

the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5577.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ROSENDALE. 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.

PROMOTING RIGOROUS AND INNOVATIVE COST EFFICIENCIES FOR FEDERAL PROCUREMENT AND ACQUISITIONS ACT OF 2021

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 583) to promote innovative acquisition techniques and procurement strategies, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 583

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 “Promoting Rigorous and Innovative Cost Efficiencies for Federal Procurement and Acquisitions Act of 2021” or the “PRICE Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) small business participation in the Federal marketplace is key to ensuring a strong industrial base;

(2) the Business Opportunity Development Reform Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-656) sets forth the requirement for the President to establish Government-wide goals for procurement contracts awarded to small businesses;

(3) each year, the Small Business Administration works with each Federal agency to set their respective contracting goals and publishes a scorecard to ensure that the total of all Federal agency goals meets the required targets for the Federal Government;

(4) the Department has received among the highest scorecard letter grades 10 years in a row and is the largest Federal agency to have such a track record;

(5) in virtually every segment of the economy of the United States, including the homeland security community, there are small businesses working to support the mission and playing a critical role in delivering efficient and innovative solutions to the acquisition needs of the Federal Government;

(6) the Procurement Innovation Lab of the Department—

(A) is aimed at experimenting with innovative acquisition techniques across the Homeland Security Enterprise;

(B) provides a forum to test new ideas, share lessons learned, and promote best practices;

(C) fosters cultural changes that promote innovation and managed risk taking through a continuous cycle of testing, obtaining feedback, sharing information, and retesting where appropriate; and

(D) aims to make the acquisition process more smooth and innovative within the construct of the Federal Acquisition Regulation

for both the Federal Government and contractors; and

(7) despite progress in the adoption of new and better business practices by many Federal agencies, the overall adoption of modernized business practices and advanced technologies across the Federal Government remains slow and uneven.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.

(3) COUNCIL.—The term “Council” means the Chief Acquisition Officers Council established under section 1311 of title 41, United States Code.

(4) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security.

(5) HOMELAND SECURITY ENTERPRISE.—The term “Homeland Security Enterprise” has the meaning given the term in section 2211(h) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 661(h)).

(6) SCORECARD.—The term “scorecard” means the scorecard described in section 868(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (15 U.S.C. 644 note).

(7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(8) SMALL BUSINESS.—The term “small business” means—

(A) a qualified HUBZone small business concern, a small business concern, a small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, or a small business concern owned and controlled by women, as those terms are defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632);

(B) a small business concern owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, as defined in section 8(d)(3)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(3)(C)); or

(C) a small business concern unconditionally owned by an economically disadvantaged Indian tribe or an economically disadvantaged Native Hawaiian organization that qualifies as a socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern, as defined in section 8(a)(4) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a)(4)).

(9) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term “Under Secretary” means the Under Secretary for Management of the Department.

SEC. 4. PROCUREMENT INNOVATION LAB REPORT.

(a) REPORT.—The Under Secretary shall publish an annual report on a website of the Department on Procurement Innovation Lab projects that have used innovative techniques within the Department to accomplish—

(1) improving or encouraging better competition;

(2) reducing time to award;

(3) cost savings;

(4) better mission outcomes; or

(5) meeting the goals for contracts awarded to small business concerns under section 15(g) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(g)).

(b) EDUCATION.—The Under Secretary shall develop and disseminate guidance and offer training for contracting officers, contracting

specialists, program managers, and other personnel of the Department, as determined appropriate by the Under Secretary, concerning when and how to use the innovative procurement techniques of the Department.

(c) BEST PRACTICES.—The Under Secretary shall share best practices across the Department and make available to other Federal agencies information to improve procurement methods and training, as determined appropriate by the Under Secretary.

(d) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to be effective on the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. COUNCIL.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall convene the Council to examine best practices for acquisition innovation in contracting in the Federal Government, including small business contracting in accordance with the goals established under section 15(g) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(g)).

(b) WORKING GROUP.—The Council may form a working group to address the requirements of this section, which, if formed, shall—

(1) be chaired by the Administrator or a designee of the Administrator; and

(2) be composed of—

(A) the Chief Procurement Officer of the Department;

(B) Council members from—

(i) the General Services Administration;

(ii) the Department of Defense;

(iii) the Department of the Treasury;

(iv) the Department of Veterans Affairs;

(v) the Department of Health and Human Services;

(vi) the Small Business Administration; and

(vii) such other Federal agencies as determined by the chair of the Council from among Federal agencies that have demonstrated significant, sustained progress using innovative acquisition practices and technologies, including for small business contracting, during each of the 3 years preceding the date of enactment of this Act; and

(C) other employees, as determined appropriate by the chair of the Council, of Federal agencies with the requisite senior experience to make recommendations to improve Federal agency efficiency, effectiveness, and economy, including in promoting small business contracting.

