

Two times as an adult, she was hauled back to look at the man who destroyed her childhood just to keep him away. No victim should ever have to do that.

I want to thank Kayleigh, who is here today with her family, for being here. I promised Kayleigh that when I made it to Congress I would introduce this bill in her honor. Nothing makes me happier than making good on that promise. Kayleigh turned what happened to her into protection for thousands of other victims.

Arizona is proud of Kayleigh, and I am proud of her. We have three of her children here on the floor, as well.

Kayleigh's Law started in Arizona. It works. In its first year alone, more than 1,000 survivors in our State secured lifetime protection from the criminals who hurt them. Kayleigh's Law would give every American victim of a Federal sex crime or violent felony that same shield.

This bill is simple. When a predator is convicted, Federal courts must issue a lifelong no-contact injunction.

Victims should never again be forced to fill out another form, face their abuser across a courtroom, or spend their lives looking over their shoulder simply because a sentence ended and the system decided its job was done.

Healing cannot begin if the abuser can show up again the day after release. Justice is not complete if the victim still lives in fear. Arizona already closed that gap. It is time the Federal Government did the same so no American, no matter which State they live in, is left unprotected after a Federal conviction.

I have sat across from victims. I know how vulnerable they are, and sadly, how determined their predators can be. No survivor should be victimized twice, first by the criminal who harmed them and then by a system that forced them to fight again and again.

Now Kayleigh travels the country ensuring Kayleigh's Law is passed in every State legislature. It is time we guarantee that same protection to victims of Federal crimes across America.

I thank Chairman BIGGS for spearheading Kayleigh's Law through the Judiciary Committee, and I also thank Senator MIKE LEE for introducing this bill in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, this is not complicated. We protect victims. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 8481.

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

Some States have already moved to institute permanent, lifelong no-contact orders, but right now there is nothing at the Federal level that would allow a victim to receive a lifelong, permanent no-contact order, and that is what we are doing.

There is no way of undoing a violent act like a rape that has taken place in the life of a victim, but at least we can seal off the victim's future from further harassment, taunting, leering, in-

sulting, intimidation, and so on from someone who committed the crime.

I am proud that we are moving this on a bipartisan basis, and I hope that all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will vote "yes" to ensure the protection, the security, and the peace of mind that will result from this legislation.

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

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I thank a few of the individuals who helped us get to this place with this bipartisan bill—first, specifically, Right On Crime, who worked with us to develop a bill and make sure that we were capturing important concepts.

Second, I thank the ranking member and the Democrats on the committee who worked closely with us to edit, revise, and improve the bill and added important provisions. Because of our collective work together, we took a good bill, and we made it even better.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LEE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8481, 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.

LOCAL ACCESS TO COURTS ACT

Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 32) to clarify where court may be held for certain district courts in Texas and California.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 32

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 "Local Access to Courts Act" or "LACA".

SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF TEXAS DISTRICT COURTS.

Section 124(b)(2) of title 28, United States Code, is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (3), by inserting "and College Station" before the period at the end.

SEC. 3. ORGANIZATION OF CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COURTS.

Section 84(d) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting "and El Centro" after "at San Diego".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on S. 32.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, local access to Federal courts is critical to ensuring the rights of the people are protected.

Under current law, the Southern District of Texas is divided into seven districts. The Houston Division comprises 13 counties but is only authorized to hold court in Houston. The Southern District of California comprises two counties, and the Court is only authorized to be held in the city of San Diego. Both of these judicial districts have experienced significant population growth in recent years, and their organization means that far too many Americans have to travel long distances for their day in court.

In both regions, Americans may have to travel as far as 100 miles or more just to reach the Federal courthouse. These distances place an unnecessary burden on those who need to access both the civil and criminal justice systems. I might say, Mr. Speaker, while I strongly support this legislation, 100 miles isn't very far to get to the Federal courthouse when you live in parts of my home State of Kansas.

The Local Access to Courts Act would help to alleviate the burden by adding an additional place in both judicial districts where the Southern District of Texas and the Southern District of California may hold court.

In the Southern District of Texas, S. 32 would add College Station to the list of places where court may be held. In the Southern District of California, this bill would add El Centro to the list of places where court may be held.

S. 32 would increase accessibility to our Federal courts for victims, jurors, civil parties, counsel, and the general public by sparing them from the burden of a multihour drive just to get to the nearest Federal courthouse.

S. 32 passed the Senate by unanimous consent, and I am glad to see that same bipartisan support in the House. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 32, which would amend title 28 to provide an additional place for holding court in the Southern District of Texas and in the Southern District of California.

Under due process and equal protection, our basic access to justice rights don't change or shouldn't change depending on where we live. But in practice, that is exactly what is happening,

as my distinguished colleague Mr. SCHMIDT just explained. When residents of the Southern District of Texas or the Southern District of California need to drive for hours to attend court or to go serve on a jury, which is a civic obligation, they have less access to justice than other citizens with easy and direct physical access to the court system.

It makes no sense that just because someone lives in a more rural district they should incur dramatically increased travel time and administrative expenses just to seek justice. With the price of gasoline and diesel soaring today with inflation, that is no joke.

Adding courthouses is a small step in the right direction toward making the courthouse doors accessible to all Americans, no matter where they live.

The Southern District of Texas spans 43 counties, and the Southern District of California includes San Diego County, the second most populated county in California. Residents there have the same problem many people are experiencing across the country. To access both the physical and the metaphorical courthouse doors, they need to travel long distances and wait in the backlog before having their day in court.

