

and I want to reiterate that the officers of the United States Capitol Police have one of the most critical and demanding jobs in the legislative branch.

Last week, we celebrated Police Week here in Washington. At a time when payouts and pardons are being handed to the people who savagely attacked the Capitol Police in this very building just 5 years ago, they need to know we have their backs; not just with words, but with actions.

The force has come a long way since then, and I commend Chief Sullivan and former Chief Manger for working to rebuild the force and grow its ranks. We cannot stand in the way of that progress.

Threats against Members, our families, staff, people who visit here, and threats against our democratic institutions are growing by the day, and they show no signs of relenting, so we must confront this scourge head-on.

We can do that by helping to advance the interests that Capitol Police continue to deal with the challenges they have in terms of recruitment, and we can do it by passing this bill.

I thank Chairman STEIL, my colleague and friend, and all those members of the Committee on House Administration for making sure that we are able to get this passed. I also thank our colleagues in the Senate for giving us the chance to do this a second time, but I very much appreciate it.

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

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the leader of the Republican Conference.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL), the chairman of the committee and my friend, for yielding. I thank him for the hard work he has put in to first passing an important bill over to the Senate, and now seeing this bill come back to address an important issue, and that is to make sure that we give the Capitol Police Board the flexibility so that we don't have to lose more good officers on the Capitol Police force.

I know personally the heroism and bravery of the great men and women in the United States Capitol Police. I would not be here without their heroism and bravery. We have some of them who are in the prime of their career who would be forced to retire if we don't pass this legislation.

At a time, as was brought up, where we have shortages, we need to make sure that we not only can keep attracting new officers to the force, but when you have officers in the prime of their career that everybody agrees are worthy of keeping on, that they have that flexibility. That is what this bill does, gives the Capitol Police Board that flexibility.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge the adoption of the legislation and urge all my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority leader for sharing his tragic experience. I am grateful to him for his leadership on these important issues. Again, this is, in my mind, a common-sense way to make sure that we continue to have the backs of the members of the Capitol Police who do such an extraordinary job protecting this entire Capitol complex, the men and women who serve here, our staffs, our families, and all the American citizens who get to come and participate in this great democracy.

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

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

I just thank my colleague, Mr. MORELLE, for his work in moving this bill through quickly as well as the leadership of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration for also engaging this, as well as Leader Scalise. I think we all recognize the hard work that the men and women of the United States Capitol Police force do day in and day out to make sure that this institution is open and accessible to the people and those who visit here, as well as staff and Members are kept safe.

This bill is a real opportunity to make sure that those individuals who have crossed the age of 60 but still are ready, prepared, and able to serve in the United States Capitol Police are able to do that.

I appreciate the work of all of my colleagues in moving this through. I encourage all of our colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 4530.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### FOSTERING THE FUTURE ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7432) to amend section 477 of the Social Security Act to improve coordination with Federal housing assistance programs for youth who have experienced foster care, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7432

*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 "Fostering the Future Act".

##### SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED FOSTER CARE.

Section 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(5), by striking "aged out of foster care" and inserting "experienced foster care at age 14 or older";

(2) in subsection (h)(2), by striking "age out of foster care" and inserting "experience foster care at age 14 or older";

(3) in each of subsections (a)(6) and (i)(2), by striking "16" and inserting "14";

(4) in subsection (i)(3), by striking "in no event may a youth participate in the program for more than 5 years (whether or not consecutive)" and inserting "may not allow a youth to participate in the program for more than 5 years (or, in the case of a youth who was involved in a remedial education activity referred to in paragraph (4)(B), for more than 6 years), whether or not consecutive";

(5) in subsection (i)(4)—

(A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

"(A) may be available for the cost of attendance—

"(i) at an institution of higher education, as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, including a community college or postsecondary vocational institution; or

"(ii) at a short-term training program that is eligible for the Workforce Pell program under section 401(k), as described in section 481(b)(3) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1088(b)(3)), as added by section 83002(b) of Public Law 119-21;"

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (A), as so amended, the following:

"(B) may be available for costs—

"(i) associated with participation in an apprenticeship program;

"(ii) to obtain a general equivalency degree; or

"(iii) to receive remedial education; and";

and

(6) in subsection (i), by adding at the end the following:

"(7) In this section, the term 'remedial education' means education or skill training needed to support obtaining a high school diploma or qualifying for postsecondary education, training, or an apprenticeship that is—

"(A) not already available through the school district of the student or another free local, State, or Federal program; and

"(B) is provided by an instructor with credentials relevant to the subject area of instruction, as determined by the State."

##### SEC. 3. INCREASE IN MAXIMUM EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHER AMOUNT AND PROVISION OF GREATER SUPPORT FOR FOSTER YOUTH PURSUING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 477(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677(i)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking "that program" and inserting "that education or training program, (except that the State may establish a grace period to allow a youth to continue participation in activities described in paragraph (4)(A), after an assessment and consultation with the youth, if the State determines that reasonable circumstances warrant the grace period)"; and

(B) by striking "the program" and inserting "the voucher program"; and

(2) in paragraph (4)(C) (as so redesignated by section 2(5)(C) of this Act), by striking "\$5,000" and inserting "\$12,000".

