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

FOSTERING THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO UPHOLD REGULATORY EFFECTIVENESS IN SUPERVISION ACT

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8278) to require certain supervisory agencies to assess their technological capabilities, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8278

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 Use of Technology to Uphold Regulatory Effectiveness in Supervision Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Banking regulators continue to examine and monitor depository institutions without sufficient access to real-time information.

(2) Risk surrounding technology procurement may present challenges for updating supervisory technology.

(3) To ensure that prudential supervision is effective and sustainable in the digital age, agencies must leverage new technologies to allow for the financial monitoring necessary to preserve a safe and sound banking system.

(4) New technological tools are also necessary in order for agencies to effectively fulfill mandates other than prudential supervision, including their mandates to assure consumer protection and monitor Bank Secrecy Act compliance.

(5) Agencies' reliance on outdated technology can create vulnerabilities for the financial system, through—

(A) difficulties in collecting, compiling, and analyzing relevant information about risks and noncompliance at supervised firms;

(B) reliance on information that is inaccurate, incomplete, or not timely;

(C) reliance on limited and outdated tools for data analysis;

(D) difficulties in using data to identify risk trends;

(E) difficulties in producing accurate and timely reports;

(F) inadequacy of cybersecurity safeguards; and

(G) failure to detect illegal activities.

(6) The rapid expansion of financial firms' use of artificial intelligence may generate opportunities to improve the financial system while also introducing a range of risks, making it essential that agencies be equipped with the technology, expertise, and skills needed to analyze these opportunities and potential risks.

(7) While agencies assess their supervisory capabilities on an ongoing basis, it is imperative that there be a unified goal of enhancing supervisory technologies that ensure effective and sustainable oversight.

SEC. 3. TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES AND PROCUREMENT PRACTICES ASSESSMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES ASSESSMENT.—Each covered agency shall, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, assess how existing technologies used by the covered agency pose challenges to the covered agency in conducting adequate, real-time supervisory assessments of entities over which the covered agency has supervisory authority. Such technologies include, as applicable—

(A) core information technology infrastructure;

(B) technologies used to supervise entities;

(C) technologies for monitoring general market risks using reported data and external data; and

(D) technologies for data collection, storage, processing, and security.

(2) PROCUREMENT PRACTICES ASSESSMENT.—Each covered agency shall, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section—

(A) assess the procurement rules and protocols adhered to by such covered agency when such covered agency acquires or develops new technological systems; and

(B) identify any opportunities to further streamline procurement rules and protocols, including an assessment of the impact such rules or protocols have on the ability of the covered agency to test new technological systems, that are within the covered agency's authority to streamline.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the completion of the assessments required under subsection (a), and for every 5 years thereafter, the covered agencies shall coordinate and jointly submit to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, in a manner that does not pose a risk to the integrity or security of any technologies, systems, or capabilities of covered agencies, regulated entities, or market participants, a report that includes, as applicable, the following with respect to each covered agency:

(1) A general overview of hardware and software used for information gathering and advanced analytics during supervision activities, including categories of technology purchased from vendors and developed by the covered agency or contractors of the covered agency.

(2) A description of the procurement practices and protocols of the covered agency, including a description of—

(A) whether such processes are voluntarily adhered to or mandated; and

(B) any opportunities to further streamline procurement rules and protocols, including an assessment of the impact such rules or protocols have on the ability of the covered agency to test new technological systems.

(3) A general overview of the portion of the workforce of the covered agency that is engaged materially in technology development within the covered agency, including—

(A) an overview of the ability of the covered agency to recruit and retain appropriate technology experts; and

(B) a description of the degree to which the covered agency relies on contractors to design, develop, or deploy technology and perform technology-related tasks, and a description of related risk management practices for contractors and third-party technologies.

(4) A general description of the processes used by the covered agency to obtain information from entities supervised by the covered agency and any impediments thereto, including regulatory obstacles.

(5) General information about market and technology trends and risks in the underlying regulated markets including, specific to the covered agency's jurisdiction—

(A) market developments influenced by the adoption of new technologies;

(B) the use of new technologies by supervised entities for compliance and risk management purposes;

(C) the impact of new technologies on the collection and analysis of data submitted to the covered agencies by supervised entities as required by regulation, including on data quality, interoperability, and standardization; and

(D) potential risks, including risks of illicit activity, related to new technologies.

(6) A general description of the ways in which the covered agency shares information or system access with other covered agencies and any impediments thereto, including regulatory obstacles.

