

Additionally, this act serves as a deterrent for potential bad behavior in any government agency because the information database would ensure that bad behavior could not be hidden.

We work in an office of public trust, and the best way to ensure that the people trust us and listen to us, is to be as transparent as possible in any actions we take.

H.R. 300 helps the people to keep the government and check and hold us accountable.

By becoming transparent in how settlements are paid, taxpayers can be confident in how their money is being spent and what ways settlement agreements are impacting fiscal health.

It is important that we know the financial burden these settlements have on state and local governments.

The people deserve to be informed on where their money is being put and how that affects their communities and public services.

This way, when the people feel violated or that a community issue is not addressed, they can better advocate for themselves and participate in the democratic process.

As elected officials, our job is to make sure we are helping our constituents and advocating for their issues.

If we limit information, we are stopping our citizens from getting the help they need from us or understanding who they should hold accountable for a problem.

That would be a detriment to democracy.

H.R. 300 is necessary because it is an important step in creating government transparency which is crucial to the democratic process.

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I would say, in closing, that I was moved by what Mr. PALMER had to say, that democracy is based on consent, and consent is based on access, but there is no access if you don't have transparency.

I think about something that James Madison said: "And a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power that knowledge gives." So people need to have knowledge of everything that our government is doing. We don't want government entities entering into secret, sweetheart settlements with different litigants. It has got to be open to the whole public.

Mr. Speaker, I thank him and I thank the chairman for bringing this forward, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I am happy we could expedite the Settlement Agreement Information Database Act's consideration today.

This Chamber has passed the SAID Act with broad support three separate times, in the 115th, 116th, and 117th Congresses. It is time the Senate acted on this important legislation.

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

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Settlement Agreement Information Database Act, which I'm co-leading with my colleague from Alabama, Mr. PALMER.

This bipartisan legislation was considered under suspension and agreed to in the House of Representatives by a voice vote in previous Congresses.

I am glad to note that the first couple of bills from the Oversight and Accountability Committee coming to the Floor in the 118th Congress are bipartisan measures.

That continues the tradition from the 117th Congress, when the first bill on the Floor from the Oversight Committee was the FedRAMP Authorization Act (117th), a bipartisan bill I wrote, co-led, and passed with now-Chairman JAMES COMER.

Federal settlement agreements, negotiated behind closed doors, cannot continue to be shrouded in secrecy when they directly affect States, municipalities, and local stakeholders.

The SAID Act brings these binding agreements into the light by requiring federal agencies to publicly publish their documents or provide the public with written justification to keep the records confidential.

Details of the settlement agreements would remain public until 5 years after the termination of the agreements.

Increased transparency and better intergovernmental collaboration help form the foundation of good government, and this bill is one more tool to ensure government accountability.

I am a former local government official who served on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for 14 years, including 5 years as Chairman.

I currently chair the Congressional Caucus on Former Local Elected Officials, and I have authorized legislation, the Restore the Partnership Act, which would revive the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

I am committed to enhancing the intergovernmental partnership, which often entails requiring the federal government to be more transparent and proactive in its relationship with local governments.

When it comes to settlement agreements that have the potential of tying the hands of local governments on everything from stormwater management to public education the default should be transparency.

I welcome this bipartisan legislation, urge my colleagues to support it, and ask the Senate to act on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 300, 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. COMER. 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 53 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WITTMAN) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 159; and

H.R. 300; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

CHANCE TO COMPETE ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 159) to implement merit-based reforms to the civil service hiring system that replace degree-based hiring with skills- and competency-based hiring, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 422, nays 2, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 32]

