

of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) 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 may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 884, as amended.

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 the National Aviation Preparedness Plan Act of 2022, legislation sponsored by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN).

If there is one lesson of the coronavirus pandemic, it is that we were not prepared for a pandemic and must be prepared for the next one.

While a number of mitigation efforts were eventually implemented in aviation, they should not have taken almost a year to put in place. In fact, in 2015, the Government Accountability Office issued a recommendation to develop a national aviation preparedness plan for communicable disease outbreaks.

The Government Accountability Office has since found that had the Department of Transportation implemented such a plan, it “could have improved coordination between public health and aviation sectors during COVID-19 to address issues like passenger screening.”

H.R. 884 seeks to resolve this oversight by requiring the Department of Transportation, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Homeland Security, to develop a national aviation preparedness plan.

That plan, at a minimum, would lay out the responsibilities of airports, airlines, and government entities in responding to future pandemics, improve coordination among stakeholders, and identify appropriate equipment to protect frontline aviation employees, among other things.

This means we could establish the necessary procedures and methodologies to combat pandemics prior to their onset and eliminate the confusion surrounding who should take action.

Fortunately, we have come a long way since the start of the pandemic. Vaccines are widely available, daily COVID hospitalizations and death rates have decreased, and air travel is returning to prepandemic levels.

But we could have done better. This bill, which received overwhelming bipartisan support in committee, will ensure the lessons learned from the cur-

rent pandemic are not forgotten during the next one.

For these reasons, I encourage my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 884, the National Aviation Preparedness Plan Act, responds to a 2015 Government Accountability Office recommendation and looks to establish clear roles and responsibilities among Federal agencies and air transportation operators in the event of a communicable disease outbreak.

I want to be clear that this bill only applies to future disease outbreaks, and it is intended to guarantee that the confusion we have seen among Federal agencies and air carrier operators is addressed and does not repeat itself as we saw in the past few years.

America’s aviation sector is absolutely critical to our economy. It is critical to moving travelers for business, travelers to visit family, and for tourism purposes. Goods must be transported all across the United States and the globe.

We have to make sure that we are able to limit, contain, and reduce the impact of these disease outbreaks in a timely, decisive, and coordinated manner.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman LARSEN and Chairman DEFAZIO for working on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, again, I reiterate that this bill is only for future outbreaks. It only applies to future communicable disease outbreaks. What is more, it grants no additional pandemic-related authority to Federal agencies. It simply ensures there is a plan in place among U.S. carriers so they can develop a timely and decisive response plan in the event of a future outbreak.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this 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 the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 884, 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. ROY. 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.

EXPEDITING DISASTER RECOVERY ACT

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 5774) to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to ensure that unmet needs after a major disaster are met, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5774

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 “Expediting Disaster Recovery Act”.

SEC. 2. UNMET NEED ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 431. UNMET NEEDS ASSISTANCE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—After the declaration of a major disaster, the President may direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide to the State, subject to amounts made available from appropriations, assistance necessary for meeting unmet needs as a result of such disaster.

“(b) FUNDING.—

“(1) AMOUNT OF FUNDING.—Subject to appropriations and not later than 30 days after a declaration is made under section 401, the President acting through the Administrator may allocate an amount that equals up to 10 percent of the estimated aggregate amount of the grants to be made pursuant to sections 406 and 408 for the major disaster in order to provide technical and financial assistance under this section and such set aside shall be deemed to be related to activities carried out pursuant to major disasters under this Act.

“(2) ESTIMATED AGGREGATE AMOUNT.—Not later than 180 days after each major disaster declaration pursuant to this Act, the estimated aggregate amount of grants for purposes of paragraph (1) shall be determined by the President and such estimated amount need not be reduced, increased, or changed due to variations in estimates.

“(3) NO REDUCTION IN AMOUNTS.—The amount set aside pursuant to paragraph (1) shall not reduce the amounts otherwise made available for sections 403, 404, 406, 407, 408, 410, 416, and 428 under this Act.

“(c) UNMET NEEDS.—Financial assistance provided under this section may be used to provide assistance, in addition to other amounts made available under this Act, for the following unmet needs:

“(1) Disaster-related home repair and rebuilding assistance to families for permanent housing purposes, including in conjunction with eligible expenditures under section 408.

“(2) Disaster-related unmet needs of families who are unable to obtain adequate assistance from other sources.

“(3) Other services that alleviate human suffering and promote the well-being of disaster victims.

“(4) Economic and business activities (including food and agriculture) after a disaster to implement post-disaster economic recovery measures, including planning and technical assistance for long-term economic recovery plans, infrastructure improvements, business or infrastructure financing, market or industry research, and other activities authorized under a comprehensive economic development strategy.

“(d) ACCOUNTING AND FISCAL CONTROLS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after receipt of funds and every 6 months thereafter until all such funds are expended, a State shall submit a report to the Administrator that includes—

“(A) the criteria established for determining how the funds are spent;

“(B) the allocation of those funds; and
 “(C) the process for public notice and comment.

“(2) COMPLIANCE.—Any individual who receives assistance pursuant to this section shall comply with section 312(b).

