

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GARBARINO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 9328.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 9328, the Improving Travel for Military Members Act. The Improving Travel for Military Members Act will allow the TSA Administrator to establish a 3-year pilot program to expedite access to security screening for traveling Active-Duty military personnel and their accompanying family members.

If established, this pilot program will focus on airports closest to military installations with large Active-Duty populations, which will help to ease travel for the men and women bravely serving our Nation.

I want to thank Representative BIGGS for her leadership and encourage my colleagues to support the bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 9328, the Improving Travel for Military Members Act.

Our military servicemembers and their families are required to travel regularly, uprooting their lives to move to new locations.

Last year, TSA initiated a pilot program at select airports to provide Active-Duty military and their families front-of-line access to security screening.

H.R. 9328 would cement TSA's ongoing pilot program and codify requirements for appropriate security protocols.

Expediting wait times for servicemembers and their families makes travel a little bit easier and a little bit less stressful for them, and I support advancing this effort.

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

Mr. GARBARINO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Mrs. BIGGS).

Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I don't speak on this legislation as an outside observer. As a Member currently serving in the Air National Guard, I have worn the uniform. I have seen firsthand what it asks of

servicemembers and their families. This legislation is written from experience, not just policy.

Mr. Speaker, more than 1.3 million Americans serve our Nation on Active Duty, and they answer the call with very little notice—shipping out on deployment orders, relocating their families across the country on PCS moves, or rushing to emergency assignments at a moment's notice.

They don't get to plan ahead. They don't get to choose their travel dates. They simply go because that is what the service requires.

Last summer, the Transportation Security Administration launched the Serve with Honor, Travel with Ease initiative to better support our servicemembers while advancing much-needed modernization across our aviation system as passenger volumes continued to grow. Depending on the airport, military members and their families may receive expedited screening through dedicated lines, preferred lanes, or front-of-line access.

My legislation, the Improving Travel for Military Members Act, builds on this important effort by establishing a 3-year pilot program to expedite security screening for Active-Duty military personnel and their accompanying family members with priority given to airports located near military installations.

That means in my home State of South Carolina, which is home to a number of military installations, servicemembers will benefit from faster, more efficient travel while maintaining the same high security standards.

Let me be very clear: Every passenger remains subject to appropriate security screening. What this bill does is gives airports the flexibility to implement the program based on their own operational needs, their proximity to military bases, and passenger volume.

This bill is targeted. It is practical, and it is fiscally responsible.

A few minutes saved at a security line may seem insignificant to some, but to a military spouse managing three children and a cross-country move on 48 hours' notice, it is anything but.

It sends a message to every servicemember and their family: America sees you, values you, and respects the sacrifices you make in service to our country.

I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation for our servicemembers and their families.

□ 1610

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

Mr. Speaker, military servicemembers and their families make sacrifices for our Nation every day. We owe it to them to make their lives easier in ways big and small wherever and whenever we can. This bill represents a step toward easier travel for Active Duty military and their families.

I thank the gentlewoman for her work on that, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GARBARINO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 9328, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9328, 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.

HOMELAND SECURITY CAPABILITIES PRESERVATION REPORTING ACT OF 2026

Mr. GARBARINO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8874) to amend the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 to require recurring reports on the transition of jurisdictions no longer eligible for Urban Area Security Initiative funding, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8874

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 "Homeland Security Capabilities Preservation Reporting Act of 2026".

SEC. 2. REPORTS ON TRANSITION OF JURISDICTIONS NO LONGER ELIGIBLE FOR URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE FUNDING.

Paragraph (1) of section 7102(b) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting "and every three years thereafter" after "Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GARBARINO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on H.R. 8874.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8874, the Homeland Security Capabilities Preservation Reporting Act of 2026.

This legislation requires DHS to provide a report to Congress every 3 years on the Homeland Security capabilities of urban areas that have previously received funding through the Urban Area Security Initiative, or UASI.

The FEMA Grant Programs Directorate provides preparedness funding to assist States, localities, urban areas, and Tribal and territorial governments and strengthen the Nation's ability to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies.

Every year, FEMA determines eligible high-risk urban areas for UASI funding through analysis of relative risk of terrorism experienced by urban areas in the United States. As relative terrorism risk undertaken by urban area jurisdictions changes every year, this can sometimes lead to urban areas that were once eligible for UASI funding in one year no longer being eligible in future years.

