

State Homeland Security Grant Program and Urban Areas Security Initiative funding for cybersecurity enhancements; and working to combat the overclassification of cyber risk information so that it can be shared more broadly with stakeholders with a need to know.

I appreciate that Chairmen MCCAUL and RATCLIFFE and Ranking Member PAYNE have joined me as original cosponsors of H.R. 5459. This bipartisan legislation was reported favorably by the Committee on Homeland Security earlier this month.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 5459, the Cyber Preparedness Act of 2016.

Mr. Speaker, in May the Committee on Homeland Security held a hearing to examine how the Department of Homeland Security assists States in preparing and responding to cyber attacks. Historically, States have rated cybersecurity among the core capabilities in which they have the least confidence.

At the hearing, we heard compelling testimony from State emergency managers and chief information officers about the initiatives States are undertaking to reverse that trend and prevent cyber attacks within their State. For instance, some States like New Jersey and California have begun developing their own cyber information-sharing capabilities akin to DHS' National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center.

One of the consistent challenges witnesses identified, however, was the lack of robust cyber information sharing. H.R. 5459 addresses this challenge by promoting the sharing of cyber threat indicators and information, as well as cybersecurity best practices, with State and major urban area fusion centers.

The bill also designates cybersecurity as an allowable use of State Homeland Security Grants and Urban Areas Security Initiative funds.

Mr. Speaker, cyber attacks on systems that underpin the operation of critical infrastructure have the potential to wreak havoc on our communities. State emergency managers and chief information officers have made clear that the better sharing of cyber information is essential to preventing cyber attacks. H.R. 5459 seeks to improve cyber information sharing with fusion centers.

Moreover, I would note that, with respect to cyber threats to election equipment, the committee adopted an amendment to specifically direct DHS to share cyber threat information regarding election equipment and technology with fusion centers. The right to vote is among the most cherished, and the integrity of our election process is fundamental to our democracy. We must protect it.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5459.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5459.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5459, 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.

#### SECURING OUR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD ACT

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5346) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Health Affairs responsible for coordinating the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security related to food, agriculture, and veterinary defense against terrorism, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5346

*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 "Securing our Agriculture and Food Act".

##### SEC. 2. COORDINATION OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, AND VETERINARY DEFENSE AGAINST TERRORISM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after section 526 (6 U.S.C. 321o) the following new section:

##### "SEC. 527. COORDINATION OF DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY EFFORTS RELATED TO FOOD, AGRICULTURE, AND VETERINARY DEFENSE AGAINST TERRORISM.

"(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs, shall carry out a program to coordinate the Department's efforts related to defending the food, agriculture, and veterinary systems of the United States against terrorism and other high-consequence events that pose a high risk to homeland security.

"(b) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—The coordination program required by subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, the following:

"(1) Providing oversight and management of the Department's responsibilities pursuant to Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 - Defense of United States Agriculture and Food.

"(2) Providing oversight and integration of the Department's activities related to veterinary public health, food defense, and agricultural security.

"(3) Leading the Department's policy initiatives relating to food, animal, and agricultural incidents, and the impact of such incidents on animal and public health.

"(4) Leading the Department's policy initiatives relating to overall domestic pre-

paredness for and collective response to agricultural terrorism.

"(5) Coordinating with other Department components, including U.S. Customs and Border Protection, as appropriate, on activities related to food and agriculture security and screening procedures for domestic and imported products.

"(6) Coordinating with appropriate Federal departments and agencies.

"(7) Other activities as determined necessary by the Secretary."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 note) is amended—

(1) by striking the items relating to sections 523, 524, and 525; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 522 the following new items:

"Sec. 523. Guidance and recommendations.  
"Sec. 524. Voluntary private sector preparedness accreditation and certification program.

"Sec. 525. Acceptance of gifts.

"Sec. 526. Integrated public alert and warning system modernization.

"Sec. 527. Coordination of Department of Homeland Security efforts related to food, agriculture, and veterinary defense against terrorism."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5346, Securing Our Agriculture and Food Act, introduced by Congressman DAVID YOUNG of Iowa. This bill seeks to authorize the Department of Homeland Security's Food, Agriculture, and Veterinary Defense Program within the Office of Health Affairs.

□ 1515

Earlier this year, the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications held a hearing to examine the potential devastating impacts of an intentional attack on, or natural disruption of, U.S. agricultural or food production systems.

The food and agriculture sector is critically important to our Nation's economy. U.S. food and agriculture accounts for roughly one-fifth of the Nation's economic activity, contributed \$835 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product in 2014, and is responsible for 1 out of every 12 United States jobs.

