

With the sunset quickly approaching, the Committee on Homeland Security has worked in a bipartisan fashion to extend CWMD by 2 years with H.R. 3224.

This bipartisan bill will also provide a report to Congress regarding a CWMD employee engagement action plan and strategy to improve morale within the office, which is important given that there have been significant workforce and morale issues. CWMD is consistently ranked low in morale, according to a survey done by the Best Places to Work in the Federal Government.

The bill further requires the Government Accountability Office to brief Congress regarding CWMD and how it is carrying out its mission. While Congress will continue to provide oversight of CWMD and, in the future, provide a permanent authorization for the office, passage of H.R. 3224 is a positive step.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3224, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER), the ranking member of the Emergency Management and Technology Subcommittee of the Committee on Homeland Security and an original cosponsor of this measure.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, let me say a huge thank-you to Representative IVEY for yielding and particular appreciation and thanks to Congressman D'ESPOSITO, the chairman of the subcommittee.

I am pleased that we are here today to consider Representative D'ESPOSITO's bill, H.R. 3224, the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Extension Act of 2023, of which I am a proud original cosponsor.

□ 1545

The Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction, CWMD, office within the Department of Homeland Security was established to elevate and consolidate the Department's effort to protect our Nation from chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats.

CWMD supports Federal, State, and local law enforcement and first responders to defend against CBRN attacks and accomplishes this through programs such as the Securing the Cities program, STC, which holds significant importance for the residents of my home of New Orleans.

The Securing the Cities program bolsters our cities' capacity to identify and thwart potential terrorist threats, particularly during major events like Mardi Gras, Sugar Bowl, Super Bowl, and so many other events that are home to the State of Louisiana.

Another critical program deployed by CWMD is the National Biosurveillance Integration Center, NBIC. NBIC plays a pivotal role in early detection, rapid response, and coordinated efforts by identifying and tracking biological

events and distributing its products to Federal, State, and local, congressional, and private sector partners. NBIC's coordination helps ensure a more effective and unified response to mitigate the impact of biological threats.

CWMD's expertise is instrumental in formulating and implementing strategies, coordinating intelligence efforts, and providing essential resources to fortify the Nation's CBRN capabilities.

Recognizing the pivotal role of this office, I am pleased that we could unite on a bipartisan basis to bring H.R. 3224, the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Extension Act of 2023, to the floor today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. This bipartisan legislation extends CWMD's authorization for 2 years and mandates a Congressional report on the office's plans to enhance morale—an ongoing concern. The bill also requires the Government Accountability Office to brief Congress regarding the CWMD and how it is carrying out its mission.

CWMD is a critical asset, ensuring a safer and more secure nation for present and future generations. Continued support for this office is paramount, therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3224.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3224 is crucial for sustaining our Nation's capabilities to counter chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats.

The expertise provided by CWMD is essential in the fight against weapons of mass destruction.

Passage of this legislation is vital to maintaining our preparedness and ensuring the security of the Nation against the evolving challenges posed by bad actors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my House colleagues to support H.R. 3224, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I think that it is very clear that this bill, H.R. 3224, is not a partisan issue. It is one that the American people will benefit from in order to keep this great homeland safe.

Mr. Speaker, I, again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3224, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3224, 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. D'ESPOSITO. 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.

PROHIBITING RUSSIAN URANIUM IMPORTS ACT

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1042) to prohibit the importation into the United States of unirradiated low-enriched uranium that is produced in the Russian Federation, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1042

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 “Prohibiting Russian Uranium Imports Act”.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON IMPORTS OF LOW-ENRICHED URANIUM FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) PROHIBITION ON IMPORTS.—Section 3112A of the USEC Privatization Act (42 U.S.C. 2297h–10a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) PROHIBITION ON IMPORTS OF LOW-ENRICHED URANIUM.—

“(1) PROHIBITION.—Beginning on the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, and subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the following may not be imported into the United States:

“(A) Unirradiated low-enriched uranium that is produced in the Russian Federation or by a Russian entity.

“(B) Unirradiated low-enriched uranium that is determined to have been exchanged with, swapped for, or otherwise obtained in lieu of unirradiated low-enriched uranium described in subparagraph (A) in a manner designed to circumvent the restrictions under this section.

