

UNCONSTITUTIONAL MANDATES SACRIFICE FREEDOM

(Mr. CAWTHORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, the United States was born out of disobedience. It was disobedience to a tyrannical government that led to the founding of our Constitution and our American ideals. Today, patriots still sometimes disobey, even at the cost of great personal hardship.

Twenty-year veterans of law enforcement agencies have turned in their badges because they refuse to bow the knee to vaccine mandates.

Nurses have worked and studied for years, only to have their jobs stripped away because of a virus that they themselves committed to defeating.

Servicemembers, firefighters, EMTs, are all sacrificing their careers to stand for their convictions and for freedom.

Unconstitutional mandates sacrifice freedom on the altar of safety. Mask mandates are dying because patriots have fought back. Let's do it again with vaccine mandates. This is not a matter of health; it is a matter of liberty.

These heroes will not go away quietly, and we will defend them because they have defended us.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to end medical tyranny, end Federal Government overreach, and end vaccine mandates.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

PATENTS FOR HUMANITY ACT OF 2021

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5796) to amend title 35, United States Code, to establish a competition to award certificates that can be redeemed to accelerate certain matters at the Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5796

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 "Patents for Humanity Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. AWARD OF CERTIFICATES TO ACCELERATE CERTAIN MATTERS AT THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.

(a) AWARD.—Chapter 2 of title 35, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§28. Award of certificates to accelerate certain matters at the Patent and Trademark Office

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a competition, to be held not less frequently than biennially, to award eligible entities certificates that can be redeemed to accelerate one of the following matters:

"(1) An *ex parte* reexamination proceeding, including one appeal to the Patent Trial and Appeal Board from that proceeding.

"(2) An application for a patent, including one appeal to the Patent Trial and Appeal Board from that application.

"(3) An appeal to the Patent Trial and Appeal Board of a claim twice rejected in a patent application or reissue application or finally rejected in an *ex parte* reexamination, without accelerating the underlying matter which generated the appeal.

"(4) A matter identified under subsection (d)(4).

"(b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Director shall administer the competition established by subsection (a).

"(c) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity seeking an award under subsection (a) shall submit to the Director an application, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require.

"(d) RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.—With respect to the competition established by subsection (a), the Director shall conduct a rulemaking proceeding to promulgate rules on the—

"(1) entities eligible to receive an award;

"(2) process and metrics by which applications are judged, including the criteria for selecting judges for the competition;

"(3) factors that will be considered in selecting the eligible entities that receive an award; and

"(4) additional matters for which a certificate described under subsection (a) may be awarded.

"(e) PROMOTION OF COMPETITION.—The Director shall promote the competition through the satellite offices established pursuant to section 1.

"(f) TREATMENT AS SUCCESSOR.—The competition established under subsection (a) shall be treated as a successor to the Patents for Humanity Program (established in the notice entitled 'Humanitarian Awards Pilot Program', published at 77 Fed. Reg. 6544 (February 8, 2012)).

"(g) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'eligible entity' means an entity that—

"(1) submits an application under subsection (c) for a patent that addresses a humanitarian issue; and

"(2) is eligible to receive an award under subsection (d)(1)."

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section, or the amendments made by this section, may be construed as prohibiting the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office from administering the competition established by section 28 of title 35, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), before the date on which all rules are promulgated under the rulemaking proceeding required by subsection (d) of such section.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 2 of title 35, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"28. Award of certificates to accelerate certain matters at the Patent and Trademark Office."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5796.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5796, a bipartisan bill which codifies a competition at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office called Patents for Humanity.

The Patents for Humanity program highlights the ways that innovation and intellectual property help solve global humanitarian challenges.

I am proud to sponsor this bipartisan legislation, alongside Representative SPARTZ, to ensure that special recognition permanently extends to inventors who turn their genius toward helping the world's most needy and vulnerable.

The Founders of our country understood that society would benefit if we incentivized creativity and innovation. That is why Article I, Section 8, Clause 8 of the United States Constitution gives Congress the power to create a robust intellectual property system to promote the progress of science and useful arts.

As Members of Congress, we have often worked together in a bipartisan fashion to carry out this constitutional mandate, as we are doing today.

The Patents for Humanity Act simply codifies an already existing annual competition run by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office that incentivizes the use of patented technologies for humanitarian purposes. It is run without cost to the taxpayer, as USPTO is a fee-based entity.

The award for the Patents for Humanity competition is a certificate to accelerate select matters before USPTO and public recognition during a ceremony held by that Office.

Winners are selected by a panel of judges who look for inventions that address either humanitarian needs among an impoverished population or that further research by others with respect to humanitarian technologies. Applications are considered in categories including: medicine, nutrition, sanitation, household energy, and living standards. The 2022 competition also included a category for COVID-19-related inventions.

