

Navy SEAL motto: "The Only Easy Day Was Yesterday." Their continued service as overseas security personnel responsible for the safety of American diplomatic officials was maintained with the highest standards of military excellence.

As a former ground radio maintenance specialist in the U.S. Air Force and a State Department officer, Sean Smith served our Nation with honor and distinction throughout multiple deployments that included Iraq, South Africa, Oman, and Libya.

Mr. Speaker, the commissioning of the Congressional Gold Medal in honor of these four exceptional Americans will appropriately recognize their heroism, bravery, and sacrifice on behalf of a grateful Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 310. Again, I thank Chairwoman WATERS for her valued support.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 310, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank, again, Mr. LYNCH, as well as the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) for their tireless efforts to ensure that these four individuals receive the recognition that they clearly deserve. We must strive to recognize these brave and honorable members of our country who have committed their lives to protecting it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 310, 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.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO CAPITAL FOR RURAL JOB CREATORS ACT

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5128) to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to expand access to capital for rural-area small businesses, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5128

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 "Expanding Access to Capital for Rural Job Creators Act".

SEC. 2. ACCESS TO CAPITAL FOR RURAL-AREA SMALL BUSINESSES.

Section 4(j) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78d(j)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)(C), by inserting "rural-area small businesses," after "women-owned small businesses,"; and

(2) in paragraph (6)(B)(iii), by inserting "rural-area small businesses," after "women-owned small businesses,".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. 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.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5128, the Expanding Access to Capital for Rural Job Creators Act, introduced by Representative AXNE.

While small businesses in the big cities may enjoy easier access to capital to grow their businesses, hire and support their employees, and serve their communities, the businesses in rural America often struggle. Rural America's job growth is half the rate than that of big cities, and rural America's poverty rate is also higher than that of the big cities, even though it has dropped under President Biden's leadership and as a result of this Congress' work.

Congresswoman AXNE's bill would require SEC's small business advocate to report to Congress particular challenges that rural businesses face in accessing our capital markets.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5128, the Expanding Access to Capital for Rural Job Creators Act.

I thank Representatives AXNE and MOONEY for their work on H.R. 5128. In the Financial Services Committee, we continually highlight the importance of capital formation for entrepreneurs and job creators in the underbanked rural communities. We all know constituents who have struggled to gain capital to begin their own small businesses.

Small and rural counties and the small businesses in those areas are even more vulnerable during recessions and during economic recovery. H.R. 5128 is an example of legislation that can help solve one of the biggest issues for a number of rural small businesses: access to capital.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5128, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I thank Mrs. AXNE for her work on this important issue and for always working on behalf of the rural businesses and communities in her district. Congresswoman AXNE's bill directs the SEC's Small Business Advocate to similarly focus on the challenges rural small businesses face.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5128.

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.

PUBLIC AND FEDERALLY ASSISTED HOUSING FIRE SAFETY ACT OF 2022

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7981) to require qualifying smoke alarms in certain federally assisted housing, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7981

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 "Public and Federally Assisted Housing Fire Safety Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. SMOKE ALARMS IN FEDERALLY ASSISTED HOUSING.

(a) PUBLIC HOUSING, TENANT-BASED ASSISTANCE, AND PROJECT-BASED ASSISTANCE.—The United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 3(a) (42 U.S.C. 1437a(a)), by adding at the end the following:

"(9) QUALIFYING SMOKE ALARMS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Each public housing agency shall ensure that a qualifying smoke alarm is installed in accordance with applicable codes and standards published by the International Code Council or the National Fire Protection Association and the requirements of the National Fire Protection Association Standard 72, or any successor standard, in each level and in or near each sleeping area in any dwelling unit in public housing owned or operated by the public housing agency, including in basements but excepting crawl spaces and unfinished attics, and in each common area in a project containing such a dwelling unit.

