

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 1762, the Protecting Indian Tribes from Scams Act. The often-overlooked area in Federal fraud prevention efforts is scams targeting Indian Tribes and Tribal members. The scope and scale of scams affecting Indian Tribes have not been well documented, hindering efforts to prevent them.

This bipartisan bill, reintroduced this Congress by Representatives MULLIN and O'HALLERAN, will help get the needed information about fraud and scams targeting Tribes and members of Tribes. This bill directs the FTC to consult with Indian Tribes about these scams and then issue a report to Congress that will be made public. It also requires the FTC to update its website to include information on these scams.

Mr. Speaker, as this pandemic continues, scammers are taking advantage of people's fear and uncertainty to steal people's money and commit fraud. American Indians are not exempt from these unfair and deceptive practices and may even be specifically targeted with certain kinds of scams. But there is not much information about it.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Representatives MULLIN and O'HALLERAN for introducing this bill, an important step in helping prevent fraud and scams targeting Tribes and members of Tribes. I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1762, the Protecting Indian Tribes from Scams Act. I want to thank Representative MULLIN and Representative O'HALLERAN for their work on this particular issue. This bipartisan piece of legislation will help our Native nations.

One area that can be overlooked in Federal fraud prevention efforts, Mr. Speaker, is scams targeting Indian Tribal members. The scope and scale of scams that target Indian Tribes have not been well documented, hindering efforts to prevent them.

This legislation would direct the FTC, the Federal Trade Commission, to submit to Congress a report on unfair or deceptive acts or practices targeting Indian Tribes.

Simply put, these scammers ruin lives, unfortunately. To address these scams properly, we must educate all Americans on how to avoid malicious scammers.

This legislation passed the House last Congress, and I am hopeful we can again pass it today and get this legislation to become law as soon as possible. I can't think of a better person to sponsor this than my good friend, Mr. MULLIN.

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

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the

gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of my bill, H.R. 1762, the Protecting Indian Tribes from Scams Act. The bill will help protect our Tribes and Tribal members from predatory scams.

Tribal communities have long been targets of fraud. Scammers often target vulnerable communities who receive trust or settlement payments, like many Tribes do. FTC data says that Tribe members are more likely to be the victims of scams and are less likely to report scams than any other group.

H.R. 1762 will direct the FTC to study the types of scams that target Tribes and find the best ways to combat them.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Arizona for working with me on these issues, as well as many other issues important to Indian Country. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I also urge support for the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1762.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

#### FTC COLLABORATION ACT OF 2021

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1766) to enhance cooperation between the Federal Trade Commission and State Attorneys General to combat unfair and deceptive practices, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1766

*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 "FTC Collaboration Act of 2021".

#### SEC. 2. UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE PRACTICES CO-OPERATION STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) STUDY REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Trade Commission shall conduct a study on facilitating and refining existing efforts with State Attorneys General to prevent, publicize, and penalize frauds and

scams being perpetrated on individuals in the United States.

(2) REQUIREMENTS OF STUDY.—In conducting the study, the Commission shall examine the following:

(A) The roles and responsibilities of the Commission and State Attorneys General that best advance collaboration and consumer protection.

(B) The policies, procedures, and mechanisms that facilitate cooperation and communications across the Commission.

(C) How resources should be dedicated to best advance such collaboration and consumer protection.

(D) The accountability mechanisms that should be implemented to promote collaboration and consumer protection.

(3) CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC COMMENT.—In producing the study required in paragraph (1), the Commission shall—

(A) consult with—

(i) the National Association of State Attorneys General;

(ii) public interest organizations dedicated to consumer protection;

(iii) relevant private sector entities; and

(iv) any other Federal or State agency that the Federal Trade Commission considers necessary; and

(B) provide opportunity for public comment and advice relevant to the production of the study.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 6 months after the completion of the study required pursuant to subsection (a), the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and make publicly available on the website of the Commission, a report that contains the following:

(1) The results of the study.

(2) Recommended best practices to enhance collaboration efforts between the Commission and State Attorneys General with respect to preventing, publicizing, and penalizing fraud and scams.

(3) Quantifiable metrics by which enhanced collaboration can be measured.

(4) Legislative recommendations, if any, to enhance collaboration efforts between the Commission and State Attorneys General to prevent, publicize, and penalize fraud and scams.

(c) COMMISSION DEFINED.—In this section, the term "Commission" means the Federal Trade Commission.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. 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 material on H.R. 1766.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 1766, the FTC Collaboration Act of 2021. This bipartisan bill was introduced again this year by Representatives O'HALLERAN and HUDSON.

