

nights in an AMC hut are among the most memorable of my life.

Mr. Speaker, may all Americans celebrate AMC's 150 years of success.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1500

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCDOWELL) at 3 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

MUHAMMAD ALI AMERICAN BOXING REVIVAL ACT OF 2026

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4624) to amend the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 to establish requirements for unified boxing organizations, to further enhance the well-being of professional boxers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4624

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 "Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act of 2026".

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to provide increased choice and opportunity to professional boxers by allowing a professional boxer to choose to participate in the alternative system offered by a unified boxing organization; and

(2) to further enhance safety precautions that protect the well-being of professional boxers.

SEC. 3. UNIFIED BOXING ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 24. UNIFIED BOXING ORGANIZATIONS.

"(a) ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ACT.—A unified boxing organization (in this section referred to as a 'UBO') shall be deemed to be in compliance with the requirements of this Act if the UBO meets the requirements of section 5 and the conditions of this section with respect to—

"(1) each boxer under contract with the UBO; and

"(2) each professional boxing match organized by the UBO (in this section referred to as a 'covered match').

"(b) SAFETY AND INDUSTRY STANDARDS; MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A condition of this section is that a UBO meets the requirements of paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, in addition to the requirements of section 5.

"(2) SPECIAL RULE RELATING TO KNOCKOUTS.—In the case of a boxer who suffers a knockout during a covered match, a UBO shall require that (in addition to the examinations required for such boxer pursuant to section 5(a)(1)(B)(iii)) the boxer undergo the applicable examinations described in section 5(a)(1)(B)(iii) relating to brain health prior to participating in the boxer's next covered match.

"(3) SUPPLEMENTAL PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR BOXERS WHO ARE 40 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A UBO shall ensure that a boxer who participates in a covered match at the age of 40 or older undergoes (in addition to the physical examinations required pursuant to section 5(a)(1)(B)(iii) and paragraph (2) of this subsection, as applicable) a supplemental physical examination conducted by a licensed physician that affirms the fitness of the boxer to safely participate in a covered match.

"(B) ELEMENTS.—A supplemental physical examination under subparagraph (A) shall include each of the following:

"(i) A chest X-ray.

"(ii) A comprehensive metabolic panel blood test.

"(iii) A urinalysis to measure the overall health condition of the boxer.

"(C) FREQUENCY.—The supplemental physical examination to be conducted under subparagraph (A) shall occur at least annually, except that the chest X-ray required under subparagraph (B)(i) shall occur at least once every 6 years.

"(c) PROVISION OF MEDICAL CARE DURING MATCHES.—

"(1) AMBULANCES.—A condition of this section is that a UBO provides (in addition to the ambulance required to be provided by such UBO pursuant to section 5(a)(2)) for at least 1 additional ambulance to be continuously present on site of a covered match.

"(2) RINGSIDE PRESENCE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A condition of this section is that a UBO provides (in addition to the licensed physician required to be provided by such UBO pursuant to section 5(a)(3)) for at least 1 additional licensed physician to be continuously present at ringside during a covered match.

"(B) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—Beginning on the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of the Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act of 2026, each physician required to be provided by a UBO shall have a certification obtained through a certification program administered by the Association of Boxing Commissions in partnership with the Association of Ring-side Physicians (or any successor organization).

"(d) SUPPORT SERVICES FOR BOXERS UNDER CONTRACT WITH A UBO.—A condition of this section is that, during the period in which a boxer is under contract with a UBO, the UBO shall ensure such boxer has each of the following:

"(1) EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES FOR TRAINING AND REHABILITATION.—The boxer has access to equipment and facilities that are operated by the UBO for training and rehabilitation.

"(2) INSURANCE POLICY.—In addition to the health insurance provided to the boxer pursuant to section 5(a)(4), the boxer has in effect an insurance policy that provides medical coverage for any injury sustained by the

boxer during the period of training for a covered match.

"(3) MEDICAL COORDINATOR.—A medical coordinator is assigned to the boxer to assist the boxer with satisfying medical and licensing requirements related to the participation of the boxer in a covered match.

"(e) COMPREHENSIVE ANTI-DOPING PROGRAM.—

"(1) REQUIREMENT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A condition of this section is that a UBO has in effect a comprehensive anti-doping program that includes the testing and requirements related to such testing under this subsection.

"(B) LIST OF PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES AND PENALTIES.—A UBO shall, on an annual basis, publish, and make available to the public, a list that identifies, with respect to the preceding year—

"(i) each substance tested for under the comprehensive anti-doping program of the UBO; and

"(ii) each penalty imposed on a boxer under paragraph (6).

"(2) IN-COMPETITION TESTING.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The UBO shall ensure that testing is conducted, in accordance with paragraph (5), for at least half the boxers participating in each covered match organized by such UBO for an event.

"(B) TIMING.—Testing required under subparagraph (A) shall—

"(i) occur during the period beginning on the date of a weigh-in for a covered match and ending on the date of the match; and

"(ii) determine whether a boxer is positive or negative for each substance prohibited by—

"(I) the boxing commission of the State in which the match is held; or

"(II) in the case of a covered match held within a reservation (as defined by section 21), the tribal organization (as defined by section 21 and that meets the requirements of section 21) regulating the match.

"(3) NO-NOTICE TESTING.—In addition to the testing required under paragraph (2), during the period in which a boxer is under contract with a UBO, the UBO may conduct testing, with no advance notice to the boxer and in accordance with paragraph (5), to determine whether such boxer is positive or negative for each substance prohibited by the UBO.