YEAS—422

Adams	Bost	Cherfilus-
Aderholt	Bowman	McCormick
Aguilar	Boyle (PA)	Cicilline
Alford	Brecheen	Ciscomani
Allen	Brown	Clark (MA)
Allred	Brownley	Clarke (NY)
Amodei	Buck	Cleaver
Armstrong	Bucshon	Cline
Arrington	Budzinski	Cloud
Auchincloss	Burchett	Clyburn
Babin	Burgess	Clyde
Bacon	Burlison	Cohen
Baird	Bush	Cole
Balderson	Calvert	Collins
Banks	Cammack	Comer
Barr	Caraveo	Connolly
Barragán	Carbajal	Correa
Bean (FL)	Cárdenas	Costa
Beatty	Carey	Courtney
Bentz	Carl	Craig
Bera	Carson	Crane
Bergman	Carter (GA)	Crawford
Beyer	Carter (LA)	Crenshaw
Bice	Carter (TX)	Crockett
Biggs	Cartwright	Crow
Billakis	Casar	Cuellar
Bishop (GA)	Case	Curtis
Bishop (NC)	Casten	D'Esposito
Blumenauer	Castor (FL)	Daids (KS)
Blunt Rochester	Castro (TX)	Davidson
Boebert	Chavez-DeRemer	Davis (IL)

