

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DONALDS. Madam 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5528, the Safe and Smart Federal Purchasing Act.

Lowest Price Technically Acceptable is a source selection method outlined in the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

Simply put, this Federal Acquisition Regulation standard prioritizes price above all else.

Prioritizing price over any other technical or operational factors in Federal procurement can result in agencies cutting corners, sacrificing long-term value, and potentially jeopardizing national security.

The House Oversight Committee, in previous Congresses, placed appropriate constraints on agency use of the LPTA source selection process to mitigate such concerns.

Those constraints recognized that the LPTA standard is not always appropriate when agencies seek to purchase technically innovative services or technology.

Therefore, my bill requires the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to conduct a governmentwide evaluation of the LPTA source selection process to determine if it is being used in the way that creates any national security risks.

This is a useful step forward understanding how agencies are using LPTA in their source selection decisions, and will determine whether agencies are relying on LPTA when it is not appropriate.

This review is a commonsense step to ensuring America's national security, while also reducing supply chain risks to Federal agencies.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Virginia, Mr. GERRY CONNOLLY, and my colleague from Colorado, Ms. LAUREN BOEBERT, for their support in drafting this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this simple and necessary bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, the gentleman's legislation, H.R. 5528, the Safe and Smart Federal Purchasing Act, would require the Director of OMB to review the procurement management practices of Federal agencies to determine whether the use of acquisition procedures focused exclusively on costs known as Lowest Price Technically Acceptable,

or LPTA, poses any national security risks.

Since our committee reported this bill last September, I appreciate that Mr. DONALDS and the majority sought and incorporated feedback from the administration, and also earned bipartisan support with the cosponsorship of Mr. CONNOLLY, a longtime expert in Federal operations. With these updates, I am happy to lend my full support to this legislation.

When Federal agencies purchase goods or services, they strive to achieve the best value for the American people. In the words of the Federal Acquisition Regulation, best value means that the acquisition should provide "the greatest overall benefit in response to the requirement."

Under LPTA procedures, price is the controlling factor in awarding a contract with no consideration given to any other factors. This contrasts with the more frequently used tradeoff approach which looks at the bigger picture and considers additional factors beyond just cost, perhaps assessing elements like quality and performance, or a bidder's technical or managerial expertise.

This bill, and the tradeoff approach to Federal contracting, take into consideration that focusing on contract price alone can actually increase the overall cost to the Federal Government and the people.

For example, cutting costs in the short term can lead to expensive project delays, or might result in taxpayer dollars flowing to adversarial nations that threaten our national security.

If no consideration is given to the strength and integrity of a bidder's supply chain, cutting costs in the short term could lead to inferior products or disastrous supply shortages at key moments.

Madam Speaker, I am happy to give my support to this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DONALDS. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers on this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. DONALDS. Madam Speaker, the Safe and Smart Federal Purchasing Act is a measured and targeted legislation that can inform future congressional work on Federal procurement, a policy area we know is ripe for reform and taxpayer savings.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues in the House to support this commonsense bipartisan 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 Florida (Mr. DONALDS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5528, 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. DONALDS. Madam 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.

OVERTIME PAY FOR PROTECTIVE SERVICES ACT OF 2023

Mr. DONALDS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3427) to extend the authority to provide employees of the United States Secret Service with overtime pay beyond other statutory limitations, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3427

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 "Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF OVERTIME PAY EXCEPTION THROUGH 2028 FOR PROTECTIVE SERVICES.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 2 of the Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2016 (5 U.S.C. 5547 note) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking "2023" and inserting "2028";

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking "DEFINITION" and inserting "DEFINITIONS";

(B) by striking "In this section, the term" and inserting the following: "In this section—

"(1) the term"; and

(C) by striking "2023." and inserting the following: "2028; and

"(2) the term 'protective services' does not include routine administrative or technical work that supports the daily operations of the United States Secret Service."; and

(3) in subsection (b)(1), by striking "during each of calendar years 2016 through 2023" and inserting "for protective services during each of calendar years 2016 through 2028".

(b) RETROACTIVE EFFECTIVE DATE.—If this Act is enacted after December 31, 2023, the amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if enacted on December 31, 2023.

(c) REPORTS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(i) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(ii) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(iii) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(iv) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

(v) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(vi) the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives; and

(vii) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(B) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means the Director of the United States Secret Service.

(2) REPORT ON PLANS TO REDUCE OVERTIME USAGE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the

Director shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the steps that the United States Secret Service is taking to address the increased protective service demands placed upon United States Secret Service personnel.

(B) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

(i) An analysis of the current (as of the date on which the report is submitted) operational demands and staffing levels with respect to the United States Secret Service.

(ii) Recommended strategies for reducing overtime requirements for United States Secret Service personnel, including—

(I) the appointment of additional personnel;

(II) solutions such that sufficient resources are available throughout each year without the need for exceptions to, or waivers of, premium pay limitations;

(III) the redistribution of workload among United States Secret Service personnel; and

(IV) other improvements in operational efficiency with respect to the United States Secret Service.

