

gentleman from Maryland (Mr. IVEY), a cosponsor of this measure.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise today as a proud cosponsor of the Producing Advanced Technologies for Homeland Security Act.

Other transaction authority, or OTA, is a vital tool that enables DHS to more quickly obtain cutting-edge, emerging technologies that address specific operational needs.

For example, DHS has used OTA to fund research and development of digital IDs that people can store on their phone and advanced technology to improve the detection of explosive materials at airport checkpoints.

This bipartisan bill also provides for increased transparency into the Department's use of OTA by requiring DHS to notify the public and Congress when it uses the authority to enter into agreements worth over \$1 million or for agreements involving artificial intelligence.

A lapse in DHS' authority would impede the Department's ability to rapidly develop solutions for border security, aviation security, and other critical homeland security concerns.

Mr. Speaker, 5 years ago when OTA did briefly lapse, that is exactly what happened. DHS was forced to delay or stop 48 projects.

DHS estimates that if OTA lapses again next week, 77 planned and underway projects would be halted or delayed.

A potential halt in OTA would be inefficient, wasteful, and potentially harmful to the security of our homeland.

In closing, I thank my colleague, Congressman GUEST, for sponsoring this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

I thank Representatives MICHAEL GUEST and GLENN IVEY for cosponsoring this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I, again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 9459, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9459.

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.

#### DHS CYBERSECURITY ON-THE-JOB TRAINING PROGRAM ACT

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and

pass the bill (H.R. 3208) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a DHS Cybersecurity On-the-Job Training Program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3208

*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 "DHS Cybersecurity On-the-Job Training Program Act".

#### SEC. 2. DHS CYBERSECURITY ON-THE-JOB TRAINING PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XXII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 141 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

##### "SEC. 2220F. DHS CYBERSECURITY ON-THE-JOB TRAINING PROGRAM.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the Agency a 'DHS Cybersecurity On-the-Job Training Program' (in this section referred to as the 'Program') to voluntarily train Department employees who are not currently in a cybersecurity position for work in matters relating to cybersecurity at the Department. The Program shall be led by the Director, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Management.

"(b) DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR.—In carrying out the Program under subsection (a), the Director—

"(1) shall develop a curriculum for the Program, incorporating any existing curricula as appropriate, and consistent with the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education Framework or any successor framework, which may include distance learning instruction, in-classroom instruction within a work location, on-the-job instruction under the supervision of experienced cybersecurity staff, or other means of training and education as determined appropriate by the Director;

"(2) shall develop criteria for participation in the Program;

"(3) in accordance with paragraph (1), shall provide cybersecurity training to employees of the Department and may, as appropriate, provide cybersecurity training to other Federal employees; and

"(4) shall annually for seven years submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that includes—

"(A) information relating to the number of employees who participated in the Program in the preceding year;

"(B) an identification of the positions into which employees trained through the Program were hired after such training;

"(C) a description of metrics used to measure the success of the Program;

"(D) copies of the reports submitted pursuant to (c)(1); and

"(E) any additional information relating to the duties specified in this subsection.

"(c) DUTIES OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT.—In carrying out the Program under subsection (a), the Under Secretary for Management shall—

"(1) submit to the Secretary an annual report on the status of vacancies in cybersecurity positions throughout the Department;

"(2) support efforts by the Director to identify and recruit individuals employed by the Department to participate in the Program;

"(3) implement policies, including continuing service agreements, to encourage participation in the Program by employees throughout the Department; and

"(4) conduct outreach to employees who complete the Program regarding cybersecurity job opportunities within the Department."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2220E the following new item:

"Sec. 2220F. DHS Cybersecurity On-the-Job Training Program."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3208.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3208. The DHS Cybersecurity On-the-Job Training Program Act will strengthen CISA's role in providing cybersecurity training to DHS employees not formerly in cybersecurity positions.

This legislation is reflective of the consistent efforts of its sponsor, Ms. Jackson Lee, who we all lost just months ago, to improve DHS. This, I believe, is her last bill. She was a true friend to the committee and to this Chamber, and I know we will all miss her presence.

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

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

During Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee's two decades in Congress serving on the Homeland Security Committee, one of her top priorities was strengthening our Nation's cyber defenses.

She consistently prioritized expanding our cybersecurity workforce, recognized that investing in cybersecurity education and training would make our Nation more secure.

At a time when few Members of Congress were focused on cybersecurity back in 2005, Congresswoman Jackson Lee introduced the Cybersecurity Education Enhancement Act to provide funding for expanded cybersecurity education programs across the country.

With her trademark persistence, Congresswoman Jackson Lee kept on fighting to expand the talent pool of trained cybersecurity professionals, most recently with the introduction last year of this legislation that we are considering today, the DHS Cybersecurity On-the-Job Training Program Act.

