

This bill will help modernize Congress and expand the legislative branch's oversight over the executive branch.

Every year, Federal agencies prepare and submit thousands of in-depth reports to various congressional committees. These reports cover topics such as the implementation status of new agency programs or legal requirements in recently passed laws.

They also cover the ongoing effort of the Federal Government to address waste, fraud, and abuse as well as policy priorities like our Nation's financial stability, cybersecurity, homeland security, and public health readiness.

In short, congressionally mandated reports are a key part of how the United States Congress fulfills its Article I oversight duties over the executive branch.

Beyond holding hearings and passing laws, the legislative branch mandates that executive branch agencies report to the House and Senate on their activities and compliance with the law.

As representatives in the House, we have an obligation to the American people to maintain constant visibility into the executive branch. And congressionally mandated reports are one of our most useful, daily oversight tools.

However, there is a problem. Congress lacks a central inventory of the reports we require Federal agencies to send us. This makes it hard to know for certain if agencies are fulfilling their legal reporting obligations or for new congressional Members and staff to find reports from previous years.

Additionally, the American public has little to no access to these valuable reports, which contain key insights into agency programs and missions that directly affect them.

H.R. 2485 is the solution we need. With the bill's establishment of a single website at the Government Publishing Office we will be able to find the reports we need when we need them.

A fully searchable inventory of these reports makes complete sense in the modern world. This new portal will enable each and every House Member and staffer to do their job on behalf of the American people they represent.

After all, American taxpayer dollars are funding the preparation of these reports as well as the agency activities they report on.

And for sensitive reports containing classified information, there are protections to ensure that only the proper congressional committees will be able to access such reports.

Again, I want to thank my colleague, Mr. MIKE QUIGLEY, for working with me to improve and reintroduce this government-wide transparency bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2485.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 2485, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2485, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to require the Director of the Government Publishing Office to establish and maintain a single online portal accessible to the public that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of all congressionally mandated reports, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET JUSTIFICATION TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2021

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 272) to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, to require the budget justifications and appropriation requests of agencies be made publicly available.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 272

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 "Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS AND APPROPRIATION REQUESTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 3. FULL DISCLOSURE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than monthly when practicable, and in any event not less frequently than quarterly, the Secretary (in consultation with the Director and, with respect to information described in subsection (b)(2), the head of the applicable Federal agency) shall ensure that updated information with respect to the information described in subsection (b) is posted on the website established under section 2.

"(b) INFORMATION TO BE POSTED.—

"(1) FUNDS.—For any funds made available to or expended by a Federal agency or component of a Federal agency, the information to be posted shall include—

"(A) for each appropriations account, including an expired or unexpired appropriations account, the amount—

"(i) of budget authority appropriated;

"(ii) that is obligated;

"(iii) of unobligated balances; and

"(iv) of any other budgetary resources;

"(B) from which accounts and in what amount—

"(i) appropriations are obligated for each program activity; and

"(ii) outlays are made for each program activity;

"(C) from which accounts and in what amount—

"(i) appropriations are obligated for each object class; and

"(ii) outlays are made for each object class; and

"(D) for each program activity, the amount—

"(i) obligated for each object class; and

"(ii) of outlays made for each object class.

"(2) BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS.—

"(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

"(i) the term 'budget justification materials' means the annual budget justification materials of a Federal agency, or a component of a Federal agency, that are submitted, in conjunction with the budget of the United States Government submitted under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code; and

"(ii) the term 'open Government data asset' has the meaning given that term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

"(B) INFORMATION.—The information to be posted—

"(i) shall include any budget justification materials—

"(I) for the second fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and each fiscal year thereafter; and

"(II) to the extent practicable, that were released for any fiscal year before the date of enactment of this paragraph; and

"(ii) shall not include budget justification materials the disclosure of which is prohibited by law, that are classified, or that are exempt from disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code.

"(C) FORMAT.—Budget justification materials shall be posted under subparagraph (B)—

"(i) as an open Government data asset;

"(ii) in a manner that enables users to download individual reports, download all reports in bulk, and download in bulk the results of a search, to the extent practicable; and

"(iii) in a structured data format, to the extent practicable.

"(D) DEADLINE.—The budget justification materials required to be posted under subparagraph (B)(i) shall be posted not later than 2 weeks after the date on which the budget justification materials are first submitted to Congress.

