEVEL B OFFENSES.—The court may grant a motion under paragraph (1)(C) if, after notice to the Government and an opportunity to be heard, the court finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that—

“(i) the movant was arrested for a level B offense and the conduct or alleged conduct that resulted in the arrest was directly related to the movant having been a victim of trafficking; and

“(ii)(I) the movant was acquitted of the level B offense;

“(II) the Government did not pursue, or the Government moved to dismiss, criminal charges against the movant for the level B offense; or

“(III)(aa) the charges against the movant for the level B offense were reduced to a level A offense; and

“(bb) the movant was acquitted of the level A offense, the Government did not pursue, or the Government moved to dismiss, criminal charges against the movant for the level A offense, or any subsequent conviction of that level A offense was vacated.

“(5) SUPPORTING EVIDENCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, in determining whether the movant is a victim of trafficking, the court—

“(i) shall consider an affidavit or sworn testimony of an anti-human trafficking service provider or clinician; and

“(ii) may consider any supporting evidence the court determines is of sufficient credibility and probative value, including sworn testimony from a law enforcement officer detailing the role of the movant in coercing other victims of trafficking into committing criminal offenses.

“(B) AFFIDAVIT OR SWORN TESTIMONY SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE.—The affidavit or sworn testimony described in subparagraph (A)(i) shall be sufficient evidence to vacate a conviction or expunge an arrest under this section if the court determines that—

“(i) the affidavit or sworn testimony is credible; and

“(ii) no other evidence is readily available.

“(6) CONVICTION OR ARREST OF OTHER PERSONS NOT REQUIRED.—It shall not be necessary that any person other than the movant be convicted of or arrested for an offense before the movant may file a motion under paragraph (1).

“(7) DENIAL OF MOTION.—

“(A) FINALITY.—If the court denies a motion filed under paragraph (1), the denial shall be final, except as provided under subparagraph (C) of this paragraph and subject to the discovery of any new and compelling evidence or information.

“(B) REASONS FOR DENIAL.—If the court denies a motion filed under paragraph (1), the court shall state the reasons for the denial in writing.

“(C) REASONABLE TIME TO CURE DEFICIENCIES IN MOTION.—If the court denies a motion filed under paragraph (1) due to a curable deficiency in the motion, the court shall allow the movant sufficient time to cure the deficiency.

“(8) APPEAL.—An order granting or denying a motion under this section may be appealed in accordance with section 1291 of title 28.

“(c) VACATUR OF CONVICTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If the court grants a motion to vacate a conviction of a level A offense under subsection (b), the court shall immediately—

“(A) vacate the conviction for cause;

“(B) set aside the verdict and enter a judgment of acquittal; and

“(C) enter an expungement order that directs that there be expunged from all official records all references to—

“(i) the arrest of the movant for the level A offense;

“(ii) the institution of criminal proceedings against the movant relating to the level A offense; and

“(iii) the results of the proceedings.

“(2) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this subsection requires a court to amend or remove any fine or restitution order in a criminal or civil proceeding.

“(3) EFFECT.—If a conviction is vacated under an order entered under paragraph (1), the conviction shall not be regarded as a conviction under Federal law and the movant for whom the conviction was vacated shall be considered to have the status occupied by the movant before the arrest or the institution of the criminal proceedings related to such conviction.

“(d) EXPUNGEMENT OF ARRESTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If the court grants a motion to expunge all records of an arrest for an offense under subsection (b), the court shall immediately enter an expungement order that directs that there be expunged from all official records all references to—

“(A) the arrest of the movant for the offense;

“(B) the institution of any criminal proceedings against the movant relating to the offense; and

“(C) the results of the proceedings, if any.

“(2) EFFECT.—If an arrest is expunged under an order entered under paragraph (1) the arrest shall not be regarded as an arrest under Federal law and the movant for whom the arrest is expunged shall be considered to have the status occupied by the movant before the arrest or the institution of the criminal proceedings related to such arrest, if any.

