

measures to be scored over a 30-year timeframe, giving us a more accurate picture of the impact the policy would have.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill, which originated in the House Budget Committee. I look forward to voting in favor of this piece of legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the Bipartisan Policy Center in support of H.R. 766.

BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER ACTION,
Washington, DC, March 18, 2024.

Hon. MICHAEL C. BURGESS, M.D.,
Washington, DC.

Hon. DIANA DEGETTE,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BURGESS AND CONGRESSWOMAN DEGETTE, BPC Action commends you for your leadership in introducing and advancing H.R. 766, The Preventive Health Savings Act (PHSA). BPC Action supports this bipartisan effort to better account for the full impact of preventive health care in Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates and encourages all members to support the bill on the House floor this week.

The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) has long focused on the importance of prevention. In 2014, BPC's Prevention Task Force—advised by former Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, and former CBO director Alice Rivlin—recommended that the CBO use “present discount accounting” to bring long-term savings from prevention “up” in time and to align better with CBO's current 10-year scoring window. This could have helped ensure that CBO accounts for benefits that might be seen 20–25 years out. While slightly distinct in method but similar on principle, the Preventive Health Savings Act would provide policymakers with information related to the benefits of disease prevention and health promotion beyond the 10-year scoring window to 20- and 30-years out.

Further, in 2019, BPC Chief Medical Advisor Dr. Anand Parekh in his book *Prevention First* (advised by former Senate Majority Leaders Bill Frist and Tom Daschle) recommended greater funding for prevention research so that there are more published studies and a better evidence-base for CBO to determine the cost-effectiveness of prevention interventions and more appropriately score future federal legislation related to prevention.

BPC Action applauds your commitment to this issue and urges Congress to pass the Preventive Health Savings Act.

Sincerely,

MICHELE STOCKWELL,
President.

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

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

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 6½ minutes remaining.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, preventive healthcare services can save lives and lower costs

for families. It is time for Congress to evaluate and prioritize such innovative policies that have the potential to improve our healthcare system.

I appreciate the hard work of Representative BURGESS and congratulate him on his retirement and Representative DEGETTE in championing this important effort 11 years in the making. I was proud to vote for this bill in committee, and I urge my colleagues to support it today.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of the time.

Mr. Speaker, I express my sincere gratitude to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON), my friend and the chairman of the Budget Committee, for his leadership. Also, I extend my appreciation to my fellow members of the Budget Committee for their unwavering support of this critical legislation.

I thank my former and current staff: James Paluskiewicz, Alexa Roberts, and Jacquelyn Incerto. Additionally, I express my appreciation for the Budget Committee staff—namely, Gary Andres, Paige Decker, Braden Murphy, and Charles Chapman—for their work in advancing this incredibly important bill.

I introduced the Preventive Health Savings Act back in 2012, driven by the belief that, too often, potentially transformative legislation is sidelined due to short-sighted budget constraints. We cannot afford to overlook the long-term benefits of preventive health measures for the well-being of our patients and the well-being of our Nation.

Preventive healthcare is not just about addressing immediate health concerns. It is about laying a foundation for a healthier future by proactively managing risks, reducing the incidence of chronic illnesses, and, ultimately, cutting down on healthcare costs.

With over 70 percent of healthcare spending attributed to chronic diseases, it is clear that investing in prevention is not just prudent but essential.

H.R. 766 is a crucial step forward. By establishing a mechanism for the Congressional Budget Office to accurately assess the long-term cost-savings potential of preventive health initiatives, this legislation enables us to make a more informed and forward-thinking policy decision.

Once again, I am grateful to everyone who played a part in moving this bill. I express my gratitude to Congresswoman DEGETTE for her invaluable partnership. I thank the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR), for her kind words today. Donna Christian-Christensen, our former colleague from the Virgin Islands, also assisted in this effort.

Words cannot express how grateful and honored I am. Let me just say, as a general rule, Mr. Speaker, I don't think it is a good idea that things be

named after people while they are still alive. However, in this case, I actually made an exception. I am happy that my name is attached to this critical piece of legislation.

Let's continue to work together toward a future where preventive health is not just an afterthought but a cornerstone of our national healthcare policy and our public strategy.

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 Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 766, 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.

FEDERAL OVERSIGHT OF CONSTRUCTION USE AND SAFETY ACT

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6260) to provide for certain reviews of the use and safety of Federal buildings, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6260

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 Oversight of Construction Use and Safety Act” or the “FOCUS Act”.

SEC. 2. ELIMINATING PROJECT ESCALATIONS.

Section 3307(c) of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: “The Administrator shall notify, in writing, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate of any increase of more than 5 percent of an estimated maximum cost or of any increase or decrease in the scope or size of a project of 5 or more percent. Such notification shall include an explanation regarding any such increase or decrease. The scope or size of a project shall not increase or decrease by more than 10 percent unless an amended prospectus is submitted and approved pursuant to this section.”

SEC. 3. PUBLIC SAFETY AT FEDERAL BUILDINGS.

