

research environment to maximize their collective impacts on our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, for all of these reasons, I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, the Science Committee is blessed to have many talented Members of Congress dedicated to science and our future.

One of them is one of the coauthors of this bill, a senior Member of the committee and a talented Member of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS).

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member LOFGREN for her very kind and generous words. I can only hope that my constituents in Michigan hear the praise from the ranking member from the great State of California for the work that we do together on the Science Committee.

Certainly, it is a sincere privilege to be also joined on the floor today with our chairman, Mr. LUCAS, as he reminded us with the TRANQ legislation that Ms. CARAVEO and Mr. WILLIAMS will be the first Members of the freshman class to get a bill signed into law for this term in Congress.

It wasn't all too long ago when Dr. BAIRD and myself shared that same distinction for the Building Blocks of STEM Act, the bill that we passed through the Science Committee, through the House floor, and alongside our colleagues in the Senate, getting it signed into law on December 24th, 2019.

Suffice it to say, Dr. BAIRD and I were not at the White House for the signing of the Building Blocks of STEM Act.

Today, Dr. BAIRD and I are pleased to offer the DOE and NSF Research Interagency Act to the House floor, a bill that has already passed through the Science Committee.

The Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation represent some of our Nation's most cutting-edge research activities, as has been shared by our committee leadership, supporting the innovation that we require to solve our most pressing issues and remain competitive on the world stage.

The DOE and NSF employees, in particular, are not necessarily in two buildings that are right next to each other. They are in a similar geographic area, but they do not share building space.

The employees and the funded researchers are world-renowned scientific minds, and they are pushing on the door of what we think is possible.

They are making science fiction a reality every single day, and we encourage and implore their activities to proliferate, to manifest, and to continue to come together, particularly on the heels of the CHIPS and Science Act, a bill that many of us, including myself

on the Science Committee, helped to author and pass through into law just a little over a year ago.

If we are going to achieve the goals of the CHIPS and Science Act without the full funding, particularly for the NSF, we need this legislation. We need the interagency efforts of DOE and NSF to come together.

We will continue to promote cross functionality of research if it is with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in fusion science, or if it is combining the DOE's expertise in computational sciences, including the scientific potential of the fastest supercomputers in the world.

What NSF is doing with artificial intelligence and machine learning will continue to be key to unlocking the metrics needed to create safe and trustworthy AI applications so the United States can continue to lead in this innovation sector.

Combining NSF's material science expertise, which the United States is in a phenomenal race to lead on, with the work being done across the Department of Energy and the Ames National Laboratory on critical minerals will be key not only to untangling our supply chains but in creating a circular economy that promotes worker safety and environmental protections while securing our economic prosperity, energy independence, and national security for decades to come.

Lastly, combining the work that both agencies are doing with quantum technologies will be key to unlocking the potential of this revolutionary emerging technology, including for our manufacturers and applications for cybersecurity.

These are just some of the examples of the amazing potential that fostering a partnership between the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation will mean for our Nation and the next generation, proving once again that Federal sciences are the key to our Nation's future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill to push forward our Nation's scientific ecosystem and bolster our competitiveness on the world stage.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close.

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

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, once again, I rise in support of H.R. 2980, the DOE and NSF Interagency Research Act.

This will accelerate U.S. competitiveness in emerging technology areas and key economic sectors while enabling taxpayer dollars to be used more efficiently, allowing more to be done with less.

I appreciate all the work done by my colleagues, Representatives Stevens and BAIRD, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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 Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2980, 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.

□ 1600

DOE AND NASA INTERAGENCY RESEARCH COORDINATION ACT

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2988) to provide for Department of Energy and National Aeronautics and Space Administration research and development coordination, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2988

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 "DOE and NASA Interagency Research Coordination Act".