“(e) MITIGATING FACTORS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The court that imposed sentence for a level A offense or level B offense upon a covered prisoner may reduce the term of imprisonment for the offense—

“(A) upon—

“(i) motion by the covered prisoner; or

“(ii) the court's own motion;

“(B) after notice to the Government;

“(C) after considering—

“(i) the factors set forth in section 3553(a);

“(ii) the nature and seriousness of the danger to any person, if applicable; and

“(iii) the community, or any crime victims; and

“(D) if the court finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the covered prisoner committed the offense as a direct result of the covered prisoner having been a victim of trafficking.

“(2) REQUIREMENT.—Any proceeding under this subsection shall be subject to section 3771.

“(3) PARTICULARIZED INQUIRY.—For any motion under paragraph (1), the Government shall conduct a particularized inquiry of the facts and circumstances of the original sentencing of the covered prisoner in order to assess whether a reduction in sentence would be consistent with this section.

“(f) ADDITIONAL ACTIONS BY COURT.—The court shall, upon granting a motion under this section, take any additional action necessary to grant the movant full relief.

“(g) NO FEES.—A person may not be required to pay a filing fee, service charge, copay fee, processing fee, or any other charge for filing a motion under this section.

“(h) CONFIDENTIALITY OF MOVANT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A motion under this section and any documents, pleadings, or orders relating to the motion shall be filed under seal.

“(2) INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION.—An officer or employee may not make available for public inspection any report, paper, picture, photograph, court file, or other document, in the custody or possession of the officer or employee, that identifies the movant.

“(i) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall apply to any conviction or arrest occurring before, on, or after the date of enactment of this section.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections of chapter 237 of

title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“3771A. Motion to vacate; expungement; mitigating factors.”.

### SEC. 3. REPORTS.

(a) UNITED STATES ATTORNEY MOTIONS FOR VACATUR OR EXPUNGEMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, each United States attorney shall submit to the Attorney General a report that details—

(1) the number of motions for vacatur or expungement filed under section 3771A of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 2, in the district of the United States attorney; and

(2) for each motion described in paragraph (1)—

(A) the underlying offense;

(B) the response of the United States attorney to the motion; and

(C) the final determination of the court with respect to the motion.

(b) UNITED STATES ATTORNEY TRAINING ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING INDICATORS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report that details all professional training received by United States attorneys on indicators of human trafficking during the preceding 12-month period.

(c) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) assesses the impact of the enactment of section 3771A of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 2; and

(2) includes—

(A) the number of human trafficking survivors who have filed motions for vacatur or expungement under such section 3771A;

(B) the final determination of each court that adjudicated a motion described in subparagraph (A);

(C) recommendations to increase access to post-conviction relief for human trafficking survivors with Federal criminal records; and

(D) recommendations for improving the implementation and tracking of professional training of United States attorneys on indicators of human trafficking.

### SEC. 4. USE OF GRANTS FOR POST-CONVICTION RELIEF REPRESENTATION.

The Office of Justice Programs or the Office on Violence Against Women, in awarding a grant that may be used for legal representation, may not prohibit a recipient from using the grant for legal representation for post-conviction relief.

### SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) this Act is a first step to address the changing tactics of human traffickers, who are using forced criminality as a form of force, fraud, and coercion in their human trafficking enterprises; and

(2) Congress is committed to continuing to find solutions as needed to thwart human traffickers and protect survivors of human trafficking.

### SEC. 6. HUMAN TRAFFICKING DEFENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### “§ 28. Human trafficking defense

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘covered Federal offense’ means a level A offense or level B offense, as those terms are defined in section 3771A; and

“(2) the term ‘victim of trafficking’ has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

“(b) DURESS.—In a prosecution for a covered Federal offense, a defendant may establish duress by demonstrating that the defendant was a victim of trafficking at the time at which the defendant committed the offense.

“(c) *RECORD OR PROCEEDING UNDER SEAL*.—In any proceeding in which a defense under subsection (b) is raised, any record or part of the proceeding related to the defense shall, on motion, be placed under seal until such time as a conviction is entered for the offense.

