

This legislation seeks to enhance TSA's coordination with private-sector stakeholders on aviation policy. Also on the Union Calendar is H.R. 1165, authored by Representative JACKSON LEE, which would strengthen the TSA Ombudsman office.

With bipartisan support, both of these bills were ordered reported by the Committee on Homeland Security. Despite having received bipartisan support from the committee, these bills have lingered on the Union Calendar for 40-plus days. I urge the Republican leadership to schedule these bills for consideration, as I am confident they will return to this House with overwhelming bipartisan support.

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

Mr. CRAVAACK. I have no further requests for time, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time to close.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY).

Ms. BERKLEY. I thank the gentlelady from California for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I think expedited screening for military servicemembers is very important. I am glad that we are taking this bill up on a bipartisan basis, but I think there are some other things happening right now that should also be given our complete attention with regard to what we will be talking about.

With the highest unemployment rate in the Nation, far too many Nevadans are worrying about how they're going to make ends meet. Nevada's middle class families who still have jobs cannot afford a massive tax increase in January, but that's exactly the direction we appear to be heading thanks to the Tea Party extremists in the House of Representatives. They're holding middle-income families hostage; they're holding unemployed people hostage; and they're holding senior citizens hostage.

One would ask, Why? It's to protect their special interest buddies—Wall Street millionaires, Big Oil executives, and corporations that ship American jobs overseas.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. It would be a disaster if the House Republicans refused to stand up to Wall Street today and extend the middle class tax cuts. In Nevada, 1.2 million people would see their taxes rise as much as \$1,247 in January if this House of Representatives, led by the Republicans, doesn't do the right thing. With families struggling just to pay rent, put food on their tables, and put gas in their cars, that's not acceptable.

It's time for the Tea Party extremists in the Republican Party to let go and get their priorities straight. Middle class families in Nevada and across the country come first, not Wall Street millionaires. The time for political games is over. The clock is ticking. We have to take care of those who are unemployed through no fault of their own. We have to take care of middle-

income families who are struggling just to get by and who need that extra \$1,000 this year. Rather than have it taken out of their taxes, we also need to ensure that seniors get the medical care they need.

The time is over for game-playing. On behalf of Nevada's struggling families, I demand that this House not allow a massive middle class tax increase. Let us do our business before we go home and not shame ourselves and the American people by leaving them in the lurch during the holiday season.

I applaud Congresswoman RICHARDSON for putting this legislation on, and I hope that we truly address what's important to millions and millions of Americans across the country by doing the right thing later this evening and by making sure that we pass this middle-income tax cut.

Ms. RICHARDSON. I yield myself the balance of my time.

As you've heard, Mr. Speaker, the measure before us represents discrete, commonsense homeland security legislation. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor of this motion to suspend the rules and to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1801 so that this measure can be presented to the President for his signature.

I would like to congratulate the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. CRAVAACK) and the staffs on both sides of the aisle for their work not only in this Congress but for their work in the 111th Congress, which was when this was brought forward in the prior TSA act.

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

Mr. CRAVAACK. In closing, I would like to thank the gentlelady from California for her refocusing of the debate on who deserves this the most—our troops.

With that, I would urge all of my colleagues to support this. This is a very big amendment for our troops; so let's give them a Christmas present that really means something to them. I look forward to bringing home the Minnesota Red Bulls safe and sound.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Transportation Security, I am pleased that we are on the floor today to consider the Senate amendment to H.R. 1801.

Approval of this measure today will, for the first time this Congress, result in transportation security legislation reaching the President's desk.

In this budgetary climate, we must ensure that the Transportation Security Administration is maximizing its resources and adequately integrating efficient screening process across its checkpoint security programs.

This legislation strives to do that by ensuring that an expedited screening program is established for members of the Armed Forces, which includes over 20,000 men and women in the Houston metro area.

These men and women sacrifice their time and family life to defend our liberty.

Affording them the opportunity to be respectfully screened in an expedited manner will ensure that we continue to honor their service and what their commitment means to the American public.

H.R. 1801 represents common-sense legislation with bipartisan support.

The Senate amendment ensures that there is a strong collaboration between the Department of Defense and the Transportation Security Administration.

Furthermore, H.R. 1801 establishes parameters for expedited screening process for members of the Armed Services without compromising security.

I am happy that I was able to work with Mr. ROGERS and other members of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Full Committee on Homeland Security on this bill.

However, I hope that we do not stop here. This legislation represents only a small slice of the legislative action we must act on to adequately address transportation security.

Transportation security threats are evolving and more work must be done.

I look forward to continuing our work on the Committee on Homeland Security and producing additional bipartisan measures that strive to enhance our Nation's transportation security efforts.