(7) An estimate of the costs for supervised entities to modify systems to share data with covered agencies, as appropriate.

(8) A general description of any plans of the covered agency to implement future upgrades to the technology it uses to supervise entities, including—

(A) the anticipated timeline for any planned upgrades;

(B) the costs of any planned upgrades;

(C) any impediments to procuring relevant technologies;

(D) plans for hiring and training individuals in connection with technological upgrades;

(E) any aspects of any planned upgrades that should be addressed on an interagency basis;

(F) any anticipated challenges and opportunities associated with entities supervised by the covered agency adapting to the covered agency's reporting process, including—

(i) estimates of transition costs; and

(ii) estimates of any potential cost reductions; and

(G) as applicable, the covered agency's relationships with other covered agencies in their capacity as delegated examiners.

(c) COVERED AGENCY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''covered agency'' means the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Department of the Treasury, including the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and the National Credit Union Administration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ) and the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the CBO estimate for this bill.

H.R. 8278, FOSTERING THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO UPHOLD REGULATORY EFFECTIVENESS IN SUPERVISION ACT, AS REPORTED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES ON JUNE 24, 2026

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—		
	2026	2026–2031	2026–2036
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	1	1
Revenues	0	*	−1
Increase or Decrease (−) in the Deficit	0	1	2
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	1	**

* = between −$500,000 and zero.
** = not estimated.

Increases *net direct spending* in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2037? < $2.5 billion.

Increases *on-budget deficits* in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2037? < $5 billion.

Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply? Yes.

Mandate Effects:

Contains intergovernmental mandate? No.

Contains private-sector mandate? Yes, under threshold.

The bill would:

• Require federal financial regulators to assess how their technological systems inhibit real-time supervision of regulated entities and how their procurement rules limit the testing of new technologies.

• Increase the cost of an existing private-sector mandate if regulators increase annual fees to offset the cost of implementing the bill.

Estimated budgetary effects would mainly stem from:

• Increases in administrative costs for federal agencies to complete assessments and reports.

BILL SUMMARY

H.R. 8278 would require the federal financial regulators to assess how their technological systems inhibit real-time supervision of regulated entities and how their procurement rules limit the testing of new technologies. The federal financial regulators under the bill consist of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), Federal Reserve, National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), and Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC). In addition, the bill would require those agencies to jointly report to the Congress 18 months after completing the assessments and then every five years on various issues, including their use of hardware and software, procurement practices, and information technology workforce.

ESTIMATED FEDERAL COST

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 8278 would increase direct spending by $1 million, decrease revenues by $1 million, and increase the deficit by $2 million over the 2026–2036 period. In addition, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would increase spending subject to appropriation by $1 million over the 2026–2031 period.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

CBO assumes that H.R. 8278 will be enacted at the beginning of fiscal year 2027. Using information about the cost of similar provisions, CBO estimates that each agency would need about two employees in 2027 and every subsequent five years, at an average annual cost of $280,000 per employee in 2027, to complete the assessments and reports.

DIRECT SPENDING

Expenditures for the FDIC, FHFA, NCUA, and OCC are classified in the budget as direct spending. The FHFA, NCUA, and OCC collect fees from regulated entities to offset their operating costs. Those fees are recorded in the budget as offsetting receipts, that is, as reductions in direct spending. Accounting for those fees, CBO estimates that, on net, enacting H.R. 8278 would increase direct spending by $1 million over the 2026–2036 period.

The CFPB is permanently authorized to spend amounts transferred from the combined earnings of the Federal Reserve to carry out its responsibilities, subject to a statutory cap that was most recently lowered by the 2025 reconciliation act (P.L. 119–21). CBO expects that the CFPB will spend all the transferred funds up to its cap in each year over the 2026–2036 period for its current activities, so CBO does not attribute any increase in direct spending for the CFPB to legislation that increases its responsibilities.

REVENUES

The Federal Reserve transfers to the Treasury the income it earns in excess of its expenses; those payments, known as remittances, are recorded in the budget as revenues. Costs incurred by the Federal Reserve therefore reduce revenues. CBO estimates that H.R. 8278 would decrease revenues by $1 million over the 2026–2036 period.

Changes in costs for the Federal Reserve banks have historically resulted in changes to remittances during the same year. However, since fiscal year 2023, most Federal Reserve banks have recorded deferred assets to account for accrued net losses from expenses in excess of income. As a result, remittances have been largely suspended. In CBO's projections, those deferred assets persist for several years. CBO anticipates that most Federal Reserve banks will resume remittances by 2030 or 2031 and thus most of the effects of changes in costs before that time are reflected in the budget as changes in revenues only after that time.

SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

CBO estimates that it would cost FinCEN $1 million over the 2026–2031 period to implement the bill's requirements; any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS

The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 establishes budget-reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or revenues. CBO estimates that enacting the bill would increase direct spending by $1 million and decrease revenues by $1 million over the 2026–2036 period.

INCREASE IN LONG-TERM NET DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 8278 would not increase net direct spending by more than $2.5 billion in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2037.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 8278 would not increase on-budget deficits by more than $5 billion in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2037.

MANDATES

If federal financial regulators increase annual fees to offset the costs of implementing provisions of H.R. 8278, it would increase the costs of an existing private-sector mandate on entities required to pay those fees. CBO estimates that the incremental cost of the mandate would be small and would fall well below the annual threshold established in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) for private-sector mandates ($214 million in 2026, adjusted annually for inflation).

The bill contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA.

Estimate prepared by: Federal Costs: David Hughes (for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and Financial Crimes Enforcement Network); Julia Aman (for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Credit Union Administration, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency), Zunara Naeem (for the Federal Housing Finance Agency).

Revenues: Nate Frentz (for the Federal Reserve).

Mandates: Rachel Austin.

Estimate reviewed by: Justin Humphrey, Chief, Finance, Housing, and Education Cost Estimates Unit; Kathleen FitzGerald, Chief, Public and Private Mandates Unit; H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

Estimate approved by: Phillip L. Swagel, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 8278, the Fostering the Use of Technology to Uphold Regulatory Effectiveness in Supervision Act, or the FUTURES Act.

This bipartisan, commonsense measure addresses a real challenge. As technology evolves at unprecedented speed and banks and financial firms adopt new tools, do our financial regulators have the technology and expertise they need to keep pace?

I am proud to support the FUTURES Act, led by Representatives MARLIN STUTZMAN and BILL FOSTER, which takes important steps toward modernizing our Federal financial regulatory agencies.

The FUTURES Act provides Congress with a comprehensive view of the roadblocks hindering our supervisors' ability to effectively regulate and supervise their financial institutions. It does so by providing Congress with a clear picture of the technology regulators currently use, where critical gaps exist, and what barriers stand in the way of closing those gaps.

If our regulators and supervisors cannot keep pace with a constantly evolving market, there is a legitimate risk to both financial market stability and the broader economy. We must equip agencies with the tools they need to effectively oversee the ever-changing landscape of global finance. A crucial first step in doing so is to remove roadblocks, outdated agency practices, procurement barriers, and needless bureaucracy that slows the adoption of cutting-edge supervisory technology.

The FUTURES Act would identify and address these roadblocks and help enable more effective, realtime oversight of markets and institutions. This is a critical step to create a more transparent and efficient supervisory environment for financial institutions and market participants of all sizes.

The bill also takes a look at whether agencies can recruit, train, and retain the technical experts needed to meet their missions. Just as we hold our financial institutions to rigorous standards on cybersecurity and vendor oversight, we should equip our regulators to meet the same high bars.

I look forward to the insights this bill will generate and how they will guide future engagement to improve supervision across the Federal financial system.

I supported this bipartisan, commonsense bill last Congress and during our committee markup in May, and I am pleased to do so today.

All of my colleagues at the Financial Services Committee supported this bill, and I urge the rest of my colleagues in the House to join us in passing this important bipartisan bill.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. STUTZMAN and Mr. FOSTER for their leadership, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER).

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative STUTZMAN for his partnership on this legislation and my colleagues on the House Financial Services Committee for their unanimous support of the bipartisan FUTURES Act.

The FUTURES Act takes important first steps to modernize the financial regulatory regime and ensures that regulators have appropriate tools for the 21st century.

It requires Federal banking regulators and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to regularly review their technological systems and procurement practices to ensure that they are well-equipped to address emerging threats.

Agencies will examine whether they have access to the right information when they need it and whether they have systems in place to identify rapidly emerging risk.

The bill then asks regulators to develop a plan to address any technology gaps that they identify, requiring additional reviews every 5 years.

□ 1950

As we saw with the bank failures in 2023, 24-hour banking tools and social media-fueled panic can intensify bank runs and increase the risk of contagion.

Silicon Valley Bank's depositors attempted to withdraw $42 billion from the bank in 24 hours, with more than $100 billion in additional withdrawals requested before it was shut down and put into receivership by the FDIC.