“(2) WAIVER.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Commerce, may waive the application of paragraph (1) to authorize the importation of low-enriched uranium described in that paragraph if the Secretary of Energy determines that—

“(i) no alternative viable source of low-enriched uranium is available to sustain the continued operation of a nuclear reactor or a United States nuclear energy company; or

“(ii) importation of low-enriched uranium described in paragraph (1) is in the national interest.

“(B) LIMITATION ON AMOUNTS OF IMPORTS OF LOW-ENRICHED URANIUM.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The importation into the United States of low-enriched uranium described in paragraph (1), including low-enriched uranium obtained under contracts for separative work units, whether or not such low-enriched uranium is derived from highly enriched uranium of weapons origin, may not exceed—

“(I) in calendar year 2024, 476,536 kilograms;

“(II) in calendar year 2025, 470,376 kilograms;

“(III) in calendar year 2026, 464,183 kilograms; and

“(IV) in calendar year 2027, 459,083 kilograms.

“(ii) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary of Commerce shall—

“(I) administer the import limitations described in clause (i) in accordance with the provisions of the Suspension Agreement, including the provisions described in subsection (c)(2)(B)(i);

“(II) be responsible for enforcing the import limitations described in clause (i); and

“(III) enforce the import limitations described in clause (i) in a manner that imposes a minimal burden on the commercial nuclear industry.

“(C) TERMINATION.—Any waiver issued under subparagraph (A) shall terminate not later than January 1, 2028.

“(D) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon issuing a waiver under subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the committees specified in clause (ii) a notification that a waiver has been issued, which shall include identification of the recipient of the waiver.

“(ii) COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.—The committees specified in this clause are—

“(I) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Finance of the Senate; and

“(II) the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

“(3) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection does not apply to imports—

“(A) by or under contract to the Department of Energy for national security or non-proliferation purposes; or

“(B) of non-uranium isotopes.

“(4) TERMINATION.—The provisions of this subsection shall terminate on December 31, 2040.

“(5) RUSSIAN ENTITY DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘Russian entity’ means an entity organized under the laws of or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the Government of the Russian Federation.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3112A(c) of the USEC Privatization Act (42 U.S.C. 2297h-10a(c)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (ix), by inserting “and” after the semicolon at the end;

(II) in clause (x), by striking the semicolon and inserting a period; and

(III) by striking clauses (xi) through (xxvii); and

(ii) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking “paragraph (10)” and inserting “paragraph (9)”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “United States” and all that follows through “for processing” and inserting “United States for processing”;

(C) by striking paragraph (5);

(D) by redesignating paragraphs (6) through (12) as paragraphs (5) through (11), respectively;

(E) in paragraph (5), as redesignated by subparagraph (D), by striking “In addition to the adjustment under paragraph (5)(A), the” and inserting “The”;

(F) in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (7), as so redesignated, by striking “paragraph (10)” and inserting “paragraph (9)”;

(G) in paragraph (8), as so redesignated, by striking “December 31, 2040” and inserting “the date described in subsection (d)(1)”;

(H) in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (9), as so redesignated, by striking “paragraphs (2)(C) and (8)” and inserting “paragraphs (2)(C) and (7)”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment to section 3112A(c)(2)(A)(xi) of the USEC Privatization Act (42 U.S.C. 2297h-10a(c)(2)(A)(xi)) made by paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection

shall take effect on the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Washington?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 1042, the Prohibiting Russian Uranium Imports Act, which I introduced with Mr. LATTA.

American leadership in nuclear energy and nuclear technology is critical to our economic and national security. One of the most urgent security threats America faces right now is our dangerous reliance on Russia's supply of nuclear fuels for our nuclear fleet. This threat has intensified as a result of the war in Ukraine.

American nuclear fuel infrastructure has been stunted by policies that Russia has exploited by flooding the U.S. market with this cheaper fuel. Today that accounts for more than 20 percent of our nuclear fuels for American reactors.

Last year alone, our industry paid over \$800 million to Russia's state-owned nuclear energy corporation, Rosatom and its fuel subsidiaries. That number could be even higher this year, and these resources are no doubt going towards funding Putin's war efforts in Ukraine.

Further, we have seen how Putin has weaponized Europe's reliance on Russian natural gas. There is no reason to believe that Russia wouldn't do the same with our nuclear fuel supply if Putin saw an opportunity.

