

Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATURNER. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7524, the GSA Technology Accountability Act.

The General Services Administration's Technology and Transformation Services, or TTS, manages several Federal technology projects and initiatives.

These projects and initiatives are mostly funded through two funds—the Citizen Services Fund and the Acquisition Services Fund.

There is little transparency, however, into how money from these funds is allocated and what TTS is doing with its resources.

This bill requires the administrator of GSA to submit an annual report to Congress regarding each program funded by the Citizen Services Fund and some programs funded by the Acquisition Services Fund.

This annual report will include information about funded programs, projects and initiatives, and reimbursements associated with each program.

This bill provides much-needed transparency into TTS programs and technology-related projects.

I thank Representative PETE SESSIONS, chairman of the House Oversight Committee Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce, and Representative GERRY CONNOLLY for their work on this legislation.

I encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense bill to increase transparency and provide additional oversight of taxpayer dollars, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the GSA Technology Accountability Act.

I thank my colleagues, Representative COMER and Chairman SESSIONS and their staffs, for their partnership and collaboration on this bill. I am pleased to support the updated form of this bill.

This bill would bring increased transparency to some of the General Services Administration's leading programs that are funded by the Federal Citizens Services Fund and the Federal Acquisition Fund.

As GSA continues to make the technological advancements that allow the

American people to securely access government services, this bill will allow Congress to fulfill its vital oversight responsibilities.

Once again, I thank my colleagues for working with us to address GSA's concerns about the original legislation and ensure that this bill allows for increased transparency without creating unnecessary administrative burdens.

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), my friend.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman and friend from Kansas for yielding.

I also thank my colleague from the District of Columbia, representing the minority or the Democratic Party on the Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce, for her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill. It is a bill that we tried to make bipartisan and to include ideas from a number of people that were on the committee.

As the chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce, we worked together not only holding hearings, but discussing the need for transparency and better technology for projects from the General Services Administration.

As it stands now, the government's internal technology consultancy is mostly opaque in its operation, resulting in the lack of competition and a few instances of serious failures from the GSA's products. Those are products that were developed in-house.

Last year, the GSA Inspector General reported that Login.gov, a GSA product that was intended to be a single-sign-on solution for the Federal Government and government agencies, was intentionally misleading Federal agencies about its technical capabilities and ability to actually authenticate the users.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, as people came in to do business with the government agency, GSA had a front to it that would assuredly tell that agency wherever they were going and with great likelihood exactly who that person was.

This subversion left government websites exposed to fraudulent users and removed a critical barrier for criminals to improperly claim government benefits. In other words, they said that it contained certainty about who that person was that came to them for those agencies then did not need to do further investigation to make sure who was seeking government benefits.

While we do not currently know the total amount of fraud that was committed because Login.gov did not provide adequate system security as it was required and stated that it was prepared to do, we do know that the American taxpayer was on the hook for hundreds of billions of dollars—up to

\$400 billion—in fraud from various COVID relief programs; each of these agencies counting on the person that they were speaking to and in contact with were the correct person.

The central tactic used in this was identity theft. It was fraud.

In order to prevent such fraud in the future, Federal systems must have identity verification capabilities that work.

Instead, the GSA marketed, and Federal agencies paid for, an identity verification system that was either not present or did not work.

It left the door wide open for criminals pretending to be someone else, to steal benefits, to steal information, and otherwise compromise government systems with a false identity.

Last year, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight Subcommittees, which I chair, held a hearing and it was a bipartisan answer that we came up with. It is a problem.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleagues, including the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. CONNOLLY, for his support of this legislation, but certainly back in the committee as we brought this bill forward, it was a bipartisan answer that no matter whose fault it was, it needed to be fixed.

We looked at it, I think, the same way. I am very proud of this committee, and I am very proud of my colleagues, the Democrats, the minority party, for working with us just like it was a part of their responsibility, which it was. I totally support that.

With Login.gov, the Technology Transformation Service failed. Now, we are going to provide the transparency that is required in this bill. I am very proud of this work that was done on a bipartisan basis.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this bipartisan bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1715

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense bill to increase transparency and provide additional oversight of taxpayer dollars.

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 Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7524, 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.