“(d) *POST-CONVICTION RELIEF*.—A failure to assert, or failed assertion of, a defense under subsection (b) by an individual who is convicted of a covered Federal offense may not preclude the individual from asserting as a mitigating factor, at sentencing or in a proceeding for any post-conviction relief, that at the time of the commission of the offense, the defendant was a victim of trafficking and committed the offense under duress.

“(e) *FEDERAL AID*.—A failure to assert, or failed assertion of, a defense under subsection (b) by an individual who is convicted of a covered Federal offense may not be used for the purpose of disqualifying the individual from participating in any federally funded program that aids victims of trafficking.”.

(b) *TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT*.—The table of sections for chapter 1 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“28. Human trafficking defense.”.

#### SEC. 7. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (16), by striking “(9)” and inserting “(11)”;

(2) in paragraph (17), by striking “(9) or (10)” and inserting “(11) or (12)”.

#### SEC. 8. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, may be construed to conflict with any of the crime victims’ rights described in section 3771 of title 18, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. FRY) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRY. 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. 4323.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4323, the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act, is a strong, bipartisan piece of legislation—and bicameral, actually—that will help one of our most vulnerable populations.

This legislation passed the House Judiciary Committee by a voice vote earlier this year, and I am looking forward to seeing it pass the full House.

Human trafficking is a heinous crime that we are all too familiar with. Human trafficking is not just a distant problem. It is a crisis that touches every corner of our Nation, rural communities and urban centers. It can occur anywhere, in any community, and it does not discriminate. Traffickers exploit the vulnerable wherever they may find them.

We see it happen to a vast number of women and children who are exploited

after crossing our southern border. We see it happen to people from both low-income and high-income backgrounds. We see it happen to ordinary Americans, people who never imagined that they would become victims themselves.

Efforts by Federal, State, and local law enforcement and advocates to eliminate trafficking and to support victims have increased awareness, reporting, and prosecution of sex traffickers across the country. However, victims of these crimes are sometimes prosecuted for their actions taken while under the control of their traffickers. This can lead to the arrest, conviction, and incarceration of actual trafficking victims themselves without proper consideration of their criminal culpability.

We know that criminal convictions, and even nonviolent ones, can hold someone back from applying for a job or getting housing. These victims deserve to be able to heal and move on with their lives.

Thankfully, we have made significant progress to help survivors. Today, the vast majority of States—in fact, 46 or 47—have some sort of relief to victims for nonviolent offenses committed while under the control of their traffickers. These laws allow individuals to reenter their communities and move on with their lives.

My home State of South Carolina continues to lead on this forward-looking, victim-centered approach. The Trafficking Survivors Relief Act follows the States’ clear lead and provides Federal relief to survivors of human trafficking who committed a non-violent offense as a direct result of being a victim of human trafficking.

For a court to grant this relief, a defendant must show that the offense was committed as a direct result of being a victim of human trafficking.

To ensure that these opportunities are only available to true victims of trafficking and not criminals, we have worked hand in hand with law enforcement to include appropriate safeguards in the bill. The legislation allows for additional evidence to be considered, including the sworn testimony of a law enforcement officer as to whether a victim had any role in coercing other victims into criminal offenses.

This legislation is endorsed by multiple advocacy organizations, faith-based organizations, and law enforcement officials. This is a bipartisan, bicameral piece of legislation that unites both law enforcement and victim organizations. It is a good piece of legislation.

There are countless individuals and organizations that have worked tirelessly to get this bill to where it is today, including CPAC Foundation’s Center for Combating Human Trafficking, NCOSE, Rights4Girls, Street Grace, survivor leader Hollie Nadel, and so many more.

Last Congress, a bipartisan group of attorneys general wrote a letter in strong support of the Trafficking Sur-

vivors Relief Act. This carefully crafted legislation strikes the right balance in protecting victims’ rights and public safety.

Let’s work together to fight back against this evil, to help victims and survivors begin a new chapter, and to allow them to take on every opportunity that life hands them without any constraint of their past.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act, and I encourage swift passage in the Senate.

