

Yes, this city bleeds authentic Americana and yearns for a renaissance. However, my district is at a crossroads.

In the 13th Congressional District, businesses are beginning to hire more people, which means more traffic on the roads and more people using our public transportation system.

Metro Detroit was renowned for having one of the worst public transportation networks of any large city in the Nation even before the COVID-19 pandemic.

While others work from home, many jobs require in-person work. Public transportation is still necessary, and demand might rise in the future.

I applaud the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act during the last Congress. Still, there needs to be a strong emphasis on infrastructure goals.

□ 1215

CONDEMNING VIOLENCE

(Ms. HOULAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, I stood on this very House floor and I voted to condemn violence at crisis pregnancy centers. A vote that was difficult to make, not because I think it was wrong to condemn violence, I don't.

Rather, it was difficult as an American to watch this governing body politicize the ideas of civility and decency that should be undoubtedly woven through every last one of us.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you to condemn violence again, this time at an abortion clinic. I stand before you to acknowledge the violent attack at the Planned Parenthood in Illinois last week. The cowardly arson attack, a firebomb, damaged the building just days after abortion protections were signed into law in Illinois.

Let there be no mistake, this was clearly intended to terrorize women, girls, their families, and the medical professionals who serve them from exercising reproductive freedoms.

Now, I ask my Republican colleagues to join me as I have joined them in condemning violence and this violent attack. From this day forward, I invite all Americans to unequivocally say that we must restore civility and decency in every corner of our Nation because violence is never the answer ever.

COVID VACCINE PRICING

(Ms. PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to Big Pharma cheating taxpayers.

As pharmaceutical companies prepare to sell vaccines on the private market, they are jacking up the price tag on our public health.

After tens of billions of dollars of sales, vaccine manufacturers have floated commercial prices over four times higher than the price currently paid by the government.

Taxpayers contributed to every aspect of these vaccines, from the underlining science, to the clinical trials, to purchasing agreements, but only the manufacturers will profit.

Just two vaccine manufacturers control 97 percent of the market. They will not compete because they do not have to.

I have worked on legislation to prevent anticompetitive pricing in consolidated markets, like vaccines. This is especially important for products that our tax dollars paid for.

We cannot continue to ask taxpayers to help cover the risk, while letting Big Pharma collude to reap the profits.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 56

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS: Mr. Rogers of Kentucky, Mr. Aderholt, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Carter of Texas, Mr. Calvert, Mr. Cole, Mr. Diaz-Balart, Mr. Womack, Mr. Fleischmann, Mr. Joyce of Ohio, Mr. Harris, Mr. Amodei, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Valadao, Mr. Newhouse, Mr. Moolenaar, Mr. Rutherford, Mr. Cline, Mr. Reschenthaler, Mr. Mike Garcia of California, Mrs. Hinson, Mr. Tony Gonzales of Texas, Ms. Letlow, Mr. Cloud, Mr. Guest, Mr. Zinke, Mr. Clyde, Mr. LaTurner, Mr. Carl, Mrs. Bice, Mr. C. Scott Franklin of Florida, Mr. Ellzey, Mr. Ciscomani.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE: Mr. Burgess, Mr. Latta, Mr. Guthrie, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Bilirakis, Mr. Johnson of Ohio, Mr. Bucshon, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Walberg, Mr. Carter of Georgia, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Dunn of Florida, Mr. Curtis, Mrs. Lesko, Mr. Pence, Mr. Crenshaw, Mr. Joyce of Pennsylvania, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Weber of Texas, Mr. Allen, Mr. Balderson, Mr. Fulcher, Mr. Pfluger, Mrs. Harshbarger, Mrs. Miller-Meeks, Mrs. Cammack, Mr. Obernolte.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES: Mr. Lucas, Mr. Sessions, Mr. Posey, Mr. Luetkemeyer, Mr. Huizenga, Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Barr, Mr. Williams of Texas, Mr. Hill, Mr. Emmer, Mr. Loudermilk, Mr. Mooney, Mr. Davidson, Mr. Rose, Mr. Steil, Mr. Timmons, Mr. Norman, Mr. Meuser, Mrs. Kim of California, Mr. Donalds, Mr. Garbarino, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Flood, Mr. Lawler, Ms. De La Cruz, Mr. Ogles, Mrs. Houchin, Mr. Nunn of Iowa.