ASTRONAUT SAFE TEMPORARY RIDE OPTIONS ACT

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 272) to amend title 31, United

States Code, to authorize transportation for Government astronauts returning from space between their residence and various locations, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 272

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 "Astronaut Safe Temporary Ride Options Act" or the "ASTRO Act".

SEC. 2. TRANSPORTATION OF ASTRONAUTS RETURNING FROM SPACE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1344(a)(2) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking "or" at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting "or" after the comma at the end; and

(3) by inserting before the matter following subparagraph (B) the following:

"(C) necessary for post-flight transportation of Government astronauts, and others subject to reimbursable arrangements, returning from space for the performance of medical research, monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment, or other official duties, prior to receiving post-flight medical clearance to operate a motor vehicle,".

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall submit an annual report to Congress on the use of the authority providing transportation under subparagraph (C) of section 1344(a)(2) of title 31, United States Code (as added by subsection (a) of this Act).

(2) CONTENTS.—Any such report shall include the name of any individual who received such transportation, the number of instances such transportation was provided, and the total cost of such transportation for the year preceding the date such report is submitted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members 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 Kansas?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 272, the ASTRO Act.

First of all, let's give respect for the name ASTRO Act. As far as the names of bills go, that ranks way up there as far as the ones I have seen, so high compliments.

This will streamline a burdensome administrative process regarding government-provided transportation for

astronauts returning from space flight. When astronauts return from space travel, NASA provides them with home-to-work transportation so that the agency can monitor, evaluate, diagnose, and provide these brave men and women with medical treatment until they are medically cleared to drive.

Under existing statute, NASA's authorization of this transportation for the astronauts must include concurrent reports to Congress with details about the authorized transportation. Reporting in this manner can be challenging to NASA as it can make it difficult to maintain up-to-date authorizations as crewmembers are replaced or reassigned to different missions.

The ASTRO Act will amend current law to enable NASA to authorize the use of official transportation between residence and worksite without such unworkable reporting requirements. However, the bill maintains appropriate congressional transparency by requiring NASA to provide Congress with an annual report on its use of this new authorization.

I thank the sponsor of the bill, Congressman BABIN, for his work. I also thank the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology for its bipartisan support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The ASTRO Act would give the Administrator of NASA the authority to allow astronauts returning from space to receive home-to-work transportation from the agency. Such transportation is currently permitted only on a case-by-case basis, and it must be reported to Congress. This bill also requires NASA to report annually to Congress on the use of this authority.

These seem like reasonable changes to me, and I support this bill.

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 272, the Astronaut Safe Temporary Ride Options Act, or, for short, the ASTRO Act. As the bill's sponsor, I thank Chairman COMER for his help in getting the bill to the floor.

One of the great honors of serving as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics is having the opportunity to meet our astronauts preparing to go to space and to hear from them after they return from their missions. The ASTRO Act is a result of these conversations and NASA's advocacy for increased astronaut safety.

The brave men and women who wear the iconic blue flight suit risk their lives to advance America's leadership in space. We owe it to them to ensure that when they return from long-duration space missions, their recovery and

health studies are not hampered by bureaucracy.

The space environment poses significant medical issues, such as osteoporosis, muscle atrophy, broken bones from reentry, vision and ocular changes, and disrupted equilibrium, which prevent astronauts from being able to drive when they come back home.

However, NASA astronauts' participation in physiological research and longitudinal studies upon their return from space informs future exploration efforts and how we treat future astronauts. It is imperative that they get these things checked.

The ASTRO Act streamlines the approval process for astronauts to receive transportation to and from their homes and the Johnson Space Center for doctor visits until they are medically cleared to resume driving. There are no costs associated with this bill but, rather, a significant paperwork reduction in the approval process.

Additionally, my bill provides transparency by requiring NASA to send an annual report to Congress on how this authority is used in the future.

Astronauts' health data acquired by the Johnson Space Center upon return from space is invaluable. This bill ensures hassle-free transportation to and from these important medical evaluations so that we can appropriately study the impacts of space exploration on the human body.