"(4) SUBSTANCES PROHIBITED BY UBO.—The UBO shall prohibit any substance described in section 7(a)(2)(C)(ii), except that the UBO may elect to not test a boxer participating in a covered match for any substance that is not prohibited by the boxing commission of the State in which the match is being held or the tribal organization described in paragraph (2)(B)(ii)(II) that is regulating the match.

"(5) ADMINISTRATION OF TESTS.—An independent third-party shall conduct the testing under paragraphs (2) and (3), which shall include—

"(A) carrying out each such test;

"(B) determining the result of each such test; and

"(C) reporting a positive result of such a test to—

"(i) the UBO concerned;

"(ii) the boxing commission of the State in which a covered match is held or the tribal organization regulating the match; and

"(iii) the Association of Boxing Commissions.

"(6) PENALTIES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A UBO shall implement any penalty decided—

"(i) with respect to a positive test result related to the testing conducted under paragraph (2), by—

"(I) the boxing commission of the State in which a covered match is held or the tribal organization regulating the match; or

“(II) the Association of Boxing Commissions; and

“(ii) with respect to a positive test result related to the testing conducted under paragraph (3), by the independent third-party conducting such testing.

“(B) ASSESSMENT FOR PENALTIES.—In imposing a penalty on a boxer for whom the independent third-party reports a positive test result under paragraph (2) or (3), the boxing commission, the Association of Boxing Commissions, or the independent third-party described in subparagraph (A) shall consider—

“(i) the seriousness of the positive test result in relation to the participation of the boxer in a covered match; and

“(ii) the degree to which the boxer is at fault for the positive test result.

“(7) CONTRACT REQUIREMENT.—A UBO shall include in any contract entered into between the UBO and a boxer regarding participation in covered matches such terms and conditions as may be necessary to require the boxer to submit to testing under this subsection during the period of the contract.

“(f) REQUIRED CONTRACT PROVISIONS.—In addition to the requirements described in subsection (e)(7), a contract between a UBO and a boxer shall meet each of the following requirements:

“(1) During the 30-day period ending on the last day of such contract, the boxer may not be prohibited from communicating with another UBO or a promoter.

“(2) Such contract shall—

“(A) specify the minimum payment that such boxer will receive for participating in a round of a boxing match, which shall be at least \$200 per round; and

“(B)(i) arrange that such boxer fight in a minimum of 1 boxing match every 6 months; or

“(ii) ensure that such boxer is paid an amount that is not less than 10 times the minimum payment for such boxer for 1 round as specified pursuant to subparagraph (A), except that this clause shall not apply if an injury prevents the boxer from fighting and the boxer is collecting insurance for such injury pursuant to subsection (d)(2), or the boxer refuses or is otherwise unable to fight for reasons beyond the control of the UBO, including inability of the boxer to travel or the boxer's failure to maintain relevant licensure.

“(3) Such contract may not exceed 6 years.

“(g) BOXING CONDUCT POLICY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A condition of this section is that a UBO implements and ensures compliance with a comprehensive boxing conduct policy that prohibits a boxer, or any covered individual, who is directly involved with or participates in a covered match from—

“(A) placing a bet or wager, directly or through a third party, on the match; and

“(B) sharing non-public information with a third party that is material to the performance of a boxer participating in the match or the outcome of the match for the purpose of assisting the third party in placing a bet or wager on the match.

“(2) COMPLIANCE.—A UBO shall implement and ensure compliance with procedures for monitoring and enforcing compliance with the boxing conduct policy implemented under paragraph (1).

“(3) COVERED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘covered individual’ means, with respect to a boxer who participates in a covered match, any of the following:

“(A) An adult living in the same household as the boxer.

“(B) A coach, manager, or athletic trainer of the boxer.

“(C) A physician or other medical professional who provides services to the boxer.

“(D) An employee, officer, or director of the UBO concerned.

“(E) An agent of any such person who is directly involved with or participates in a covered match.

“(h) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—A condition of this section is that a UBO implements prohibitions against the officers or employees of the UBO, or any representative of the UBO, engaging in any of the following:

“(1) Any direct or indirect financial interest in the management of a boxer in relation to the participation of the boxer in a covered match.

“(2) Employment of, or making a payment to, a manager who represents a boxer who participates in a covered match, except—

“(A) when the boxer acts as the boxer's own manager; or

“(B) for any consideration paid by the UBO to the manager under the contract between the manager and the boxer.

“(3) Receiving or requesting from a boxer the payment of a fee related to—

“(A) the ranking of the boxer; and

“(B) the participation of the boxer in a covered match—

“(i) including any fee related to a boxer participating in a covered match in which the boxer will be challenging a champion or defending a championship, including any award; and

“(ii) excluding any cost related to a boxer reimbursing a UBO for reasonable expenses incurred by the UBO on behalf of the boxer in relation to the participation of the boxer in a covered match, including any medical expense and travel expense.

“(i) BOXING COMMISSIONS.—

“(1) PROHIBITION.—A condition of this section is that a covered match may not be held—

“(A) in a State without a boxing commission; or

“(B) within a reservation (as defined by section 21) under the jurisdiction of a tribal organization (as defined by section 21) that does not meet the requirements of section 21.

“(2) JUDGES AND REFEREES.—A condition of this section is that a UBO meets the requirements of section 16.