"(B) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph, the following definitions shall apply:

"(i) SMOKE ALARM DEFINED.—The term 'smoke alarm' has the meaning given the term 'smoke detector' in section 29(d) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2225(d)).

“(ii) **QUALIFYING SMOKE ALARM DEFINED.**—The term ‘qualifying smoke alarm’ means a smoke alarm that—

“(I) in the case of a dwelling unit built before the date of enactment of this paragraph and not substantially rehabilitated after the date of enactment of this paragraph is—

“(aa) hardwired; or
“(bb) uses 10-year non rechargeable, non-replaceable primary batteries and—

“(AA) is sealed;
“(BB) is tamper resistant;
“(CC) contains silencing means; and
“(DD) provides notification for persons with hearing loss as required by the National Fire Protection Association Standard 72, or any successor standard; or

“(II) in the case of a dwelling unit built or substantially rehabilitated after the date of enactment of this paragraph, is hardwired.”; and
(2) in section 8 (42 U.S.C. 1437f)—

(A) by inserting after subsection (k) the following:

“(I) **QUALIFYING SMOKE ALARMS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each owner of a dwelling unit receiving project-based assistance under this section shall ensure that qualifying smoke alarms are installed in accordance with applicable codes and standards published by the International Code Council or the National Fire Protection Association and the requirements of the National Fire Protection Association Standard 72, or any successor standard, in each level and in or near each sleeping area in such dwelling unit, including in basements but excepting crawl spaces and unfinished attics, and in each common area in a project containing such a dwelling unit.

“(2) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this subsection, the following definitions shall apply:

“(A) **SMOKE ALARM DEFINED.**—The term ‘smoke alarm’ has the meaning given the term ‘smoke detector’ in section 29(d) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2225(d)).

“(B) **QUALIFYING SMOKE ALARM DEFINED.**—The term ‘qualifying smoke alarm’ means a smoke alarm that—

“(i) in the case of a dwelling unit built before the date of enactment of this paragraph and not substantially rehabilitated after the date of enactment of this paragraph is—

“(I) hardwired; or
“(II) uses 10-year non rechargeable, non-replaceable primary batteries and—

“(aa) is sealed;
“(bb) is tamper resistant;
“(cc) contains silencing means; and
“(dd) provides notification for persons with hearing loss as required by the National Fire Protection Association Standard 72, or any successor standard; or

“(ii) in the case of a dwelling unit built or substantially rehabilitated after the date of enactment of this paragraph, is hardwired.”; and
(B) in subsection (o), by adding at the end the following:

“(22) **QUALIFYING SMOKE ALARMS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Each dwelling unit receiving tenant-based assistance or project-based assistance under this subsection shall have a qualifying smoke alarm installed in accordance with applicable codes and standards published by the International Code Council or the National Fire Protection Association and the requirements of the National Fire Protection Association Standard 72, or any successor standard, in each level and in or near each sleeping area in such dwelling unit, including in basements but excepting crawl spaces and unfinished attics, and in each common area in a project containing such a dwelling unit.

“(B) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this paragraph, the following definitions shall apply:

“(i) **SMOKE ALARM DEFINED.**—The term ‘smoke alarm’ has the meaning given the term ‘smoke detector’ in section 29(d) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2225(d)).

“(ii) **QUALIFYING SMOKE ALARM DEFINED.**—The term ‘qualifying smoke alarm’ means a smoke alarm that—

“(I) in the case of a dwelling unit built before the date of enactment of this paragraph and not substantially rehabilitated after the date of enactment of this paragraph is—

“(aa) hardwired; or
“(bb) uses 10-year non rechargeable, non-replaceable primary batteries and—

“(AA) is sealed;
“(BB) is tamper resistant;
“(CC) contains silencing means; and
“(DD) provides notification for persons with hearing loss as required by the National Fire Protection Association Standard 72, or any successor standard; or

“(II) in the case of a dwelling unit built or substantially rehabilitated after the date of enactment of this paragraph, is hardwired.”.