Davis (NC)	Jayapal	Nickel	Torres (CA)	Veasey	Westerman	Davidson	Jackson (NC)	Napolitano
De La Cruz	Jeffries	Norcross	Torres (NY)	Velázquez	Weston	Davidson	Jackson (TX)	Neal
Dean (PA)	Johnson (GA)	Norman	Trahan	Wagner	Wild	Davis (IL)	Jackson Lee	Neguse
DeGette	Johnson (LA)	Nunn (IA)	Trone	Walberg	Williams (GA)	Davis (NC)	Jacobs	Nehls
DeLauro	Johnson (OH)	Oberholte	Turner	Waltz	Williams (NY)	De La Cruz	James	Newhouse
DelBene	Johnson (SD)	Ocasio-Cortez	Underwood	Wasserman	Williams (TX)	Dean (PA)	Jayapal	Nickel
Deluzio	Jordan	Ogles	Valadao	Schultz	Wilson (FL)	DeGette	Jeffries	Norcross
DeSaulnier	Joyce (OH)	Omar	Van Drew	Waters	Wilson (SC)	DeLauro	Johnson (GA)	Norman
DesJarlais	Joyce (PA)	Owens	Van Duyne	Watson Coleman	Wittman	DelBene	Johnson (LA)	Nunn (IA)
Diaz-Balart	Kamlager-Dove	Pallone	Van Orden	Weber (TX)	Womack	Deluzio	Johnson (OH)	Oberholte
Dingell	Kaptur	Palmer	Vargas	Webster (FL)	Yakym	DeSaulnier	Johnson (SD)	Ocasio-Cortez
Doggett	Kean (NJ)	Panetta	Vasquez	Wenstrup	Zinke	DesJarlais	Jordan	Ogles
Donalds	Keating	Pappas				Diaz-Balart	Joyce (OH)	Omar
Duarte	Kelly (IL)	Pascarell				Dingell	Joyce (PA)	Owens
Duncan	Kelly (MS)	Payne	Hern	Rosendale		Doggett	Kamlager-Dove	Pallone
Dunn (FL)	Kelly (PA)	Pelosi		NOT VOTING—10		Donalds	Kaptur	Palmer
Edwards	Khanna	Peltola				Duarte	Kean (NJ)	Panetta
Ellzey	Kiggans (VA)	Pence	Balint	Eshoo	Schneider	Duncan	Keating	Pappas
Emmer	Kildee	Perez	Bonamici	García (IL)	Steube	Dunn (FL)	Kelly (IL)	Pascarell
Escobar	Kiley	Perry	Buchanan	Granger		Edwards	Kelly (MS)	Payne
Espallat	Kilmer	Peters	Chu	Mullin		Ellzey	Kelly (PA)	Pelosi
Estes	Kim (CA)	Pettersen				Emmer	Khanna	Peltola
Evans	Kim (NJ)	Pfuger				Escobar	Kiggans (VA)	Pence
Ezell	Krishnamoorthi	Phillips				Espallat	Kildee	Perez
Fallon	Kuster	Pingree				Estes	Kiley	Perry
Feenstra	Kustoff	Pocan				Evans	Kilmer	Peters
Ferguson	LaHood	Porter				Ezell	Kim (CA)	Pettersen
Finstad	LaLota	Posey				Fallon	Kim (NJ)	Pfuger
Fischbach	LaMalfa	Pressley				Feenstra	Krishnamoorthi	Phillips
Fitzgerald	Lamborn	Quigley				Ferguson	Kuster	Pingree
Fitzpatrick	Landsman	Ramirez				Finstad	Kustoff	Pocan
Fleischmann	Langworthy	Raskin				Fischbach	LaHood	Porter
Fletcher	Larsen (WA)	Reschenthaler				Fitzgerald	LaLota	Posey
Flood	Larson (CT)	Rodgers (WA)				Fitzpatrick	LaMalfa	Pressley
Foster	Latta	Rogers (AL)				Fleischmann	Lamborn	Quigley
Foushee	LaTurner	Rogers (KY)				Fletcher	Landsman	Ramirez
Fox	Lawler	Rose				Flood	Langworthy	Raskin
Frankel, Lois	Lee (CA)	Ross				Foster	Larsen (WA)	Reschenthaler
Franklin, C.	Lee (FL)	Rouzer				Foushee	Larson (CT)	Rodgers (WA)
Scott	Lee (NV)	Roy				Fox	Latta	Rogers (AL)
Frost	Lee (PA)	Ruiz				Frankel, Lois	LaTurner	Rogers (KY)
Fry	Leger Fernandez	Ruppersberger				Franklin, C.	Lawler	Rose
Fulcher	Lesko	Rutherford				Scott	Lee (CA)	Rosendale
Gaetz	Letlow	Ryan				Frost	Lee (FL)	Ross
Gallagher	Levin	Salazar				Fry	Lee (NV)	Rouzer
Gallego	Lieu	Salinas				Fulcher	Lee (PA)	Roy
Garamendi	Lofgren	Sánchez				Gaetz	Leger Fernandez	Ruiz
Garbarino	Loudermilk	Santos				Gallagher	Lesko	Ruppersberger
Garcia (TX)	Lucas	Sarbanes				Gallego	Letlow	Rutherford
Garcia, Mike	Luetkemeyer	Scalise				Garamendi	Levin	Ryan
Garcia, Robert	Luna	Scanlon				Garbarino	Lieu	Salazar
Gimenez	Luttrell	Schakowsky				Garcia (TX)	Lofgren	Salinas
Golden (ME)	Lynch	Schiff				Garcia, Mike	Loudermilk	Sánchez
Goldman (NY)	Mace	Scholten				Garcia, Robert	Lucas	Santos
Gomez	Magaziner	Schrier				Gimenez	Luetkemeyer	Sarbanes
Gonzales, Tony	Malliotakis	Schweikert				Golden (ME)	Luna	Scalise
Gonzalez, Vicente	Mann	Scott (VA)				Goldman (NY)	Luttrell	Scanlon
Good (VA)	Manning	Scott, Austin				Gomez	Lynch	Schakowsky
Gooden (TX)	Mast	Scott, David				Gonzales, Tony	Mace	Schiff
Gosar	Matsui	Self				Gonzalez, Vicente	Magaziner	Scholten
Gottheimer	McBath	Sessions				Good (VA)	Malliotakis	Schrier
Graves (LA)	McCarthy	Sewell				Gooden (TX)	Mann	Schweikert
Graves (MO)	McCaul	Sherman				Gosar	Manning	Scott (VA)
Green (TN)	McClain	Sherrill				Gottheimer	Massie	Scott, Austin
Green (TX)	McClintock	Simpson				Granger	Mast	Scott, David
Greene (GA)	McCollum	Slotkin				Graves (LA)	Matsui	Self
Griffith	McCormick	Smith (MO)				Graves (MO)	McBath	Sessions
Grijalva	McGarvey	Smith (NE)				Green (TN)	McCarthy	Sewell
Grothman	McGovern	Smith (NJ)				Green (TX)	McCaul	Sherman
Guest	McHenry	Smith (WA)				Greene (GA)	McClain	Sherrill
Guthrie	Meeks	Smucker				Griffith	McClintock	Simpson
Hageman	Menendez	Sorensen				Grijalva	McCollum	Slotkin
Harder (CA)	Meng	Soto				Grothman	McCormick	Smith (MO)
Harris	Meuser	Spanberger				Guest	McGarvey	Smith (NE)
Harshbarger	Mfume	Spartz				Guthrie	McGovern	Smith (NJ)
Hayes	Miller (IL)	Stansbury				Hageman	McHenry	Smith (WA)
Higgins (LA)	Miller (OH)	Stanton				Harder (CA)	Meeks	Smucker
Higgins (NY)	Miller (WV)	Staubert				Harris	Menendez	Sorensen
Hill	Miller-Meeks	Steel				Harshbarger	Meng	Soto
Himes	Mills	Stefanik				Hayes	Meuser	Spanberger
Hinson	Molinaro	Steil				Hern	Mfume	Spartz
Horsford	Moolenaar	Stevens				Higgins (LA)	Miller (IL)	Stansbury
Houchin	Mooney	Stewart				Higgins (NY)	Miller (OH)	Stanton
Houlahan	Moore (AL)	Strickland				Hill	Miller (WV)	Staubert
Hoyer	Moore (UT)	Strong				Himes	Miller-Meeks	Steel
Hoyle (OR)	Moore (WI)	Swalwell				Hinson	Mills	Stefanik
Hudson	Moran	Sykes				Horsford	Molinaro	Steil
Huffman	Morelle	Takano				Houchin	Moolenaar	Stevens
Huizenga	Moskowitz	Tenney				Houlahan	Mooney	Stewart
Hunt	Moulton	Thanedar				Hoyer	Moore (AL)	Strickland
Issa	Mrvan	Thompson (CA)				Hoyle (OR)	Moore (UT)	Strong
Ivey	Murphy	Thompson (MS)				Hudson	Moore (WI)	Swalwell
Jackson (IL)	Nadler	Thompson (PA)				Huffman	Moran	Sykes
Jackson (NC)	Nadler	Tiffany				Huizenga	Morelle	Takano
Jackson (TX)	Napolitano	Timmons				Hunt	Moskowitz	Tenney
Jackson Lee	Neal	Titus				Issa	Moulton	Thanedar
Jacobs	Neguse	Tlaib				Ivey	Mrvan	Thompson (CA)
James	Nehls	Tokuda				Jackson (IL)	Murphy	Thompson (MS)
	Newhouse	Tonko					Nadler	Thompson (PA)