(3) ANNUAL PROJECTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—

(i) REQUIREMENT.—In accordance with the schedule described in clause (ii), the Director shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that contains projections for the information described in paragraphs (1) through (7) of section 2(c) of the Secret Service Recruitment and Retention Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-160; 132 Stat. 1246), which shall be divided by calendar quarter.

(ii) SCHEDULE DESCRIBED.—The schedule described in this clause is as follows:

(I) Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, a report with respect to calendar year 2024.

(II) Not later than December 31 of each of calendar years 2024 through 2027, a report with respect to the calendar year following the calendar year in which the report is submitted.

(B) QUARTERLY UPDATES.—With respect to each annual report required under subparagraph (A), the Director shall, on the last day of each calendar quarter of the calendar year that is covered by the report, submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an updated version of that report that contains projections for the information described in that subparagraph for the remainder of that calendar year, which shall be divided by calendar quarter.

(C) DEEMING OF PERIOD.—Solely for the purposes of a report required under this paragraph, a reference in any of paragraphs (1) through (7) of section 2(c) of the Secret Service Recruitment and Retention Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-160; 132 Stat. 1246) to a numerical value for a previous calendar year shall be deemed to be a projection of that numerical value for an upcoming calendar year or for the remainder of a calendar year, as applicable.

(4) EFFECT OF AMENDMENTS.—Not later than January 30 of each of calendar years 2025 through 2029, the Director shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the effects of the amendments made by subsection (a), which shall include, with respect to the calendar year preceding the calendar year in which the report is submitted, the following:

(A) The information described in paragraphs (1) through (7) of section 2(c) of the Secret Service Recruitment and Retention Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-160; 132 Stat. 1246).

(B) A comparison between the final data reported under subparagraph (A) and the annual projections reported for that calendar year under paragraph (3)(A), including an ex-

planation for any substantial variance between that final data and those annual projections.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DONALDS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DONALDS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3427, the Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2023.

As we all know, the members of the Secret Service are tasked with protecting Presidents, other high-ranking government officials, and their families from harm.

They staff public events, providing a visible police presence, securing vital property in our Nation's Capital and nationwide.

They are trained and prepared to act at the first sign of danger.

While this career can be extremely rewarding, the job itself is challenging and stressful, with agents and officers often working long hours around the clock, including on holidays and weekends.

Through these sacrifices, Secret Service agents and officers commit their lives to public service and deserve to be fairly compensated for their work, which is why in 2016, Congress authorized allowing Secret Service officers and agents to earn overtime pay above their GS pay scale level.

Unfortunately, on December 31 of last year, the Secret Service's authority to pay special agents and uniformed division officers adequate overtime expired, compromising the ability to pay many commensurate with their duties.

With the upcoming elections and other high-profile events of global significance this year and beyond, the Secret Service will be called upon to help protect events and people serving in positions vital to national security.

That is why I am pleased that the Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act, which would renew the authority needed to provide Secret Service members with the respect, gratitude, and compensation that they deserve, is before us today.

This bill has been endorsed by the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association.

Madam Speaker, I thank my House colleagues, Homeland Security Committee Chairman GREEN, and Ranking Member BENNIE THOMPSON, for leading the bipartisan companion in the House.

I also thank House Oversight Committee Chairman JAMES COMER and Ranking Member JAMIE RASKIN for their work addressing this important U.S. Secret Service workforce issue, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise to support S. 3427, the Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act. The legislation would see to it that Secret Service agents who work overtime get paid for the time they have worked.

The bill authorizes an extension of the Secret Service's current pay cap level of level II of the Executive Schedule through 2028 so that agents are permitted to receive compensation for the hours of overtime they work. Without this legislation, the pay of Secret Service agents would be capped at GS-15 level.

The Presidential campaign years place great challenges and strain on Secret Service personnel. According to the most recent data available, in 2022, nearly 1,600 agents worked so many hours that they maxed out their annual overtime in salary.

The amount of overtime worked resulted, on average, in more than \$11,000 per agent.

This bill also includes extensive reporting requirements, including both quarterly and annual reporting on the number of individuals receiving overtime and estimates for future years.

This will help keep the agency focused on its personnel management problem, and keep Congress informed on the issue and funding needs of the agency.

This elevated pay cap for Secret Service agents has been in place since 2016. While the agency has made some progress in recruiting, this is, in essence, a management problem. The Secret Service must be able to pay its people in order to attract and retain the best talent that is available. The Secret Service needs to hire more people to reduce its heavy overtime expenses.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DONALDS. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DONALDS. Madam Speaker, I encourage my House colleagues on both sides of the aisle to unite behind the brave men and women of the Secret Service and support this commonsense bipartisan 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 Florida (Mr. DONALDS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3427.

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. DONALDS. Madam 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.