(b) **SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY.**—Section 202(j) of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q(j)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(10) **QUALIFYING SMOKE ALARMS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Each owner of a dwelling unit assisted under this section shall ensure that qualifying smoke alarms are installed in accordance with the requirements of applicable codes and standards and the National Fire Protection Association Standard 72, or any successor standard, in each level and in or near each sleeping area in such dwelling unit, including in basements but excepting crawl spaces and unfinished attics, and in each common area in a project containing such a dwelling unit.

“(B) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this paragraph, the following definitions shall apply:

“(i) **SMOKE ALARM DEFINED.**—The term ‘smoke alarm’ has the meaning given the term ‘smoke detector’ in section 29(d) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2225(d)).

“(ii) **QUALIFYING SMOKE ALARM DEFINED.**—The term ‘qualifying smoke alarm’ means a smoke alarm that—

“(I) in the case of a dwelling unit built before the date of enactment of this paragraph and not substantially rehabilitated after the date of enactment of this paragraph is—

“(aa) hardwired; or
“(bb) uses 10-year non rechargeable, non-replaceable primary batteries and—

“(AA) is sealed;
“(BB) is tamper resistant;
“(CC) contains silencing means; and
“(DD) provides notification for persons with hearing loss as required by the National Fire Protection Association Standard 72, or any successor standard; or

“(II) in the case of a dwelling unit built or substantially rehabilitated after the date of enactment of this paragraph, is hardwired.”.

(c) **SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.**—Section 811(j) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013(j)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(8) **QUALIFYING SMOKE ALARMS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Each dwelling unit assisted under this section shall contain qualifying smoke alarms that are installed in accordance with applicable codes and standards published by the International Code Council or the National Fire Protection Association and the requirements of the National Fire Protection Association Standard 72, or any successor standard, in each level and in or near each sleeping area in such dwelling unit, including in basements but excepting crawl spaces and unfinished attics, and in each common area in a project containing such a dwelling unit.

“(B) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this paragraph, the following definitions shall apply:

“(i) **SMOKE ALARM DEFINED.**—The term ‘smoke alarm’ has the meaning given the term ‘smoke detector’ in section 29(d) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2225(d)).

“(ii) **QUALIFYING SMOKE ALARM DEFINED.**—The term ‘qualifying smoke alarm’ means a smoke alarm that—

“(I) in the case of a dwelling unit built before the date of enactment of this paragraph and not substantially rehabilitated after the date of enactment of this paragraph is—

“(aa) hardwired; or
“(bb) uses 10-year non rechargeable, non-replaceable primary batteries and—

“(AA) is sealed;
“(BB) is tamper resistant;
“(CC) contains silencing means; and
“(DD) provides notification for persons with hearing loss as required by the National Fire Protection Association Standard 72, or any successor standard; or

“(II) in the case of a dwelling unit built or substantially rehabilitated after the date of enactment of this paragraph, is hardwired.”.

(d) **HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS.**—Section 856 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12905) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(j) **QUALIFYING SMOKE ALARMS.**—

“(I) **IN GENERAL.**—Each dwelling unit assisted under this subtitle shall contain qualifying smoke alarms that are installed in accordance with applicable codes and standards published by the International Code Council or the National Fire Protection Association and the requirements of the National Fire Protection Association Standard 72, or any successor standard, in each level and in or near each sleeping area in such dwelling unit, including in basements but excepting crawl spaces and unfinished attics, and in each common area in a project containing such a dwelling unit.

“(2) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this subsection, the following definitions shall apply:

“(A) **SMOKE ALARM DEFINED.**—The term ‘smoke alarm’ has the meaning given the term ‘smoke detector’ in section 29(d) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2225(d)).