With that Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. CRAVAACK) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1801.

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. CRAVAACK. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

EXTENSION OF REDACTION AUTHORITY CONCERNING SENSITIVE SECURITY INFORMATION

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1059) to protect the safety of judges by extending the authority of the Judicial Conference to redact sensitive information contained in their financial disclosure reports, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

On page 2, line 6 through 8 strike and insert:

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking "Marshalls" and inserting "Marshals";

(2) in subparagraph (C), by inserting "and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and

Governmental Affairs and the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform” after “Senate”; and

(3) in subparagraph (E), by striking “2011” both places it appears and inserting “2017”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the motion to concur currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I support H.R. 1059 and thank Mr. CONYERS for sponsoring it. I also thank Mr. COHEN of Tennessee and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia for serving as cosponsors.

H.R. 1059 promotes an important goal, providing security for Federal judges. Under the Ethics in Government Act, judges and other high-level judicial branch officials must file annual financial disclosure reports. This requirement increases public confidence in government officials and better enables the public to judge the performance of those officials. However, Congress enacted legislation that allows the Judicial Conference to redact statutorily required information in a financial disclosure report where the release of the information could endanger the filer or their family.

Those who seek to harm or intimidate Federal judges might use a disclosure form to identify where someone's spouse or child works or goes to school on a regular basis. Individuals targeting judges for harassment have also been known to file false claims on property owned by judges and their families. Harassers could use judicial financial disclosure reports to more easily identify such property.

The Judicial Conference delegated to its Committee on Financial Disclosure the responsibility to implement the financial disclosure requirements for judges and judicial employees under the Ethics in Government Act. The committee monitors the release of financial disclosure reports to ensure compliance with the statute.

In consultation with U.S. Marshals Service, the committee also reviews and approves or disapproves any request for redaction or statutorily mandated information where the filer believes the release of the information could endanger the filer and their family. Under the Judicial Conference's

regulations, no redaction will be granted without a clear nexus between a security risk and the information for which redaction is sought.

The law has worked well through the years and has been reauthorized twice since 2001; but it expires at the end of this calendar year if we fail to act, an outcome that is unacceptable.

Last year the Marshals Service investigated and analyzed almost 1,400 threats and inappropriate communications to judicial officials, nearly three times as many threats as recorded in 2003. And there were more than 3,900 incidents and arrests at U.S. court facilities in 2010.

Financial disclosures help maintain an open and transparent government, but government transparency should not come at the cost of personal security for government officials. Judges and other judicial employees perform important work that is integral to our democratic system of government. In order to preserve the integrity of our democracy, we must protect the integrity of our courts; and that means ensuring the security of judges and other judicial employees from intimidation and threats.

The Senate made two minor amendments to the bill, which we accept. The first amendment involves an annual report that the administrative Office of the U.S. Courts submits to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees. The report summarizes the redactions made in the preceding year and explains why they were made. The first amendment mandates that the report also be sent to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, as well as the Senate Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Committee. The second amendment sunsets the redaction authority after 6 years, in 2017.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 1059, as amended by the Senate, and urge my colleagues to extend the redaction authority.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I want to commend the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, the gentleman from Texas, LAMAR SMITH, for his cooperation in bringing this bill out of committee and through the Congress.

On September 12 of this year, my bill passed the House unanimously. The requirement that judges and judicial branch employees disclose their personal finances promotes openness in the Federal Government. It reduces the risk of corruption, prevents the appearance of impropriety, and also sheds some transparency on what we do in the third branch of government.

Unfortunately, sometimes these required disclosures can include specific information about the filer's residence, a spouse's workplace, a child's workplace, or a vacation home. This information has the potential to place individual judges, employees, and their families at risk. So what we're doing

here is allowing a redaction by the Judicial Conference. The bill's redaction authority is critical to ensuring that this information does not get into the wrong hands and the whole idea is to make sure that some of the Federal judges whose lives have been lost and others whose family members have lost their lives by disgruntled litigants will not be made available to them.

The Judicial Conference is very careful in granting redaction authority. And although I would have preferred a permanent redaction authority, I'm perfectly willing to support a 6-year authority with extension possibilities. I look forward to the President signing this bill into law immediately.

I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1059.

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. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

BELARUS DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2011

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 515) to reauthorize the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendments is as follows:

Senate amendments:

On page 6, line 19, strike “and” and insert “expanded its visa ban list, imposed additional financial sanctions on certain state-owned enterprises, and initiated preparations to freeze the assets of several individuals in Belarus. The”.

On page 10, line 9, strike “continue to”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may