Among other things, it requires a detailed plan from the President to secure the medical material supply chain. Additionally, it amends the DPA, the Defense Production Act, to include medical materials among critical materials for which the supply chain must be secured.

As my good friend knows, we need to be prepared not only for this pandemic, unfortunately, for other medical emergencies that may come. We have heard that we may be entering an era of pandemics and we must be prepared.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Arkansas for his leadership, and I urge a ''yes'' vote on this bill's passage.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from California, Mr. VARGAS. We will be talking about this when we discuss his bill in a few minutes. We have collaborated on this, and it is about planning, it is about a strategy, it is about not being caught at low tide with no bathing suit, and that is what this country needs is a better strategy.

President Bush warned us of that after he studied this issue when he was President. The stockpiles are important. Our FEMA planning is important. But our medical supply chain and those critical components are critical to the health and safety of our country. It is critical to our ability to defend ourselves, and hence, an appropriate amendment to the Defense Production Act.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I urge a ''yes'' vote on both sides of the aisle, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this time last year we watched as our brave healthcare workers struggled all over this country to respond to the mounting COVID–19 crisis, often with inadequate personal protective equipment and limited medical supplies.

This bill ensures that we can direct our significant scientific innovation and industrial capacity towards ensuring essential medical supplies are readily available, and that our supply chains are resilient in the face of threats to our collective health and well-being.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. HILL for his work on this important issue, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote ''yes.'' I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3146.

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.

COVID–19 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SUPPLIES ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3125) to enhance authorities under the Defense Production Act of 1950 to respond to the COVID–19 emergency, to provide additional oversight of such authorities, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3125

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 ''COVID–19 Emergency Medical Supplies Enhancement Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. DETERMINATION ON EMERGENCY SUPPLIES AND OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES.

(a) COVID–19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE.—For the purposes of section 101 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4511), the following materials may be deemed by the President, during the COVID–19 emergency period, to be scarce and critical materials essential to the national defense and otherwise meet the requirements of section 101(b) of such Act, and funds available to implement such Act may be used for the purchase, production (including the construction, repair, and retrofitting of government-owned facilities as necessary), or distribution of such materials:

(1) In vitro diagnostic products (as defined in section 809.3(a) of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations) for the detection of SARS–CoV–2 or the diagnosis of the virus that causes COVID–19, and the reagents and other materials necessary for producing, conducting, or administering such products, and the machinery, equipment, laboratory capacity, or other technology necessary to produce such products.

(2) Face masks and personal protective equipment, including non-surgical isolation gowns, face shields, nitrile gloves, N–95 filtering facepiece respirators, and any other masks or equipment (including durable medical equipment) determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to be needed to respond to the COVID–19 pandemic, and the materials, machinery, additional manufacturing lines or facilities, or other technology necessary to produce such equipment.

(3) Drugs and devices (as those terms are defined in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.)) and biological products (as that term is defined by section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262)) that are approved, cleared, licensed, or authorized under either of such Acts for use in treating or preventing COVID–19 and symptoms related to COVID–19, and any materials, manufacturing machinery, additional manufacturing or fill-finish lines or facilities, technology, or equipment (including durable medical equipment) necessary to produce or use such drugs, biological products, or devices (including syringes, vials, or other supplies or equipment related to delivery, distribution, or administration).

(4) Any other medical equipment or supplies determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services or the Secretary of Homeland Security to be scarce and critical materials essential to the national defense for purposes of section 101 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4511).

(b) FUTURE PREPAREDNESS FOR HEALTH EMERGENCIES.—Section 702(14) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 is amended by striking ''and critical infrastructure protection and restoration'' and inserting '', critical infrastructure protection and restoration, and public health emergency preparedness and response activities''.

SEC. 3. EXERCISE OF TITLE I AUTHORITIES IN RELATION TO CONTRACTS BY STATE, LOCAL, OR TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In exercising authorities under title I of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4511 et seq.) during the COVID–19 emergency period, the President (and any officer or employee of the United States to which authorities under such title I have been delegated)—

(1) may exercise the prioritization or allocation authority provided in such title I to exclude any materials described in section 2 ordered by a State, local, or Tribal government that are scheduled to be delivered within 15 days of the time at which—

(A) the purchase order or contract by the Federal Government for such materials is made; or

(B) the materials are otherwise allocated by the Federal Government under the authorities contained in such Act; and

(2) shall, within 24 hours of any exercise of the prioritization or allocation authority provided in such title I—

(A) to the extent practicable notify any State, local, or Tribal government if the President determines that the exercise of such authorities would delay the receipt of such materials ordered by such government; and

(B) take such steps as may be necessary, and as authorized by law, to ensure that such materials ordered by such government are delivered in the shortest possible period, consistent with the purposes of the Defense Production Act of 1950.