The easiest way to alleviate the burdens on the residents of these two growing districts is to add a courthouse. This change is cost free because there is an existing judicial facility available for the court to use in both of these places. Making use of this existing building would ensure that litigants, attorneys, witnesses, and other court users would have greater access to the justice that our Federal courts and our Constitution provide.

The administrative body for the Federal court system, the Administrative Office of the Courts, supports this bill. They know, like we do, that our country cannot have a flourishing justice system when its buildings are falling apart, its staff are underpaid, and there is a perpetual shortage of judges to administer the laws.

We have a lot to do to ensure Americans have equal access to our laws and a judiciary that they can trust to fairly hear them out and adjudicate their disputes.

This bill won't fix all the problems, but it will help more than 13 million Americans who deserve equal access to justice and greater access where they live.

I appreciate Representatives MCCAUL, RUIZ, and ISSA for their bipartisan work on this issue. I want to recognize Mr. SCHMIDT for his distinguished stewardship of this bill.

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

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Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, this legislation can make a positive difference for people accessing justice in southern California and in south Texas, and I en-

courage all of my colleagues to support it. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. SCHMIDT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 32.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PROTECTING AMERICAN INDUSTRY AND LABOR FROM INTER- NATIONAL TRADE CRIMES ACT OF 2026

Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1869) to strengthen the Department of Justice enforcement against trade-related crimes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1869

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 “Protecting American Industry and Labor from International Trade Crimes Act of 2026”.

SEC. 2. TRADE-RELATED CRIMES DEFINED.

In this Act, the term “trade-related crimes” shall be defined as violations of law that are implicated by criminal activities in furtherance of the evasion of duties, tariffs, and other import- and export-related fees, import and export restrictions, or requirements imposed by the Tariff Act of 1930, the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, the Trade Act of 1974, or the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, as well as all other laws and regulations involving criminal activities relating to United States imports and exports, trade-based money laundering, and smuggling.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW STRUCTURE TO PROSECUTE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CRIMES.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—A task force, named program, or other similar structure to investigate and prosecute trade-related crimes, with particular emphasis on violations of the statutes enumerated in section 4(a)(2), shall be established within the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice not later than 120 days after the date on which appropriations are made available to carry out this Act, and coordinated by a supervisory criminal trial attorney selected by the Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal Division or other official designated by the Attorney General.

(b) *IMPLEMENTATION.*—To support this effort, the Attorney General shall—

(1) create within the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice new positions for criminal trial attorneys and associated support personnel responsible for leading and coordinating trade-related crime investigations and cases, including those that may significantly impact more than one district;

(2) ensure that experienced and technically qualified criminal prosecutors support the effort; and

(3) promote and ensure effective interaction with law enforcement, industry representatives,

and the public in matters relating to trade-related crimes.

SEC. 4. DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF NEW TRADE CRIMES STRUCTURE.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Through the efforts of the task force, named program, or other structure identified in section 3(a), the Attorney General shall accomplish each of the following:

(1) Increase the capabilities and capacity of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice to prosecute trade-related crimes.

(2) Increase the number of trade-related crimes being investigated and prosecuted, including pursuant to health, safety, financial, and economic trade-related crimes, including—

(A) section 305 of title 13, United States Code;

(B) section 15 or 16 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2614 or 2615);

(C) section 371 of title 18, United States Code;

(D) section 541 of title 18, United States Code;

(E) section 542 of title 18, United States Code;

(F) section 543 of title 18, United States Code;

(G) section 545 of title 18, United States Code;

(H) section 546 of title 18, United States Code;

(I) section 554 of title 18, United States Code;

(J) section 1001 of title 18, United States Code;

(K) section 1341 of title 18, United States Code;

(L) section 1343 of title 18, United States Code;

(M) section 1349 of title 18, United States Code;

(N) section 1589 of title 18, United States Code;

(O) section 1956 of title 18, United States Code;

(P) section 1957 of title 18, United States Code;

(Q) section 2320 of title 18, United States Code;

and

(R) section 301 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 331).

For the purposes of this Act, this list does not include violations of national security-related laws and regulations, including the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2771 et seq.), International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), Export Control and Reform Act (50 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.), and the Trading with the Enemy Act (50 U.S.C. 4305(b)).

(3) Participate in basic and advanced training events with Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and other Federal agencies and provide technical assistance, where appropriate, to Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and other Federal agencies with respect to the investigation and prosecution of trade-related crimes.

(4) Develop multi-jurisdictional responses and partnerships with respect to trade-related crimes through informational, administrative, and technological support to other Federal agencies and agencies of countries that are trading partners of the United States, as a means for such agencies to acquire the necessary knowledge, personnel, and specialized equipment to investigate and prosecute trade-related crimes.

(5) Participate in nationally coordinated investigations in any case in which the Attorney General determines such participation to be necessary, as permitted by the available resources of the Department of Justice.

(6) Ensure that all components that enforce laws against trade-related crimes regularly consult with each other.

(b) *ABSENCE OF EXCLUSION OF PURSUING OTHER REMEDIES.*—Litigation by the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice shall not preclude additional criminal prosecution or civil action against trade-related violations. Nothing in this Act shall prevent the Criminal Division, Civil Division, and other Department of Justice components from pursuing enforcement action where appropriate.

SEC. 5. ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.

The Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary, Committee on Ways and Means, and Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on the Judiciary and