Rosatom has also supported China's nuclear energy ambitions. The risks of continuing this dependence on Russia for our nuclear fuel are simply too great. It is weakening America's nuclear fuel infrastructure, which has significantly declined because of the reliance on these cheap fuels.

That is why I am leading H.R. 1042.

Our bill bans fuel imports from Russia and sends a strong signal to the market that will help ensure America's nuclear leadership and fuel infrastructure. Our legislation also provides waivers to cover any supply gaps leading up to 2028, at which point no more Russian fuel will be allowed to be imported into the U.S.

This bill both protects any short-term needs of the industry and pro-

vides the long-term certainty necessary to build out American capacity, as well as European capacity that serves our markets.

H.R. 1042 has bipartisan support from the Committee on Energy and Commerce. It also has support from the nuclear industry, the nuclear fuels industry, and policy advocates.

Additionally, the Biden administration has also said that a ban on Russian fuels is necessary to advance our domestic fuel build-out, including the fuels for advanced reactors.

Across Europe, utility providers are starting to transition away from Russian fuels, announce new capacity, and invest in plant projects. We are seeing important fuel processes returning online in the United States.

For example, the uranium conversion facility in Metropolis, Illinois, has restarted operations for the first time in years. That facility alone could meet the domestic uranium conversion needs within 2 years, but only if they have assurances that cheap Russian fuel won't undercut their business.

The reality is, no facility owner is going to be able to invest to expand production capacity without the certainty of long-term contracts for their products. Those long-term contracts from fuel customers, the utility companies, will not be written if there remains uncertainty about Russian fuel continuing to flow into the United States, and the risk that Russia will once again be able to flood the market with cheaper products.

H.R. 1042 provides those assurances to industry.

American leadership in nuclear energy and nuclear technology is critical to our economic, energy, and national security, and a strong domestic nuclear fuel system, from mining to enrichment, is vital to our leadership.

In the U.S. alone, nuclear energy provides nearly 20 percent of our electricity generation, all of which is emissions free.

Nuclear plants operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, making them one of the most reliable, zero-carbon, baseload energy resources.

H.R. 1042 will protect the short-term needs of the nuclear industry and provide the long-term certainty necessary to encourage investment and secure a durable domestic supply of fuel.

I urge my colleagues to support the Prohibiting Russian Uranium Imports Act to restore our industry and take down Russia's nuclear fuel empire.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1042, the Prohibiting Russian Uranium Imports Act.

Our imports of Russian nuclear fuel date back to the megatons for megawatts disarmament program at the end of the Cold War. That program has been over for a decade now, and we have developed a dependence on Russian uranium.

Our Nation's nuclear reactors currently depend on Russia for nearly 15 percent of their enriched uranium.

This is troubling because over the last 2 years we have seen how Russia tries to wield its energy resources as a weapon. It is simply unsustainable.

I support ending our dangerous reliance on Russia for enriched uranium, but if we are serious about energy security, we cannot simply switch one foreign dependence for another. That is why we must invest in our own uranium fuel cycle here at home.

Right now, we have limited fuel facilities to provide the nuclear fuel our existing fleet needs, much less the advanced fuels that future reactors will need. Any move we make to end our reliance on Russian uranium must be partnered with a build-out of our domestic uranium supply chain. Otherwise, any action would just increase cost to consumers and impact reliability.

That is why in committee, Democrats attempted to partner this bill with authorizations to the Department of Energy to invest in U.S. domestic enrichment and conversion capacity. Unfortunately, those efforts were initially rejected by our Republican majority, therefore, I opposed this bill at that time.

Fortunately, the committee has now advanced legislation that authorizes those investments in our domestic fuel cycle, and that language will be included in the final defense authorization bill.

With that legislation set to become law, I am now much more comfortable moving this bill. After passage of the defense authorization bill, we must ensure these important programs are funded at the levels authorized so we can finally end our dangerous reliance on Russian uranium.

The combination of banning imports of Russian uranium and investing in domestic capacity will provide private industry with both the certainty and the incentives it needs to invest in the nuclear fuel supply chain. This will help us become a world leader again, not just in fuel production for our current reactors, but in fuel production for the next generation of reactors, as well.

I urge support for this bill, Mr. Speaker. I ask that we support this bill on a bipartisan basis. It is a good bill at this point, and we want to get it to the Senate as quickly as possible.