(b) UPDATE TO FEDERAL REGULATIONS.—

(1) DPAS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Defense Property Accountability System regulations (15 C.F.R. part 700) shall be revised to reflect the requirements of subsection (a).

(2) FAR.—Not later than 30 days after the revisions required by paragraph (1) are made, the Federal Acquisition Regulation shall be revised to reflect the requirements of subsection (a), consistent with the revisions made pursuant to paragraph (1).

SEC. 4. ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

(a) OUTREACH REPRESENTATIVE.—Consistent with the authorities in title VII of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4551 et seq.), the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, may designate or appoint, pursuant to section 703 of such Act (50 U.S.C. 4553), an individual to be known as the ''Outreach Representative'' for the COVID–19 emergency period. Such individual shall—

(1) be appointed from among individuals with substantial experience in the production or distribution of medical supplies or equipment; and

(2) act as the Government-wide single point of contact during the COVID–19 emergency for outreach to manufacturing companies and their suppliers who may be interested in producing medical supplies or equipment, including the materials described under section 2.

(b) ENCOURAGING PARTNERSHIPS.—During the COVID–19 emergency period, the Outreach Representative shall seek to develop partnerships between companies, in coordination with any overall coordinator appointed by the President to oversee the response to the COVID–19 emergency, including through the exercise of the authorities

delegated by the President under section 708 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4558).

SEC. 5. ENHANCEMENT OF SUPPLY CHAIN PRODUCTION.

In exercising authority under title III of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4531 et seq.) with respect to materials described in section 2, the President shall seek to ensure that support is provided to companies that comprise the supply chains for reagents, components, raw materials, and other materials and items necessary to produce or use the materials described in section 2 to the extent necessary for the national defense during the COVID–19 emergency period.

SEC. 6. ENHANCED REPORTING DURING COVID–19 EMERGENCY.

(a) REPORT ON EXERCISING AUTHORITIES UNDER THE DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT OF 1950.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the exercise of authorities under titles I, III, and VII of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.) prior to the date of such report for the purposes of the COVID–19 response.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) and the update required under paragraph (3) shall include the following:

(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to each exercise of such authority—

(i) an explanation of the purpose of the applicable contract, purchase order, or other exercise of authority (including an allocation of materials, services, and facilities under section 101(a)(2) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4511(a)(2));

(ii) the cost of such exercise of authority; and

(iii) if applicable—

(I) the amount of goods that were purchased or allocated;

(II) an identification of the entity awarded a contract or purchase order or that was the subject of the exercise of authority; and

(III) an identification of any entity that had shipments delayed by the exercise of any authority under the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.).

(B) CONSULTATIONS.—A description of any consultations conducted with relevant stakeholders on the needs addressed by the exercise of the authorities described in paragraph (1).

(3) UPDATE.—The President shall provide an additional briefing to the appropriate congressional committees on the matters described under paragraph (2) no later than four months after the submission of the report.

(b) EXERCISE OF LOAN AUTHORITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any loan made pursuant to section 302 or 303 of the Defense Production Act of 1950, carried out by the United States International Development Finance Corporation pursuant to the authorities delegated by Executive Order No. 13922, shall be subject to the notification requirements contained in section 1446 of the BUILD Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9656).

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—For purposes of the notifications required by paragraph (1) the term ''appropriate congressional committees'', as used section 1446 of the BUILD Act of 2018, shall be deemed to include the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Development of the Senate.

(c) SUNSET.—The requirements of this section shall terminate on the later of—

(1) December 31, 2021; or

(2) the end of the COVID–19 emergency period.

SEC. 7. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES INVOLVING SMALL BUSINESS.