“(B) **QUALIFYING SMOKE ALARM DEFINED.**—The term ‘qualifying smoke alarm’ means a smoke alarm that—

“(i) in the case of a dwelling unit built before the date of enactment of this subsection and not substantially rehabilitated after the date of enactment of this subsection is—

“(I) hardwired; or
“(II) uses 10-year non rechargeable, non-replaceable primary batteries and—

“(aa) is sealed;
“(bb) is tamper resistant;
“(cc) contains silencing means; and
“(dd) provides notification for persons with hearing loss as required by the National Fire Protection Association Standard 72, or any successor standard; or

“(ii) in the case of a dwelling unit built or substantially rehabilitated after the date of enactment of this subsection, is hardwired.”.

(e) **RURAL HOUSING.**—Title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.) is amended—
(1) in section 514 (42 U.S.C. 1484), by adding at the end the following:

“(k) **QUALIFYING SMOKE ALARMS.**—

“(I) **IN GENERAL.**—Housing and related facilities constructed with loans under this section shall contain qualifying smoke alarms that are installed in accordance with applicable codes and standards published by the International Code Council or the National Fire Protection Association and the requirements of the National Fire Protection Association Standard 72, or any successor standard, in each level and in or near each sleeping area in such dwelling unit, including in basements but excepting crawl spaces and unfinished attics, and in each common area in a project containing such a dwelling unit.

“(2) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this subsection, the following definitions shall apply:

“(A) **SMOKE ALARM DEFINED.**—The term ‘smoke alarm’ has the meaning given the term

'smoke detector' in section 29(d) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2225(d)).

"(B) **QUALIFYING SMOKE ALARM DEFINED.**—The term 'qualifying smoke alarm' means a smoke alarm that—

"(i) in the case of a dwelling unit built before the date of enactment of this subsection and not substantially rehabilitated after the date enactment of this subsection is—

"(I) hardwired; or

"(II) uses 10-year non rechargeable, non-replaceable primary batteries and—

"(aa) is sealed;

"(bb) is tamper resistant;

"(cc) contains silencing means; and

"(dd) provides notification for persons with hearing loss as required by the National Fire Protection Association Standard 72, or any successor standard; or

"(ii) in the case of a dwelling unit built or substantially rehabilitated after the date of enactment of this subsection, is hardwired.""; and

(2) in section 515(m) (42 U.S.C. 1485(m)) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) **QUALIFYING SMOKE ALARMS.**—

"(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Housing and related facilities rehabilitated or repaired with amounts received under a loan made or insured under this section shall contain qualifying smoke alarms that are installed in accordance with applicable codes and standards published by the International Code Council or the National Fire Protection Association and the requirements of the National Fire Protection Association Standard 72, or any successor standard, in each level and in or near each sleeping area in such dwelling unit, including in basements but excepting crawl spaces and unfinished attics, and in each common area in a project containing such a dwelling unit.

"(B) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this paragraph, the following definitions shall apply:

"(i) **SMOKE ALARM DEFINED.**—The term 'smoke alarm' has the meaning given the term 'smoke detector' in section 29(d) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2225(d)).

"(ii) **QUALIFYING SMOKE ALARM DEFINED.**—The term 'qualifying smoke alarm' means a smoke alarm that—

"(I) in the case of a dwelling unit built before the date of enactment of this paragraph and not substantially rehabilitated after the date of enactment of this paragraph is—

"(aa) hardwired; or

"(bb) uses 10-year non rechargeable, non-replaceable primary batteries and—

"(AA) is sealed;

"(BB) is tamper resistant;

"(CC) contains silencing means; and

"(DD) provides notification for persons with hearing loss as required by the National Fire Protection Association Standard 72, or any successor standard; or

"(II) in the case of a dwelling unit built or substantially rehabilitated after the date of enactment of this paragraph, is hardwired."";

(f) **FARM LABOR HOUSING DIRECT LOANS & GRANTS.**—Section 516 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1486) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(4) that such housing shall contain qualifying smoke alarms that are installed in accordance with applicable codes and standards published by the International Code Council or the National Fire Protection Association and the requirements of the National Fire Protection Association Standard 72, or any successor standard, in each level and in or near each sleeping area in such dwelling unit, including in basements but excepting crawl spaces and unfinished attics, and in each common area in a project containing such a dwelling unit.""; and