(b) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with youth who have experienced foster care, shall develop and issue model guidance to States and jurisdictions receiving allotments under section 477(c) of the Social Security

Act for implementation of the amendment made by subsection (a)(1) of this section.

**SEC. 4. IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY AND YOUTH AWARENESS OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHERS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 477(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677(i)), as amended by section 2(6) of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(8) The State shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that eligible youth are aware of potential benefits provided under this subsection, including by coordinating with programs funded under subsection (h)(1).

“(9) The program shall include a simplified, user-tested, and standard form for youth to use to apply for vouchers under the program, using standard terminology, that is easily accessible and available electronically.”.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Section 477(d)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 677(d)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A State to which an amount is paid from its allotment under subsection (c)(1) may use the amount in any manner that is reasonably calculated to accomplish the purposes of this section, including outreach related to subsection (i)(8). A State to which an amount is paid from its allotment under subsection (c)(3) may use the amount for any purpose related to the program described in subsection (i)(8).”.

**SEC. 5. IMPROVING ACCESS TO HOUSING FOR FOSTER YOUTH.**

Section 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by striking “and preventive” and inserting “preventive”; and

(B) by inserting “, and access to housing for youth age 18 or older” before the semicolon;

(2) in subsection (a)(4), by inserting “current and” before “former”;

(3) in subsection (b)(2)(D), by inserting “, including by collaborating with public housing agencies that administer Federal housing programs serving foster youth under section 8(x)(2)(B) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 and receive funding to partner with public child welfare agencies to serve youth who have experienced foster care” before the period;

(4) in subsection (b)(3)(B), by striking “not more than 30 percent of the amounts paid to the State from its allotment under subsection (c) for a fiscal year” and inserting “an average of not more than 30 percent of the amounts paid to the State from its allotment under subsection (c) for the 5 fiscal years covered by the application submitted by the State pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection”;

(5) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following:

“(6) HOUSING SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A State may use amounts from its allotment under subsection (c) to provide supportive services to assist eligible youth who experienced foster care to obtain or retain suitable housing.

“(B) DEFINITIONS.—

“(i) ELIGIBLE YOUTH.—In this subsection, the term ‘eligible youth’ means an individual who receives assistance provided under section 8(x) of the United States Housing Act of 1937.

“(ii) SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—The term ‘supportive services’ may include—

“(I) basic life skills information and counseling on financial literacy, use of credit, and money management;

“(II) counseling on rental lease contracts and assistance with rental insurance; and

“(III) assistance with security deposits, utility connection fees, moving costs, and

other fees associated with establishing tenancy.

“(C) EXCEPTION.—Expenditures in accordance with this paragraph shall not be considered expenditures for room and board for purposes of subsection (b)(3)(B).

“(D) ALIGNING AGE ELIGIBILITY.—Notwithstanding subsection (b)(3)(A)(ii), a State may use funds from its allotment under subsection (c) to provide supportive services to eligible youth who have not attained 26 years of age for the purpose of supporting continued access to housing.”; and

(6) in subsection (g)(1), by inserting “access to housing,” before “and personal”.

**SEC. 6. JOINT AGENCY GUIDANCE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, shall develop and issue joint guidance to State public child welfare agencies and public housing authorities to improve alignment and coordination of housing supportive services provided under section 477 of the Social Security Act and housing assistance provided under section 8(x) of the United States Housing Act of 1937.

(b) CONTENTS.—The joint guidance shall include the following:

(1) Clarification and alignment of Federal policies to improve access to housing for youth who have experienced foster care, including youth who are in independent living arrangements while in extended foster care.

(2) Guidance on State use of funds provided under section 477 of the Social Security Act for supportive services (as defined in subsection (d)(6) of such section) to improve access to housing programs administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(3) Best practices for building partnerships between public child welfare agencies and public housing authorities, including ways to improve access to supportive services.

(4) Additional information the Secretaries deem necessary to effectively coordinate Federal programs serving current and former foster youth.

(c) PRODUCTION.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall designate an official of the Department of Health and Human Services to lead development of the joint guidance in collaboration with the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**SEC. 7. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

Within 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate a report that sets forth—

(1) aggregate data on the number of eligible youth who have experienced foster care who are receiving Federal housing assistance;

(2) a description of the outcomes for the youth, including the extent to which youth are able to access stable housing and rates of homelessness;

(3) the findings from any evaluations of State programs conducted pursuant to section 477(g)(1) of the Social Security Act; and

(4) statutory recommendations for improving coordination between public child welfare agencies and Federal housing programs.

**SEC. 8. LEGAL CONSULTING AND ACCESS UNDER THE JOHN H. CHAFEE FOSTER CARE PROGRAM FOR SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD.**

Section 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(4), by inserting “legal counseling access,” after “education,”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(3), by adding at the end the following:

“(L) A certification by the chief executive officer of the State that the relevant case planning and other processes employed by the State take into consideration certain legal issues affecting housing, education, entry into employment, and family connections of current and former foster youth and the efforts required to address the issues, including with respect to State court records, legal recognition of family relationships, and matters relating to custody and permanency.”.