“(j) FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), a condition of this section is that a UBO is financially responsible for the costs of meeting the requirements of section 5 and the conditions of this section.

“(2) COST OF ANY DEDUCTIBLE.—The cost of any deductible for any health insurance required to be provided by the UBO for a boxer shall be the financial responsibility of the boxer.

“(k) FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION FILING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A condition of this section is that, on the date in which a UBO intends to claim status as a UBO for purposes of this section, the UBO submits to the Federal Trade Commission and to the Association of Boxing Commissions information regarding the UBO, including the following:

“(A) The State in which the UBO is incorporated.

“(B) The business address of the UBO.

“(C) The website of the UBO.

“(2) FORMAT; UPDATES.—To meet the condition of this subsection, the UBO shall—

“(A) provide the information described in paragraph (1) in—

“(i) writing; and

“(ii) for any document greater than 2 pages in length, electronic form; and

“(B) promptly notify the Federal Trade Commission of any material change in the information submitted.

“(3) FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION TO MAKE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC.—The Federal Trade Commission—

“(A) shall make information received under this subsection available to the public; and

“(B) may assess the UBO a fee to offset the costs the Commission incurs in processing the information and in making the information available to the public.

“(4) INTERNET ALTERNATIVE.—In lieu of submitting the information described in paragraph (1) to the Federal Trade Commission, a UBO may provide the information to the public by maintaining a website on the internet that meets the following requirements:

“(A) Is readily accessible by the general public using generally available search engines.

“(B) For full access to the information, does not require a password or payment of a fee.

“(C) Contains the information described in paragraph (1) in a format that is easy to search and use.

“(D) Is updated when there is a material change in the information.

“(1) RELATIONSHIP WITH STATE LAW.—Nothing in this section shall prohibit a State from adopting or enforcing supplemental laws or regulations not inconsistent with this section, or criminal, civil, or administrative fines for violations of such laws or regulations.”.

(b) ENFORCEMENT.—Section 18(b) of the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 U.S.C. 6309(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) UNIFIED BOXING ORGANIZATIONS.—Any officer or employee of a unified boxing organization who willfully and knowingly violates, or coerces or causes any other person to violate, section 24 shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned for not more than 1 year or fined not more than \$20,000, or both.”.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 U.S.C. 6301) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the following:

“(7) PHYSICIAN.—The term ‘physician’ means a doctor of medicine, with a degree of Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, who is legally authorized to practice medicine by the State in which the physician performs such function or action.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(16) UNIFIED BOXING ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘unified boxing organization’ or ‘UBO’ means an association, a league, or a centralized industry organization in the private sector that—

“(A) organizes a professional boxing match in a system in which a boxer under contract with such association, league, or centralized industry organization competes against another such boxer pursuant to unified rules; and

“(B) without reliance on a sanctioning organization operating independently of such association, league, or centralized industry organization, implements a system for title belts and ranking for boxers under contract with such association, league, or centralized industry organization.”.

SEC. 4. BOXING INDUSTRY STANDARDS.

(a) BOXER SAFETY AND INDUSTRY STANDARDS.—Section 5 of the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 U.S.C. 6304) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting “AND INDUSTRY” after “SAFETY”;

(2) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “No person” and inserting the following:

“(a) HEALTH AND SAFETY OF BOXERS.—No person”; and

(B) by inserting “, at a minimum,” after “that provides”;

(3) in subsection (a), as so designated—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) PHYSICAL EXAMINATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A physical examination of each boxer by a physician certifying whether or not the boxer is physically fit to

safely compete, copies of which shall be provided to the boxing commission by such physician.

“(B) MINIMAL MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—A physician may certify as required under subparagraph (A) only if the examinations described in clause (iii) are conducted, which examinations shall be valid only for the amount of time prior to a match indicated in such table.

“(ii) VALIDITY.—No examination shall be valid unless it is conducted by a physician, in person, and includes a written opinion that the result of such examination does not contraindicate that a boxer is able to compete safely.

“(iii) REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS.—The examinations described in this clause are those set forth in the following table:

“Required examinations	Validity
Complete physical examination, including blood work	1 year
Dilated eye examination	1 year
Heart examinations (Electrocardiogram, and for a boxer aged 40 years or older, a stress test)	1 year
Antibody tests (Negative Human Immunodeficiency Virus antibody, Hepatitis B antigen, and Hepatitis C antibody)	6 months
Brain health examinations (For a boxer aged 40 years or older, a magnetic resonance image (MRI) scan and a magnetic resonance angiography (MRA) of the brain; for a boxer under age 40, an MRI of the brain or neurologic examination conducted by a neurologist)	1 year
In the case of a female fighter, a pregnancy test	14 days”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “Except” and inserting “AMBULANCE; EQUIPMENT.—Except”; and

(ii) by striking “an ambulance or medical personnel” and inserting “an ambulance and medical personnel”;

(C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) PHYSICIAN.—A physician continuously present at ringside who, beginning on the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of the Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act of 2026, shall have a certification obtained through a certification program administered by the Association of Boxing Commissions in partnership with the Association of Ring-side Physicians, or any successor organization.”; and

(D) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

“(4) INSURANCE.—For each boxer, health insurance that—

“(A) provides a minimum of \$50,000 in medical coverage for any injuries sustained in the match and \$15,000 in accidental death coverage for any fatality arising from such match; and

“(B) with respect to any premium, is not the financial responsibility of the boxer.”;

(4) by adding after subsection (a), as designated by paragraph (2) of this subsection, the following:

“(b) MINIMUM PAYMENT TO BOXERS.—A promoter or unified boxing organization shall pay a minimum of \$200 to each boxer for each round in a match in which the boxer participates.”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) SIMPLIFICATION OF TITLES.—

“(1) SINGULAR TITLES.—A sanctioning organization or unified boxing organization shall award only 1 championship title for each weight class.