(2) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (3) by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(5) the term 'smoke alarm' has the meaning given the term 'smoke detector' in section 29(d) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2225(d)); and

"(6) the term 'qualifying smoke alarm' means a smoke alarm that—

"(A) in the case of a dwelling unit built before the date of enactment of this paragraph and not substantially rehabilitated after the date of enactment of this paragraph is—

"(i) hardwired; or

"(ii) uses 10-year non rechargeable, non-replaceable primary batteries and—

"(I) is sealed;

"(II) is tamper resistant;

"(III) contains silencing means; and

"(IV) provides notification for persons with hearing loss as required by the National Fire Protection Association Standard 72, or any successor standard; or

"(B) in the case of a dwelling unit built or substantially rehabilitated after the date of enactment of this paragraph, is hardwired."";

(g) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the amendments made by this section such sums as are necessary for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027.

(h) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subsections (a) through (f) shall take effect on the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(i) **NO PREEMPTION.**—Nothing in the amendments made by this section shall be construed to preempt or limit the applicability of any State or local law relating to the installation and maintenance of smoke alarms in housing that requires standards that are more stringent than the standards described in the amendments made by this section.

SEC. 3. FIRE SAFETY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, complete a national educational campaign that educates the general public about health and safety requirements in housing and how to properly use safety features in housing, including self-closing doors, smoke alarms, and carbon monoxide detectors.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out this section, \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2024.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. 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 gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

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

I thank Representative DEAN for introducing H.R. 7981, the Public and Federally Assisted Housing Fire Safety

Act of 2022, in response to the devastating apartment fire that occurred in a Philadelphia public housing unit, where 12 people died, including 9 children.

The subsequent investigation into this tragedy, found that the majority of the smoke alarms in the home were inoperable, as they had either been removed from the walls or had no batteries inside.

With proper fire safety tools in place, these deaths could have been prevented. A 2021 study from the National Fire Protection Agency found that nearly three out of five home fire deaths are caused by fires in properties with no smoke alarms present, or smoke alarms that failed to operate. Functional smoke alarms can reduce the number of home fire deaths.

To help prevent similar tragedies like the one in Philadelphia from occurring, H.R. 7981 would require the installation of either tamper-resistant or hardwired smoke alarms in federally assisted housing, better ensuring families have adequate warning when a fire occurs.

Additionally, this bill will help ensure families across America better understand and properly use fire safety features in their homes through a national education campaign led by HUD.

I commend Representative DEAN for her work on this very important issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

On January 5, a fire broke out in an apartment building in Philadelphia, a terrible tragedy that took the lives of 12 people, including 9 children.

Even though the building was operated by the Philadelphia Housing Authority, not one of the battery-powered smoke detectors was operational that morning, so residents had no warning as the fire grew out of control.

While HUD already has regulations in place to ensure that federally assisted units install functioning smoke detectors, after a heartbreaking event like this, Congress has a responsibility to ensure that the rules are updated to prevent future tragedies.

H.R. 7981 would require Public Housing Authorities and property owners within HUD's programs to install smoke alarms that are tamper-resistant and hardwired, or use long-term, 10-year batteries.

Making sure that we have modern, up-to-date safety code devices like smoke alarms in all our federally assisted housing units is fundamental when it comes to trying to protect the lives of our residents.

H.R. 7981 will create safer homes for HUD's residents.

I congratulate Ms. DEAN for her tremendous work on this, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN).

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairwoman WATERS and Representative WAGNER for their support for this important legislation.

I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 7981, the Public and Federally Assisted Housing Fire Safety Act.

This bipartisan legislation, which passed by a unanimous voice vote out of the Financial Services Committee last month, would help protect the more than 10 million Americans who live in public or federally assisted housing, to protect them from the risk of fire, by requiring the installation of hardwired or tamper-resistant smoke alarms in federally assisted housing.

