These agreements may have legitimate uses, but the American people should not have to wonder whether Federal spending is being disclosed or not. When our national debt is approaching $40 trillion, transparency is not optional. It is a responsibility.

This bill closes a loophole that has allowed significant amounts of Federal spending to remain outside the public reporting system. It does not ban OTAs. It does not create unnecessary red tape. It simply requires the agencies to report these agreements so taxpayers can see where their money is going.

Every family in Alabama knows where their money is spent. Farmers know where they money is spent. Small business owners know where their money is spent. The Federal Government should be held to that same standard.

Sunlight is one of the best safeguards against waste, fraud, and abuse. Transparency helps Congress do its job. It helps taxpayers hold Washington accountable, and it helps restore trust in government.

That is common sense. That is accountability. That is exactly what the American people expect from their government.

Madam Speaker, I urge our colleagues to support the Stop Secret Spending Act.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purposes of closing.

Madam Speaker, costs are skyrocketing, and people deserve to know how their money is being spent. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURLISON. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important governmentwide Federal spending transparency reform bill that will help the public and Congress understand exactly how Federal agencies are using the very limited tax dollars that we have, 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. BURLISON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2069.

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.

FEDERAL IMPROVEMENT IN TECHNOLOGY PROCUREMENT ACT

Mr. BURLISON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4123) to improve Federal technology procurement, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4123

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 ‘‘Federal Improvement in Technology Procurement Act’’ or the ‘‘FIT Procurement Act’’.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ACQUISITION WORKFORCE.—The term ‘‘acquisition workforce’’ means employees of an executive agency who are responsible for procurement, contracting, or program or project management that involves the performance of acquisition-related functions or other employees as designated by the Chief Acquisition Officer, senior procurement executive, or head of the contracting activity.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘‘Administrator’’ means the Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy.

(3) CHIEF ACQUISITION OFFICER.—The term ‘‘Chief Acquisition Officer’’ means a Chief Acquisition Officer appointed pursuant to section 1702(a) of title 41, United States Code.

(4) CROSS-FUNCTIONAL.—The term ‘‘cross-functional’’ means a structure in which individuals with different functional expertise or from different areas of an organization work together as a team.

(5) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term ‘‘executive agency’’ has the meaning given that term in section 133 of title 41, United States Code.

(6) EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING.—The term ‘‘experiential learning’’ means on-the-job experiences or simulations that serve to enhance workforce professional skills.

(7) INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY.—The term ‘‘information and communications technology’’—

(A) has the meaning given that term in section 4713(k) of title 41, United States Code; and

(B) includes information and communications technologies covered by any definition contained in the Federal Acquisition Regulation, including a definition added after the date of the enactment of this Act by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council pursuant to notice and comment.

(8) RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ‘‘relevant committees of Congress’’ means the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

(9) SENIOR PROCUREMENT EXECUTIVE.—The term ‘‘senior procurement executive’’ means a senior procurement executive designated pursuant to section 1702(c)(1) of title 41, United States Code.

(10) SMALL BUSINESS.—The term ‘‘small business’’ has the meaning given the term ‘‘small business concern’’ in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

SEC. 3. ACQUISITION WORKFORCE.

(a) EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Federal Acquisition Institute may establish a pilot program to consider the incorporation of experiential learning into the Federal Credentials Program, the Federal Acquisition Certification for Contracting Officer's Representatives program, the Federal Acquisition Certification for Program and Project Managers program, or any successor program.

(b) TRAINING ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Federal Acquisition Institute, in coordination with the Administrator, the Administrator of General Services, and the Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government, and in consultation with the heads of other executive agencies as determined to be appropriate by the Director of the Federal Acquisition Institute, may develop and implement or otherwise provide a cross-functional information and communications technology acquisition training program for members of the acquisition workforce involved in acquiring information and communications technology that shall do the following:

(A) Include learning objectives related to the following:

(i) Market research.

(ii) Communicating with and considering industry perspectives on the procurement process, including how investment decisions are impacted by Government communication and engagement.

(iii) Developing requirements, acquisition planning, best practices for developing and executing outcome-based contracts, and source selection strategy.

(iv) Evaluating proposals.

(v) Awarding and administering contracts for information and communications technology.

(B) Include learning objectives that provide a basic understanding of key technologies that executive agencies need, such as cloud computing, artificial intelligence and artificial intelligence-enabled applications, and cybersecurity solutions.

(C) Include learning objectives that encourage the use of commercial or commercially available off-the-shelf technologies to the greatest extent practicable.