Coming from Iowa, Congressman YOUNG knows all too well the importance of protecting this sector, which

is vital to the economy and our way of life. I appreciate him introducing this bill, which I am pleased to cosponsor.

I want to thank Chairman UPTON of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and Chairman CONAWAY of the Committee on Agriculture for working with us to advance this bill.

This legislation received bipartisan support in the Committee on Homeland Security. I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
Washington, DC, September 6, 2016.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,  
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: Thank you for the opportunity to review H.R. 5346, "Securing our Agriculture and Food Act." As you are aware, the bill was primarily referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, while the Agriculture Committee received an additional referral.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I agree to discharge H.R. 5346 from further consideration by the Committee on Agriculture. I do so with the understanding that by discharging the bill, the Committee on Agriculture does not waive any future jurisdictional claim on this or similar matters. Further, the Committee on Agriculture reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees, if it should become necessary.

I ask that you insert a copy of our exchange of letters into the Congressional Record during consideration of this measure on the House floor.

Thank you for your courtesy in this matter and I look forward to continued cooperation between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,  
Washington, DC, September 14, 2016.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,  
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: I write in regard to H.R. 5346, Securing our Agriculture and Food Act, which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. I wanted to notify you that the Committee will forgo action on the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Committee on Energy and Commerce takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 5346 at this time, the Committee does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward to address any remaining issues within the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate your response confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 5346 and ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included

in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,  
Washington, DC, September 14, 2016.

Hon. FRED UPTON,  
Chairman, Committee on Energy on Commerce,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5346, the "Securing our Agriculture and Food Act." I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and, accordingly, understand that the Committee on Energy and Commerce will forego consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Homeland Security concurs with the mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration on this bill at this time, the Committee on Energy and Commerce does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this bill or similar legislation in the future. In addition, should a conference on this bill be necessary, I would support a request by the Committee on Energy and Commerce for conferees on those provisions within your jurisdiction.

I will insert copies of this exchange in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,  
Washington, DC, September 14, 2016.

Hon. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,  
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Wash-  
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CONAWAY: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5346, the "Securing our Agriculture and Food Act." I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and accordingly, understand that the Committee on Agriculture will forego consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Homeland Security concurs with the mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration on this bill at this time, the Committee on Agriculture does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this bill or similar legislation in the future. In addition, should a conference on this bill be necessary, I would support a request by the Committee on Agriculture for conferees on those provisions within your jurisdiction.

I will insert copies of this exchange in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,  
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5346, the Securing Our Agriculture and Food Act. H.R. 5346 would clarify the responsibilities of the Department of Homeland Security's Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs as they relate to the Department's responsibilities under HSPD-9, the Defense of U.S. Agriculture and Food.

Accounting for nearly one-fifth of the economic activity of the Nation, agriculture is not only critical to human health, but also to the national econ-

omy. Although New Jersey's 10th Congressional District is not known for its rolling fields of corn or vast cattle ranches, it is home to large international ports.

Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists are on the front lines at the Port of Newark and Newark Liberty International Airport to protect domestic agriculture and food supply from foreign pathogens. These ports of entry are located in the largest consumer market in North America, reaching 23 million local consumers and 100 million more within a 36-hour reach. In fact, the Port of Newark and Newark Liberty International Airport are top-performing ports of entry with top interception numbers and several "First-in-Nation" insect finds.

Despite the large size and enormous volume of these two ports, there are not enough agriculture specialists for the work that we need to be done. That is why I offered an amendment in the committee to direct the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs to coordinate activities with other DHS components, including Customs and Border Protection.

I want to thank the subcommittee chairman for his support, and I am hopeful that the coordination required by my amendment will inform staffing decisions at U.S. ports of entry. We must do what we can to ensure the food and agriculture sector is protected. I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman DONOVAN and Ranking Member PAYNE.

Last year's outbreak of the highly pathogenic avian influenza forced a tough and heartbreaking reality for many folks in Iowa's Third Congressional District, all over the State, and in districts across the country.

Iowa suffered the largest animal disease outbreak in State history, devastating many farmers and producers by wiping out millions of layer hens, turkeys, and backyard flocks.

Now, as the Federal Government scrambled to respond to last year's events, efforts revealed problems with their ability to react quickly and communicate with stakeholders. I heard from numerous farmers, producers, and other stakeholders frustrated by this lack of communication and delay in action. Response efforts to the outbreak also highlighted concerns about our country's ability to share information and quickly respond to potential agroterrorism threats and attacks.

Now, as our Nation faces global and complex national security challenges, agroterrorism as well as future large-scale animal disease outbreaks pose serious threats to our food, agriculture, and livestock industries in the United States.