As we prepare to go to the Moon and farther to Mars and beyond, it is incumbent upon us to streamline operations to enable discovery and innovation. America has long been the leader in space exploration, and we must remain there. We will continue to push the bounds of our universe outward.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman JEFF JACKSON for cosponsoring this legislation bipartisanly as well as Chairman COMER and Chairman LUCAS for their support. I urge my colleagues to please support this bill.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, while it may sound like a mundane problem, the underlying need for this bill is anything but that. We owe it to these courageous men and women who leave behind families and friends to spend months in space to cut through the red tape and take care of them upon their return.

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 Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 272.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO USE MEDICAL ASSISTIVE COMMUNICATION DEVICE DURING CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3354

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XVII, during consideration of H.R. 3354, Representative WEXTON of Virginia be permitted to use a medical assistive communication device while under recognition.

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

There was no objection.

SECRETARY OF STATE MADELEINE ALBRIGHT POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3354) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 North Hatcher Avenue in Purcellville, Virginia, as the "Secretary of State Madeleine Albright Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3354

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

SECTION 1. SECRETARY OF STATE MADELEINE ALBRIGHT POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 North Hatcher Avenue in Purcellville, Virginia, shall be known and designated as the "Secretary of State Madeleine Albright 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 "Secretary of State Madeleine Albright Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATURNER. 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 the measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would name a post office in Purcellville, Virginia, for former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Secretary Albright was born in Prague in 1937 and immigrated to the United States with her family in 1948.

In 1993, President Clinton appointed her Ambassador to the United Nations,

a position in which she served until her appointment as Secretary of State in 1996, the first woman to be appointed to that position and the highest ranking woman in the history of the U.S. Government at that time.

For 50 years, Secretary Albright resided in Loudoun County, where this post office is located.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3354 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 North Hatcher Avenue in Purcellville, Virginia, as the Secretary of State Madeleine Albright Post Office Building.

This legislation, introduced by my tremendous colleague, Representative JENNIFER WEXTON of Virginia, would designate a post office after former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Secretary Albright fled Communist rule under Czechoslovakia and immigrated to Denver, Colorado, in 1948. She committed herself to a life of public service, including working for the U.S. Senate under then-Senator Edmund Muskie, and later served the Carter administration as a White House staff member and a staffer of the National Security Council.

Secretary Albright was appointed by President Clinton as Ambassador to the United Nations in 1993 and was a critical force behind the expansion of NATO "to build, for the very first time, a peaceful, democratic, and undivided transatlantic community." She was committed to the democratization and security of European nations that escaped Soviet rule.

Secretary Albright is remembered as an important force behind the global fight against climate change, including by supporting the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, an international treaty to fight global climate change. This protocol was eventually adopted in 1997.

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

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, last year, I was diagnosed with progressive supranuclear palsy, or PSP. PSP makes it very difficult for me to speak, and I use an assistive app so that you and our colleagues can understand me.

I am proud to be here today speaking in support of my bill to rename the Purcellville, Virginia, post office in honor of my former constituent, the late Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who chose not to have her mail delivered to her rural western Loudoun County farm but instead became a fixture at the post office that will bear her name.

Secretary Albright was a fearless trailblazer for women and a devoted public servant who touched the lives of so many whom she taught, mentored, and worked with, including me. Her re-

lentless defense of democracy and advocacy for human rights, inspired by her own lived experience fleeing Nazi persecution, made her an icon here at home and around the globe.

It is my honor to lead this legislation to celebrate her historic life and legacy here in Virginia's 10th Congressional District, where her farm is located and where she spent as much time as she was able.

Secretary Albright once said the greatest honor of her life was representing the United States of America, a sentiment I am sure we all share as Members of the House of Representatives.

Throughout her life, Secretary Albright received numerous accolades and awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012. I am honored that the Virginia delegation and I can bestow this posthumous honor on Secretary Albright and her family and help ensure that her legacy continues to live on in Virginia for generations to come.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this measure.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill honoring an American leader. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3354.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. LATURNER. 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.

□ 1730

LUKE LETLOW POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7423) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Benedette Street in Rayville, Louisiana, as the "Luke Letlow Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7423

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

SECTION 1. LUKE LETLOW POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Benedette Street in Rayville, Louisiana, shall be known and designated as the "Luke Letlow Post Office Building".