(a) DATA COLLECTION.—The Administrator of General Services shall collect data from tenant Federal agencies reports of any safety incidents as a result of criminal or other activity impacting public safety in and around public buildings, as defined in section 3301 of title 40, United States Code.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report that—

(1) contains the data collected under subsection (a); and

(2) describes any actions taken or planned, if necessary, to improve building management and operations to address such incidents.

SEC. 4. REDUCING WASTE IN NEW PROJECTS.

Section 3307(b) of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7) by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (8) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) information on any space occupied by the relevant agency in the geographical area of the proposed facility, including uses, utilization rates, any proposed consolidations, and, if not proposed to be consolidated, a justification for such determination;

“(10) a statement by the Administrator of whether the public building needs of the Government for the proposed space to be leased were formerly met by a federally owned building, including any building identified for disposal or sale; and

“(11) details on actual utilization rates, including number of personnel assigned to the facility, number of personnel expected to work in person at the facility and whether all personnel identified reflect filled and authorized positions.”.

SEC. 5. REVIEW OF SPECIAL USE SPACE.

(a) REVIEW.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall review the use of special use spaces in Federal buildings, including conference centers, fitness centers, and similar spaces to determine levels of utilization, opportunities for sharing, collocating, and other efficiencies.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report containing the review under subsection (a).

SEC. 6. INTERAGENCY SPACE COORDINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 33 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§3319. Interagency space coordination

“Unless a Federal agency specifically restricts the sharing of the information described in this section for national security purposes, the Administrator of General Services shall share with tenant Federal agencies pursuing new or replacement office space information on any other Federal agencies located in the same geographical area for purposes of determining opportunities for consolidations, collocations, or other space sharing to reduce the costs of space and maximize space utilization.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 33 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“3319. Interagency space coordination.”.

SEC. 7. NOTIFICATION OF MILESTONES.

Section 3307 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—For each project approved under this section, the Administrator shall notify, in writing, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate of any project milestones that are accomplished, including—

“(1) the solicitation and award of design and construction services;

“(2) the completion of any actions required for such project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

“(3) any ceremonies for the beginning or completion of such project;

“(4) a naming ceremony for such project; and

“(5) the completion of such project.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Dakota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6260, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first, I thank the bill's sponsor, the gentlewoman from Oregon (Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER), for her leadership on H.R. 6260, the FOCUS Act.

The gentlewoman is a remarkable Member of Congress. She is hard-working, diligent, and smart as a whip. H.R. 6260 is just one of the many examples of her leadership that she has blessed the 118th with.

Specifically, the FOCUS Act increases transparency and oversight. It does that by implementing a number of measures that increase the information that the General Services Administration provides to Congress that is going to give us a better opportunity to strengthen oversight of Federal space and public building projects.

More specifically, this bill would ensure Congress is notified if the costs for authorized GSA projects change by more than 5 percent.

We have all seen, I suspect, outside of government how often cost overruns have been happening in the broader economy and what kind of costs and confusion they can impose. This bill would help us get better data on what is going on with government projects, and it would require GSA to include in its new project proposals more details on space utilization rates and ensures GSA's tenant agencies have information on other agencies nearby to support consolidation of space.

I think this has taken on renewed importance as we have seen additional studies about the low occupancy rates that we continue to see within a number of GSA-managed buildings.

This bill would also require GSA to collect data and report on criminal activity that may be impacting public safety in and around public buildings.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6260, as amended. H.R. 6260, the Federal Oversight of Construction Use and Safety Act, introduced by Representative CHAVEZ-DEREMER, makes a good faith effort at reducing the costs of the General Service Administration's capital projects.

The bill requires GSA to notify the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on the Environment and

Public Works—GSA's congressional authorizers—when GSA construction or renovation project costs increase or decrease by 5 percent. It also requires GSA to submit an amended prospectus to congressional authorizers when project costs increase or decrease by more than 10 percent.

The FOCUS Act requires GSA to collect data from tenants about safety incidents in and around public buildings and submit that data to congressional authorizers.

It requires GSA to include utilization and occupancy data and prospectuses submitted to congressional authorizers. Additionally, the bill requires GSA to share location information between Federal agencies in the same geographical area to facilitate opportunities for space sharing and consolidations.

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This bill also requires GSA to notify congressional authorizers when project milestones are accomplished, such as the solicitation and award of design services, the completion of any actions required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and when the project is completed.

Finally, the bill requires the Government Accountability Office to require the use of special spaces, such as fitness centers and conference centers, in Federal buildings.

With strong provisions like these, this bill will likely help reduce the costs of GSA capital projects.

I support H.R. 6260, as amended, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER).

Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the FOCUS Act, a bill that makes much-needed reforms to the Federal Government's real estate practices.

With our national debt at \$34 trillion and rising, it is our duty as lawmakers to root out wasteful spending and restore fiscal responsibility.

Recently, the Government Accountability Office reviewed 24 Federal agencies to analyze office space usage. The study found that of the 24 offices reviewed, 17 of the agencies used just 25 percent or less of the building's capacity.