“(2) INTERIM TITLES.—A sanctioning organization or unified boxing organization may not award an interim championship title except in the case of an injury or illness to a reigning titleholder, refusal or inability by the reigning title holder to defend his title, or for reasons beyond the control of the boxer, including inability to travel.”.

(b) REVIEW.—Section 7 of the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 U.S.C. 6306) is amended—

(1) subsection (a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) Procedures to ensure that—

“(A) drug tests shall be administered—

“(i) for any title bout; and

“(ii) at random for all other bouts, provided that tests are administered for not less than 50 percent of such other bouts; and

“(B) such drug tests shall screen, at a minimum, for any substance listed on the most

current edition of ‘The World Anti-Doping Code, The Prohibited List International Standard’ of the World Anti-Doping Agency, except that a boxing commission may elect not to screen for such a substance if the use of such substance is not prohibited by the State in which the match is being held or the tribal organization (as defined in section 21) that is regulating the match.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) CONSISTENT STANDARDS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

“(1) uneven development of standards and practices by boxing commissions (including tribal organizations in compliance with section 21) has enabled matches that would not have been authorized by boxing commissions with robust standards and practices, and that boxers have been seriously injured or killed as a result;

“(2) the Association of Boxing Commissions (in this subsection referred to as the ‘ABC’), in partnership with the Association of Ringside Physicians, is well-positioned to identify policies and practices most conducive to boxer safety and wellbeing; and

“(3) the ABC should, accordingly, publish and maintain—

“(A) a model legislative and regulatory code for professional boxing, derived from—

“(i) State policies that are most protective of boxers’ safety, health, wellbeing, and economic opportunity;

“(ii) rigorous sporting authority guidelines, such as the USA Boxing protocols for medical suspension; and

“(iii) expert consensus statements from the Association of Ringside Physicians and other sports medicine organizations;

“(B) best practices recommendations for oversight of professional boxing and implementation of legal duties by boxing commissions; and

“(C) an annual report card of boxing commission conformance with such model codes and best practices.”.

(c) JUDGES AND REFEREES.—Section 16 of the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 U.S.C. 6307h) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 16. JUDGES AND REFEREES.

“No person may arrange, promote, organize, produce, or fight in a professional boxing match unless all referees and judges participating in the match have been certified and approved by—

“(1) the boxing commission responsible for regulating the match in the State where the match is held; or

“(2) the Association of Boxing Commissions.”.

(d) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—Section 17(c)(2)(A) of the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 U.S.C. 6308(c)(2)(A)) is amend-

ed by striking “or reasonable expenses in connection therewith”.

(e) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Paragraphs (1) and (3) of section 21(a) of the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 U.S.C. 6312(a)) are amended by striking “25 U.S.C. 450b” and inserting “25 U.S.C. 5304”.

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICATION.

The amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to boxing matches that take place on or after the date that is 30 days after such date of enactment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALBERG. 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. 4624.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to “float like a butterfly” and “sting like a bee” in support of H.R. 4624, the Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act of 2026.

For much of the 20th century, boxing stood at the heart of American sports and culture. It gave us legends like Christy Martin, Joe Louis, Sugar Ray Robinson, Jack Dempsey, and Muhammad Ali, but the sport today looks very different.

For too long, professional boxing has operated under an outdated patchwork of regulations that leaves fighters vulnerable to injury, exploitation, and limited opportunity.

The Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act would bring the sport into the modern era. This bipartisan legislation would create new frameworks to

enhance safety standards, expand opportunities for fighters, and restore integrity to the sport, revitalizing one of America's most iconic sports.

This bipartisan bill would allow unified boxing organizations, UBOs, to operate alongside existing sanctioning bodies. That means more options for fighters and more choice in how they compete. For boxers fighting within UBOs, the bill would strengthen health and safety protections. The legislation also extends stronger safety protections and increases wages for all professional boxers, whether they compete inside or outside of a UBO.

In short, the bill gives boxers more choice, better pay, and stronger safety protections, while encouraging the growth and modernization of this historic sport.

Muhammad Ali, who was my constituent at one time, said this: "Don't count the days; make the days count."

Today, we have the opportunity to make this day count for the fighters who step into the ring, for the future of this sport, for the integrity of the competition itself, and for the fans like me and others who will experience a benefit from this bill.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 4624, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4624, the Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act.

This bill amends the Federal law governing safety, transparency, and integrity in professional boxing, the only professional sport that is federally regulated.

The original law regulating boxing was enacted to end corrupt promoters' abilities to corner the market by locking up top talent and requiring any would-be challengers to surrender their promotional rights or agree to new representation chosen by the promoter. Some particularly powerful promoters allegedly even threatened or bribed sanctioning organizations to manipulate their rankings.

Thanks to current law, those days are over. As a result of that law, boxers at the top of the sport take home approximately 80 percent of the revenue associated with a match.

The bill we are voting on today is the result of bipartisan work that went into improving it. Specifically, Chairman WALBERG, Workforce Protections Subcommittee Ranking Member OMAR, Representative STEVENS, and I came together, identified key issues, and made meaningful fixes to strengthen the legislation. These changes were significant, and the bill we are considering is much better than the version that was introduced.