"(E) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to authorize a Federal agency, or a component of a Federal agency, to destroy any budget justification materials relating to a fiscal year before the fiscal year described in subparagraph (B)(i)."

(b) INFORMATION REGARDING AGENCY BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS.—Section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(i)(1) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall make publicly available on a website, and continuously update, a tabular list for each fiscal year of each agency that submits budget justification materials, which shall include—

"(A) the name of the agency;

"(B) a unique identifier that identifies the agency;

"(C) to the extent practicable, the date on which the budget justification materials of the agency are first submitted to Congress;

"(D) the date on which the budget justification materials of the agency are posted online under section 3 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note);

"(E) the uniform resource locator where the budget justification materials are published on the website of the agency; and

"(F) a single data set that contains the information described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) with respect to the agency for all fiscal years for which budget justifications of the agency are made available under

section 3 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) in a structured data format.

“(2)(A) Each agency that submits budget justification materials shall make the materials available on the website of the agency, in accordance with the policies established by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under subparagraph (B).

“(B) Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall establish policies and data standards for agencies relating to making available materials under subparagraph (A), which shall include guidelines for making budget justification materials available in a format aligned with the requirements of section 3(b)(2)(C) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) and using a uniform resource locator that is in a consistent format across agencies and is descriptive, memorable, and pronounceable, such as the format of ‘agencyname.gov/budget’.

“(C) If the Director of the Office of Management and Budget maintains a public website that contains the budget of the United States Government submitted under subsection (a) and any related materials, such website shall also contain a link to the tabular list required under paragraph (1).

“(3) In this subsection, the term ‘budget justification materials’ has the meaning given that term in section 3(b)(2) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note).”.

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 Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure before us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us, the Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act, is a commonsense, good government measure every Member should support.

It would require the congressional budget justification documents that agencies prepare for congressional committees to be posted online in a centralized, searchable database.

This would make these detailed, plain-language explanations of how

agencies plan to spend taxpayer dollars more accessible to the public.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Representative MIKE QUIGLEY for his work on the House companion to this measure. He has a long history as a strong advocate of transparency in the operations of the Federal Government.

This bill builds on the work of the Committee to improve government transparency by allowing the public to more easily learn about how Federal agencies spend their taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 272, the Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act.

The Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act is a long overdue reform that would ensure Congress and the Nation's taxpayers can understand the full scope and context of the annual Federal budget.

I would like to thank Congressman MIKE QUIGLEY for working together with House Oversight and Reform Committee Ranking Member COMER to pass the nearly identical companion bill, H.R. 22, through the House at the beginning of this year.

Last year, more than \$6.8 trillion was spent to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Public spending transparency resources like USAspending.gov and PandemicOversight.gov, helped the public track agency spending, but they are not enough.

Annual Federal agency budget justifications provide detailed and plain language explanations of how agencies plan to spend congressionally appropriated funds.

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However, these necessary justification materials are scattered across agency websites and often difficult to find. This bipartisan legislation will ensure the American people and Congress can easily access these important budget justification materials to review proposed agency spending.

The bill requires every agency to make their annual budget justification materials publicly available on a single website. To do this, the bill requires the Office of Management and Budget to issue a full listing of agency budget justifications and the individual agency web pages where they are posted.

Thanks to another law produced by the House Oversight and Reform Committee, the 2018 Good Accounting Obligation in Government Act, congressional budget justifications also now list unimplemented Inspector General audit and GAO report recommendations. This means the bill will also help Congress and the public annually track open IG and GAO oversight recommendations.

The Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act makes the executive branch annual budget process truly open to the American people and

provides needed transparency of each agency's detailed budget justifications.

The American public and their congressional Representatives deserve full access to agency plans to spend their hard-earned tax dollars. America's tax dollars must be used wisely, and I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Pennsylvania has no further speakers, I am prepared to close.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER).

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 272, the Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act.

This bill is a timely and important reform to ensure Congress and the public can review all Federal spending. This bipartisan legislation make it possible for the public and every member of Congress to readily find and compare the annual budget justification and supporting materials that each agency prepares and sends to Congress. This detailed review is critical to ensuring that our tax dollars are spent properly.

This reform is also needed now more than ever. Last year alone, the Federal Government spent more than \$6.8 trillion. Unfortunately, this trend in massive government spending does not seem to be slowing down any time soon.

The Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act will require all agencies to make their budget justification materials available online in plain language. In doing so, this legislation will empower Congress' ability to conduct oversight of Federal agencies' use of taxpayer dollars by consolidating agency data. It will also provide much-needed transparency to the American people.

Requiring each agency to provide detailed plain language explanations of how they intend to spend taxpayer dollars ensures Americans can review those decisions at any time.

I want to thank my colleague, Congressman MIKE QUIGLEY, for working with me on H.R. 22 which we were able to pass through the House back on January 5 of this year. I was glad to see the Senate's recent action advancing this much-needed reform bill through Congress.

This legislation illustrates the importance of working across the aisle to improve congressional oversight to ensure American tax dollars are spent efficiently and effectively. Today the House sends the Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act to the President's desk.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working on many more bipartisan government accountability bills and encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of S. 272, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KAHELE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 272.

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. GREENE of Georgia. 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.

FEDERAL CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN COMPUTER SCIENCE WORK ACT

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3533) to establish occupational series for Federal positions in software development, software engineering, data science, and data management, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3533

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. OCCUPATIONAL SERIES FOR DIGITAL CAREER FIELDS.

Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall, pursuant to chapter 51 of title 5, United States Code, establish or update existing occupational series covering Federal Government positions in the fields of software development, software engineering, data science, and data management.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials on H.R. 3533.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3533, the Federal Career Opportunities

in Computer Science Work Act. I commend my colleagues, Representative OBERNOLTE and Representative WELCH, for their bipartisan work on this measure.

This bill would require the Office of Personnel Management to update or establish occupational series for Federal civilian positions in software development, software engineering, data science, and data management within 270 days of enactment.

It would implement a recommendation that was included in the final report of the National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence. In its report, the commission stated: “The artificial intelligence competition will not be won by the side with the best technology. It will be won by the side with the best, most diverse and tech-savvy talent.”

To attract and retain digital talent, the commission recommended that the Federal Government create the civilian occupational series that are included in this bill. This bipartisan bill would help support recruitment of professionals with these specialized skills for Federal employment.

This is an important step in helping Federal agencies recruit, hire, and retain the talent that is needed to remain competitive in the digital domain.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this bill, I urge my colleagues to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3533, the Federal Career Opportunities in Computer Science Work Act.

In a world that increasingly relies on digital technologies, the Federal Government needs to be able to hire and attract the right talent; therefore, the ability to recruit and retain qualified software and data professionals is important, particularly as our government and private sector must withstand more frequent and sophisticated cybersecurity threats.

The National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence released their final report earlier this year and found that “Digitally talented people should be able to reasonably expect to spend a career performing meaningful work focused on their field of expertise in government.”

The report goes on to recommend that new Federal career fields in digital technologies be established by creating new civilian occupational series for software development, software engineering, knowledge management, and data science.

The bill under consideration requires the Office of Personnel Management to either update existing occupational series or create new ones in the fields of software development, software engineering, data management, and data science. This will ensure that the Federal workforce represents current specialized fields necessary to bringing

America’s Government into the 21st century.

The bill also enables the Federal Government to better target recruiting and retain qualified professionals in these essential fields.

I appreciate Congressman OBERNOLTE’s and Congressman WELCH’s leadership on this issue. I encourage my colleagues to support this smart government modernization bill.

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

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Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, the Federal Career Opportunities in Computer Sciences Work Act.

Mr. Speaker, I, along with most of the country, was recently horrified by the cyberattacks against critical parts of our national infrastructure, in particular, the cyberattack against Colonial Pipeline that shut down gasoline deliveries for much of the Eastern United States and the cyberattacks against JBS meat processing, which disrupted operations at one of the largest food processing facilities in our country.

It has become increasingly clear that dealing with these threats will require highly trained professionals in the computer sciences and the data sciences as part of not just our civilian workforce but also our Federal workforce.

Unfortunately, many people are surprised to learn that we do not currently have Federal career occupational series that are dedicated to the computer sciences. This bill, the Federal Career Opportunities in Computer Sciences Work Act, will establish those series in such fields as data management, artificial intelligence, and software engineering. This will enable our Federal Government to better attract and retain the highly qualified technical computer scientist talent that is needed to respond to these attacks in the future.

This is bipartisan legislation. It is an easy and commonsense solution to this problem, and I urge support for this bill.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation that will help improve the technical skills of our Federal workforce and, ultimately, modernize our government.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 3533, and I yield back the balance of my time.