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy (in this section referred to as the "Secretary") and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (in this section referred to as the "Administrator") may carry out, as practicable, cross-cutting and collaborative research and development activities to support the advancement of Department of Energy and National Aeronautics and Space Administration mission requirements and priorities. The Secretary and Administrator, in accordance with subsection (e), may make competitive awards to carry out such activities.

(b) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Secretary and the Administrator shall coordinate the activities under subsection (a) through memoranda of understanding, or other appropriate interagency agreements.

(c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the activities under subsection (a), the Secretary and the Administrator may—

(1) conduct collaborative research and development activities in a variety of focus areas that may include—

(A) propulsion systems and components, including nuclear thermal and nuclear electric propulsion, radioisotope power systems, thermoelectric generators, advanced nuclear fuels, and heater units;

(B) modeling and simulation, machine learning, data assimilation, large scale data analytics, and predictive analysis in order to optimize algorithms for mission-related purposes;

(C) fundamental high energy physics, astrophysics, and cosmology, including the nature of dark energy and dark matter, in accordance with section 305 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18643);

(D) fundamental earth and environmental sciences, in accordance with section 306 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18644) and section 60501 of title 51, United States Code;

(E) quantum information sciences, including quantum computing and quantum network infrastructure, in accordance with sections 403 and 404 of the National Quantum Initiative Act (15 U.S.C. 8853 and 8854);

(F) radiation health effects, in accordance with section 306 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18644);

(G) ground- and space-based technology necessary for the transmission to the Earth's surface of solar energy collected in space; and

(H) other areas of potential research and development collaboration the Secretary and the Administrator determine important to achieving agency missions and objectives;

(2) develop methods to accommodate large voluntary data sets on space and aeronautical information on high-performance computing systems with variable quality and scale;

(3) promote collaboration and data and information sharing between the Department of Energy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Laboratories, and other appropriate entities by providing the necessary access and secure data and information transfer capabilities; and

(4) support the Administration's access to the Department's research infrastructure and capabilities, as practicable.

(d) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out the activities under subsection (a), the Secretary and the Administrator are authorized to—

(1) carry out reimbursable and non-reimbursable agreements between the Department of Energy and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and

(2) collaborate with other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

(e) MERIT REVIEW PROCESS.—The Secretary and the Administrator shall ensure any competitive awards made to carry out the activities under section (a) shall follow all appropriate laws and agency policies, including the following:

(1) Selection by merit-review-based processes.

(2) Consideration of applications from Federal agencies, National Laboratories, institutions of higher education, non-profit institutions, and other appropriate entities.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary and the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, a report detailing the following:

(1) Interagency research and development coordination activities between the Department of Energy and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration carried out under this section.

(2) How such coordination activities expand the technical capabilities of the Department and the Administration.

(3) Collaborative research and development achievements.

(4) Areas of future mutually beneficial activities, including potential applications of clean energy technologies, such as marine energy.

(5) Continuation of coordination activities between the Department of Energy and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(g) RESEARCH SECURITY.—The activities authorized under this section shall be applied in a manner consistent with subtitle D of title VI of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (enacted as division B Public Law 117-167; 42 U.S.C. 19231 et seq.).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2988, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2988, the DOE and NASA Interagency Research Coordination Act.

The Department of Energy and NASA have a long history of collaboration, which has enhanced our understanding of our universe and our ability to explore beyond our planet.

The *Voyager* spacecraft, which were launched more than 40 years ago and are now flying in interstellar space, continue to operate under DOE's propulsion systems.

The work DOE and NASA are doing on nuclear energy is critical to our ability to establish a long-term human presence on the Moon. That same technology can be used here on Earth, too, helping to improve this clean and reliable energy source.

The DOE-NASA partnership will also help us advance our high-performance computing systems, which help keep us at the forefront of research and development. This partnership will also help us with satellite development, space situational awareness, and even planetary defense from near-Earth objects.

In short, it allows two of our premier scientific agencies to better work by collaborating on some of our most challenging scientific issues.