For example, we improved health and safety protections for fighters, particularly when it comes to brain health, which is an important priority, by adding additional neurological testing.

The bill now ensures that qualified ringside physicians are available, strengthens emergency preparedness by requiring onsite medical personnel, and expands pre-bout medical testing.

We also enhanced boxers' economic security. We increased minimum insurance coverage for injuries, added accidental death coverage, and raised the minimum compensation per round.

We also took steps to protect the integrity of the sport. The bill now incorporates consistent antidoping standards, increases drug testing, and begins to address the problem of too many championship titles diluting competition.

We added protections for fighters under contract by limiting contract length, ensuring opportunities to compete will be compensated, and giving boxers a fair chance to pursue other opportunities.

These practical, bipartisan improvements are a significant win for boxers' health and well-being, as well as their economic futures.

As the bill moves forward in the legislative process, the Senate can and should build on the progress we have made in the House and continue to improve this legislation before it becomes law.

For example, the Senate could ensure enforceability of the Boxing Act's rights by prohibiting any contract between a boxer and a UBO or boxing service provider, including clauses that bar class action proceedings or mandates to bring disputes to private arbitration.

Mr. Speaker, I support the bill and thank the authors, Representative SHARICE DAVIDS of Kansas and BRIAN JACK of Georgia, for their work on this legislation.

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JACK), the author of this legislation.

Mr. JACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bipartisan legislation, H.R. 4624, the Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act, which I proudly authored and introduced with my colleague from Kansas (Ms. DAVIDS), a former professional mixed martial artist herself and a leader in her caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the House Committee on Education and Workforce, TIM WALBERG; the ranking member, BOBBY SCOTT; and the distinguished members of the committee for considering and favorably reporting my legislation with an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote.

Today, our House of Representatives has an opportunity to make history by passing the first Federal boxing legislation in over a quarter century.

Mr. Speaker, professional boxing in America has an incredibly rich and storied history. It is a sport that demands courage, perseverance, and determination from its champions, and its heroes

have inspired greatness, ignited dreams, and forged generations of memories and tradition.

Mr. Speaker, 39 years before Jackie Robinson bravely broke barriers in Major League Baseball, Jack Johnson, the Galveston Giant, reigned as the first Black heavyweight champion of the world, from 1908 to 1915. Decades before the New York Knicks were formed, thousands of spectators crammed into Madison Square Garden to see Jack Dempsey fight.

Many of you may recall storied bouts during boxing's golden era, like Leon Spinks versus Muhammad Ali in 1978, Marvin Hagler versus Thomas Hearns in 1985, and Mike Tyson versus Evander Holyfield in 1997.

Unfortunately, American boxing has since faced a steady decline. It has been 38 years since an American won a heavyweight gold medal at the Olympics, and the majority of boxing's premier fights are now overseas, many time zones away.

In recent years, "HBO World Championship Boxing" and "Showtime Championship Boxing," long home to the greatest fights, ceased operations.

□ 1510

Last year, ESPN's contract with a leading boxing promotion ended without renewal, leaving professional boxing without an American distributor.

At the heart of boxing's downturn is a structural flaw that our predecessors in Congress identified over 25 years ago but declined to address. We have the opportunity to fix this today and revive this great American sport.

For over a century, individual States enacted legislation to regulate professional boxing, but the patchwork of regulations without uniform minimum standards led to the exploitation of boxers and rampant corruption.

Since the 1950s, Congress has considered proposed legislation to address these problems. After multiple attempts in the 1990s, Congress finally acted, passing the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 and the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act in 2000.

As a result, boxing is the only professional sport regulated by Congress.

The Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 established minimum safety standards for professional boxers. The Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act, more commonly known as the Ali Act, attempted to reform unfair and anti-competitive practices in the professional boxing industry. Both were enacted by voice vote with unanimous support from the House and Senate.

Mr. Speaker, today, we have the opportunity to follow in our predecessor's footsteps and pass the Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act.

My legislation amends the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 and preserves in its entirety the original Ali Act.

First, my bill clarifies ambiguities in current law that have stifled innovation and investment in the sport. This

legislation allows for the creation of Unified Boxing Organizations, otherwise known as UBOs, that will provide professional boxers with more opportunities, better pay, and greater protections.

The UBO system will not replace the current structure of professional boxing. Instead, UBOs will operate as a separate, parallel system that will give boxers the freedom to choose which system works best for them.

The bill's strict antidoping and antigambling protocols will safeguard the integrity of the sport and restrict UBOs from charging boxers fees for placement in rankings or participation in championship matches.

To improve the safety and well-being of professional boxers, my legislation establishes a national minimum payment per round of \$200 and strengthens existing health and safety protections, including establishing for the very first time a national minimum of \$50,000 in health coverage for injuries sustained during a bout.

My legislation also seeks to alleviate confusion fans often face while following the sport by specifying that sanctioning organizations and UBOs shall only award one championship title for each weight class.

Mr. Speaker, the Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act strengthens safety for boxers, improves the quality of life for boxers, and establishes a framework for innovation within the sport to flourish.

Passage of my legislation will return boxing events to our country, and bringing jobs, investment, and economic activity back to American communities.

The Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act is endorsed by Lonnie Ali, the wife of Muhammad Ali; the Association of Boxing Commissions; and former heavyweight champion of the world Mike Tyson.