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

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

I thank the distinguished gentleman from South Carolina for his leadership on this issue.

I am pleased that we are considering the bipartisan Trafficking Survivors Relief Act, which will provide relief to victims and survivors of human trafficking who have been unjustly criminalized as a result of their trafficking.

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Victims and survivors of human trafficking have been waiting nearly a decade for us to make this relief available to them at the Federal level. The heroic survivors of the global Epstein trafficking conspiracy have raised the conscience of our Nation about the nightmarish consequences of human trafficking for the victims of it, and they strongly support this legislation, which is part of the long, overdue reckoning that America must have with all of the double standards and coverups that have affected women and girls who have been entered into the trafficking criminal underworld.

While we have found far too less opportunities to work together in this broken session of Congress, I am glad that the majority has finally chosen to bring this much-needed consensus reform forward to the floor to protect trafficking victims and survivors, and I look forward to its swift passage.

Mr. Speaker, human trafficking is a multibillion-dollar criminal industry that overtakes the will and the freedom of nearly 25 million people around the world every year. Traffickers exploit their victims by forcing them to provide labor, services, and commercial sex through violence, fear, coercion, and manipulation. While awful, their exploitation doesn’t stop there. Traffickers often force their victims to commit other crimes, including prostitution, money laundering, fraud, drug trafficking, robbery, and theft.

This leads trafficking victims to be arrested and prosecuted without consideration of their status as victims themselves. They are often then made to serve prison sentences and left with criminal records that can stop them from finding employment, suitable housing, or qualifying to receive the treatment that they need to recover from trauma and rebuild their lives.

When they are unable to start fresh or move on because of the obstacles that they face as a consequence of the crimes that they were forced to commit, victims and survivors often return to their traffickers or fall victim to new predators. We cannot allow this cycle of trauma, criminal exploitation, and victimization to continue in the lives of so many untold victims.

While all but three States now allow trafficking survivors some form of criminal record relief, there is still no Federal pathway to clear criminal convictions or records in this situation. H.R. 4323 would correct this inequity by allowing human trafficking victims to petition to have their convictions vacated for certain offenses and to expunge their arrest records for other offenses if the offenses were committed only as a consequence of their trafficking.

This bill would also provide an avenue of relief for victims and survivors facing prosecution for certain Federal offenses relating to their victimization by establishing a human trafficking defense. The defense will also be available as a post-conviction remedy. To ensure that survivors have access to all of the remedies provided, this bill makes clear that a grantee may use grant funds from the Office of Justice Programs and Office on Violence Against Women for legal representation for post-conviction relief.

For far too long, we have closed our eyes to the true horrors of human trafficking and allowed victimization to fester simply by allowing survivors of human trafficking to be classified and treated as criminals. I am pleased to support this essential and thoughtful bipartisan bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers on the bill and am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH), the distinguished ranking member of the Crime and Federal Government Surveillance Subcommittee.

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The Trafficking Survivors Relief Act is very critical, bipartisan legislation that would provide long-overdue relief to victims and survivors of human trafficking to help them overcome the lasting effects of being trafficked and allow them a chance to heal.

It recognizes their unique traumas, the immense challenges that they face after escaping their exploitation, and their right to rebuild their lives with some dignity and some respect.

Victims of trafficking are demeaned. They are dehumanized and coerced by their traffickers, who do not see them as people but see them as objects only to be bought, sold, and abused; but we see them, and we must give them the help that they need and they deserve.

Too often, they emerge with criminal records directly tied to their exploitation. These records follow them along their path long after they are free, preventing them from finding a job, securing safe housing, pursuing education, or even getting treatment for the trauma that they have escaped.

The barriers they face as a result of their records often serve as painful reminders of the abuse that they endured and can make survivors vulnerable to even further exploitation.

Many States, including my State of Georgia, have already passed laws like the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act. It is past time that we take similar steps to do this on the Federal level. By allowing survivors to expunge arrests or vacate nonviolent convictions connected to their trafficking, we give them a chance to reclaim their futures and move forward without the weight of their past being used against them.