“(3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—A State that receives funds under this section may expend not more than 5 percent of the amount of such funds for the administrative costs of providing financial assistance to individuals and households in the State.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall apply to funds appropriated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. REPAIR AND REBUILDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408(c) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i) by striking “to a safe and sanitary living or functioning condition”;

(B) in subparagraph (B) by striking “A recipient of” and inserting “(i) EVIDENCE OF OTHER MEANS OF ASSISTANCE.—A recipient of”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) COORDINATION WITH OTHER ASSISTANCE.—Assistance allowed under this paragraph may be used in coordination with other sources for the repair and rebuilding of an owner-occupied residence.”; and

(2) in paragraph (4) by striking “in cases in which” and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting “if the President considers it a cost effective alternative to other housing solutions, including the costs associated with temporary housing provided under this section, and long-term rebuilding costs associated with section 431.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall apply to funds appropriated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. REVIEW BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL.

Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review on the fiscal controls by States that receive funds under section 431 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and shall make recommendations to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5. DUPLICATION OF BENEFITS.

Section 312(b)(4) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155(b)(4)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(D) LIMITATION ON USE OF INCOME CRITERIA.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), the President may not impose additional income criteria on a potential grant recipient who has accepted a qualified disaster loan in determining eligibility for duplications of benefit relief.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) 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 may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5774, as amended.

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 support H.R. 5774, the Expediting Disaster Recovery Act, legislation introduced by Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.

This legislation is designed to expedite the delivery of Federal disaster assistance and address the unpaid, unmet needs of disaster survivors.

The authorizations in this bill allow the Federal Emergency Management Agency to estimate the total cost of disaster recovery and provide States up to 10 percent of this estimate when a major disaster is declared.

States would be able to use these funds to administer a broad range of recovery solutions not covered by FEMA's individual assistance program. Such activities could include home repair and support for business activities.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5774 is designed to do two primary things. Number one, it is to prevent the Federal Government from revictimizing disaster victims. Number two, it is designed to save money.

In the aftermath of a disaster, we watch as countless Federal agencies, the alphabet soup of Federal agencies, come rushing to the aid of these disaster victims, offering everything from food assistance, housing assistance, and you will see them having organizations coming in and offering clothes, offering loans. You see all of these uncoordinated activities.

Yet, we have one Federal agency that is responsible for disasters, and that is FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA comes in, and what happens with all of these other programs? You see disjointed responses.

Let me give you an example, Mr. Speaker. In the aftermath of the 2016 1,000-year flood that we had in my hometown, FEMA came in and started offering assistance. We saw disparate aid offered to different folks.

You had another recovery program come in and provide \$1.7 billion, Mr. Speaker. Here we are, 6 years after this disaster, and of the \$1.7 billion, less than \$700 million has actually been granted to flood victims, granted to disaster victims.

Mr. Speaker, I know your home State of Texas got pounded by Hurricane Harvey, some areas experiencing 42 inches of rain in 36 hours.

You have recovery and assistance programs that are disjointed among the Federal agencies. They cause a bureaucracy. They actually revictimize these people who have lost everything in these disasters.

This is designed to get recovery dollars where they are needed, to expedite recovery, to save money because you are saving funds that are being spent on long-term shelters; saving funds that are being spent, in some cases, approaching \$300,000 to provide a trailer for someone to temporarily live in; saving money, again, on hotel rooms and getting people back in their homes faster.

We still have people from our disaster 6 years ago who have homes that have been mucked and gutted, stripped down to the studs, without any additional recovery because they can't connect the dots.

So, as the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia said, this is designed to, within 30 days of a disaster, estimate the impacts and provide an initial payment to where States and local governments can lead the charge in directing and prioritizing recovery dollars where they need to go. This, importantly, has a 5 percent administrative cap.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years after the disaster I mentioned in my home State, we had more money that was paid to the program managers 2 years later than we had actually given to the disaster victims. These programs aren't designed to enrich contractors, to enrich program managers, to enrich people that are running these programs. These dollars are designed by Congress to get to the victims, to expedite recovery, to allow for the community and the economy to recover as quickly as possible.

I want to be very clear. My cosponsor, the cosponsor who worked very closely with us on this legislation, Congresswoman PLASKETT from the Virgin Islands, who in 2018 was incredibly affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria, hosted us down there to see the devastation. Years later, again, she still has her constituents that are adversely impacted, unable to recover, and requiring additional Federal funds.

Mr. Speaker, I want to be very clear: This legislation is intended to reduce the expenditure of Federal funds. It is designed to expedite recovery. It is designed to cap the bureaucracy and ensure no more than 5 percent of these funds are actually going to program management.

That way, the dollars can get immediately to the disaster victims, so we stop seeing years and years of Federal Government dollars being shelled out for temporary housing and temporary recovery efforts. We need long-term recovery. We need our economy restored. We need our communities restored.