Additionally, America's largest arena operators support my legislation, including Madison Square Garden Entertainment Corporation, MGM Resorts International, and State Farm Arena in my hometown of Atlanta. Representing American workers, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters also supports this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation has accomplished something few other issues before this Congress have done. The Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act fostered collaboration between Republicans and Democrats who worked together in good faith to revive one of America's greatest sports, in the name of one of America's greatest athletes.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act.

I come to this issue both as a legislator and a longtime fan of the sport.

At its best, boxing is a sport of courage, discipline, and dignity. For too long, the people who are risking the most have not always been treated with the fairness and respect they deserve.

Congress passed the original Ali Act for a reason: to stop powerful interests from exploiting boxers and denying them control over their careers.

When this bill first came before us, I had significant concerns. That is why I worked hard to make it better. We negotiated in good faith with the majority, and we did make it better.

This bill now includes stronger baseline protections for boxers, including higher pay, better healthcare coverage, and stronger ringside medical protections.

It also includes an amendment that I offered with Representative STEVENS to guarantee free agency for boxers, strengthening their economic freedom, and limiting the ability of powerful leagues to control boxers' careers.

I am voting "yes" today because boxers deserve those benefits and protections. Let me be clear: This work is not done. We still need stronger financial transparency, stronger antimonopoly provisions, and stronger safeguards against coercive contracts, including forced arbitration clauses.

I support this bill, not because it is perfect, but because we fought hard to make sure it wasn't just a gift to industry.

Boxers put their bodies, their long-term health, and their livelihoods on the line every time they step into the ring. Congress should not ask them to accept more risk with less protection and less economic security.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Senators to keep improving this bill.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN), the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary and a dog-gone good wrestler in his time as an NCAA champion.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding and thank him for his work on this bill.

As a kid growing up in the seventies and eighties who was into sports, I loved watching boxing. Title fights were a big thing. It was comparable to watching the Final Four and the World Series. There were big fights people tuned into, and some of these names have been mentioned: Thomas "Hitman" Hearns I remember from Detroit, "Marvelous" Marvin Hagler, and, of course, I loved the Sugar Ray Leonard/Roberto Duran fights that took place, especially when Sugar Ray beat him the second time, the No Mas Fight.

Nothing compared to the heavyweight title fights: Ali/Frazier, Frazier/Foreman, Ali/Foreman, Ali/Norton, all of those guys—amazing fights.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman again for the work on this bill. I particularly thank Representative JACK for the good work he has done, hoping

that we can revive boxing, this great sport, in our country, and do it in a way that will expand opportunity for young fighters who want to box and want to be in this game and do it in a way that is also healthy for them, healthy for the sport, healthy for everyone. That is what this legislation does.

Again, I thank the chairman and the committee for the bipartisan work that was done. In particular, I thank Representative JACK for the good work he has done shepherding this bill through, and I urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY), a senior member of the Committee on Education and Workforce.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4624, which I also opposed in committee along with three other members who opposed the Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act, a bill which radically amends the existing Muhammad Ali Act that was passed in 2000. That law established statutory protections for boxers from exploitative and unethical business practices.

The committee received expert testimony from witnesses with deep experience in the legal landscape in the boxing world and warned us that this bill will strip away many of those hard-fought reforms.

H.R. 4624 creates a new parallel legal structure, the so-called unified boxing organizations, which can engage in promotion, rule setting, match organization, and creation of their own titles and rankings. Under the existing law negotiated and spearheaded by the late John McCain, these functions have been required to remain separate to protect against conflicts of interest and coercive contract terms for boxers.

The UBOs proposed under H.R. 4624 will replicate a model that has been extremely lucrative in other nonboxing, mixed martial arts sports worlds that operate with few legal and economic protections for fighters, leading to a long history of litigation and allegations of coercive and anticompetitive practices.

This includes the use of long-term contracts, including forced arbitration, blocking fighters from bringing a lawsuit for breach of contract, and class action waivers that waive a fighter's right to be awarded damages in settlement on behalf of a group.

One of the crowning achievements of the original Muhammad Ali law was the establishment of a boxer's right to a private cause of action to assert their rights, which all Americans enjoy, to seek legal redress for unlawful injuries. H.R. 4624 fails to protect these protections within UBOs.

□ 1520

Mr. Speaker, there has been a narrative that this is something that has unified the boxing world in terms of support for this bill.

I include in the RECORD a letter dated just a few weeks ago, February 27, 2026, from USA Boxing, the largest amateur boxing organization in America withdrawing their endorsement that they gave the bill last January.

FEBRUARY 27, 2026.

Re Withdrawal and Clarification of January 18, 2026, Correspondence.

Hon. TIM WALBERG,
Chairman, Committee on Education and the Workforce,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT,
Ranking Member, Committee on Education and the Workforce,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WALBERG AND RANKING MEMBER SCOTT: On January 18, 2026, correspondence was transmitted to your offices regarding the Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act (H.R. 4624).

Following review, the USA Boxing Board of Directors determined that the January 18, 2026, correspondence did not reflect a formally adopted Board position at the time of submission and was not authorized by a vote of the Board. Accordingly, the Board issues this clarification and confirms that the January 18 correspondence does not represent an official position at USA Boxing.

Accordingly, the Board hereby withdraws that letter.

After discussion, the Board has determined that USA Boxing will not take a position on H.R. 4624.