**SEC. 9. ENSURING EXPECTANT AND PARENTING YOUTH HAVE ACCESS TO SERVICES PROVIDED THROUGH THE MATERNAL, INFANT, AND EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME VISITING PROGRAM.**

(a) PURPOSE.—Section 477(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6), by striking “and”;

(2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) to connect foster youth in eligible families (as such term is defined in section 511) who receive services under this part with evidence-based home visiting and support services provided under section 511.”.

(b) APPLICATIONS.—Section 477(b)(3) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 677(b)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(M) A certification by the chief executive officer of the State that the State has processes in place to ensure that a youth participating in the program under this section who is in an eligible family (as such term is defined in section 511) is provided with information regarding evidence-based home visiting and support services provided in the State under section 511.”.

**SEC. 10. TAILORED CASE MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCE COORDINATION SERVICES FOR PARENTING AND EXPECTANT YOUTH WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED FOSTER CARE.**

Section 477(d)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677(d)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A State to which an amount is paid from its allotment under subsection (c)(1) may use the amount—

“(A) to provide tailored case management and resource coordination services to youth otherwise eligible for services under the State program under this section who are expectant or parenting; or

“(B) in any manner that is reasonably calculated to accomplish the purposes of this section.”.

**SEC. 11. UPDATING THE PURPOSES OF THE JOHN H. CHAFEE FOSTER CARE PROGRAM FOR SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD.**

(a) UPDATING OF PURPOSES.—Section 477(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677(a)), as amended by section 9(a)(3) of this Act, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (3) through (8) as paragraphs (3) through (9), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after “conducted—” the following:

“(1) to help children who have experienced foster care at age 14 or older to develop and maintain sustained, supportive relationships with adults (including kin or fictive kin who are not serving as placement), mentors, and peers (including peers who have experienced foster care), with a goal of providing multiple and varied paths to reduce isolation and ensuring that the youth develop lifelong connections and support networks;

“(2) to support youth still in foster care who have experienced foster care at age 14 or

older in exercising the rights referred to in section 475A to participate in developing their permanency plan and receive written information about available services and steps the agency is taking to support the plan, as well as to facilitate pre- and post-permanency peer support, mentoring, connections with kin, and referrals to additional appropriate programs and services to help youth achieve their permanency goals;”.

(b) GUIDANCE.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act and after consulting with youth with lived experience in foster care, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall issue guidance to States and Tribal child welfare agencies regarding the purposes set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 477(a) of the Social Security Act, that includes, at a minimum—

(1) examples of services and support eligible for Federal funding under part B of title IV of such Act, under part E of such title as part of completing and following the case plan requirements provided for in section 475A of such Act, or under section 477 of such Act, including individual youth support, family support, and peer support to engage youth during reunification, guardianship, or adoption proceedings;

(2) best practices for facilitating peer support, mentoring, and the development and maintenance of lifelong connections, including practices that support sibling, tribal, and community connections, including minimum qualifications and training for persons providing mentoring and peer support;

(3) standards of outreach to and notification of eligible youth, including youth with a planned permanent living arrangement, to ensure referrals to appropriate programs and services; and

(4) protocols for documentation of support and relationship-building activities under section 477 of such Act that are required by section 475A of such Act to be included in a child’s case plan, sufficient to permit review under the case review system described in section 475(5) of such Act.

#### SEC. 12. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) DELAYED PERMITTED IF STATE LEGISLATION REQUIRED.—If the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines that State legislation (other than legislation appropriating funds) is required in order for a State plan under section 477 of the Social Security Act to meet the additional requirements imposed by the amendments made by sections 5(3), 5(4), 8(2), and 9(b) of this Act, the plan shall not be regarded as failing to meet any of the additional requirements before the 1st day of the 1st calendar quarter beginning after the first regular session of the State legislature that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act. For purposes of the preceding sentence, if the State has a 2-year legislative session, each year of the session is deemed to be a separate regular session of the State legislature.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit

extraneous material on this bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1440

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 7432, the Fostering the Future Act, bipartisan legislation led by my Ways and Means Committee colleagues, Work and Welfare Subcommittee Chairman DARIN LAHOOD, and Congresswoman GWEN MOORE.

This is a historic moment for this committee and this House. What we have before us is the first comprehensive modernization of the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood since its creation in 1999, nearly three decades ago.

Foster youth are one of the most vulnerable populations in our country. Before I came to Congress, I served as an attorney for neglected and abused children and have seen firsthand the challenges so many of these youth face.

Every year, nearly 16,000 foster youth age out of the system. Nearly 35 percent experience homelessness by age 21, and 70 percent are expectant or parenting by age 21, double the national average. Only 56 percent obtain full- or part-time employment, and possibly as few as 69 percent earn a high school diploma or GED. This is a system in desperate need of attention and reform.

Today, we are giving our Nation’s foster youth a fighting chance at independence in adulthood. Following committee hearings and direct consultation with youth who spoke about their personal and real-world experiences, the Ways and Means Committee thoughtfully wrote these reforms designed to improve outcomes for our Nation’s transitioning foster youth.