Just as we must allow them the ability to shed the lasting remnants of their victimization, we must also provide them with resources and services that they desperately need. Survivors need strong and consistent Federal support to stay safe and move forward.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Georgia.

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, we must ensure our government continues to invest in prevention services and enforcement that keeps survivors protected. Any cuts or weakened efforts will risk putting them back in harm's way or back in the streets, and we cannot allow that to happen.

This bill is about justice, healing, and true restoration. It affirms that survivors are more than the crimes that they are forced to commit. They are human beings deserving of opportunity, safety, and hope.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support putting survivors first and support this bipartisan legislation. I thank Representatives FRY and JOHNSON for championing this effort. I look forward to working together to ensure that survivors are seen, supported, and given every chance that they can to thrive.

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I pick up on the words of the distinguished gentlewoman from Georgia, who is the ranking member of the Crime and Federal Government Surveillance Subcommittee on Committee on the Judiciary. To be forced into a human-trafficking network, like the Epstein network, is to suffer a double trauma. There is the original trauma of the exploitation and the abuse, and then there is the added trauma of being stigmatized yourself as being a criminal: a prostitute and someone forced to engage in other criminal activity by the trafficking network.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that, on a bipartisan basis today, we are able to move forward to address this problem and to give some relief to the victims and the survivors of a human-trafficking network.

Again, I recognize the survivors from the Epstein global international child sex-trafficking conspiracy who have raised the conscience of the country and changed America's mind about the fundamental importance of our addressing this.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for working with us on bringing this legislation forward, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I find myself in this moment on H.R. 4323, the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act, in somewhat of a *deja vu*. I did this legislation at the State level, and I talked to victims of human trafficking and those who have used this legal mechanism as a sense of relief to expunge their crimes, to get their prior convictions vacated, to apply for housing, and to go on with their lives in a very meaningful way.

What they would share with me and what I will share with you today is that this absolutely matters to them. Being able to turn the page on their past is not easy. It is not easy for a victim of human trafficking to come forward. There is shame sometimes in doing so. There is extreme guilt. When they get that chance to do that, this is an incredibly important step.

□ 1510

Here is the caveat that I think is often overlooked. Law enforcement loves this bill, too. Why is that? Because during a prosecution of a criminal defendant who is a trafficking victim, or within a conviction of a human-trafficking victim, victims are allowed to tell their story. One, it is very therapeutic and helpful to the victims themselves, but for the law enforcement folks, they can go after the real bad actors.

I think that is the key crux of this bill, and I think that is what unites Republicans and Democrats, House and Senate Members, and the law enforcement community and victim organizations. It is a great piece of public policy that has worked so well in 46, 47, 48 States at this point, and there is no reason why the Federal Government should lag behind the States anymore in crafting a very good, commonsense piece of legislation.

This bill is victim-centered. It is law enforcement-focused, as well. It checks all the boxes of good public policy.

Mr. 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 South Carolina (Mr. FRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4323, 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.

### COUNT THE CRIMES TO CUT ACT

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2159) to direct the Attorney General of the United States to submit to the Congress a report on Federal criminal offenses, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2159

*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 "Count the Crimes to Cut Act".*

#### SEC. 2. REPORT ON FEDERAL CRIMINAL OFFENSES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term "criminal regulatory offense" means a Federal regulation that is enforceable by a criminal penalty; and

(2) the term "criminal statutory offense" means a criminal offense under a Federal statute.

(b) REPORT ON CRIMINAL STATUTORY OFFENSES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report, which shall include—

(1) a list of all criminal statutory offenses, including a list of the elements for each criminal statutory offense; and

(2) for each criminal statutory offense listed under paragraph (1)—

(A) the potential criminal penalty for the criminal statutory offense;

(B) the number of prosecutions for the criminal statutory offense brought by the Department of Justice each year for the 15-year period preceding the date of enactment of this Act; and

(C) the mens rea requirement for the criminal statutory offense.