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Steil, Chair, Mr. Loudermilk, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Murphy, Mrs. Bice, Mr. Carey, Ms. Lee of Florida, Mr. D'Esposito.

COMMITTEE ON RULES: Mr. Burgess, Mr. Reschenthaler, Mrs. Fischbach, Mr. Massie, Mr. Norman, Mr. Roy, Mrs. Houchin, Mr. Langworthy.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS: Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Smith of Nebraska, Mr. Kelly

of Pennsylvania, Mr. Schweikert, Mr. LaHood, Mr. Wenstrup, Mr. Arrington, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Estes, Mr. Smucker, Mr. Hern, Mrs. Miller of West Virginia, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Kustoff, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Steube, Ms. Tenney, Mrs. Fischbach, Mr. Moore of Utah, Mrs. Steel, Ms. Van Dyne, Mr. Feenstra, Mrs. Malliotakis, Mr. Carey.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

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

FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE COORDINATION ACT

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 255) to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to develop a study regarding streamlining and consolidating information collection and preliminary damage assessments, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. R. 255

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 "Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act".

SEC. 2. STUDY TO STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE INFORMATION COLLECTION AND PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1223 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–254) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 1223. STUDY TO STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE INFORMATION COLLECTION AND PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.

"(a) INFORMATION COLLECTION.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator, in coordination with the Small Business Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Disaster Assistance Working Group of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and other appropriate agencies, shall—

"(1) conduct a study and develop a plan, consistent with law, under which the collection of information from disaster assistance applicants and grantees will be modified, streamlined, expedited, efficient, flexible, consolidated, and simplified to be less burdensome, duplicative, and time consuming for applicants and grantees; and

“(2) develop a plan for the regular collection and reporting of information on Federal disaster assistance awarded, including the establishment and maintenance of a website for presenting the information to the public.

“(b) PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator, in consultation with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, shall convene a working group on a regular basis with the Secretary of Labor, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, the Secretary of Transportation, the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, and other appropriate agencies as the Administrator considers necessary, to—

“(1) identify and describe the potential areas of duplication or fragmentation in preliminary damage assessments after disaster declarations;

“(2) determine the applicability of having one Federal agency make the assessments for all agencies; and

“(3) identify potential emerging technologies, such as unmanned aircraft systems, consistent with the requirements established in the FEMA Accountability, Modernization and Transparency Act of 2017 (42 U.S.C. 5121 note), to expedite the administration of preliminary damage assessments.

“(c) COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.—The Administrator shall submit one comprehensive report that comprises the plans developed under subsections (a)(1) and (a)(2) and a report of the findings of the working group convened under subsection (b), which may include recommendations, to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

“(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The comprehensive report developed under subsection (c) shall be made available to the public and posted on the website of the Federal Emergency Management Agency—

“(1) in pre-compressed, easily downloadable versions that are made available in all appropriate formats; and

“(2) in machine-readable format, if applicable.

“(e) SOURCES OF INFORMATION.—In preparing the comprehensive report, any publication, database, or web-based resource, and any information compiled by any government agency, nongovernmental organization, or other entity that is made available may be used.

“(f) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after submission of the comprehensive report, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or a designee, and a member of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, or a designee, shall brief, upon request, the appropriate congressional committees on the findings and any recommendations made in the comprehensive report.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The item relating to section 1223 in the table of contents of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-254) is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 1223. Study to streamline and consolidate information collection and preliminary damage assessments.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN) for her leadership on this bill.