NAYS—2

NOT VOTING—10

□ 1852

Ms. ADAMS changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT INFORMATION DATABASE ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 300) to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to require the publication of settlement agreements, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 425, nays 0, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 33]

YEAS—425

Adams	Boebert	Castro (TX)
Aderholt	Bost	Chavez-DeRemer
Aguilar	Bowman	Cherfilus-
Alford	Boyle (PA)	McCormick
Allen	Brecheen	Cicilline
Allred	Brown	Ciscomani
Amodei	Brownley	Clark (MA)
Armstrong	Buck	Clarke (NY)
Arrington	Bucshon	Cleaver
Ashcincloss	Budzinski	Cline
Babin	Burchett	Cloud
Bacon	Burgess	Clyburn
Baird	Burlison	Clyde
Balderson	Bush	Cohen
Banks	Calvert	Cole
Barr	Cammack	Collins
Barragán	Caraveo	Comer
Bean (FL)	Carbajal	Connolly
Beatty	Cárdenas	Correa
Bentz	Carey	Costa
Bera	Carl	Courtney
Bergman	Carson	Craig
Beyer	Carter (GA)	Crane
Bice	Carter (LA)	Crawford
Biggs	Carter (TX)	Crenshaw
Bilirakis	Cartwright	Crockett
Bishop (GA)	Casas	Crow
Bishop (NC)	Case	Cuellar
Blumenauer	Casten	Curtis
Blunt Rochester	Castor (FL)	D'Esposito