The report required by section 304(f)(3) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4534(f)(3)) for fiscal years 2022 and 2023 shall include the percentage of contracts awarded using funds to carry out the Defense Production Act of 1950 for each of the fiscal years 2022 and 2023, respectively, to small business concerns (as defined under section 702 of such Act).

SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, Energy and Commerce, Financial Services, and Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and Veterans' Affairs of the Senate.

(2) COVID–19 EMERGENCY PERIOD.—The term ''COVID–19 emergency period'' means the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the earlier of—

(A) the end of the incident period for the emergency declared on March 13, 2020, by the President under section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 4121 et seq.) relating to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) pandemic; or

(B) September 30, 2025.

(3) RELEVANT STAKEHOLDER.—The term ''relevant stakeholder'' means—

(A) representative private sector entities;

(B) representatives of the nonprofit sector;

(C) representatives of primary and secondary school systems; and

(D) representatives of organizations representing workers, including health workers, manufacturers, teachers, other public sector employees, and service sector workers.

(4) STATE.—The term ''State'' means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

□ 1315

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3125, the COVID–19 Emergency Medical Supplies Enhancement Act of 2021, introduced by my colleague and friend, Mr. VARGAS.

The Defense Production Act of 1950 provides the President with a wide range of authorities to enhance the domestic industrial base to shift towards the production of goods and materials essential to the defense of our country.

At the time this law was written, they did not anticipate that personal protection equipment, vaccines, and other medical supplies could be essential to the defense of our country. This pandemic has made abundantly clear that medical materials to ensure our public health are absolutely essential to the defense of this country.

This bill would ensure that our Nation has access to medical materials necessary to respond to the COVID–19 pandemic by allowing certain medical materials to qualify for purchase and increased production under the DPA's authority. It would also amend the DPA to ensure that the DPA's authorities could be used to address preparation for the next public health emergency to help get the United States ahead of deadly future pandemics.

Additionally, in order to respond to the evolving needs of local authorities to counter the COVID–19 pandemic, this bill would provide the Federal Government with the authority to allow State, local, and Tribal governments' orders for qualifying goods and materials to be prioritized ahead of the Federal Government.

Finally, to streamline engagement with the private sector on supply chain support for production of essential materials to counter COVID–19, this bill provides a framework that includes a dedicated outreach representative and reporting to Congress on purchases made and contracts entered into under DPA authority.

I would like to thank Mr. VARGAS for his hard work in ensuring that the President has the necessary tools at his or her disposal when they respond to the COVID–19 pandemic.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3125, sponsored by my friend from California (Mr. VARGAS).

His legislation would help strengthen the oversight over this issue that we are discussing today of using the Defense Production Act's authorities during this COVID–19 pandemic. It also would help streamline the use of those authorities so that we ensure that the Federal Government's response is coordinated effectively with State-led efforts.

I was proud to cosponsor this bill with my friend from California. I think every Member of this House recognized that coordination challenge during the emergency, and it was challenging in some of our States to see surplus of supply in some States and not in others.

So Mr. VARGAS has attempted to focus in during the pandemic on enhancing that coordination when we are

using the DPA. That coordination effort would work with private suppliers of medical items for more efficient and essential consideration when the U.S. is facing this kind of a public health emergency.

Although the U.S. appears to be exiting the pandemic now, DPA authorities are still in use to address our critical medical needs. We must be especially vigilant as the coronavirus continues to wreak havoc abroad, giving rise to potential new variants that the medical community will have to monitor closely.

Of course, we are all now far more sensitized to the pandemic risks that may arise with little notice in the future. Mr. VARGAS' legislation provides a blueprint for deploying the DPA more rapidly should we face a public health emergency in the years ahead, all while allowing for appropriate, active congressional oversight.

I am happy to cosponsor my friend's legislation. I appreciate the bipartisan work that we have shared undertaking this item in the House Financial Services Committee.

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS).

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the COVID–19 Emergency Medical Supplies Enhancement Act, H.R. 3125, because I agree with my good friend from Arkansas that we don't want to get caught at low tide with no bathing suit. In fact, that is a very bad idea.

The administration has been extremely effective in using the Defense Production Act to help produce vaccines and PPE. Following these efforts, cases and deaths have declined significantly. My bipartisan bill will support the current use of DPA and facilitate its use in the future to save lives.

This bill amends the DPA to explicitly include public health emergency preparedness as a core activity for national defense, as was mentioned by my good friend from Arkansas.