H.R. 255 is commonsense legislation to establish a process that is going to identify ways to streamline and consolidate the collection of certain disaster information.

While the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, is the lead Federal agency on disasters, there are often many Federal agencies involved in the disaster response and recovery process.

It is critically important that these agencies are all working efficiently to minimize overlaps in their assessments and utilize new technologies to streamline processes.

Specifically, the legislation is going to establish a Federal working group led by FEMA to coordinate with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency to identify ways to reduce duplication and streamline the Federal damage assessment process.

This is just a good government bill that will help improve disaster recovery efforts which were previously passed by the House in the 116th and 117th Congresses.

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 255, the Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act, introduced by Representatives GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, PETERS, and PLASKETT.

This legislation amends the Disaster Recovery Reform Act to help Federal agencies streamline and consolidate information collection and Preliminary Damage Assessments following disasters.

After a major disaster, there is no time to wait for bureaucracy. However, Federal recovery assistance following disasters is currently hampered by inefficient information collection and assessments conducted by multiple agencies.

This bill will remove information collection barriers that currently impede disaster aid. It creates a working group to identify duplicative assessments and propose their elimination.

Further, it would streamline Federal disaster recovery efforts by concluding

that a single agency is sufficient to conduct damage assessments to account for the needs of disaster victims. The Federal Government can and should be doing this work smarter.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN).

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I would say, first of all, that I thank Chairman GRAVES for his leadership and for acting so swiftly to bring this bill to the floor of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise in support of my bill, H.R. 255. I thank Representatives SCOTT PETERS of California, STACEY PLASKETT of the U.S. Virgin Islands, and NEAL DUNN of Florida for cosponsoring this legislation.

H.R. 255 would establish a process to identify ways to streamline and consolidate the collection of certain disaster information to start the recovery process for individuals and families that were devastated by any natural disaster.

Mr. Speaker, I hear about these issues with delays and confusion related to requirements and processing of disaster assistance on a regular basis. I meet with mayors of the island—and this is just in the case of Puerto Rico—but I know we do have the same process and the same situation across the Nation. This is a significant source of frustration for my mayors and my constituents as well as people all over the country.

While FEMA is the lead Federal agency on disasters, many others are also often involved in disaster response and recovery, like, for example, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Small Business Administration, just to name a few.

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017, and the seismic activity in Puerto Rico in 2020, we discovered that Federal agency after Federal agency would require the same information in their preliminary assessments, which meant tens of thousands of site and damage assessments.

We see some of this repeating itself in the aftermath of last year's Hurricane Fiona in Puerto Rico and Hurricane Ian in Florida and with other disasters across the Nation.

This is not just a bill for the islands or the territories. This is a bill for the rest of the Nation on how to manage and get expedited help and response from Federal agencies.

Currently, there is no process to share these assessments among Federal agencies, which ultimately causes significant delays for immediate relief and prolongs recovery. This is compounded by other administrative issues like frequent staff changes and constituents and mayors having to work with multiple personnel to handle a single application or request.

In 2020, FEMA finally decided to begin consolidating assessments for Puerto Rico to speed up the delivery process across multiple Federal agencies. Many of these assessments are small, often one part of a larger project, which has continuously slowed down the recovery process.

H.R. 255 would establish a Federal working group led by FEMA, in collaboration with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, to identify ways to reduce duplication and modernize the Federal management assessment process to make it truly agile and efficient. We need to ensure assistance is provided while safeguarding taxpayer funds. I think with this bill we can do both.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is critical that these agencies are working together to minimize overlaps in their assessments and consider the use of the newest technologies to streamline processes. Very often, we, in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, have these same discussions about what happened in Louisiana, what happened in Florida, what happened on the East Coast, what happened on the West Coast every time we have a natural disaster. It always is the same problem.