We appreciate the Committee's attention to matters affecting the sport of boxing.

Respectfully,

TYSON LEE,
President of USA Boxing.

MIKE MCATEE,
Executive Director/CEO of USA Boxing.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I also include in the RECORD a letter from Top Rank boxing CEO Robert Arum, who again criticized this bill for the damage it is going to do to boxers' legal rights, and states that a UBO is deemed in compliance with such provisions simply by virtue of being recognized as a UBO.

DECEMBER 3, 2025.

Re Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act.

House Education and the Workforce Committee,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR COMMITTEE MEMBERS: My name is Bob Arum and I am the chairman and founder of Top Rank, Inc., a leading boxing promoter operating since 1966. I am writing to you all regarding the proposed Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act (the "Amendment").

The Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 and the subsequent Muhammad Ali Act amendment (collectively the "Ali Act") instituted a series of regulations intended to protect fighters from exploitative and unethical business practices. By way of example, the Ali Act in its current form:

(1) Prohibits promoters from entering into coercive contracts with fighters (See Ali Act Section 10(a)), which serves to prevent a fighter from being forced to sign a long-term contract with a particular promoter as a condition precedent to securing a fight with an opponent under contract to that same promoter;

(2) Creates strict disclosure rules that compel promoters to disclose to fighters the compensation they have contracted to re-

ceive from the fighter's match, which provides fighters with transparency regarding the revenue generated from their bouts and serves as a tool that allows fighters to negotiate fair market value for subsequent bouts (See Ali Act Section 13(b)(1) of the Ali Act); and

(3) Establishes a firewall between promoters and managers, which helps ensure that managers represent the interests of their fighters and do not serve as agents of promoters at their fighters' expense (See Ali Act Section 17(b)).

The Amendment strips away these and other protections for fighters set forth in the Ali Act for any fighter that signs with a newly created Unified Boxing Organization ("UBO"). Specifically, the proposed Section 24(a) of the Amendment states that a UBO is "deemed to be in compliance with the requirements of this Act if the UBO meets the conditions of this section with respect to—(1) each boxer under contract with the UBO; and (2) each professional boxing match organized by the UBO."

As presently drafted, the conditions required for an entity to qualify as a UBO do not include the protections for fighters set forth above. A UBO is not prohibited from entering coercive contracts with fighters, is not required to provide financial disclosures to fighters, and is not subject to the rule establishing a firewall between managers and promoters. It is not subject to any of the protections created for fighters in the Ali Act. Instead, a UBO is deemed in compliance with such provisions simply by virtue of being recognized as a UBO and complying with the requirements for UBOs. This is incredibly problematic and entirely unjustifiable. Put simply, there is no reason for Congress to actively remove these protections for those fighters who choose to sign with a UBO, and there is no reason for a UBO to be exempt from complying with these protective measures.

Proponents of the Amendment have hailed that it will create greater opportunities for fighters outside the current sanctioning body system, enhance health and safety benefits, and improve fighter pay. The Amendments can achieve those ends without exempting UBOs from the protections for fighters set forth in the Ali Act. Proponents have also stated that the bill does not change the existing provisions of the original Ali Act. This is misleading at best. As stated above, the Amendment exempts UBO's from the existing provisions of the original Ali Act by deeming the UBO in compliance with such provisions so long as it adheres to all UBO requirements. Fighters who benefited from those protective provisions will no longer do so if they participate in the UBO system. That is a fundamental change to the underlying Ali Act and to the many protections granted to fighters therein.

There is likely a version of this bill that achieves the stated aims of its proponents without harming fighters who participate in the alternative UBO system. Indeed, such a change to the presently drafted Amendment could be easily accomplished—UBOs should be forced to comply with those portions of the underlying Ali Act that protect fighters to be deemed in compliance with the overall Act and to maintain their standing as a UBO. There is no sound reason to reject such a proposed change, which serves only to ensure that previous protections for fighters carry over into the new alternative system the Amendment seeks to create.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any further questions or if Top Rank can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

ROBERT ARUM,
Chief Executive Officer, Top Rank, Inc.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, this is incredibly problematic and entirely unjustifiable. Put simply, there is no reason for Congress to actively remove these protections for those fighters who choose to sign with the UBO, and there is no reason for a UBO to be exempt from complying with these protective measures.

Mr. Speaker, lastly, Patrick English, who testified before the committee, rebutted the myth that boxing is dying.

Mr. Speaker, cable is dying, but boxing is signing very lucrative contracts with streaming services.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Connecticut.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, this bill does not have consensus support from those its proponents claim. Again, as has been stated by Ms. OMAR, I join with her in calling on the Senate to continue to work on this bill and focus on the achievements of Senator McCain in terms of protecting boxers' rights that are at risk with this legislation. Again, I would ask for Members to oppose this bill when the time comes up for a vote.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HARRIS), a great member of the Education and Workforce Committee.

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act.

Mr. Speaker, for decades boxing has declined in the public eye in part because of a fragmented structure that has left many fighters without the security and stability they deserve. This bill gives boxers more control over their careers, allowing them to choose whether to compete within a unified boxing organization or continue under the current system.

The bill updates longstanding requirements to ensure proper medical oversight, including the presence of doctors and ambulances at every event. It includes my amendment, which better aligns these requirements with established industry practice and State laws in some of the Nation's premier combat sport States, including Nevada.