I want to give special thanks to our Nation’s First Lady, Melania Trump, who has been an outstanding champion for foster youth through her Fostering the Future initiative. Truly, she is a voice for the voiceless.

Last month, our committee sat down for a roundtable with the First Lady and foster youth leaders who have actually lived through this system. I am proud that this bill codifies key priorities from the Fostering the Future of American Children and Families executive order championed by the First Lady, ensuring that these reforms are here to stay.

In direct response to the feedback raised by foster youth, including Seth, a 21-year-old from my district in Missouri, this bill improves connections to housing programs so foster youth aren’t left to age out onto the streets.

Chairman LAHOOD, a longtime leader on expanding access to housing, and Representative GWEN MOORE championed this provision to ensure housing

stability remains in reach for young adults during a very vulnerable time as they transition to independence.

We also incorporated the feedback of Jaydan, a former foster youth from Texas, who spoke at our roundtable about the importance of increasing the value of the education and training voucher. Thanks to the leadership of another Texan, Representative MORAN, and Representative CHU, foster youth will now have greater academic support when pursuing a postsecondary education.

The Fostering the Future Act expands flexibility in Chafee’s education and training voucher program, with feedback from youth like Kimberley in Missouri and Raven in Ohio, so young people can pursue short-term workforce programs and apprenticeship opportunities to earn a high-paying job or receive remedial education to earn their high school diploma, reforms prioritized by Representatives MAX MILLER from Ohio and DWIGHT EVANS from Pennsylvania.

Youth who age out of the child welfare system often lack permanent connections to family and face unique barriers that can make transitioning into independence difficult. We heard directly from a foster youth from Chairman LAHOOD and Ranking Member DAVIS’ home State of Illinois, Jocelyn Fettering, who shared with us at our roundtable the importance of improving access to legal services.

To break down further barriers, we have included a thoughtful initiative from Representatives YAKYM and DAVIS to connect expectant and parenting foster youth with evidence-based maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting services.

Representative YAKYM is building directly upon the great work of his predecessor, the late JACKIE WALORSKI, leveraging existing resources to help these young adults build healthy, stable families.

Finally, a provision led by Representatives MIKE CAREY and GWEN MOORE updates the core mission of the Chafee program to prioritize lifelong connections, mentors, and permanent support networks. Representative CAREY has been incredibly outspoken about the importance of mentorship, and this step ensures these young people have real-world relationships to help them achieve lasting independence.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 7432, the Fostering the Future Act, which includes six separate pieces of legislation that were unanimously passed by the Ways and Means Committee.

Removing a child from their family and placing them in foster care is a last resort, something we should only do at times when there is no way to keep a child safe at home.

Youth who must enter foster care have already experienced significant trauma, and to our shame, many experience additional trauma while in our care.

One of the greatest honors and greatest challenges of my service in Congress has been listening to youth who experienced foster care, learning from them, and trying to make sure we do better in the future.

Over the years, older youth who experienced foster care have helped us enact historic legislation to improve foster care for those who come after them. Former foster youth informed and supported our work to help more children leave foster care to live with their grandparents and other family members, and with the supports they needed in the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act.

Older youth said it would help them if we helped their parents address substance use disorders and mental health challenges. So, first, we created regional partnerships grants to bring child welfare, substance abuse treatment providers, and law enforcement together.

Then, youth helped us enact the landmark Family First Prevention Services Act, which made Federal funding just as available to stabilize families as it is to separate them.

Older youth, especially those who are LGBTQ, continue to warn us that children are being harmed in group homes and inappropriate placements, so that we can improve our enforcement of laws that are supposed to protect them.

In all those efforts, older youth who were in foster care and young adults who recently left it helped make foster care better for others.

Today's bill would directly address the specific challenges older youth themselves experienced. Every year, about 20,000 young people age out of foster care, never having found a permanent family. Other older youth do exit to live safely with their parents or in loving kinship or adoptive homes, but the trauma and disruption they experienced still puts them at a significant disadvantage compared to their peers.

□ 1450

Older youth who experienced foster care are less likely to finish school or pursue higher education, more likely to struggle with untreated mental health issues and trauma, more likely to experience homelessness, more likely to become young parents, and more likely to face legal challenges.

The Chafee program, which was renamed to honor foster youth champion Senator John Chafee after his death, was created to help current and former foster youth transition to successful adulthood.

Unfortunately, its funding has never been significantly adjusted to keep up with inflation, and its purposes and rules for States have only been sporadi-

cally updated to keep pace with our understanding of adolescent brain development, fix policies that don't work well, and make sure that former foster youth navigate adulthood with the help of people who love them.

Despite the Chafee program's many successes, only about 35 percent of youth who are eligible for Chafee services receive any help, and many of the services youth need the most are not available, don't work well with other sources of help, or are hard to access.

Over the past 6 months, Chairman LAHOOD and I have worked with our colleagues on Ways and Means to find true common ground on policies affecting older youth who are, or were, in foster care.