This bill will direct the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, or CISA, to provide cybersecurity

training to Department of Homeland Security existing employees with the goal of training existing personnel to fill cybersecurity job vacancies at the Department.

According to testimony before the Homeland Security Committee in June, there are nearly 2,000 cybersecurity vacancies at DHS today.

With cybersecurity threats from adversaries like Russia and China only further increasing, filling these vacancies is a national security imperative.

While DHS has taken important steps to address this challenge, private-sector competition for talent and the slow Federal hiring process have continued to hamper our efforts at DHS to eliminate this shortfall.

Training existing DHS personnel who have already been vetted and onboarded by the Department is a critical part of ensuring that DHS has the cybersecurity talent on payroll today to fulfill its critical cybersecurity mission.

This legislation builds on CISA's existing Federal Cyber Defense Skilling Academy and ensures that CISA continues its efforts to leverage cybersecurity expertise to support DHS' broader workforce.

I urge my colleagues to continue Congresswoman Jackson Lee's legacy on this most important issue and support H.R. 3208.

Across DHS' many component agencies, there is a critical need for cybersecurity expertise to help defend our homeland.

So long as key cybersecurity positions sit vacant, we are at greater risk for damaging cyberattacks that expose our sensitive information or disrupt critical infrastructure.

Passing Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee's legislation will ensure DHS employees get the training necessary to fill cybersecurity job vacancies, and also, we will be honoring her legacy of fighting for a stronger cybersecurity workforce.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3208, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I, again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3208, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3208.

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. GREEN of Tennessee. 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.

## DHS JOINT TASK FORCES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 4698) to authorize the Joint Task Forces of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 4698

*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 "DHS Joint Task Forces Reauthorization Act of 2024".

### SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 708 OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 708(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking "and" at the end;

(ii) in clause (iii)(II), by adding "and" at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(iv) a staffing plan for each Joint Task Force;" and

(B) by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

"(C) not later than December 23, 2024, and annually thereafter, submit to the committees specified in subparagraph (B) a report containing information regarding—

"(i) the progress in implementing the outcome-based and other appropriate performance metrics established pursuant to subparagraph (A)(iii);

"(ii) the staffing plan developed for each Joint Task Force pursuant to subparagraph (A)(iv); and

"(iii) any modification to the mission, strategic goals, and objectives of each Joint Task Force, and a description of, and rationale for, any such modifications;" and

(2) in paragraph (13), by striking "2024" and inserting "2026".

(b) ANNUAL BRIEFING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall brief—

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

(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(2) TOPICS.—Each briefing required under paragraph (1) shall cover the latest staffing and resource assessment at Joint Task Force-East, including—

(A)(i) a determination of whether the current staffing levels of Joint Task Force-East are sufficient to successfully advance the mission, strategic goals, and objectives of such Joint Task Force; and

(ii) if such determination reveals insufficient staffing levels, the cost, timeline, and strategy for increasing such staffing levels; and

(B)(i) a determination of whether sufficient resources are being provided for Joint Task Force-East in accordance with section 708(b)(7)(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348(b)(7)(a)); and

(ii) if such determination reveals insufficient resource levels, the cost, timeline, and strategy for providing any remaining resource requirements.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 4698.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of S. 4698, the DHS Joint Task Forces Reauthorization Act of 2024, which extends authorization for DHS' Joint Task Force authority until September 30, 2026.

This critical authority allows DHS to use multiagency task forces to defend U.S. borders against terrorism and other emerging threats in a unity of effort campaign.

□ 1700

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) for his leadership on the House companion to this legislation, H.R. 9460, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are considering the DHS Joint Task Force Reauthorization Act of 2024.

Right now, DHS operates one joint task force in the southeastern U.S. and Caribbean called Joint Task Force East. Every day, Joint Task Force East combines the efforts of the U.S. Coast Guard, Customs and Border Protection, Homeland Security Investigations, and other agencies to share intelligence and counter bad actors who may bring negative elements to our Nation.

This joint task force also works hand in hand with the Department of Defense and our international partners. We must ensure that they continue to detect and dismantle cartels across the world.

Just this calendar year alone, coalition efforts under Joint Task Force East have resulted in the interdiction of hundreds of migrants, over 55,000 kilos of illicit cocaine valued at almost \$2 billion, illegally harvested fish valued at over \$900,000, over 350 illegal firearms, and over 26,000 rounds of ammunition.

Again, that is nearly \$2 billion worth of illegal narcotics that have been kept off our American streets and over 350 guns not going into the hands of cartels or gang members around the world.

For the joint task force's work to continue, we need to reauthorize the joint task force authority. At the same time, Congress needs more information