(D) Include case studies of lessons learned from Federal information and communications technology procurements and contracts, and related matters as determined to be relevant by the Director of the Federal Acquisition Institute.

(E) Include experiential learning opportunities and opportunities to practice collaborative acquisition strategies involving team members with varied relevant domain expertise to complete acquisition-related tasks, including tasks with accelerated timelines.

(F) Include continuous learning recommendations and resources to keep the skills of members of the acquisition workforce current, including tools that help adopt or adapt the use of innovative acquisition practices or other flexible business practices commonly used in commercial buys.

(G) Be made available to members of the acquisition workforce designated by a Chief Acquisition Officer, senior procurement executive, or head of the contracting activity to participate in the training program.

(H) Inform executive agencies about streamlined and alternative procurement methods for the procurement of information and communications technology, including the following:

(i) Simplified procedures for certain commercial products and commercial services in accordance with subpart 13.5 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation, prize competitions under the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–358), competitive programs that encourage businesses to engage in Federal research or research and development with the potential for commercialization, and joint venture partnerships.

(ii) Innovative procurement techniques designed to streamline the procurement process and lower barriers to entry, such as the use of oral presentations and product demonstrations instead of lengthy written proposals, appropriately leveraging performance and outcomes-based contracting, and other techniques discussed on the Periodic Table of Acquisition Innovations or other similar successor knowledge management portals.

(iii) Information on appropriate use, examples and templates, and any other information determined relevant by the Administrator to assist contracting officers and other members of the acquisition workforce in using the procedures and techniques described in clauses (i) and (ii).

(I) Incorporate learning objectives to identify and mitigate waste, fraud, and abuse and ensure the protection of established privacy rights, civil rights, and civil liberties in the procurement process.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Federal Acquisition Institute shall provide to the relevant committees of Congress, the Chief Acquisition Officers Council, and the Chief Information Officers Council—

(A) a report on the progress of the Director in developing and implementing or otherwise providing the training program described in paragraph (1); and

(B) a list of any acquisition training that the Director determines to be outdated or no longer necessary.

(3) DURATION.—The training program described in paragraph (1) may be updated as appropriate (but not less frequently than once every 2 years after implementation), and offered not less than 6 years following the date of implementation of the training program.

(c) ACQUISITION WORKFORCE TRAINING FUND.—Section 1703(i)(3) of title 41, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Five percent'' and inserting ''Seven and a half percent''.

(d) HARMONIZATION OF ACQUISITION WORKFORCE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 2 of the Artificial Intelligence Training for the Acquisition Workforce Act (Public Law 117–207; 41 U.S.C. 1703 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(4), by striking ''DIRECTOR.—The term 'Director' means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.'' and inserting ''ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'Administrator' means the Administrator of General Services.''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''Director, in coordination with the Administrator of General Services and any other person determined relevant by the Director'' and inserting ''Administrator, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget'';

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking ''Director'' and inserting ''Administrator'';

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking ''Director'' and inserting ''Administrator''; and

(D) in paragraph (6), by striking ''Director'' and inserting ''Administrator''.

SEC. 4. INNOVATIVE PROCUREMENT METHODS.

(a) INCREASE IN SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION THRESHOLD.—Section 134 of title 41, United States Code, is amended by striking ''$250,000'' and inserting ''$500,000''.

(b) SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURES FOR SMALL PURCHASES.—Section 1901(a)(2) of title 41, United States Code, is amended by striking ''$5,000,000'' and inserting ''$10,000,000''.

(c) INCREASE IN MICRO PURCHASE THRESHOLD.—Section 1902(a)(1) of title 41, United States Code, is amended by striking ''$10,000'' and inserting ''$25,000''.

(d) ADVANCES FOR COMMERCIAL TECHNOLOGY SUBSCRIPTIONS AND TENANCY.—Section 3324(d) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by inserting ''or commercially available content'' after ''publication''; and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) charges for information and communications technology subscriptions, reservations, or tenancy, which means the sharing of computing resources in a private or public environment, including cloud environments, for which the ordering agency defines appropriate access and security standards.''.

SEC. 5. ADJUSTMENTS TO CERTAIN ACQUISITION THRESHOLDS.