I trust this bill will expedite disaster recovery across the Nation. As we have learned in Puerto Rico, it is not if the next disaster will occur, it is when it is going to happen and how we are going to face it.

Every 1st of June, another hurricane season begins for the territories and the eastern coast. Since the last time this language passed the House in the 117th Congress, we had another direct hit with Hurricane Fiona.

I am pleased we are considering this bill so early in this 118th Congress, and that is the reason I thanked our chairman for his marvelous job bringing this bill to the floor.

I can, therefore, work quickly to make this proposal the law of the land as part of our efforts to better prepare for disaster response.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

□ 1230

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close. I inquire of my colleague if there are any remaining speakers on his side.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, in closing, this bipartisan bill passed the House on suspension in the 116th and 117th Congresses. It will help disaster survivors by taking a step toward streamlining the Federal Government's fragmented approach to disaster assistance.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, in closing, H.R. 255 is just good gov-

ernment legislation that is going to help streamline disaster recovery efforts by improving the coordination efficiency of Federal agencies involved in disaster assistance.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 255.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

POST-DISASTER ASSISTANCE ONLINE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 259) to provide for an online repository for certain reporting requirements for recipients of Federal disaster assistance, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 259

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 "Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act".

SEC. 2. SUBPAGE FOR TRANSPARENCY OF DISASTER ASSISTANCE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF REPOSITORY FOR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the head of each covered Federal agency, shall establish a subpage within the website established under section 2 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) to publish the information required to be made available to the public under this section.

(b) SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Not later than 30 days after the end of a calendar quarter, each covered Federal agency that made disaster assistance available to an eligible recipient during such quarter shall, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, make available to the public on the subpage established under subsection (a) the information described in subsection (c), and ensure that any data asset of the agency is machine readable.

(c) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—The information described in this subsection is, with respect to disaster assistance provided by the covered Federal agency—

(1) the total amount of disaster assistance provided by the agency during such quarter;

(2) the amount of disaster assistance provided by the agency that was expended or obligated to projects or activities; and

(3) a detailed list of all projects or activities for which disaster assistance dispersed by the agency was expended, obligated, or used, including—

(A) the name of the project or activity;

(B) a description of the project or activity;

(C) an evaluation of the completion status of the project or activity;

(D) any award identification number assigned to the project;

(E) the Catalog for Disaster Assistance number assigned by the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(F) the location of the project, including ZIP Codes; and

(G) any reporting requirement information being collected by a covered Federal agency with respect to that agency's disaster assistance.

(d) GUIDANCE.—Each covered Federal agency, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Secretary of the Treasury, shall issue such guidance as is necessary to meet the requirements of this Act.

(e) AGREEMENT WITH PRIVATE ENTITY.—The Director, if necessary for purposes of transparency, may enter into an agreement with a private entity, including a nonprofit organization, to develop the subpage required under this section.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) COVERED FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term "covered Federal agency" means—

(A) any agency providing assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.);

(B) the Small Business Administration; and

(C) the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(2) DISASTER ASSISTANCE.—The term "disaster assistance" means any funds that are made available by the Federal Government in response to a specified natural disaster, including—

(A) any assistance provided by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration as a result of a disaster declared under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b));

(B) any assistance provided by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for—

(i) activities authorized under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a major disaster declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.); and

(ii) flood insurance coverage provided under the National Flood Insurance Program pursuant to the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.); and

(C) any assistance provided under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

(3) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term "eligible recipient"—

(A) means any entity that receives disaster assistance directly from the Federal Government (including disaster assistance received through grant, loan, or contract) other than an individual; and

(B) includes a State that receives disaster assistance.

(4) SPECIFIED NATURAL DISASTER.—The term "specified natural disaster" means—

(A) a fire on public or private forest land or grassland described in section 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187);

(B) a major disaster declared by the President under section 401 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5170);

(C) an emergency declared by the President under section 501 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5191); and

(D) any other natural disaster for which a disaster declaration is made by the Federal Government.