It is clear that office space utilization has decreased dramatically in both the public and private sectors. Many companies have adjusted by downsizing or selling office space to save money.

As a small business owner myself, consolidating office space to reduce costs would be a straightforward, sensible decision to make.

Unfortunately, we often see the bureaucracy treat Americans' tax dollars like monopoly money. We throw it around. The FOCUS Act would change

that and, by promoting consolidation, ensure taxpayer money isn't being wasted on unused real estate.

Transparency leads to accountability, and that is why this bill also requires Congress to be notified of significant increases in rent payments.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense proposal to rein in unnecessary spending and improve transparency in Federal real estate practices.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6260, the Federal Oversight of Construction Use and Safety Act, introduced by my colleague, Representative CHAVEZ-DEREMER, makes a good faith effort at reducing the costs of GSA's capital projects.

I support this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

So often our attention is pulled to the massive issues, the sexy fights that sometimes divide this Chamber. The bill before us, Mr. Speaker, of course, is not that. It is commonsense legislation. It is the kind of meat and potatoes, blocking and tackling legislation that so many Americans, I think, are hungry for. It is a data-driven proposal.

We heard from Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER that 17 of 24 buildings in the study that she cited were dramatically underutilized. This is an opportunity for good managers within the GSA and good managers within Congress to use the data that her bill would provide to make better decisions. What a delightful outcome that would be.

As we have discussed, this bill would increase transparency, strengthen accountability, assist the committee in its oversight of Federal space utilization, and help us increase safety at our public buildings.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of 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 South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6260, 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.

IMPACT OF CRIME ON PUBLIC BUILDING USAGE ACT OF 2023

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6261) to direct the Comptroller General to conduct a review on the impact of crime on public building usage, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6261

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 "Impact of Crime on Public Building Usage Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. REPORT ON IMPACT OF CRIME ON PUBLIC BUILDING USAGE.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review and submit to Congress a report outlining—

(1) the effects of increased crime rates and safety concerns, including use of fentanyl and other drugs and homelessness, in urban areas on building usage for in-person work at Federal buildings;

(2) how usage of different commuting modes of transportation to Federal buildings are affected by increased crime rates;

(3) the effects of low office utilization rates on safety around Federal buildings;

(4) any agency exceptions given to the policy set forth in the memorandum of the Office of Management and Budget titled "Measuring, Monitoring, and Improving Organizational Health and Organizational Performance in the Context of Evolving Agency Work Environments" and issued on April 13, 2023, due to unsafe commuting conditions; and

(5) any costs associated with safety issues impacting Federal building.

SEC. 3. REPORT ON COSTS OF CRIME AROUND PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the inspector general of the General Services Administration shall submit to Congress a report on the impacts on and costs associated with building operations related to crime and public safety in and around Federal buildings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Dakota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 6261.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Periodically, we get 1,000-page bills or 2,000-page bills or 4,000-page bills that we debate on this floor. It can be a little hard for the people in the gallery and the people at home to make sense of what we are doing. This bill is not that.

This excellent piece of legislation from Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER fits on a single piece of paper. She and I were talking about that, Mr. Speaker, before we began debate on this bill, about how much good wisdom is packed into a single page. We will probably talk about the merits of this legislation for longer than it would take us to read the entirety of the bill, but it is just that good.

The Impact of Crime on Public Building Usage Act of 2023, which is this piece of paper, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6261, directs the Government Accountability Office, or the GAO, to examine how crime in and around public buildings affects building usage, how it affects how workers might commute to the office, and how it might impose any additional costs to maintain those public buildings.

In 2020, Mr. Speaker, we saw crime rates spike across the country. In many of the downtown areas in many of our States, areas that used to be bustling with workers became near ghost towns that changed the crime profile in many of those areas, to be sure.

We are in a little bit different era today, and now we have differing, conflicting data community by community. In some, crime rates are continuing to go up. In some, they are going down. In some, the data might differ between property crimes and violent crimes.

One thing we do know, Mr. Speaker, is that, of course, the crime that exists can continue to have an impact—a perhaps profound impact—on how we use our Federal buildings.

I will just give you one example, Mr. Speaker, from perhaps 6 months ago. In August 2023, employees who worked in a Federal building in San Francisco were told not to come to work because of safety concerns. These weren't safety concerns related to an earthquake or to a blizzard, an occurrence that we might experience at Federal buildings in South Dakota but not in San Francisco. No, those weren't the safety concerns. They weren't weather related. They were crime related.

It seems like, as good managers, we would want to better understand that issue and what we can do to have it be less common in the future.

It is particularly true as we work to bring employees back to the office. We know there is study after study that shows that people working in close physical proximity can share real benefits. Remote work has benefits, too, but as we talk to employees about coming back to the office in those times and in those places where it makes sense, it is incumbent upon us to make sure that their public safety is well cared for—not just when they are in the building, but when they are on their way to or from work as well.

I thank the bill's sponsor, the gentleman from Oregon (Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER). She has exhibited real leadership on this legislation. She has shown real advocacy to make sure that Federal employees are able to return safely to Federal office buildings and that, while they are there, they are effective and efficient.

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