I commend my friend, Mr. LAHOOD, for a bipartisan process that should be a model for all of our work, a sincere, thoughtful collaboration where we both talked and listened. This collaborative process yielded six separate pieces of legislation that reflect real agreement about steps that will help youth. Our work was further strengthened by support from First Lady Melania Trump, who has also been listening carefully to youth about what they need.

I will briefly recognize my colleagues that authored the bills that were passed by Ways and Means and then combined into one bill for consideration today. Their thoughtful proposals generated hundreds of endorsements by organizations representing foster youth, families, child welfare agencies, and experts like pediatricians and family law practitioners.

Chairman LAHOOD and Congresswoman GWEN MOORE led the Foster Youth Housing Opportunity Act, which would improve foster youth access to section 8 housing vouchers and make it easier for Chafee programs to provide housing support to foster youth. Housing is a foundation of stable adult life, and our current policies are preventing the Chafee program from doing as much as it can and should.

Congresswoman JUDY CHU and Congressman NATHANIEL MORAN led the Foster Youth Postsecondary Education Access and Success Act, which would increase the potential amount of Chafee education and training vouchers from \$5,000 to \$12,000, provide better opportunities for youth who are struggling to retain their vouchers, and provide more financing options for Chafee voucher outreach.

At our committee hearings, some youth told us they didn't even know that Chafee would help them pay for college until it was too late, and others told us that the way the vouchers were limited made them almost impossible to use.

Representatives CHU and MORAN's bill lays the foundation for a bigger, more effective effort to help foster youth go to college and build careers in the future.

Representative MAX MILLER and Representative DWIGHT EVANS led the Fos-

ter Youth Workforce Opportunity Act, which would ensure that foster youth could use Chafee education vouchers for high quality training programs and apprenticeships, as well as college, and would ensure that they have the skills and qualifications to be accepted into the colleges or training programs they choose.

I led the Fresh Start for Foster Youth Act, together with Chairman LAHOOD. It would help foster youth transition to adulthood by providing better access to resources to address legal challenges affecting housing, education, employment, and family conditions.

Since launching its virtual support services program for foster youth in 2021, Think of Us reports that 18 percent of all requests from transition-age youth are for help with legal services. A few of the issues include: housing stability and eviction defense; guardianship and custody, especially for youth informally caring for relatives; needs of expectant and parenting youth; reentry into extended care; legal issues; and education and disability advocacy.

I thank Nikolas Hughey, a former foster youth intern with the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, for raising the issue of urgent legal issues.

I was also pleased to work with Congressman RUDY YAKYM on the Support for Expectant and Parenting Foster Youth Act, which requires States to refer expectant and parenting foster youth for Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting, or MIECHV, home visiting services and consider parenting status in case planning, building on the success Illinois and Indiana have had using targeted, intensive services to support young families.

Last, but definitely not least, in her dual role as a key member of the Worker and Family Support Subcommittee and as co-chair of the Congressional Foster Youth Caucus, Congresswoman GWEN MOORE worked with Congressman MIKE CAREY on the CONNECT Act. Their bill updates the purposes of the Chafee program to help youth form and preserve meaningful, supportive, long-term relationships, which both youth and experts have identified as the key to a successful transition to adulthood.

This change is something youth have been telling us for a long time, that all of the challenges they face are surmountable if they have a family, a loving and trustworthy network of adults and peers that advises them, believes in them, and catches them when they stumble.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7432 and also to make voting for this bill just the first step in their efforts to help older youth who experienced foster care.

Notably, there is a critical need for more investment. Aside from during the pandemic, Congress has only increased Chafee funding by \$3 million since its creation in 1999. The amount

of money needed would be tiny and insignificant compared to the fiscal impact of many of the bills we have considered in the House this Congress or a day at the Defense Department; yet, such funding could be life-changing for foster youth.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of these six bills, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD), who is the sponsor of this legislation. Mr. LAHOOD, as the chairman of our Work and Welfare Subcommittee, has been a tireless champion for America's foster youth and a leader in advancing these long overdue reforms.

□ 1500

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate National Foster Care Month, I rise in strong support of H.R. 7432, the *Fostering the Future Act*, a bill that would empower America's foster youth transitioning to adulthood. I thank Chairman SMITH for his leadership and attention to these six bills. We would not be debating these bills today if it wasn't for him and his work.

Each year, nearly 16,000 foster youth age out of the child welfare system, often without permanent connections to families. This needs to be fixed.

As chairman of the Work and Welfare Subcommittee, one of my priorities has been to modernize the Chafee Foster Care Program, which exclusively supports foster youth as they transition to adulthood.

Last January, GAO, the Government Accountability Office, published a report which found States have been returning millions of dollars of unused Chafee funds since 2007, despite the need from foster youth.

In response, a bipartisan group of Ways and Means Committee members participated in hearings and listened to the youth with lived experience to develop proposals and ideas to modernize Chafee. I thank Ranking Member DANNY DAVIS for his lifetime of work when it comes to foster care and his legacy in this space.

In addition, First Lady Melania Trump's unwavering commitment to elevating America's foster youth through the *Fostering the Future* initiative has elevated these issues to the highest level of government. I commend the First Lady for her dedication and passion to these issues. There are many issues she could have championed, but she chose helping foster youth, and our country is better off because of it.