(a) MAJOR PROGRAM.—Section 109 of title 41, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) by striking ''$75,000,000 (based on fiscal year 1980 constant dollars)'' and inserting ''$275,000,000 (based on fiscal year 2024 dollars)''; and

(B) by striking ''$300,000,000 (based on fiscal year 1980 constant dollars)'' and inserting ''$1,300,000,000 (based on fiscal year 2024 dollars)''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking ''$750,000 (based on fiscal year 1980 constant dollars)'' and inserting ''$2,000,000 (based on fiscal year 2024 dollars)''.

(b) MODIFICATIONS TO SUBMISSIONS OF COST OR PRICING DATA.—Section 3502(a) of title 41, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''2018'' each place it appears and inserting ''2026'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''$2,000,000'' and inserting ''$10,000,000''; and

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''$750,000'' and inserting ''$2,000,000'';

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''$2,000,000'' and inserting ''$10,000,000'';

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''$750,000'' and inserting ''$2,000,000''; and

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''$750,000'' and inserting ''$2,000,000''; and

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking ''chapter and—'' and all that follows and inserting the following: ''chapter and—

''(A) in the case of a prime contract entered into after June 30, 2026, the price of the subcontract is expected to exceed $10,000,000; or

''(B) in the case of a prime contract entered into on or before June 30, 2026, the price of the subcontract is expected to exceed $2,000,000.''.

SEC. 6. INCREASING COMPETITION IN FEDERAL CONTRACTING.

(a) USE OF PAST PERFORMANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall issue guidance, including examples and templates where appropriate, on the following:

(A) When a wider range of projects, including commercial, non-government, and Government projects, should be accepted as relevant past performance in order to have increased competition among eligible firms with capability to perform a requirement, such as a requirement without much precedent.

(B) A means by which an agency may validate non-government past performance references, such as by requiring an official of an entity that provides past performance references to attest to their authenticity and by providing verifiable contact information for the references.

(C) Any use of alternative evaluation methods other than past performance that may be appropriate for a requirement without much precedent, such as demonstrations and testing of technologies as part of the proposal process.

(2) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—The guidance required by paragraph (1) shall supplement existing Federal and agency policy and procedures for consideration of past performance and other evaluation factors and methods.

(b) ENHANCING COMPETITION IN FEDERAL PROCUREMENT.—

(1) COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall convene the Chief Acquisition Officers Council (in this subsection referred to as the ''Council'') to make recommendations to identify and eliminate specific, unnecessary procedural barriers that disproportionately affect the ability of small businesses to compete for Federal contracts, with a focus on streamlining documentation and qualification requirements unrelated to the protection of privacy rights and civil liberties.

(2) CONSULTATION.—The Council shall obtain input from the public, including from the APEX Accelerators program (formerly known as Procurement Technical Assistance Center network) and other contractor representatives, to identify Federal procurement policies and regulations that are obsolete, overly burdensome or restrictive, not adequately harmonized, or otherwise serve to create barriers to the participation of small businesses in Federal contracting or unnecessarily increase bid and proposal costs.

(3) EXAMINATION OF ACTIONS.—The Council shall consider the input obtained under paragraph (2) and any other information determined relevant by the Council to identify legislative, regulatory, and other actions to increase competition and remove barriers to the participation of small businesses in Federal contracting.

(4) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council, the Council, and other executive agencies as appropriate, shall implement the regulatory and other non-legislative actions identified under paragraph (3), as determined necessary by the Administrator, to remove barriers to entry for small businesses seeking to participate in Federal contracting.

(5) BRIEFING.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall brief the relevant committees of Congress on the legislative actions identified under paragraph (3) and the actions implemented under paragraph (4).

(c) CONSIDERATION OF COST-EFFICIENCY AND QUALITY.—The Administrator shall advocate for and prioritize contracting policies that ensure that cost-efficiency and quality of goods and services are key determining factors in awarding Federal contracts.

SEC. 7. COMPTROLLER GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION IN FEDERAL PROCUREMENT.

Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress and make publicly available a report that does the following:

(1) Assesses the level of participation by small businesses in Federal procurement.

(2) Identifies barriers and opportunities and the impact of policies on the ability of small businesses to compete in Federal procurement.

(3) Catalogs and evaluates the effectiveness of programs intended to support the participation of small businesses in Federal procurement.

(4) Analyzes trends in the involvement of small businesses in Federal technology projects, including data on contract awards, the diversity of sectors represented, and the geographic distribution of small business contractors.

SEC. 8. CONFLICT OF INTEREST PROCEDURES.

The Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council and the Administrator shall update the Federal Acquisition Regulation as necessary to provide additional guidance to executive agencies to address personal and organizational conflicts of interest involving members of the acquisition workforce.