(c) DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL.—The Council, or a working group formed under subsection (b), shall—

(1) convene not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act and thereafter on a quarterly basis until the Council submits the report required under subsection (d)(1); and

(2) conduct outreach with the workforce and the public in meeting the requirements under subsection (d)(1).

(d) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Council shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that describes—

(A) innovative acquisition practices and applications of technologies that have worked well in achieving better procurement outcomes, including increased efficiency, improved program outcomes, better customer experience, and meeting or exceeding the goals under section 15(g) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(g)), and the reasons why those practices have succeeded;

(B) steps to identify and adopt transformational commercial business practices, modernized data analytics, and advanced technologies that allow decision making to occur in a more friction-free buying environment and improve customer experience; and

(C) any recommendations for statutory changes to accelerate the adoption of innovative acquisition practices.

(2) BRIEFING.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on the means by which the findings and recommendations of the report have been disseminated under paragraph (3).

(3) PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF REPORT FINDINGS.—To promote more rapid adoption of acquisition best practices, the Administrator shall—

(A) publish the report required under paragraph (1) on the website of the Office of Management and Budget and on the Innovation Hub on the Acquisition Gateway or any successor Government-wide site available for increasing awareness of resources dedicated to procurement innovation; and

(B) encourage the head of each Federal agency to maintain a site on the website of the Federal agency for acquisition and contracting professionals, program managers, members of the public, and others as appropriate that is—

(i) dedicated to acquisition innovation; and

(ii) identifies—

(I) resources, including the acquisition innovation advocate and industry liaison of the Federal agency;

(II) learning assets for the workforce, including the findings and recommendations made in the report required under paragraph (1);

(III) events to build awareness and understanding of innovation activities;

(IV) award recognition programs and recent recipients; and

(V) upcoming plans to leverage innovative practices and technologies.

(e) EXPERTS.—In carrying out the duties of the Council under this section, the Council is encouraged to consult with governmental and nongovernmental experts.

(f) TERMINATION.—The duties of the Council as set forth in this section shall terminate 30 days after the date on which the Council conducts the briefing required under subsection (d)(2).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 583, the Promoting Rigorous and Innovative Cost Efficiencies for Federal Procurement and Acquisitions Act, or the PRICE Act.

This bipartisan bill was introduced by Chairman GARY PETERS of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, along with Senators ERNST and CARPER. I commend them

for their bipartisan leadership, as well as JOE NEGUSE for leading the House companion bill.

Mr. Speaker, to meet its complex and critical missions in service of the American people, the Federal Government must ensure that its procurement practices make use of innovative approaches that maximize the ingenuity and opportunity of American small business.

These small businesses are the backbone of the American economy and the breeding ground for cutting edge solutions that can be transformative in government operations. Recognizing that the Department of Homeland Security has been a leader in small business utilization, the PRICE Act requires it to publish an annual report on the projects of its Procurement Innovation Lab.

Dedicated to improving the acquisition process within the construct of the Federal Acquisition Regulation, the lab is a proving ground for innovative ideas and a forum for developing and sharing lessons learned and best practices.

Under the bill, the Department would be required to develop guidance and training on innovative procurement techniques for contracting and program management personnel, and to make these best practices available to other Federal agencies.

The bill would also convene the Chief Acquisition Officers Council to examine and report on best practices in acquisition innovation in Federal contracting, including through small business engagement, which is vital to keeping our industrial base strong and vibrant.

The report would include a review of the practices and technology applications with the greatest success in improving program outcomes, enhancing customer experience, and meeting the Federal Government's small business contracting goals. These goals cannot be a check-the-box exercise that provides opportunity to only a handful of companies. Rather, they must be about opening the doors of Federal contracting to as many small businesses as possible to expand our industrial base.

The PRICE Act will pave the way for more cohesive and widespread adoption of modernized business practices and advanced technologies across the Federal Government. It also has the power to advance the goals of the Small Business Act by creating greater opportunity for small businesses.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the Federal procurement and acquisition process is often cumbersome, complex, and inefficient. Doing business with the Federal Government is expensive and time-consuming. In fact, many commercial vendors must hire staff who are respon-

sible for understanding the Federal acquisition regulatory requirements just so they can do business with the government.

For small businesses with fewer resources, this is an even greater challenge. In reality, most small businesses are struggling to survive in the Biden economy, let alone trying to navigate complex procurement processes and regulations.

The Department of Homeland Security's Procurement Innovation Lab has issued reports stressing the need for innovative approaches to making Federal procurement more effective and efficient. Thankfully, the PRICE Act will help put those insights into action.

The PRICE Act requires DHS to develop department-wide guidance and training to improve procurement methods. These procurement best practices, which encourage reducing the time to award contracts, achieving cost savings, and better serving agency mission outcomes will be shared with other Federal agencies via a report.

Also under the PRICE Act, the Office of Management and Budget will convene a working group within the Chief Acquisition Officers Council to identify and disseminate government-wide best practices to modernize Federal contracting. Such best practices will focus on better utilizing small businesses, increasing procurement efficiency, improving program outcomes, and achieving a better customer experience at agencies.