Last November, I was honored to join President Trump and Mrs. Trump as part of the signing of that historic executive order at the White House regarding fostering our future. Mrs. Trump also graciously joined a bipartisan group of Ways and Means members for a roundtable as we worked to develop these proposals.

The *Fostering the Future Act* represents the most significant reforms to

Chafee since its creation in 1999. It is comprised of six bills that together will improve access to stable housing, educational support, workforce training, legal services, and home visiting programs for expectant and parenting foster youth.

Specifically, this bill includes the Foster Youth Housing Opportunity Act, which I introduced with my Democrat colleague, GWEN MOORE of Wisconsin. Thirty-five percent of foster youth experience homelessness compared to just 4 percent of the general population. This bill improves coordination between Chafee and Federal housing programs to expand access to vouchers.

This bill also includes the *Fresh Starts for Foster Youth Act*, which I joined with my friend DANNY DAVIS in introducing, to improve access to legal services for foster youth.

A history of being in foster care should not limit potential for future success. These two specific bills will help our foster youth with future success. By passing the *Fostering the Future Act*, Congress can ensure that foster youth have the tools they need to achieve economic independence and long-term stability and success.

In closing, I again thank Chairman SMITH, Mrs. Trump, and the bipartisan group of Ways and Means Committee members for their steadfast bipartisan collaboration in developing meaningful proposals to support America's foster youth.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am so excited to join all of my colleagues on the floor today in support of *Fostering the Future Act*, the Chafee bill package that is the first modern improvement of the Chafee Act, as my colleagues have indicated, since 1999 when the program was created.

Before I talk specifically about the bill, I lift up Representative Dr. DANNY DAVIS who will be retiring after this term. I thank him for his lifetime career of standing up for youth as a professional social worker and as a county board commissioner in Illinois.

Dr. Davis has been a longstanding leader, serving as both chair and ranking member of the subcommittee that deals with foster youth issues on Ways and Means. He has brought so much wisdom because of his long career to this that we are able to bring these bills to the floor. None of this would be possible without him. He is very humble, but I lift him up and thank him today.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank Chairman JASON SMITH from Missouri and Ranking Member NEAL. I really appreciate that Chairman SMITH has really dug in deep representing these foster kids. I

heard him today share with us that he, as a lawyer in Missouri, represented foster kids. I said to myself, aha, there it is. I knew it was something. This is completing a circle, and we appreciate his leadership at this time.

Likewise, Chairman LAHOOD of our subcommittee and Representative CAREY have been great partners on the two bills that we have included in this package naming the Foster Youth Housing Opportunity Act and the CONNECT Act.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that the First Lady of the United States has leaned into supporting our foster youth, how prescient and how purposeful is that. Hopefully, that will enable us to really fund these fantastic ideas that we are authorizing today.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to be a co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth. We are going to have shadow day on June 10, so I am hoping that everyone will get their foster youth, and you will be surprised as you guide these foster youth through your day, in that you will learn more from them or as much from them as you may have to share with them.

I am so privileged to be able to fight for foster youth, including meeting youth who have lived experience in the foster care system. So often I hear from these youth about their experiences in foster care, and although they are very resilient, the ones we get to talk to, they will tell you that as they age out of foster care, the likelihood of them becoming homeless and feeling abandoned is disproportionately great for this cohort.

Approximately 20,000 youth age out of foster care each year, and of that, approximately 25 percent of them experience homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, many report that they can't achieve permanency with an adoptive, foster, or kinship family. They don't feel like they have a trusted adult in their family to help them navigate the complexities of transitioning to adulthood.

It is difficult enough for a youth to transition into adulthood even when they are privileged, but imagine that you have been a foster youth trying to navigate the great big world all alone.

This package aims to address some of the challenges that we know our foster youth are facing, and I hope we can move forward in the future to help provide the funding again that will be needed.

The two bills in this package, the Foster Youth Housing Opportunity Act and the CONNECT Act, aim to provide more tools and resources.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, the Foster Youth Housing Opportunity Act, which I co-lead with Chairman LAHOOD, would exempt housing

supportive services, such as security deposits and utility connection fees, from the 30 percent housing cap under Chafee. This will allow States the opportunity to provide more youth with rental and housing assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I also lift up the bill that I have with Mr. CAREY called the CONNECT Act. It amends the statutory purposes of the Chafee program to help youth create meaningful connections with adults and build a lifelong support network as a core purpose of the Chafee program.

□ 1510

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YAKYM).

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the Fostering the Future Act, which will make meaningful changes to the Chafee program to better support foster youth and alleviate unnecessary challenges.

This bill includes the Support for Expectant and Parenting Foster Youth Act, which I was proud to introduce with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), my friend and the ranking member. This bill strengthens the coordination between the Chafee program and the Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting program, or MIECHV.

Foster youth are more likely to become parents earlier compared to their peers. Navigating the foster youth system can be difficult enough, but adding the demands of parenting presents a special challenge for older foster youth who are also parents.

