

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I reiterate my thanks to my partner on this bill, Mr. SMITH from Nebraska. This is a bill that I have worked on for the last four Congresses. It will make life easier for businesses, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remainder of my time.

America's small businesses have had it pretty tough these past few years. They are asking that Congress do its part to bring a measure of relief.

The Employer Reporting Improvement Act is one step we can easily take to shrink the burden Washington imposes on them and their employees.

The mom-and-pop shops that line America's Main Streets should not have to operate under fear that Washington is going to come after them for a clerical error. When they are faced with a potential penalty, they ought to have the time to make their case. It is a simple matter of fairness.

This measure has strong bipartisan support. It sailed out of the Ways and Means Committee on a vote of 37-0.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NUNN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3801, 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.

PAPERWORK BURDEN REDUCTION ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3797) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an alternative manner of furnishing certain health insurance coverage statements to individuals, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3797

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 "Paperwork Burden Reduction Act".

SEC. 2. ALTERNATIVE MANNER OF FURNISHING CERTAIN HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE STATEMENTS TO INDIVIDUALS.

(a) REPORTING OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.—Section 6055(c) of the Internal Revenue

Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) ALTERNATIVE MANNER OF FURNISHING STATEMENTS.—For purposes of this subsection, any person required to make a return under subsection (a) shall be treated as timely furnishing the written statement required under paragraph (1) if—

"(A) such person provides clear, conspicuous, and accessible notice (at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may provide) that any individual to whom a statement would otherwise be required to be furnished under paragraph (1) may request a copy of such statement, and

"(B) such person, on request of any such individual, furnishes a copy of such statement to such individual not later than the later of—

"(i) January 31 of the year following the calendar year for which the return under subsection (a) was required to be made, or

"(ii) 30 days after the date of such request."

(b) CERTAIN EMPLOYERS REQUIRED TO REPORT ON HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.—Section 6056(c) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) ALTERNATIVE MANNER OF FURNISHING STATEMENTS.—For purposes of this subsection, any person required to make a return under subsection (a) shall be treated as timely furnishing the written statement required under paragraph (1) if—

"(A) such person provides clear, conspicuous, and accessible notice (at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may provide) that any individual to whom a statement would otherwise be required to be furnished under paragraph (1) may request a copy of such statement, and

"(B) such person, on request of any such individual, furnishes a copy of such statement to such individual not later than the later of—

"(i) January 31 of the year following the calendar year for which the return under subsection (a) was required to be made, or

"(ii) 30 days after the date of such request."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to statements with respect to returns for calendar years after 2023.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

If you visit any Main Street in America, you will see that small businesses are struggling. Today's cost of living crisis has made everything from supplies to labor more expensive for mom-and-pop stores all across America.

Not only are small businesses struggling because of high prices, but Washington mandates are forcing small businesses to waste precious time processing paperwork instead of serving their workers and customers.

Right now, small businesses are forced to send millions of Americans paper copies of health insurance re-

porting forms every year, when the vast majority of individuals don't use this form.

Every taxpayer knows this form I am talking about. While it is known as a Form 1095-C, it is one that you get in the mail and have absolutely no idea what to do with. It looks like this, and you put it in the pile with your other tax forms and then realize when it comes time to file your taxes, you don't actually even need it.

In fact, only 1.4 percent of American workers and their families may need to use this form. The Paperwork Burden Reduction Act is a bipartisan bill, introduced by Representative PANETTA and myself, that will put an end to this wasteful practice.

This bill saves small business owners time and money by relieving them of mailing outdated paperwork that only exists because Congress mandates it.

This mandate doesn't even make sense anymore. The origins of this paperwork were to prove compliance with the individual mandate of the Affordable Care Act, a mandate whose enforcement was zeroed out years ago.

Not only will small businesses have more time to focus on running a business, but this bill also recognizes how Americans actually file taxes. Now more than ever, Americans fill out their tax returns online. There is no reason that American workers should not be able to access this health insurance tax form online, as well.

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for supporting this measure that will eliminate needless paperwork for working Americans and small business job creators.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, let me first thank Chairman SMITH, not only for articulating the exact reasons as to why we must support the Paperwork Burden Reduction Act, but for sharing this opportunity to co-lead on such a commonsense measure that will benefit taxpayers, not just in my Congressional District, the 19th District in California, but so many people all across this country.

The bipartisan Paperwork Burden Reduction Act will ease confusion for taxpayers by reducing the paperwork that is necessary for filing taxes for small business employers and their employees.

Under current law, employers must send a 1095 tax form to employees to verify their health coverage for the previous year. However, for many employees, the IRS no longer requires this form for them to complete their taxes. So the Paperwork Burden Reduction Act would allow employers to provide a 1095-B or a 1095-C form upon request from employees, rather than mandating it and wasting time, wasting money, and wasting paper.

It is a bill that is popular, not just among taxpayers, but Democrats and

Republicans alike, as demonstrated by its passage out of the Ways and Means Committee without a single vote in opposition.