The bill will help reinforce the important relationship between the FTC and State attorneys general.

Our State attorneys general play a critical role in enforcing and complementing Federal consumer protection laws. The FTC is a relatively small law enforcement agency charged with protecting consumers across the country. By partnering with State attorneys general, the reach of Federal consumer protection efforts is expanded. Stronger enforcement actions can be taken against unscrupulous companies and those engaging in unfair and deceptive practices hurting consumers.

When Americans are harmed by fraud and scams, they often turn to their State attorneys general for help, but these scammers may be targeting people across the country. By working together, State AGs and the FTC can pool their resources and protect consumers across the country.

This bill will help the FTC optimize its collaboration with State attorneys general by studying the matter and issuing a report on how to further promote collaboration.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1766, the FTC Collaboration Act.

As bad actors and scammers continue their efforts to take advantage of American consumers, we must not back down when it comes to ensuring the safety of our constituents and authenticity of consumer products. The FTC Collaboration Act directs the Federal Trade Commission to examine how it can work better with State attorneys general to prevent, publicize, and penalize scams in the United States.

This legislation would require the FTC to submit a report to Congress on how to enhance collaboration with State law enforcement. I remain confident this can help in other agenda items we can work together on in this particular session. It is so important that we work together with our colleagues on the State level.

I am proud of the important steps this bill takes to keep consumers safe and, importantly, prioritize our most vulnerable during COVID-19.

Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. In closing, I ask my colleagues to support this very important bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I have no additional speakers. I urge support for the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. PIN-GRÉE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1766.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### DEBARMENT ENFORCEMENT OF BAD ACTOR REGISTRANTS ACT OF 2021

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1002) to amend the Controlled Substances Act to authorize the debarment of certain registrants, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1002

*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 “Debarment Enforcement of Bad Actor Registrants Act of 2021” or the “DEBAR Act of 2021”.

#### SEC. 2. DEBARMENT OF CERTAIN REGISTRANTS.

Section 304 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 824) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) The Attorney General may issue an order to prohibit, conditionally or unconditionally, and permanently or for such period as the Attorney General may determine, any person from being registered under this title to manufacture, distribute, or dispense a controlled substance or a list I chemical, if the Attorney General finds that—

“(1) such person meets or has met any of the conditions for suspension or revocation of registration under subsection (a); and

“(2) such person has a history of prior suspensions or revocations of registration.”.

#### SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1002.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1002, the Debarment Enforcement of Bad Actor Registrants Act of 2021, or the DEBAR Act of 2021.

One of the critical missions of the Drug Enforcement Administration is enforcing and implementing the Controlled Substances Act in order to prevent drug diversion and limit access to substances that may pose a risk if used incorrectly.

One important lever the DEA has at its disposal to manage diversion or noncompliance with the law is the ability to revoke or surrender an individual’s controlled substance registration, which is needed to handle controlled substances.

A recent report by the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General found weaknesses in the DEA’s current registration processes and instances where the agency did not fully utilize its regulatory authorities to address noncompliance. Specifically, the inspector general found cases where entities whose registration were revoked were later able to obtain a new license.

For example, the report included one case where a doctor who had their registration revoked for serious misconduct then moved to another State under the authority of a different DEA field division and was granted a controlled substances registration after re-applying.

Another example in the report included a dentist who had voluntarily surrendered his medical license and DEA registration on two separate occasions. The dentist had also been convicted of a felony, which is grounds for suspension or revocation of an individual’s registration under the Controlled Substances Act. However, this dentist was still able to obtain another DEA registration.

Amid rising substance abuse and tragic drug overdoses, errors like these can be tragic and simply should not be happening. H.R. 1002 would address these errors by authorizing the debarment of any registrant who either meets the criteria for temporary or permanent suspension or revocation or has a history of prior suspensions or revocations.

I thank my committee colleagues—Representative LATTI, in particular—for leading this legislation, and also Ranking Member RODGERS for her work on this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1002, the Debarment Enforcement of Bad Actor Registrants, or the DEBAR Act, which was introduced by my very good friend, Mr. LATTI.

This provision would give the Drug Enforcement Administration, DEA, debarment authority to prohibit a person who has repeatedly violated the Controlled Substances Act from receiving a registration to manufacture, distribute, or dispense a controlled substance.

It makes a lot of sense. A recent Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General report found that when