My bill will help more parenting and expectant foster youth access evidence-based home visiting services by improving program coordination and allowing for specialized case management.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I thank the ranking member, as well as Chairman LAHOOD for their support.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. MILLER).

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7432, the Fostering the Future Act, a critical child welfare bill that will set foster youth up for success.

This legislation includes the Foster Youth Workforce Opportunity Act, which I introduced to codify First Lady Melania Trump's Fostering the Future for America Children and Families executive order.

Unfortunately, only 35 percent of foster youth secure full-time employment in adulthood. People would think that the severity of this crisis would mean that the Federal programming designed to support foster youth would actually give this group of individuals

lots of pathways to success, but they would be wrong.

Under current law, the Chafee Education and Training Vouchers can only be used for 4-year degrees. I have heard from foster youths who want to pursue trade schools or certifications instead, and my bill expands the career options available to them under this program. This will open doors to in-demand, high-paying jobs and give foster youth the tools they need to become self-sufficient and build a stable future.

My bill expands the Chafee Education and Training Vouchers for short-term workforce training programs, as well as apprenticeships and remedial education activities needed to help foster youth earn a high school diploma or even a GED.

This bill also addresses the chronic underutilization of the Chafee program funds since 2007. Over the past few years, my home State of Ohio has returned more than \$1.6 million in unused funds due to statutory barriers—funds that could have helped foster youth. The Fostering the Future Act will help States like Ohio use their full Chafee allotments to ensure foster youth receive the critical support that they need.

Importantly, this legislation has been endorsed by ACTION Ohio, the Public Children Services Association of Ohio, the Ohio Youth Advisory Board, and hundreds of current and former foster youths across the country.

For all of these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill that will deliver for our Nation's foster youth and set them up for a successful and a self-sufficient future.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7432, the Fostering the Future Act. This important piece of legislation is a reflection of months of hard work by the members of the Committee on Ways and Means and staff.

These much-needed reforms to the Chafee program in this bill will empower current and former foster youth as they transition into adulthood.

At a recent Committee on Ways and Means roundtable with First Lady Melania Trump focused on foster care, I had the privilege of hearing from Jayden Martinez, a student at Stephen F. Austin State University who came out of the foster care system. Hearing directly from Jayden reinforced something many of us already know: These young Americans are capable of extraordinary things when they are given the tools and the support they need to succeed.

The Fostering the Future Act makes several significant reforms.

First, it includes the Foster Youth Postsecondary Education Access and Success Act, legislation I co-lead with Congressman JUDY CHU. This will in-

crease the maximum Education and Training Voucher amount from \$5,000 to \$12,000, which will allow foster youth to access education and skilled programs. It helps provide grace periods when foster youth are struggling at the collegiate level. Right now, States like Texas are returning more than a million dollars each year of unused funds intended for foster youth in this program.

Second, the Fostering the Future Act broadens use of Education and Training Vouchers to apprenticeships, workforce credential programs, and remedial education.

Third, it also simplifies the application process so that foster youth can more easily access the resources that Congress has already made available.

Last, the Fostering the Future Act codifies several priorities included in the President's executive order Fostering the Future for American Children and Families.

Championed by First Lady Melania Trump, as President Reagan often reminded this Nation, America's strength is found in the promise of opportunity. This legislation will allow current and former foster youth the opportunity to pursue education, meaningful work, and the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Fostering the Future Act.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CAREY).

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7432, the Fostering the Future Act, which is made up of six bipartisan bills that passed the Committee on Ways and Means last month.

These bills collectively modernize the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program from successful transition to adulthood and are part of First Lady Melania Trump's Fostering the Future initiative.

I led one of these bills with the gentleman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE), my friend.

The Chafee Opportunities for New Network and Existing Connection Trust Act, or the CONNECT Act, clarifies the goal for supporting foster youth developing meaningful relationships with adults, including kin and peers, as well as building those supportive networks.

The CONNECT Act also empowers foster youth to take charge of their own permanency plans and ensures that foster youth understand in writing the suite of services that the programs are qualified for.

With this legislation, we are setting up the next generation of America's youth to transition to a more successful adulthood.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SMITH, as well as our Ranking Member NEAL, as well as Subcommittee on Work and Welfare Chairman LAHOOD and Ranking Member DAVIS for their

leadership on this. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank Chairman SMITH, Ranking Member NEAL, and all members of the subcommittee. I certainly want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD), my dear friend, for his leadership. I also thank all of those witnesses who shared their stories with us, all of the youth who shared their lives and their lifetimes.

I thank our outstanding committee staff led by Morna Miller, Kimberley Meinert, Cheryl Freiman, Keval Sojitara, and my primary Ways and Means staffer, Dr. Jill Hunter-Williams.

Today is a good day for foster youth, but it is also a good day for America. It is a good day when we say to the young people of our country that we care about you, we love you, and we recognize your needs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote to pass this legislation as quickly as we can get it enacted so that America will be the land of youth.

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

□ 1520

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

Mr. Speaker, aging out is not a plan. Every young person who has experienced foster care deserves a real shot at the American Dream, and they should not be left without any support at a very vulnerable time.