This bill comes at a time when financial institutions and regulators are responding to new opportunities and challenges stemming from emerging technologies. Artificial intelligence and agentic commerce have great potential benefits for consumers and businesses, but they also have the potential to supercharge cybersecurity risk, contagion, and fraud, and can destabilize our financial system far more quickly than in years past.

At the same time, these technologies provide tools that regulators and financial institutions can use to improve and simplify bank supervision, to identify suspicious activity, and to improve the quality of customer service.

Maintenance of a well-regulated financial system requires continual investment in new tools, a workforce with the necessary technical skills, and streamlined procurement rules that allow regulators to keep up with rapid developments in the private sector.

I support this forward-looking and bipartisan bill, and I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes."

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

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. STUTZMAN), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of my bill, H.R. 8278.

Across the country, banks and credit unions are using innovative technology to deliver better products and services for their customers.

For example, banks in Northeast Indiana are using tools like artificial intelligence and real-time data analytics to spot fraud faster, better manage risk, and enhance the banking experience for Hoosiers. But too often, the regulators charged with overseeing and supervising these institutions still rely on outdated IT infrastructure from a predigital era.

This gap poses significant risks not just for our financial markets but for the entire economy.

As our banks and credit unions continue to innovate at a record pace, our regulators must have the tools to keep up.

That is where the FUTURES Act comes in.

My bill requires Federal bank and credit union regulators to assess the technology systems they use for supervision, evaluate their procurement practices, and report to Congress on where they are struggling and how they can improve.

Put simply, we can't help our regulators modernize their technology for the digital age if we don't know the challenges that they face. Whether it is talent gaps, procurement barriers, or technological blind spots, Congress needs to understand the red tape that is keeping government in the past while the financial system races into the future.

In fact, we already require this kind of information from the institutions our regulators supervise. Banks and credit unions must undergo quarterly technology reviews, internal testing, and rigorous due diligence on every vendor that they use. It is only fair that we hold their regulators to the same standard.

The FUTURES Act is a straightforward, commonsense, and bipartisan step to address the critical technology challenges facing our regulators.

This legislation was advanced unanimously by the House Committee on Financial Services, sending a clear message that both Republicans and Democrats recognize that supervision must keep pace with innovation.

I am grateful to my colleague across the aisle, BILL FOSTER, for co-leading this legislation with me. I also thank Chairman HILL and Chairman STEIL for their continued support of this measure, as well as thanking the full committee.

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

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 8278, the Fostering the Use of Technology to Uphold Regulatory Effectiveness in Supervision Act, as amended, authored by Representative STUTZMAN.

I particularly note that this bill starts with the word "fostering," and so it is appropriate that it is co-led by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER). Who else could do a better job of fostering than Mr. FOSTER?

This bill represents an important step in allowing Congress to better understand the technological vulnerabilities our banking regulators face. They come in at least two categories. One is to understand how banks are using AI and to make sure that banks are complying with all of our consumer protection and prudential standards. The second is to make sure that our regulators are in a position to make sure the banks are able to prevent themselves from being hit by malicious actors who could imperil consumers or, even more, the prudential solvency of the bank. It is better for Congress to understand the technological vulnerabilities that bankers face.

This bill requires the Federal banking agencies to assess and to report to Congress on gaps and vulnerabilities in their supervisory tools and their procurement processes.

As AI tools continue to be deployed by financial institutions, we have to be able to make sure that our regulators understand what the banks are doing. While malicious actors are beginning to use AI, it is important for our regulators to know the threats that that could pose to our banking system.

Concerns have increased about the speed and scale of AI threats to the financial system and, as Mr. FOSTER pointed out, the particular threat of accelerating the speed of a run on a particular bank.

Requiring regulators to meet emerging risks by utilizing their own technology to support their supervisory rulemaking and enforcement activities is an important step. This is known as supervisory technology and can include both AI, as well as cloud-based services and other technologies. Supervisory technology is used by agencies with the goal of improving their supervision process, while ensuring firms comply with regulatory requirements.

Importantly, this bill requires Federal banking agencies to assess the procurement process rules for new technology they may need to acquire.

Now, under the Trump administration, AI has been politicized, which has created challenges for consistent procurement practices. For example, on July 23, 2025, an executive order directed agencies not to procure AI models that contain AI outputs driven by ideologies like diversity, equality, and inclusion.

This is a dangerous approach which ignores the well-documented harms from algorithmic bias in housing and financial services, the workforce, and criminal justice. It also appears to contradict our existing laws.