There are two types of Members who are in this House: people who have been through disasters, like the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands and I, and those that will. Those that will are going to want to ensure that they have supported legislation like this designed to reform, to modernize, to apply lessons learned from disasters and make sure that we are treating these victims

as true priorities, that we have Federal programs that reflect the urgency of the situation that they are in when their homes have been destroyed, when they have lost their vehicles, lost their clothes, lost their possessions, lost all of these family heirlooms, making sure that we are able to restore that family back in their community and, importantly, get the economies restored again as quickly as possible.

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

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Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5774, the "Expediting Disaster Recovery Act of 2022" which promotes swift strategic implementation of resources by the president following natural disasters.

After the declaration of a major disaster, the Expediting Disaster Recovery Act of 2022 authorizes the President to direct the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide assistance for unmet needs of those impacted by the disaster.

The President may also provide financial or direct assistance to individuals or households to construct permanent or semi-permanent housing in areas outside the continental United States if the President deems it a more cost-effective solution.

According to the National Center for Environmental Information, the U.S. spent approximately \$152 Billion just last year from various environmental events such as the Deep Freeze in Texas and Hurricanes across the Gulf Coast.

One of the most critical and unprecedented natural disaster emergencies was the Deep Freeze in Texas, resulting in a number of unforeseen complications for Texas residents.

Millions of households lost power during the Deep Freeze, disrupting their heating, food and water supplies, and communication systems.

Based on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission report for the Deep Freeze, estimated costs for damages in Texas reached a staggering \$80 Billion, with \$35 Billion alone due to physical damages, of which insurance only covered \$20 Billion.

Texas residents will need to pay for a large portion of the damages, putting their own lives on hold until they are financially stabilized. Meanwhile, families who are unable to meet the expenses out of pocket are stuck in bleak living conditions.

Alongside the unprecedented winter storms in Texas, were the devastating effects of Hurricane Ida, which ravaged many coastal cities and counties. The National Center for Environmental Information estimated that there were \$75 Billion in damage costs.

Unfortunately, most home insurance policies do not cover flood damages, including damages caused by Hurricane Ida. This means that individuals would have needed to purchase separate policies dedicated for flood damages on top of the already rising home insurance prices.

Recent flood disasters, such as those in Kentucky, have once again highlighted the

dangers of inadequate planning and the overall expenses incurred by its residents.

Outdated federal flood zone maps underestimate the occurrence of floods within certain communities. Therefore, insurance companies, which base their policies on federal flood zone maps, end up paying for a small portion of damages to households.

For residents of some of the poorest counties in the U.S., this means they will be forced to pay mostly out of pocket for all damage expenses, further hindering their chances of recovery from future disasters.

H.R. 5774 can help families with unmet needs, easing financial burdens by distributing funds for the purpose of rebuilding homes and communities. This can provide these families the opportunity to dedicate their finances towards health concerns, exploring education, and other basic living expenses.

Millions of families suffer from natural disaster events without the ability to recover effectively. With the help of the Expediting Disaster Recovery Act of 2022, families with unmet needs will be able to recover more fully and more rapidly, allowing them to reinvest themselves in their communities and return to their normal lifestyles.

The Expediting Disaster Recovery Act of 2022 sets forth the requirements for the President to establish swift and effective financial and technical assistance to aid in the recovery of families who may be unable to cover financial costs for repair and rebuilding.

I urge my colleagues to support this very helpful legislation.

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. 5774, 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. ROY. 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.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION REAL ESTATE LEASING AUTHORITY REVOCATION ACT

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1468) to amend title 40, United States Code, to eliminate the leasing authority of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1468

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 "Securities and Exchange Commission Real Estate Leasing Authority Revocation Act".

SEC. 2. LEASING OF SPACE FOR SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3304 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(e) LEASING OF SPACE FOR SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, on and after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Securities and Exchange Commission may not lease general purpose office space. The Administrator may lease such space for the Securities and Exchange Commission under section 585 and this chapter."

(b) LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—The amendment made by subsection (a) may not be construed to invalidate or otherwise affect a lease entered into by the Securities and Exchange Commission before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. INDEPENDENT LEASING AUTHORITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the review described in subsection (b).

(b) REVIEW.—The Comptroller General shall complete a review under which the Comptroller General shall update the 2016 report of the Comptroller General (GAO-16-648) with a specific focus on the following:

(1) Updating the information included in Appendix II: Federal Entities That Reported Having Independent Leasing Authority for Domestic Offices and Warehouses of such report.

(2) Determining to what extent Federal entities with independent leasing authorities have had such authorities rescinded or amended and the number and amount of office and warehouse space such entities lease.

(3) Determining to what extent have agencies with independent leasing authority utilized the General Services Administration for leasing, including utilization of delegation of authority.

(4) Identifying progress made on implementing the recommendations in such report.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. 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 H.R. 1468, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman 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 Securities and Exchange Commission Real Estate Leasing Authority Revocation Act, which I introduced, will revoke the independent real estate leasing authority of the Securities and Exchange Commission and direct the Government Accountability Office to update its 2016 report on independent real estate leasing authority in the Federal Government. While a number of Federal agencies have independent leasing authority, the SEC has a history of egregious real estate practices.

In 2005, the SEC disclosed that it had unbudgeted costs of approximately \$48 million for the construction of its headquarters near Union Station. In