I thank my colleague, Representative WILLIAMS, for introducing this legislation and Representative SORENSEN for cosponsoring it.

This bipartisan bill earned unanimous support in the Science Committee, and I urge my colleagues to give it the same support on the floor today.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, and I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee ranking member, Mr. SORENSEN, for their work on this important bipartisan bill.

Enhancing interagency collaboration between the Department of Energy and NASA can have a multiplier effect on the creative, innovative, and inspiring work of these two important agencies. It is an important element in fur-

thering both agencies' missions and our Nation's aspirations in science and exploration.

DOE's and NASA's joint research and development activities include amazing scientific endeavors, such as nuclear power and nuclear space propulsion, high-energy physics and sophisticated astronomy, Earth and environmental sciences, and quantum information technology.

This partnership is already having impressive results. For example, just last week, an international team of 170 scientists produced a catalog of 294 gamma-ray-emitting pulsars discovered using NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope that was developed in coordination with DOE. Fermi's discoveries mean astronomers now know of more than 27 times the number of known gamma-ray pulsars before the telescope was launched in 2008.

Last month, DOE marked the largest delivery of plutonium-238 since the U.S. restarted domestic production over a decade ago. DOE uses this material to develop heat sources to power NASA robotic spacecraft that can't effectively use solar energy.

This is a very practical bill. It maximizes our Federal R&D capabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all House Members to vote in favor of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WILLIAMS) to speak on his bill.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a proud sponsor along with my colleague across the aisle, Mr. SORENSEN, for this bill, H.R. 2988, the DOE and NASA Interagency Research Coordination Act.

This legislation authorizes the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to carry out research and development activities focused on the advancement of shared DOE and NASA mission priorities.

Now, of course, the DOE and NASA have been cooperating for a very long time, but this allows it to be done in a more efficient, focused way, which includes research and development in critical technology areas like radiation health effects—something I know something about—quantum information science, high-energy physics, and data analytics.

The DOE has a long and productive history of interagency collaboration with NASA, as I alluded to. Over the decades, this relationship has evolved to include new areas of research, such as Earth and environmental sciences. For example, NASA and DOE have established a joint lab known as the NASA Space Radiation Laboratory.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to tell my colleagues that this joint effort is at the Brookhaven National Laboratory in my home State of New York, and I would be remiss in not bragging that the work that has gone on at Brookhaven has led to seven Nobel

Prizes. I had the honor of touring this lab and seeing the amazing instruments that they have, such as an 800-meter-long track that is accelerating X-rays to near the speed of light. They are doing absolutely amazing science. Imagine what will grow out of this co-operation.

The Brookhaven booster synchrotron, which is what I was just referring to, can simulate cosmic radiation conditions in space and allows them to study its impact on astronaut health and spacecraft instrumentation.

In addition, H.R. 2988 requires the Secretary and the Administrator to conduct these activities in a manner consistent with the strong security provisions the Science Committee passed in the Chips and Science Act of 2022.

As the Energy Subcommittee chairman, one of my top priorities is research security, and the inclusion of this language will protect our Nation's investments from hostile foreign actors such as China and Russia.

I thank my colleague, Mr. SORESENSEN, for working with me on this important legislation and continuing the bipartisan tradition of the Science Committee.

H.R. 2988 is the kind of commonsense, good governance bill that we can all agree on. It shows that Republicans and Democrats are still capable of putting political differences aside to advance meaningful bills that strengthen U.S. leadership in science and maximize the return on investment for the American taxpayer.

On a personal note, I will take a moment to thank my mother for inspiring a lifelong love of science in me. I also thank Mr. LUCAS for allowing me to be a part of science, space, and technology as it grows and shines in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my opening remarks, Mr. WILLIAMS worked on this bill, but so did Mr. SORESENSEN, a valued member of our committee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SORESENSEN), a freshman Member and the only meteorologist in the House of Representatives. I think he is the first meteorologist in nearly half a century to serve, and his curiosity and expertise is really so helpful to the Science Committee, as well as his plain common sense. I thank him for his work on this bill.