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

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I, too, urge support for this bill. I am pleased we have been able to come together to move this legislation forward, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1600

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) that the House suspend

the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1042, 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.

LOWER COSTS, MORE TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5378) to promote price transparency in the health care sector, and for other purposes, as amended.

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

H.R. 5378

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 "Lower Costs, More Transparency Act".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—IMPROVING HEALTH CARE TRANSPARENCY

Sec. 101. Hospital price transparency.

Sec. 102. Clinical diagnostic laboratory test price transparency.

Sec. 103. Imaging price transparency.

Sec. 104. Ambulatory surgical center price transparency.

Sec. 105. Health coverage price transparency.

Sec. 106. Pharmacy benefits price transparency.

Sec. 107. Reports on health care transparency tools and data.

Sec. 108. Report on integration in Medicare.

Sec. 109. Advisory Committee.

Sec. 110. Report on impact of Medicare regulations on provider and payer consolidation.

Sec. 111. Implementation funding.

TITLE II—REDUCING HEALTH CARE COSTS FOR PATIENTS

Sec. 201. Increasing transparency in generic drug applications.

Sec. 202. Improving transparency and preventing the use of abusive spread pricing and related practices in Medicaid.

Sec. 203. Parity in Medicare payments for hospital outpatient department services furnished off-campus.

Sec. 204. Requiring a separate identification number and an attestation for each off-campus outpatient department of a provider.

TITLE III—SUPPORTING PATIENTS, HEALTH CARE WORKERS, COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, AND HOSPITALS

Sec. 301. Extension for community health centers, the national health service corps, and teaching health centers that operate GME programs.

Sec. 302. Extension of special diabetes programs.

Sec. 303. Delaying certain disproportionate share payment cuts.

Sec. 304. Medicaid improvement fund.

TITLE IV—INCREASING ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH DATA AND LOW- ERING HIDDEN FEES

Sec. 401. Increasing Plan Fiduciaries' Access to Health Data.

Sec. 402. Hidden Fees Disclosure Requirements.

Sec. 403. Prescription drug price information requirement.

Sec. 404. Implementation funding.

TITLE I—IMPROVING HEALTH CARE TRANSPARENCY

SEC. 101. HOSPITAL PRICE TRANSPARENCY.

(a) MEDICARE.—Part E of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 1899C. HOSPITAL PRICE TRANSPARENCY.

"(a) TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning January 1, 2026, each specified hospital that receives payment under this title for furnishing items and services shall comply with the price transparency requirement described in paragraph (2).

"(2) REQUIREMENT DESCRIBED.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the price transparency requirement described in this paragraph is, with respect to a specified hospital, that such hospital, in accordance with a method and format established by the Secretary under subparagraph (C), compile and make public (without subscription and free of charge) for each year—

"(i) all of the hospital's standard charges (including the information described in subparagraph (B)) for each item and service furnished by such hospital;

"(ii) information in a consumer-friendly format (as specified by the Secretary)—

"(I) on the hospital's prices (including the information described in subparagraph (B)) for as many of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services-specified shoppable services that are furnished by the hospital, and as many additional hospital-selected shoppable services (or all such additional services, if such hospital furnishes fewer than 300 shoppable services) as may be necessary for a combined total of at least 300 shoppable services; and

"(II) that includes, with respect to each Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services-specified shoppable service that is not furnished by the hospital, an indication that such service is not so furnished; and

"(iii) an attestation that all information made public pursuant to this subparagraph is complete and accurate.

"(B) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the information described in this subparagraph is, with respect to standard charges and prices, as applicable, made public by a specified hospital, the following:

"(i) A plain language description of each item or service, accompanied by, as applicable, the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System code, the diagnosis-related group, the national drug code, or other identifier used or approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

"(ii) The gross charge, as applicable, expressed as a dollar amount, for each such item or service, when provided in, as applicable, the inpatient setting and outpatient department setting.

"(iii) The discounted cash price, as applicable, expressed as a dollar amount, for each such item or service when provided in, as applicable, the inpatient setting and outpatient department setting (or, in the case no discounted cash price is available for an item or service, the median cash price charged by the hospital to self-pay individuals for such item or service when provided in such settings for the previous three years, expressed as a dollar amount, as well as, with respect to prices made public pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ii), a link to a consumer-friendly document that clearly explains the hospital's charity care policy that