

Again, NCMEC operates critical programs to help these children, including a 24-hour toll-free hotline, a cyber tip line to report suspected child exploitation, and a forensic science unit to help find long-term missing children.

NCMEC is also essential to combat child abuse and exploitation online, which is growing at an exponential rate, as we heard from my colleagues on the floor a few minutes ago.

Unfortunately, the Missing Children's Assistance Act and the authorization of NCMEC expired at the end of fiscal year 2023. Letting the authorization for NCMEC continue to lapse will put the safety of children at risk, which is particularly troubling as there has been a disturbing and exponential increase in reports of child abuse and exploitation, particularly online.

As we have heard from Chairwoman FOXX, the bill doesn't just merely reauthorize the law. It also introduces updates and improvements to allow NCMEC to perform its duty with higher efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, NCMEC has made a big impact on the State of Connecticut. I know that because my wife, Audrey Courtney, is a pediatric nurse practitioner at Connecticut Children's Hospital, working in its child protection unit. That unit provides highly skilled medical help to victims of child abuse and assists law enforcement in the apprehension, arrest, and prosecution of perpetrators. NCMEC is instrumental to her work and the work of her highly skilled and diligent colleagues.

Hopefully, Mr. Speaker, someday we will reach a time when there is no need for NCMEC. Unfortunately, we are not there today in 2024. Therefore, it is our solemn duty to America's vulnerable children to move forward and pass this bill. I urge a "yes" vote.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Vulnerable youth are at heightened risk of endangerment. Additionally, LGBTQ+ youth face disproportionate rates of experiencing homelessness, often caused by fleeing abuse or rejection by family members. No child should be in harm's way or exploited because of who they are. The majority of missing child cases reported to NCMEC involve endangered runaways.

Importantly, NCMEC works with a diverse group of stakeholders, uses trauma-informed practices, and uses a case management approach to ensure that it meets the needs of each child individually, taking into consideration their diverse needs.

I am grateful to Representatives COURTNEY and BEAN for introducing the House companion bill. This legislation makes several important improvements to NCMEC's grant program and, importantly, reauthorizes it. I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

The successes of NCMEC over the past 40 years and the need for its continued funding have been well established. Today, NCMEC, with its 450 employees, operates a unique public-private partnership that is the essential formula for effective governance, working with families, law enforcement, schools, community leaders, and nonprofits.

In 2023 alone, NCMEC received 148,695 calls, and the organization assisted law enforcement, families, and child welfare with 28,886 cases of missing children and recovered 88 percent of those cases.

With the passage of S. 2051, the Missing Children's Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2023, we can ensure continuing success for NCMEC.

Government's most basic duties include establishing justice, ensuring domestic tranquility, providing for the common defense, and promoting the general welfare. Our most sacred responsibility is to protect the well-being and upbringing of future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation to protect missing and exploited children, who deserve their shot at the American Dream, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2051, 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.

Ms. FOXX. 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 6655;

S. 2051; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

A STRONGER WORKFORCE FOR AMERICA ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6655) to amend and reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 378, nays 26, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 105]

YEAS—378

Adams	Chavez-DeRemer	Fitzgerald
Aderholt	Cherfilus	Fitzpatrick
Aguilar	McCormick	Fleischmann
Alford	Chu	Fletcher
Allen	Clark (MA)	Flood
Allred	Clarke (NY)	Foster
Amo	Cleaver	Foushee
Amodei	Cline	Fox
Armstrong	Clyburn	Frankel, Lois
Arrington	Cohen	Franklin, Scott
Auchincloss	Cole	Frost
Bacon	Collins	Fry
Baird	Comer	Gallagher
Balderson	Connolly	Gallego
Balint	Correa	Garamendi
Banks	Costa	Garbarino
Barr	Courtney	Garcia (IL)
Barragán	Craig	Garcia (TX)
Bean (FL)	Crawford	Garcia, Mike
Beatty	Crenshaw	Garcia, Robert
Bentz	Crockett	Gimenez
Bera	Crow	Goldman (NY)
Bergman	Cuellar	Gomez
Beyer	Curtis	Gonzales, Tony
Bice	D'Esposito	Gonzalez, Vicente
Billirakis	Davids (KS)	Gooden (TX)
Bishop (GA)	Davis (IL)	Gottheimer
Blunt Rochester	Davis (NC)	Granger
Boebert	De La Cruz	Graves (LA)
Bonamici	Dean (PA)	Graves (MO)
Bost	DeGette	Green, Al (TX)
Bowman	DeLauro	Griffith
Boyle (PA)	DelBene	Grothman
Brown	Deluzio	Guest
Brownley	DeSaulnier	Guthrie
Buchanan	DesJarlais	Hageman
Bucshon	Diaz-Balart	Harder (CA)
Budzinski	Dingell	Harris
Burgess	Doggett	Harshbarger
Burlison	Duncan	Hayes
Bush	Dunn (FL)	Hern
Calvert	Edwards	Higgins (LA)
Caraveo	Ellzey	Hill
Carbajal	Emmer	Himes
Cárdenas	Escobar	Hinson
Carey	Eshoo	Horsford
Carl	Espallat	Houchin
Carson	Estes	Houlahan
Carter (LA)	Evans	Hoyer
Carter (TX)	Ezell	Hoyle (OR)
Cartwright	Fallon	Hudson
Casar	Feenstra	Huffman
Casten	Ferguson	Huizenga
Castor (FL)	Finstad	Hunt
Castro (TX)	Fischbach	

Babin	LaMalfa	Payne
Bacon	Lamborn	Pence
Carter (GA)	Langworthy	Rouzer
Case	LaTurner	Salazar
Ciscomani	Lesko	Sherrill
Golden (ME)	Luetkemeyer	Spanberg
Grijalva	McHenry	Strickland
Kammlager-Dove	Mooney	Titus