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LANCE CORPORAL DAVID LEE ESPINOZA, LANCE CORPORAL JUAN RODRIGO RODRIGUEZ & SERGEANT ROBERTO ARIZOLA JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DONALDS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2754) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2395 East Del Mar Boulevard in Laredo, Texas, as the "Lance Corporal David Lee Espinoza, Lance Corporal Juan Rodrigo Rodriguez & Sergeant Roberto Arizola Jr. Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2754

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LANCE CORPORAL DAVID LEE ESPINOZA, LANCE CORPORAL JUAN RODRIGO RODRIGUEZ & SERGEANT ROBERTO ARIZOLA JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2395 East Del Mar Boulevard in Laredo, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Lance Corporal David Lee Espinoza, Lance Corporal Juan Rodrigo Rodriguez & Sergeant Roberto Arizola Jr. Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Lance Corporal David Lee Espinoza, Lance Corporal Juan Rodrigo Rodriguez & Sergeant Roberto Arizola Jr. Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DONALDS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DONALDS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would name the post office in Laredo, Texas, after David Lee Espinoza, Lance Corporal Juan Rodrigo Rodriguez, and Sergeant Roberto Arizola, Jr.

Lance Corporal Espinoza joined the Marine Corps after graduating high

school in 2019. He was one of the 13 servicemembers killed in a suicide bombing during the United States withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021. He was just 20 years old.

Lance Corporal Rodriguez served in the Marine Forces Reserve after graduating from high school in the year 2000. In 2005, at the age of 23, he died conducting combat operations in Anbar Province, Iraq.

Sergeant Roberto Arizola, Jr., served in the U.S. Army and was deployed to Iraq in May of 2004. In June of that year, one day before he was set to return home, he was killed in an explosion in Baghdad. Sergeant Arizola also served as a Border Patrol agent in Laredo, Texas, before being deployed to Iraq.

Lance Corporal David Lee Espinoza, Lance Corporal Juan Rodrigo Rodriguez, and Sergeant Roberto Arizola, Jr., all died while serving our great Nation.

I support this legislation that names a post office in the memory of these American heroes, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2754, introduced by my distinguished colleague from Texas, Representative CUELLAR, which would designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 2395 East Del Mar Boulevard in Laredo, Texas, as the Lance Corporal David Lee Espinoza, Lance Corporal Juan Rodrigo Rodriguez & Sergeant Roberto Arizola Jr. Post Office Building.

These three brave individuals made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives for our country.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR).

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) for yielding. In addition, I thank both Mr. RASKIN and Mr. DONALDS for speaking about these three heroes from Laredo.

Madam Speaker, this bill honors the lives of Lance Corporal David Lee Espinoza, Lance Corporal Juan Rodrigo Rodriguez, and Sergeant Roberto Arizola, Jr., who gave their lives for our Nation. This bill will rename the Del Mar Post Office in Laredo, Texas, which will honor these heroes' sacrifices.

Although words and actions cannot replace these brave individuals, dedicating this post office honors their legacies.

Lance Corporal David Lee Espinoza was born on July 10, 2001, in Laredo, Texas, but lived in nearby Rio Bravo, Texas, all his life. He graduated from Lyndon B. Johnson High School in 2019. Shortly after graduating, he joined the United States Marine Corps.

On August 26, 2021, during the withdrawal from Afghanistan, Lance Corporal Espinoza was one of the 13 servicemembers killed in Kabul, Afghanistan. He was only 20 years old.

Lance Corporal Juan Rodrigo Rodriguez lived in El Cenizo, a town near Laredo, where he attended United South High School and was involved in Junior ROTC. He led his group to a Junior ROTC national championship in 1998.

After graduating from high school in 2000, he joined the United States Marine Forces Reserve. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Division, Corpus Christi, Texas. On January 13, 2005, Lance Corporal Rodriguez died in action while conducting combat operations in the Anbar Province in Iraq. He was only 23 years of age.

Sergeant Roberto Arizola was born December 11, 1973, in Laredo, Texas. He graduated from high school in 1992 and enlisted in the United States Army in 1996. He was assigned to the 297th Military Intelligence Battalion, 513th Military Intelligence Brigade, Fort Gordon, Georgia.

Sergeant Arizola had been a Border Patrol agent taking care of our borders in Laredo, Texas, before he was deployed to Iraq in May of 2004. On June 8, 2005, a day before he was scheduled to return from Iraq, Sergeant Arizola was killed in an explosion near his vehicle in Baghdad, Iraq. He was only 31 years of age.

Through this dedication, we ensure that their heroic legacy remains engraved in the hearts of our community, a lasting tribute to their selfless service and courage.

Madam Speaker, I thank not only these brave soldiers but all the veterans who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. We would not be here without them.

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

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

I would just say that Lance Corporal Espinoza, Lance Corporal Rodriguez, and Sergeant Arizola admirably served our country, and we thank them and their families for their extraordinary service.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 2754, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DONALDS. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan 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 Florida (Mr. DONALDS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2754.

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. DONALDS. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.