The working group will provide its recommendations to Congress, which will help us identify and pursue smart procurement policy reforms. This is critical to ensure our Nation's Federal agencies can efficiently purchase the best products and services to serve the American people.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a Big Government bill. It is a big idea bill. The PRICE Act does not mandate that the Government employ certain approaches. Rather, through reporting requirements, it will equip Federal agencies with innovative acquisition practices. It will develop best practices to improve procurement methods across the government and the PRICE Act will help small businesses conduct business within the government.

This bill does not establish permanent programs or requirements but simply requires key Federal entities to conduct careful study and distribute the resulting recommendations government-wide and to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of S. 583, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 583.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ROSENDALE. 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.

SPECIALIST MATTHEW R. TURCOTTE POST OFFICE

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 566) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 42 Main Street in Slatersville, Rhode Island, as the "Specialist Matthew R. Turcotte Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 566

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

SECTION 1. SPECIALIST MATTHEW R. TURCOTTE POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 42 Main Street in Slatersville, Rhode Island, shall be known and designated as the "Specialist Matthew R. Turcotte Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Specialist Matthew R. Turcotte Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of S. 566, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 42 Main Street in Slatersville, Rhode Island, as the Specialist Matthew R. Turcotte Post Office.

Specialist Matthew R. Turcotte was from North Smithfield, Rhode Island, and a graduate of North Smithfield High School where he was cocaptain of the football team. Specialist Turcotte served with 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the 4th Infantry Division in Kosovo.

Over the course of his military career, Specialist Turcotte earned nu-

merous medals and commendations, including the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the NATO Medal. Specialist Turcotte was deeply committed to our Nation and served the country with distinction.

In 2017, he was killed during a live-fire training exercise at Fort Carson, Colorado. He is survived by his wife, parents, and two sisters. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in honoring his legacy by naming the post office at 42 Main Street as the Specialist Matthew R. Turcotte Post Office.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 566, a bill that would name a Slatersville, Rhode Island, post office after Army Specialist Matthew R. Turcotte.

Matthew Turcotte was a lifelong resident of Smithfield where he played high school football just 4 miles down the road from the post office that will bear his name. While in high school, Turcotte enlisted in the U.S. Army and served with the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the 4th Infantry Division. He was deployed overseas to Kosovo and earned the Army Achievement Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, among others.

In 2017, he was tragically killed during a training exercise at Fort Carson, Colorado. This American hero is dearly missed by his wife, parents, sisters, and friends. Specialist Turcotte was a dedicated soldier and patriot.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), in whose district the post office resides.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 566, legislation to rename the United States Postal Service facility in Slatersville, Rhode Island, the Specialist Matthew R. Turcotte Post Office.

A fallen soldier from North Smithfield who gave his life in service of his country, Specialist Matthew Turcotte was tragically killed during a training accident in 2017 when he was only 20 years old. An exceptional young man who exemplified the utmost commitment to serving his community and his country, Matthew's service continues to make all Rhode Island proud.

Matthew, a lifelong North Smithfield resident eager to serve his country, enlisted in the U.S. Army while attending North Smithfield High School, where he was cocaptain of the football team and a member of the track and field team.

After his graduation in 2015, Matthew enlisted as a specialist and began his military career at Fort Benning. During his 2 short, enlisted years, he

earned numerous awards for his service, including the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Ribbon, and the NATO Medal.

Matthew's superiors in the military described him as a tremendous soldier who exemplified selfless service to our military and our Nation. He was deployed to Kosovo in 2016, and following his return, married his high school sweetheart and beloved wife, Megan.

In August of 2017, Matthew was killed during a live-ammunition training exercise at Fort Carson in Colorado while serving with the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the 4th Infantry Division.

As we prepare to dedicate this post office in Matthew's memory, I am thinking about his father, Raymond; his mother, Liza; his wife, Megan; his sisters, Kayla and Paige; and all his extended family and loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, let us never forget the enormous debt of gratitude that we owe to not just Matthew and his family, but to all military families across the country who support the brave men and women who defend our Nation and often shoulder the pain of unimaginable grief and loss.

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The decision to live one's life in service of others is never an easy one, and Matthew's commitment to a vocation of service represented the very best of our Nation and Rhode Island. For his patriotism, for his love of family and community, and for his dedication to the principles we as Americans hold dear, we salute Matthew and dedicate this post office in his honor.

I know that Matthew's legacy will continue to inspire our community in North Smithfield and all Rhode Islanders.

The dedication of this post office is an enduring expression of our gratitude for his service and a permanent reminder of his sacrifice. We know that Matthew's legacy and the impact he had on those who knew and loved him will far outlast anything we do or say, Mr. Speaker, but it is the least we can do for one of the great heroes of our Nation, Matthew R. Turcotte.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I support this bill and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, may the memory of Matthew R. Turcotte be for a blessing, and I urge passage of S. 566, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 566.

The question was taken.

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