(c) REPORT ON CRIMINAL REGULATORY OFFENSES.—

(1) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of each Federal agency described in paragraph (2) shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report, which shall include—

(A) a list of all criminal regulatory offenses enforceable by the agency; and

(B) for each criminal regulatory offense listed under subparagraph (A)—

(i) the potential criminal penalty for a violation of the criminal regulatory offense;

(ii) the number of violations of the criminal regulatory offense referred to the Department of Justice for prosecution in each of the years during the 15-year period preceding the date of enactment of this Act; and

(iii) the mens rea requirement for the criminal regulatory offense.

(2) AGENCIES DESCRIBED.—The Federal agencies described in this paragraph are the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Education, the Department of Energy, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of the In-

terior, the Department of Labor, the Department of Transportation, the Department of the Treasury, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the Farm Credit Administration, the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Election Commission, the Federal Labor Relations Authority, the Federal Maritime Commission, the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, the National Labor Relations Board, the National Transportation Safety Board, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, the Office of Compliance, the Postal Regulatory Commission, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Securities Investor Protection Corporation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Small Business Administration, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and the Office of Government Ethics.

(d) INDEX.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) the Attorney General shall establish a publicly accessible index of each criminal statutory offense listed in the report required under subsection (b) and make the index available and freely accessible on the website of the Department of Justice; and

(2) the head of each agency described in subsection (c)(2) shall establish a publicly accessible index of each criminal regulatory offense listed in the report required under subsection (c)(1) and make the index available and freely accessible on the website of the agency.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require or authorize appropriations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) and the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROY. 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.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I thank the gentlewoman from Georgia for joining with me in this effort. I thank the minority leader for his past work on this bill, as well, from his position on the Judiciary Committee, like the gentlewoman from Georgia.

We may come at these things from slightly different perspectives on different issues that come before us, but we are bound and joined together here in wanting some commonsense, good government to make sure that we know what we are dealing with, with respect to criminal laws. For decades, the American people, Congress, and corners of the Federal Government have tried to grasp a reliable estimate of how many criminal laws exist either in statute or in regulation.

In the 1980s, the Department of Justice tried to count the number of Fed-

eral criminal laws that reside within the code and estimated there are "about 3,000 criminal offenses." The American Bar Association, in the 1990s, said it was much higher than 3,000 but couldn't figure out the number. In 2019, the U.S. Code was estimated to have 5,199 Federal crimes, but again, that was uncertain.

In other words, the Department of Justice, the American Bar Association, and organizations within our government are guessing.

Now, to be clear, there are estimated to be thousands of criminal offenses, many buried in regulatory codes. For context, there are an estimated 300,000 Federal regulations that carry criminal offenses that could put an American citizen in prison.

We can debate the merits, and we would debate the merits no doubt among the Members of this body, of any particular statute that criminalizes a certain act or any particular regulation that comes with criminal penalties associated with an action. It might be something that involves OSHA. It might be something that involves environmental regulations. It might be something else.

There are thousands upon thousands of regulations and statutes, and the American people often have no idea that they might be in violation of something that would come with a penalty that might include jail time or sufficient fines, and so forth, and they potentially could become a felon.

This bill is pretty simple. It just directs the Federal Government and the executive branch to count the crimes, to come up with a list of the crimes that exist, put those in order, and make sure that we know what offenses are attached to those so that we can go through this and make decisions as to whether or not these crimes are duplicative, whether they might be contradictory, and whether maybe they go too far or not far enough.

We feel like the people's House, for sure—Congress in its Article I function—ought to know how many crimes there are and what penalties are associated with those crimes so that the American people can know this.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative ROY for working with me. This is a true representation of good government and what it looks like for bipartisanship, and I hope we are able to do more of this going forward.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the sake of an effective criminal justice system. The laws within our criminal code, as has been expressed before, have become outdated and a highway to overcriminalization. We have so many unlawful acts within our criminal code that we don't even know how many criminal laws there are.

That is why we need to pass the Count the Crimes to Cut Act of 2025,