Since its implementation as a pilot program 10 years ago, winners have included not-for-profit organizations, startups, universities, corporations, as well as individual inventors throughout the country. Winning submissions have included an all-terrain wheelchair; improvements to water purification systems and clean water storage; rechargeable lanterns for those

without access to reliable energy sources; a portable, low-water kidney dialysis machine; and an affordable and highly adjustable prosthetic limb system. These and many other innovations have improved the quality of life of millions of individuals.

By codifying H.R. 5796, we strengthen and recognize the importance of this program while providing the USPTO the flexibility to continue to improve its implementation.

In December, this bill passed the House Committee on the Judiciary unanimously, building upon the work of Representative MCBATH, who successfully led a bipartisan effort to pass the Patents for Humanity Program Improvement Act into law last Congress, which allows award certificates to be transferable.

Today, we go a step further by ensuring this program is a permanent feature of our innovation system and economy.

Once again, I thank Representative VICTORIA SPARTZ for her partnership on this legislation, as well as her leadership as it relates to the terrible situation in Ukraine. I also thank my colleague, Representative ISSA, for his leadership as well.

The Patents for Humanity program shows how American innovation and creativity can continue to change the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation and vote "yes" on H.R. 5796, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in what I believe will be unanimous support for the continued promotion of works useful to humanity. This pilot program, after 10 years, has proven to be not only a good one but one that continues to be necessary.

In 1790, when President Washington evaluated and signed the first patent, he did so in a matter of a few weeks from submission. It was an expectation that a timely patent was, in fact, critical. That first patent improved the production of potash, often used in fertilizer.

The fact is, over the years, our ability to quickly evaluate patents has, in fact, not continued to keep pace. So, when you have something like these humanitarian offerings, the fact that we are able to, at least in these cases and for known inventors, reward them with an accelerated consideration as part of their continued work, I think that is the kind of an award that means a great deal when it is the advancement of items of humanitarian interest and need.

My colleague from New York did a wonderful job of talking about some of those inventions. We could go on for hours about what inventive genius has come from this and other incentives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for this renewal and, lastly, to recognize that the one area that Amer-

ica leads in is innovation. This body has a continued obligation to do everything it can to promote that innovation, including the modernization and the improvement of the Patent and Trademark Office.

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from California for his continued leadership in this area.

Once again, Congress is coming together in a bipartisan way to uplift American innovation and innovators, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5796, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COURTHOUSE ETHICS AND TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3059) to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to provide for a periodic transaction reporting requirement for Federal judicial officers and the online publication of financial disclosure reports of Federal judicial officers, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3059

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 "Courthouse Ethics and Transparency Act".

SEC. 2. PERIODIC TRANSACTION REPORTS AND ONLINE PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORTS OF FEDERAL JUDGES.

(a) PERIODIC TRANSACTION REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR FEDERAL JUDGES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 103(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(11) Each judicial officer.

"(12) Each bankruptcy judge appointed under section 152 of title 28, United States Code.

"(13) Each United States magistrate judge appointed under section 631 of title 28, United States Code."

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply to applicable transactions occurring on or after the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) ONLINE PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORTS OF FEDERAL JUDGES.—Section 105 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

"(c) ONLINE PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORTS OF FEDERAL JUDGES.—

"(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF DATABASE.—Subject to paragraph (4), not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Courthouse Ethics and Transparency Act, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall establish a searchable internet database to enable public access to any report required to be filed under this title by a judicial officer, bankruptcy judge, or magistrate judge.

"(2) AVAILABILITY.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which a report is required to be filed under this title by a judicial officer, bankruptcy judge, or magistrate judge, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall make the report available on the database established under paragraph (1) in a full-text searchable, sortable, and downloadable format for access by the public.

"(3) REDACTION.—Any report made available on the database established under paragraph (1) shall not contain any information that is redacted in accordance with subsection (b)(3).

"(4) ADDITIONAL TIME.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the requirements of this subsection may be implemented after the date described in paragraph (1) if the Administrative Office of the United States Courts identifies in writing to the relevant committees of Congress the additional time needed for that implementation.

"(B) PUBLICATION REQUIREMENT.—The Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall continue to make the reports described in paragraph (1) available to the public during the period in which the Administrative Office of the United States Courts establishes the database under this subsection."

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 103(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) (as amended by subsection (a)(1)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (9), by striking "as defined under section 109(12)"; and

(B) in paragraph (10), by striking "as defined under section 109(13)".

(2) Section 105 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) (as amended by subsection (b)) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking "be revealing" and inserting "by revealing"; and

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in the first sentence, by striking "be," and inserting "be,"; and

(II) in the third sentence, by striking "may be may" and inserting "may be, may"; and

(ii) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking "described in section 109(8) or 109(10) of this Act" and inserting "who is a judicial officer or a judicial employee".

(3) Section 107(a)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended in the last sentence by striking "and (d)" and inserting "and (e)".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to