Mr. SORESENSEN. Mr. Speaker, as ranking member of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee, I was thrilled to lead the DOE and NASA Interagency Research Coordination Act alongside my colleague and chairman of the Energy Subcommittee, Congressman WILLIAMS.

I would be remiss if I didn't also share that my mother gave me the wonder of what is going on above so that I could spend the first 22 years of

my professional life as a meteorologist helping explain how things work.

Also, I hope that the people at home see that this body is working together today in a bipartisan way, just like NASA and the Department of Energy have for decades and decades. They have improved our understanding of the universe by working together.

This bill seeks to build and expand upon that legacy by advancing coordination on fundamental and applied science. The collaborative research and development efforts that this bill facilitates will have a profound impact not just for my constituents but for the entire rest of the country.

As a meteorologist, I know that we need to improve climate modeling and simulation to increase our understanding of how the planet is changing. It will help us make smart decisions to change the trajectory while creating resilient communities. This takes interagency collaboration.

Most importantly, as we see here in the Science Committee, when we collaborate, we inspire a new generation of scientists and engineers. When the first humans land on Mars, they are going to rely on the things that we develop today. That is why I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

H.R. 2988, the DOE and NASA Interagency Research Coordination Act, is smart legislation that will help us stay competitive in the race to return humans to the Moon and send them to Mars.

Without key collaborations like this, we would be unable to make critical strides in our energy production and propulsion technologies. I thank Representatives Williams and Sorensen for their leadership in moving this bill forward.

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 gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2988, 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.

HOUSING OUR MILITARY VETERANS EFFECTIVELY ACT OF 2023

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3848) to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to homelessness, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3848

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 "Housing our Military Veterans Effectively Act of 2023" or the "HOME Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. PER DIEM PAYMENTS PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR SERVICES FURNISHED TO HOMELESS VETERANS.

Section 2012 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—
(A) in paragraph (2)(B)—
(i) in clause (i)(II)(aa)(BB), by striking "115 percent" and inserting "133 percent"; and
(ii) by adding at the end the following:

"(iii) During each of fiscal years 2024 through 2026, the Secretary may waive the maximum rate for per diem payments under clause (i)(II)(aa)(BB) or (ii) and, subject to the availability of appropriations, provide such payments at a rate that does not exceed 200 percent of the rate authorized for State homes for domiciliary care under subsection (a)(1)(A) of section 1741 of this title, as the Secretary may increase from time to time under subsection (c) of that section if the Secretary notifies Congress of such waiver."

"(iv) The Secretary may not, pursuant to clause (iii), waive the maximum rate described in such clause for more than 50 percent of all grant recipients and eligible entities in a fiscal year."; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) The Secretary may not provide more than 12,000 per diem payments under this section in a fiscal year."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(f) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the HOME Act of 2023, and not less frequently than twice each year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the rate for per diem payments under this section that includes, for each Veterans Integrated Service Network of the Department, the following data:

"(1) The average rate for such a payment.

"(2) A list of locations where the rate for such a payment is within 10 percent of the maximum rate for such a payment authorized under this section.

"(3) The average length of stay by a veteran participating in a program described in section 2012(a) of this title."

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION FOR SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO USE OF CERTAIN FUNDS FOR IMPROVED FLEXIBILITY IN ASSISTANCE TO HOMELESS VETERANS.

(a) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may use amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs to carry out section 2011, 2012, 2031, or 2061 of title 38, United States Code, to provide to a covered veteran, as the Secretary determines necessary—

(1) food, shelter, clothing, blankets, and hygiene items required for the safety and survival of the veteran;

(2) transportation required to support the stability and health of the veteran for appointments with service providers, the conduct of housing searches, and the obtainment of food and supplies; and

(3) tablets, smartphones, disposable phones, and related service plans required to support the stability and health of the veteran through the