When the government agencies do their enforcement, they need to enforce all of our laws. When they use AI, they need to enforce all of the laws that apply to banking institutions. That includes the laws that prohibit discrimination, and those are just as important as any of the other laws that our bank supervisors might be called upon to enforce. The AI technology that they acquire should be applicable to enforcing those laws as well as the others.

Since this bill was proposed last Congress, many of the challenges we are facing with AI are now much more apparent. It seems as though every day the news and warnings about AI becomes more dire.

This bill will help Congress to better ensure that our Federal banking agencies are able to keep up with the challenges they face. But let us remember, this bill is based on last decade's big issue—how AI could be used by human beings in a way that is harmful and how AI could be used by human beings in a way that promotes the enforcement of our law, but in any case, how AI is a tool in the hands of humans beings.

Now, what has exploded into our consciousness is a second issue this bill doesn't and wasn't intended to deal with, and that should not be ignored by Congress. That is what happens if AI isn't being used by human beings to achieve a human purpose but instead develops its own self-awareness, its own goals?

It pains me that this Congress is leaving town at the end of this week, leaving town on Thursday, when we should be spending at least the next 2 weeks focused on what our national response is to being told that AI may not just be a tool in the hands of good and bad people, used well and perhaps not so well, but maybe something we haven't confronted before; and that is, in effect, a new and powerful self-directed intelligence.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working on those issues. For now, we ought to pass this bill. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 2000

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 8278 is an important step to allowing Congress to better understand the technological vulnerabilities of our banking system and what is faced by our bank regulators. Requiring Federal banking agencies to assess and report to Congress on gaps and vulnerabilities in their supervisory tools and their procurement process would further efforts by our regulators to meet emerging risks.

Additionally, this bill will allow Federal banking regulators to evaluate and report on the impact of the Trump administration's executive orders, which, unfortunately, ignore well-documented harms from algorithmic bias in housing and financial services.

Ultimately, Congress would use the reporting from this bill to ensure that our banking agencies are able to keep up with the challenges that they face, including rapidly developing AI capacities and the need to make sure that our bank regulators are appropriately using AI to enforce all of our banking laws, including those that prevent discrimination.

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

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, for the reasons I explained earlier, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8278, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. 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.

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ACT OF 2025

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4646) to clarify that whistleblower protections described in section 4712 of title 41, United States Code, apply to any contract funded from amounts appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4646

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 ''Whistleblower Protection Act of 2025''.

SEC. 2. WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS FOR DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT CONTRACTS.

Section 4712 of title 41, United States Code, shall apply with respect to any contract, subcontract, grant, subgrant, or personal services contract funded using amounts appropriated to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, regardless of when the contract, subcontract, grant, subgrant, or personal services contract was executed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ) and the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 4646, the Whistleblower Protection Act, which passed with bipartisan support out of the Financial Services Committee.

Texas families are stretching every dollar right now while scammers are cashing in on taxpayer-funded programs. While Texas families play by the rules, scammers and corrupt leaders shouldn't get rewarded.

That is why I am working to stop the abuse and bring accountability back to Washington, and this bill brings us closer to that goal by strengthening whistleblower protections for those wanting to rightfully blow the whistle on waste, fraud, and abuse in our government.

Whistleblower protections are one of the most effective tools that we have to combat waste, fraud, and abuse throughout our government. This bipartisan legislation is simple. It clarifies that whistleblower protections apply to every HUD contractor, a vital step that is necessary due to the bureaucratic implementation of congressionally enacted enhanced whistleblower protections originally passed in 2013.

When Congress initially passed these enhanced whistleblower protections in 2013, known as section 4712, it intended them to apply to both contracts awarded before these protections became law and to contracts that predated section 4712 becoming law but have since been modified.

Unfortunately, many HUD programs have contracts that are often decades long, meaning that there are still active HUD contracts that predate 2013 and do not include key protections from section 4712, leaving thousands of HUD contractors with uncertainty.

This legislation fixes that by providing much-needed clarity to HUD and ensuring that whistleblower protections apply to every HUD contractor, regardless of when a contract was signed. This is something HUD has even asked for, most recently in their fiscal year 2027 budget request to Congress.

We must never allow retaliation against people who are simply trying to act in the taxpayers' best interests, and I will never stop rooting out corruption and cutting government waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting my bill, the bipartisan Whistleblower Protection Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, preventing waste, fraud, and abuse is one thing we agree on. We have to do everything possible to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse in government.

The two best tools for dealing with waste, fraud, and abuse are inspectors