This legislation will provide consistent information to Congress on the ability of urban areas at risk of terrorism threats to maintain their Homeland Security capabilities.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative WALKINSHAW for yielding.

I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 8874, the Homeland Security Capabilities Preservation Reporting Act of 2026.

In the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, it became evident that cities across the United States could become targets for terrorist attacks and that they lacked the capacity and resources to independently build the critical capabilities needed to prevent, protect against, and respond to terrorist attacks and other catastrophic events.

Beginning in 2003, urban areas across the Nation began receiving dedicated counterterrorism grants from the Department of Homeland Security through the Urban Area Security Initiative, or UASI.

For more than two decades, this program has equipped our local first responders with advanced tools, equipment, and training necessary to protect their communities. These investments have built critical capabilities that strengthen preparedness and emergency responses across the region.

However, maintaining these capabilities cannot be sustained by locals alone. They require reliable, predictable Federal funding. Unfortunately, unpredictable changes to DHS' risk formula, which determines which areas receive funding, have often created year-to-year uncertainty, leaving many cities wondering whether their counterterrorism funding will suddenly

disappear. Recently, these funding changes have been politically arbitrary.

We saw this danger firsthand last year, when under the leadership of former Secretary Kristi Noem, the Department of Homeland Security attempted to abruptly remove historically funded cities—including, in my district, the city of New Orleans—from this program.

Former Secretary Noem tried to cut our Federal counterterrorism funding support in the same year our community suffered the horrific attack on Bourbon Street in New Orleans on New Year's Day, which killed 14 people and injured dozens more. It took a lawsuit to stop them.

Here is the bottom line: Expecting locals to independently finance the massive security required for everyday safety—let alone high-profile events like Mardi Gras, the World Cup, or Super Bowl—is unrealistic and unfair. Abruptly turning off these resources is dangerous.

Congress previously acknowledged the value of UASI funding to communities by requiring a one-time report in the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act, examining how DHS could help cities transition when they lose grant eligibility.

I am grateful to former Congresswoman Val Demings for championing this previous NDAA provision and for her leadership in recognizing the need to support communities if they transition out of the UASI program. However, a one-time report leaves Congress in the dark going forward. We need ongoing data to monitor vulnerable communities after they are removed from the program and identify whether their security capabilities are at risk of degrading.

That is why I introduced H.R. 8874, the Homeland Security Capabilities Preservation Reporting Act of 2026. This bipartisan bill closes this oversight gap by requiring FEMA to submit recurring reports every 3 years on how cities manage and maintain their federally funded counterterrorism and security capabilities after they lose UASI funding.

This bill will improve public safety across the Nation and ensure our communities are never left defenseless, which is why it is endorsed by the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities, and the National Fusion Center Association, to name a few.

I thank Ranking Member BENNIE THOMPSON and Representative GIMENEZ for their partnership on this bill. I urge all my colleagues to support this vital, commonsense legislation.

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER) for his work on this legislation. I also thank the chairman for his work.

UASI grants have played a critical role in my region, the D.C. metropoli-

tan region, in protecting Northern Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia, including this Capitol complex. This bill that will improve transparency, strengthen congressional oversight, and ensure that important security investments made over many years are not lost is a wonderful piece of legislation.

Passage of H.R. 8874 will ensure that Congress has the information needed to understand the impact of UASI transitions and help preserve the critical Homeland Security capabilities our communities rely on. It will strengthen oversight, support our local partners, and help ensure that years of Federal investment and preparedness are not lost.

I applaud Congressman CARTER for his leadership on this issue and strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 8874. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I also applaud the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER) for his leadership on this piece of legislation.

As a Member from New York, I have seen firsthand the benefits and the need for UASI grants. I think it is very important that Congress be kept informed of decisions being made when it comes to these grants.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, H.R. 8874, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8874.

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.

REIMBURSABLE SCREENING SERVICES PROGRAM EXTENSION ACT OF 2026

Mr. GARBARINO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9391) to authorize an extension and expansion of the Reimbursable Screening Services Program of the Transportation Security Administration, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9391

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 "Reimbursable Screening Services Program Extension Act of 2026".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF REIMBURSABLE SCREENING SERVICES PROGRAM.

(a) EXTENSION.—Subsection (e) of section 225 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116-6; 49 U.S.C. 44901 note), is amended by striking