I introduced the Securing our Agriculture and Food Act, H.R. 5346, in order to address this issue by securing our Nation's agriculture industry, food supply, and ultimately protecting our consumers, our families, across the Nation.

This agroterrorism preparedness legislation requires the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to elevate preparedness of our Nation's food, agriculture, and veterinary systems against terrorism and high-risk events. It also authorizes the Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, to collaborate with other Federal agencies to ensure food, agriculture, and animal and human health sectors receive much-needed attention, and are integrated into the Department's domestic preparedness policy initiatives.

Whether we are preparing for future avian influenza outbreaks, animal disease outbreaks, or unforeseen emergencies or attacks, our Federal Government must have the tools and resources to act quickly and keep stakeholders informed. Parents should not have to worry about the safety of the food that they serve their children. We must ensure a safe and abundant food supply for our families; and my bill, this bipartisan bill, enables us to do just that.

I want to thank all Members—Homeland Security Chairman MCCAUL, Ranking Member THOMPSON, Subcommittee Chairman DONOVAN, Ranking Member PAYNE for helping and making this a better bill, and Chairman CONAWAY of the Committee on Agriculture and Chairman UPTON of the Committee on Energy and Commerce—who worked closely with me to bring this important bill to the floor. This was truly a collaborative effort and proves that we can do things in a bipartisan manner and together for the good of the country.

I want to thank staff as well, especially those on the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications of the Committee on Homeland Security who worked so hard on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of this bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5346 was unanimously approved by the Committee on Homeland Security on September 13. It recognizes the importance of securing our food and agriculture sector.

Once again, I would like to reiterate that the proper agriculture specialist staffing at our ports helps to keep the diseases that are likely to jeopardize the agriculture industry and food supply out of this country. I hope that H.R. 5346 will help improve our ability to protect the agriculture industry from biotreats.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5346.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I, once again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5346.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5346, 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.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD PREVENTION ACT OF 2016

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3779) to restrict the inclusion of Social Security account numbers on documents sent by mail by the Federal 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. 3779

*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 "Social Security Fraud Prevention Act of 2016".

##### SEC. 2. RESTRICTION OF SSNS ON DOCUMENTS SENT BY MAIL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—No department or agency of the Federal Government may include the social security account number of any individual on any document sent by mail unless the head of such department or agency determines that the inclusion of such social security number on such document is necessary.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the head of each department and agency of the Federal Government shall issue regulations specifying the circumstances under which inclusion of a social security account number on a document sent by mail is necessary. Such regulations shall include—

(1) instructions for the partial redaction of social security account numbers whenever feasible; and

(2) a requirement that social security account numbers not be visible on the outside of any package sent by mail.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act shall apply with respect to documents sent by mail on or after the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3779, Social Security Fraud Prevention Act of 2016. This was introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO).

Social Security numbers were first created for the sole purpose of allowing the Federal Government to track the earnings history of individuals to determine Social Security benefits. However, over the course of time, both the Federal Government and the private sector found these numbers to be valuable tools to keep track of individuals for a wide variety of reasons, including tax reporting and credit history. You can name how many different things where they require your Social Security number in order to figure out and identify who you are.

□ 1530

Because of these changes, Social Security numbers have become incredibly important in today's high-tech society. In fact, they can be used for a good deal of purposes in a positive way, but they can also be used in a nefarious way to try to create a fictitious identification for somebody.

They are necessary for applying to college, getting a credit card, or opening a bank account. However, in the hands of the wrong people, Social Security numbers can lead to identity theft, something that is very destructive to those affected.

Troublingly, the sponsor of this bill, Mr. VALADAO, reported an interaction with one of his constituents who received a government document with a Social Security number printed on the outside of the envelope. It was on the outside of the envelope.

Mr. Speaker, this is totally and completely unacceptable. Given the dangers associated with identity theft, the Federal Government must do more to safeguard Social Security numbers.

Indeed, 2 weeks ago, my committee released a 231-page report detailing the majority staff's investigative findings concerning a data breach of personally identifiable information by the United States Office of Personnel Management.

Mr. Speaker, this information included the Social Security numbers of more than 20 million Americans. As a result, an Oversight and Government Reform Committee report recommended Federal agencies reduce the use of Social Security numbers in order to mitigate the risk of identity theft.

What the bill does that Mr. VALADAO has introduced, H.R. 3779, is bring us closer to this goal by requiring Federal agencies to limit the sending of Social Security numbers via mail and to completely ban sending Social Security numbers in a way in which they can be seen on the outside of any package.

Ultimately, this bill will protect Americans from having their Social Security numbers needlessly revealed by the Federal Government.