SEC. 9. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDING.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BURLISON) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SUBRAMANYAM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURLISON. Madam 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the FIT Procurement Act.

Hardworking taxpayers expect the Federal Government to be a responsible steward of their hard-earned dollars. They make tough financial decisions every day, and they rightly expect Washington to exercise the same discipline and restraint.

Too often, however, our Federal procurement system does the opposite. It rewards inefficiency, layers on unnecessary administrative burdens, and slows down agency operations, all at the expense of the taxpayer. These inefficiencies drive up costs and limit agencies in their ability to deliver timely and effective results.

My bill, the FIT Procurement Act, addresses these challenges through targeted, commonsense reforms in the Federal procurement process. The legislation focuses on reducing unnecessary administrative burdens, improving coordination across agencies, and strengthening the acquisition workforce through better training and clearer guidance.

To improve workforce capability, the bill requires the Director of Federal Acquisition Institute to develop and implement cross-functional information and communications technology training for acquisition professionals. This ensures those responsible for purchasing information and communication technology have the tools and knowledge needed to make smart, cost-effective decisions.

The FIT Procurement Act also increases efficiency by expanding the use of simplified, commercial-style purchasing. It raises the micro-purchase threshold from $10,000 to $25,000 and the simplified acquisition threshold from $250,000 to $500,000.

Purchases under the micro-purchase threshold require no contracting officer involvement and significantly reduce the administrative overhead. Raising this threshold alone is estimated to save more than $40 million annually while allowing contracting officers to focus on larger, higher-risk acquisitions where oversight matters the most.

Increasing the simplified acquisition threshold further reduces administrative costs and improves economic efficiency for small businesses that are competing for Federal contracts.

In addition, the FIT Procurement Act authorizes advanced payments for cloud computing services, allowing Federal agencies to access the same upfront payment discounts that are commonly available in the private sector, delivering additional savings to our taxpayers.

Taken together, these reforms streamline procurement, reduce wasteful spending, and improve accountability without expanding government or creating new bureaucracy, ultimately leading to disciplined acquisition practices and real savings for the American taxpayer.

I thank Chairman COMER for his leadership and commitment to advancing this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4123, the Federal Improvement in Technology Procurement Act of 2025. I am proud to be co-leading this legislation with the gentleman, and I thank him for his leadership. I am glad this bill is bipartisan.

Madam Speaker, one of the things we focused on in the Oversight and Government Reform Committee is improving government efficiency and modernization, and the FIT Procurement Act delivers on that goal. It raises the micro-purchasing threshold and the simplified acquisition threshold.

These thresholds have not been updated in a very long time. They don't reflect how much things cost these days, and these changes will finally allow agencies to move faster to purchase innovative technologies.

The bill also allows Federal agencies to prepay for information technology subscriptions, including cloud computing. Prepaying for IT subscriptions will make a huge difference in government access to cutting-edge tools.

The bill will also open the door for more small businesses to participate in Federal contracting, and, most importantly, it is estimated to save taxpayers millions and millions of dollars.

This is common sense, and everyone wins. I urge my colleagues to join me and Representative BURLISON in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURLISON. Madam Speaker, I couldn't have said it better than my colleague Representative SUBRAMANYAM.

I urge my colleagues to support this long-overdue governmentwide procurement reform bill that will help the Federal Government to more efficiently obtain the systems and services that it needs to support our critical missions, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Madam Speaker, I also urge my colleagues to join me and Representative BURLISON in supporting this bill, 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. BURLISON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4123, 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.

□ 1700

FEDERAL RELOCATION PAYMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. BURLISON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6330) to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for lump-sum relocation payments for Federal employees relocated in the interest of the Government, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6330

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 ''Federal Relocation Payment Improvement Act''.

SEC. 2. LUMP-SUM RELOCATION PAYMENTS FOR RELOCATED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 5739a. Authority for lump sum payment for relocation

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, when the head of the agency concerned (or a designee) authorizes or approves, an agency, through the proper disbursing official, may pay to an employee who relocates in the interest of the Government, a one-time lump sum payment in lieu of any payment otherwise authorized or required under this subchapter.

''(b) REGULATIONS.—Under section 5738 of this title, the Administrator of General Services shall prescribe regulations necessary for the implementation and administration of this section, including—

''(1) when agencies may authorize a one-time lump sum payment under this section or the payments otherwise authorized or required under this subchapter;

''(2) how agencies will calculate the lump sum amount; and

''(3) the process for employees to dispute a relocation expenses claim with their agency,