My colleagues from Southeastern Pennsylvania, Representatives DWIGHT EVANS, BRENDAN BOYLE, BRIAN FITZPATRICK, and MARY GAY SCANLON, have joined me in introducing this important legislation, as our community was devastated earlier this year by the horrific blaze that occurred in a public housing unit.

As has been detailed, in the early morning hours of January 5 of this year, a fire broke out in a Philadelphia row house owned by the Philadelphia Housing Authority and converted into apartments, killing three sisters and nine of their children.

My heart breaks for this beautiful family. They were loving mothers, aspiring students, babies, some only 2 and 3 years old. I want to take a moment to remember them by simply saying their names.

The eldest sister, Rosalee "Rose" McDonald, 33, was a loving mother to six children, all of whom perished in the fire. Her children: Quintien Tate-McDonald, 16; Destiny McDonald, 15; Dekwan "Day-Day" Robinson, 8; J'Kwan "Jay-Jay" Robinson, 5; Taniesha Robinson, 3; and Tiffany Robinson, 2.

The middle sister, Virginia "Jenny" Thomas, 30, was a loving mother to four children, three of whom perished in the fire. Her children: Natasha Wayne, 7; Shaniece Wayne, 10; and Janiyah Roberts, 3.

And finally, Quinsha White, 18 years old, the younger sister to Rosalee and Virginia. She was still just a senior in high school when she died.

Heartbreakingly, as the facts around this fire emerged, it became clear that these tragic deaths might have been possibly prevented with proper safeguards.

Of the seven smoke alarms in the converted row home, all of which were the kind that requires frequent battery replacement, four were in drawers, one was on the floor without batteries, one was in the ceiling without batteries, and a final alarm, working, was located in the basement.

This situation, sadly, is not unique. According to 2015 HUD data on the top 25 deficiencies in public housing, missing or inoperable smoke detectors was

the 15th prevalent deficiency, with 7,700 deficiencies cited.

In 2020, an ABC News investigation found that "more than 1 million people in the U.S. are living in federally funded housing complexes that inspectors found had fallen short on working smoke detectors."

It is clear to me that the status quo is not keeping families safe. My legislation is desperately needed to raise the bar, to ensure that the 10 million Americans who live in public and federally assisted housing have the basic, lifesaving benefit of working, reliable smoke alarms.

This bill would also authorize \$2 million for HUD to run a national education campaign on health and safety requirements in public housing, including how to properly use fire safety features like smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, and self-closing doors.

I am pleased to have the support of key stakeholders, including the International Code Council, who provided guidance in drafting this bill, the National Fire Protection Association, National Association of State Fire Marshals, the International Association of Fire Fighters.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania.

Ms. DEAN. Also, I thank my colleagues from Pennsylvania, including Senator CASEY, who has introduced the identical legislation in the Senate.

Finally, I thank Chairwoman WATERS, and her staff, for their guidance and support in crafting this legislation.

I thank the whole Financial Services Committee for supporting this bill in our markup. I implore my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 7981 is a common-sense bill that will save countless lives by improving the quality and reliability of smoke alarms in public and federally assisted housing. It is no wonder why the bill was passed out of our committee with bipartisan support and is being supported by the fire safety community, as well as affordable housing advocates.

I thank Representative DEAN for this bill, and I, again, urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 7981.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7981, as amended.

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. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1815

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3771, SOUTH ASIAN HEART HEALTH AWARENESS AND RESEARCH ACT OF 2022; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5118, CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL COMPLETION ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6929, SUSAN MUFFLEY ACT OF 2022; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1254 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1254

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3771) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for research and improvement of cardiovascular health among the South Asian population of the United States, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117-58 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; (2) the further amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order, shall be considered as read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question; and (3) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5118) to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to prioritize the completion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this section and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of