As a result, the bill now requires two ambulances and two doctors to be continuously present at professional boxing matches. I urge my colleagues to support this bill brought forward by my friend Representative BRIAN JACK that I believe will modernize boxing safety standards.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MCGARVEY).

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act. The term "GOAT" gets thrown around a lot these days. In fact, my middle school son came home recently asking us to buy him a pair of GOAT sweatpants.

There is a movie that just came out produced by Steph Curry called "GOAT."

But in Louisville, Kentucky, we know that there is only one Greatest of All Time: Muhammad Ali. His three world titles, his gold medals, his footwork, his showmanship and charisma, they made him an icon inside the ring. His work outside the ring, which is arguably more impressive, cemented that legacy.

He was the GOAT.

Ali often said that he was: the onliest boxer in history who people asked questions like a Senator. It is only fitting that Congress named the bill in his honor when they set out to reform the boxing industry. We do so again today as we consider further reforms.

The first Ali acts in 1996 and 2000 secured significant reforms for boxers—guaranteeing transparency, protecting fighter safety, trying to erect a firewall between promoters and managers—but American boxing remains fractured and favors the interests of sanctioners and promoters over the fighters themselves.

I think that is why a boxing landscape that produced eight heavyweight gold medalists in the 10 Olympics between 1952 and 1988 has not produced a single one since.

Today's bill is a step in the right direction, and I will vote "yes." But like Ranking Member SCOTT and Representative OMAR, I believe there is more work to do on this bill before it gets to the President's desk.

Boxing lifted Cassius Clay from Smoketown and gave Muhammad Ali to the world. That is a legacy worth fighting for.

I thank my colleagues and my dear friend Lonnie Ali who continues to fight for boxers and for her late husband's legacy.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MACKENZIE), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.

Mr. MACKENZIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4624, the Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act.

For generations, boxing stood at the center of American sports. It produced legends, inspired communities, and embodied the grit and determination that defined our country. But today, the sport has become fragmented, marked by inconsistent standards; weak oversight; and, too often, inadequate protections for fighters.

As chairman of the Workforce Protections Subcommittee, I recently led a hearing examining these challenges. We heard directly from experts, advocates, and leaders in the sport about the urgent need to strengthen safety, improve transparency, and create real opportunities for fighters.

At the end of the day, boxers are workers, and like every American worker, they deserve a safe and fair workplace.

This bill takes important steps to get us there. It establishes clearer, more

consistent standards across the sport, strengthens medical protections, and ensures fighters have access to fair pay and proper oversight.

Just as importantly, it helps restore integrity and trust in the sport that has meant so much to so many Americans.

H.R. 4624 is about putting American fighters first, protecting their health, respecting their dignity, and giving them a fair shot at success.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill is far better today because of the bipartisan work that went into it.

Together, we have improved safety standards, strengthened financial protections, and added important safeguards for fighters.

These changes will help ensure that boxers are better protected both in and out of the ring and that the sport moves forward with greater integrity and accountability.

As all the speakers on this side have mentioned, there is more work that could be done to strengthen the bill, especially as it pertains to private right of action and binding arbitration. This bill has come a long way and is significantly improved from its introduced version.

I support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I express my appreciation to Ranking Member SCOTT for his efforts and work on this bill. It is always good to work with him. I greatly appreciate the work of the sponsor of the bill, Mr. JACK, and his cosponsor Representative DAVIDS, as well as Representative OMAR for the efforts that they have put into making this bill what it appears to be and stands to be and the impact that it can have as we have noted today.

Like many Americans, I enjoy boxing movies like "Rocky" and "Cinderella Man." I think the reason those stories resonate with so many is because it reflects what boxing is meant to represent: discipline, opportunity, a fair fight, and doggone toughness in the American way.

I so enjoyed my colleague Mr. JORDAN as he went through names that I recollect, sitting with my twin brother and my father watching those historic boxing matches. Now, I am a short distance from the Kronk Gym, a historic gym where Emanuel Steward and others trained fighters to do the American thing: discipline, opportunity, and a fair fight.

This bill is also reflective of the story of the American Dream that anyone can earn his or her shot through grit and determination.

But in the real world, a fair fight requires rules that protect competitors as much as they promote competition.

□ 1530

Today, professional boxing too often falls short of that standard. Too often, fighters are pushed into dangerous matches without proper medical oversight, even in the training that they do. They are left navigating contracts with a lack of transparency and forced to shoulder risk without adequate recourse. That reality undermines athlete safety and public confidence in the sport.

The Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act modernizes the framework of professional boxing to meet the expectations of today's athletes and today's fans. It strengthens protections for fighters, creates more opportunities, and helps restore integrity in the sport.

At a time when interest in boxing is growing again, we have the chance to restore confidence in a sport that once inspired generations of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, for the fighters of today and tomorrow, for the fans who believe in this sport, and for the enduring principle of fair competition, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4624, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4624, 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.

EXPANDING APPALACHIA'S BROADBAND ACCESS ACT

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2474) to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the capability of the Appalachian Regional Commission to include low-orbit satellites in broadband projects, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2474

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 "Expanding Appalachia's Broadband Access Act".

SEC. 2 GAO STUDY ON SATELLITE BROADBAND.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct, and submit to Congress the results thereof, a study on the capability of the Appalachian Regional Commission to incorporate satellites in broadband projects.

(b) *REQUIREMENTS.*—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall—

(1) *review the capacity of satellite broadband services to be used for business purposes;*

(2) *evaluate economic development growth in areas that have used satellite broadband for businesses; and*