It also provides guidance to create an outreach representative who would act as the point person for Federal and private engagement to increase production of medically necessary materials.

It also requires the administration to provide a much-needed report clearly conveying the Federal contracts awarded under the DPA authorities.

Finally, it requires additional reporting on the percentage of contracts awarded to small businesses.

I urge the administration to disaggregate data on small businesses awarded the DPA contracts. We need to clearly see the number of contracts going to individuals from underserved communities, including communities of color, veterans, and individuals with disabilities.

I am proud to have introduced this bill with my good friend from Arkansas, Representative HILL; and also my colleagues as cosponsors, Representatives TAYLOR, RYAN, and GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. In a bipartisan manner, we have recognized the importance of public health emergency preparedness, including PPE and vaccine production.

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

I also want to say that too many people in our Latino communities have died due to this virus. So, please, now that the vaccine is available, protect yourselves and protect our community—get vaccinated today.

También quiero decir que demasiadas personas de nuestras comunidades Latinas han muerto por este virus. Entonces, por favor, ya que la vacuna está disponible, protéjanse y protejan a nuestra comunidad—váyanse a vacunar hoy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California will provide a translation of his remarks to the Clerk.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank my friend from California for his attention to this effort, particularly with the Federal oversight of how the DPA is used; what we can learn in this extraordinary past year that we have experienced; and how we can be better prepared not only now as we assess those contracts and the use of the Defense Production Act in this pandemic, but how we, as I said, can have a blueprint for the future. I congratulate him for his work and I appreciate his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time, which will be very short like this bathing suit.

Mr. Speaker, this bill takes the lessons we have learned over the past 14 months and builds on the DPA's purpose of harnessing our domestic industrial base in the interest of national defense to ensure that we have the medical materials necessary to respond to the COVID–19 pandemic and to future pandemics.

I thank Mr. VARGAS for his vision and hard work in ensuring that our Nation can bring together its leadership and scientific innovation and our impressive domestic industrial base to support our collective public health and well-being through access to necessary medical materials.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on 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 Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3125.

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.

HOMEBUYER ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3008) to amend the National Housing Act to authorize State-licensed appraisers to conduct appraisals in connection with mortgages insured by the FHA and to require compliance with the existing appraiser education requirement, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3008

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 ''Homebuyer Assistance Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. APPRAISAL STANDARDS FOR SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSING MORTGAGES.

(a) CERTIFICATION OR LICENSING.—Paragraph (5) of section 202(g) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1708(g)) is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following new subparagraph:

''(A)(i) in the case of an appraiser for a mortgage for single-family housing, be certified or licensed by the State in which the property to be appraised is located; and

''(ii) in the case of an appraiser for a mortgage for multifamily housing, be certified by the State in which the property to be appraised is located; and''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', which, in the case of appraisers for any mortgage for single-family housing, shall include completion of a course or seminar that consists of not less than 7 hours of training regarding such appraisal requirements that is approved by the Course Approval Program of the Appraiser Qualifications Board of the Appraisal Foundation or a State appraiser certifying and licensing agency''.

(b) COMPLIANCE WITH VERIFIABLE EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS; GRANDFATHERING.—Effective beginning on the date of the effectiveness of the mortgagee letter or other guidance issued pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, notwithstanding any choice or approval of any appraiser made before such date of enactment, no appraiser may conduct an appraisal for any mortgage for single-family housing insured under title II of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1707 et seq.) unless such appraiser is, as of such date of effectiveness, in compliance with—

(1) all of the requirements under section 202(g)(5) of such Act (12 U.S.C. 1708(g)(5)), as amended by subsection (a) of this section, including the requirement under subparagraph (B) of such section 202(g)(5) (relating to demonstrated verifiable education in appraisal requirements); or

(2) all of the requirements under section 202(g)(5) of such Act as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than the expiration of the 240-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall issue a mortgagee letter or other guidance that shall—

(1) implement the amendments made by subsection (a) of this section;

(2) clearly set forth all of the specific requirements under section 202(g)(5) of the National Housing Act (as amended by subsection (a) of this section) for approval to conduct appraisals under title II of such Act for mortgages for single-family housing, which shall include—

(A) providing that the completion, prior to the effective date of such mortgagee letter