It is understandable why it is so popular because the one thing that we can all agree on is that we need to reduce unnecessary burdens on taxpayers and small businesses.

Now, although the Biden administration has already ordered this, I am proud to join Chairman SMITH and put that order into statute, and I would urge my colleagues to vote for the Paperwork Burden Reduction Act.

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

□ 1915

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is not every day that we can come together on such a straightforward issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this common-sense, bipartisan legislation, the Paperwork Burden Reduction Act.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, back home in our districts, we have heard from workers and small business owners about the struggles they face in today's economy. Today, with this legislation before us, we finally have a chance to give them a bit of a break.

The Paperwork Burden Reduction Act will get rid of a Washington mandate that requires small businesses to waste time mailing unnecessary paperwork instead of serving their employees and customers. Not only will it save small business owners time, but it will also help them modernize their operations by letting workers access their health insurance tax forms online.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and help us deliver relief to workers and small business owners across America.

Mr. Speaker, 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. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3797, 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.

UNITED STATES-TAIWAN INITIATIVE ON 21ST-CENTURY TRADE FIRST AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass

the bill (H.R. 4004) to approve and implement the Agreement between the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States regarding Trade between the United States of America and Taiwan, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4004

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 “United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade First Agreement Implementation Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) As a leading democracy, Taiwan is a key partner of the United States in the Indo-Pacific region.

(2) The United States and Taiwan share democratic values, deep commercial and economic ties, and strong people-to-people connections. Those links serve as the impetus for expanding engagement by the United States with Taiwan.

(3) Taiwan is the eighth-largest trading partner of the United States and the United States is the second-largest trading partner of Taiwan.

(4) Since 2020, the United States and Taiwan, under the auspices of the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO), have held an economic prosperity partnership dialogue to enhance economic and commercial ties between the United States and Taiwan, including with respect to supply chain security and resiliency, investment screening, health, science, and technology, and the digital economy.

(5) On June 1, 2022, the United States and Taiwan launched the United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade to deepen our economic and trade relationship, advance mutual trade priorities based on shared values, promote innovation, and support inclusive economic growth for workers and businesses.

(6) On August 17, 2022, the United States and Taiwan announced the negotiating mandate for formal trade negotiations under the United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade and agreed to seek high-standard commitments.

(7) Article I, section 8, clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress authority over international trade. The President lacks the authority to enter into binding trade agreements absent approval from Congress.

(8) Congressional approval of the United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade First Agreement will ensure that the agreement, and the trade relationship between the United States and Taiwan more broadly, will be durable. A durable trade agreement will foster sustained economic growth and give workers, consumers, businesses, farmers, ranchers, and other stakeholders assurance that commercial ties between the United States and Taiwan will be long-lasting and reliable.

SEC. 3. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is—

(1) to approve and implement the Agreement between the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States regarding Trade between the United States of America and Taiwan, done on June 1, 2023;

(2) to strengthen and develop economic relations between the United States and Taiwan for our mutual benefit;

(3) to lay the foundation for further cooperation to expand and enhance the benefits of the Agreement; and

(4) to establish transparency and consultation requirements with respect to Further Agreements.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGREEMENT.—The term “Agreement” means the Agreement between the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States regarding Trade between the United States of America and Taiwan approved by Congress under section 5.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Finance of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

(3) FURTHER AGREEMENT.—The term “Further Agreement” means—

(A) any trade agreement, other than the Agreement approved by Congress under section 5, arising from or relating to the August 17, 2022, negotiating mandate relating to the United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade; or

(B) any nonministerial modification or nonministerial amendment to the Agreement.

(4) NEGOTIATING TEXT.—The term “negotiating text” means any document that proposes the consideration, examination, or adoption of a particular element or language in an international instrument.

(5) STATE LAW.—The term “State law” includes—

(A) any law of a political subdivision of a State; and

(B) any State law regulating or taxing the business of insurance.

(6) TRADE REPRESENTATIVE.—The term “Trade Representative” means the United States Trade Representative.

SEC. 5. APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT.

Congress approves the Agreement between the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States regarding Trade between the United States of America and Taiwan, done on June 1, 2023.

SEC. 6. ENTRY INTO FORCE OF AGREEMENT.

(a) CONDITIONS FOR ENTRY INTO FORCE OF AGREEMENT.—The President may provide for the Agreement to enter into force not earlier than 30 days after the date on which the President submits to Congress a certification under subsection (c).

(b) CONSULTATION AND REPORT.—The President, not later than 30 days before submitting a certification under subsection (c), shall—

(1) consult with the appropriate congressional committees;

(2) submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that—

(A) explains the basis of the determination of the President contained in that certification, including by providing specific reference to the measures the parties to the Agreement intend to use to comply with the obligations in the Agreement; and

(B) describes, including through the use of economic estimates and analyses, how entry into force of the Agreement will further trade relations between the United States and Taiwan and advance the interests of workers, consumers, businesses, farmers, ranchers, and other stakeholders in the United States; and