I am very proud of the years of work that went into this legislation: from all the Members of the Ways and Means Committee; from Mr. DAVIS, who has shown his passion and love for the foster youth; to DARIN LAHOOD, the chair of the Work and Welfare Subcommittee; and all the different Members who had different pieces of legislation within this one bill.

The Fostering the Future Act is built on the direct feedback of foster youth, caregivers, and community organizations on the ground.

The stories we heard at our roundtable with our First Lady and at committee hearings from courageous leaders like Seth, Kimberley, Jaydan, and Jocelyn were the key drivers behind these successful reforms.

I also applaud the First Lady for her relentless focus on advocating for the most vulnerable and propelling these reforms forward.

This entire effort earned the endorsement of over 150 national, State, and local organizations, alongside hundreds of foster youth and caregivers. It passed the Ways and Means Committee with a unanimous, bipartisan vote. Supporting our foster youth is not a partisan issue. It is an American responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7432, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to modernize section 477 of part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve connections to housing, expand education and training opportunities, and modernize services to improve outcomes for foster youth transitioning into adulthood."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### TAXPAYER DUE PROCESS ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6506) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to suspend the period of limitations on filing a claim for credit or refund during collection action proceedings, to prohibit the crediting of overpayments against disputed tax liability during such proceedings, and to expand the jurisdiction of the Tax Court, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6506

*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 "Taxpayer Due Process Enhancement Act".*

##### SEC. 2. SUSPENSION OF PERIOD OF LIMITATIONS ON FILING A CLAIM FOR CREDIT OR REFUND DURING COLLECTION ACTION PROCEEDINGS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 6330(e)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting "subsection (a), (b), or (c) of section 6511 (relating to limitations on credit or refund)," after "section 6502 (relating to collection after assessment)."

(b) *PERIOD OF LIMITATIONS ON FILING A CLAIM FOR CREDIT OR REFUND.*—Section 6330(e) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) *PERIOD OF LIMITATIONS ON FILING A CLAIM FOR CREDIT OR REFUND.*—In the case of the running of any period of limitations under subsection (a), (b), or (c) of section 6511 with respect to the filing of any claim for credit or refund, paragraph (1)—

"(A) shall apply only to the extent that such credit or refund relates to an underlying tax liability properly disputed at the hearing requested under this section, and

"(B) shall not result in a suspension of the running of such period of limitations after any date on which a lapse of a deadline, a court filing, or a court order establishes that the taxpayer has forfeited or otherwise lost the right to pursue such dispute."

(c) *CROSS REFERENCE.*—Section 6511(i) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(8) *For limitations in case of collection action proceedings, see section 6330(e)."*

(d) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendments made by this section shall apply to the running of any period of limitations if such period (determined

without regard to the amendments made by this section) ends on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

##### SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON CREDITING OF OVERPAYMENTS AGAINST DISPUTED TAX LIABILITY DURING COLLECTION ACTION PROCEEDINGS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 6402 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(o) *PROHIBITION ON CREDITING OF OVERPAYMENTS AGAINST DISPUTED TAX LIABILITY DURING COLLECTION ACTION PROCEEDINGS.*—If a hearing is properly requested under section 6320(a)(3)(B) or 6330(a)(3)(B), and an underlying tax liability referred to in section 6330(c)(2)(B) is properly disputed at such hearing, such tax liability shall not, except with the consent of the taxpayer, be taken into account under subsection (a) for the period during which the period of limitations for filing a claim for credit or refund relating to such tax liability is suspended by reason of section 6330(e)."

(b) *CLARIFICATION OF APPLICATION OF CERTAIN LEVY HEARING RULES TO LIEN HEARINGS.*—Section 6330(c)(2)(A) of such Code is amended by striking "unpaid tax or the proposed levy" and inserting "unpaid tax, collection action, or proposed collection action".

(c) *EFFECTIVE DATES.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to any period described in section 6402(o) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as added by this section) if any portion of such period is after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) *CLARIFICATION OF APPLICATION OF CERTAIN LEVY HEARING RULES TO LIEN HEARINGS.*—The amendment made by subsection (b) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

##### SEC. 4. EXPANSION OF JURISDICTION OF TAX COURT.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 6330(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

"(1) *PETITION FOR REVIEW BY TAX COURT.*—

"(A) *IN GENERAL.*—In the case of a determination under this section, the person may, within 30 days of such determination, petition the Tax Court for review of—

"(i) such determination, and

"(ii) any underlying tax liability referred to in subsection (c)(2)(B) which is properly disputed at the hearing in which such determination is made.

"(B) *JURISDICTION OF TAX COURT.*—Upon the filing of a petition, the Tax Court shall have jurisdiction with respect to—

"(i) the determination referred to in subparagraph (A)(i),

"(ii) any underlying tax liability referred to in subparagraph (A)(ii), and

"(iii) any equitable tolling of the 30-day deadline referred to in subparagraph (A).

"(C) *RETENTION OF JURISDICTION.*—Upon a determination being made under this section, subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall apply whether or not the Secretary abandons the collection action or proposed collection action at issue in such determination."

(b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendment made by this section shall apply with respect to petitions filed after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material on this bill under consideration.