

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 Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER), the chairman of our committee.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for yielding.

Our foreign adversaries have been using information technology and telecommunications equipment to infiltrate and exploit the systems of Federal agencies.

Congress has worked to address this threat by passing numerous bills to prohibit Federal agencies from purchasing or using technology from sources of concern.

This includes legislation to prohibit Federal agencies from using telecommunications and video surveillance equipment provided by certain Chinese companies, legislation to prohibit Federal agencies from procuring electronic products or services that include semiconductors produced by certain Chinese companies, and legislation to prohibit Federal agencies from buying or using drones manufactured or assembled by certain Chinese companies.

In addition to these outright prohibitions, Congress has already previously established the Federal Acquisition Security Council, or the FASC.

The FASC has the authority to recommend that agencies exclude certain sources from Federal procurement processes or remove certain technologies from Federal information systems. However, Congress must have a more active role in directing the FASC to consider the exclusion and removal of certain sources of concern from Federal systems.

This bill, the FASC Improvement Act, authorizes the FASC to issue binding removal and exclusion orders when directed by Congress. Such new binding removal and exclusion orders would complement the existing authorities of the FASC to issue recommendations.

However, this new authority provides Congress a streamlined and standardized process for prohibiting Federal agencies from buying or using a source of concern in the future. To carry out this responsibility, the FASC needs to have adequate support and be appropriately resourced.

H.R. 9597 provides this support by strengthening the governing structure of the FASC by moving it into the executive office of the President and elevating the FASC's agency membership requirements.

This bill expands the FASC's focus to include acquisition security more broadly, beyond its current narrower focus on supply chain risks, and requires the FASC to proactively monitor and evaluate certain sources for ongoing risks. This bill also reallocates

currently authorized appropriations to establish a FASC program within the Office of the National Cyber Director.

This FASC program is authorized to provide the FASC critical operational, legal, and policy support it needs to draft and issue removal and exclusion orders, such support it currently lacks.

Importantly, this bill incorporates best practices from the recent government-wide procurement prohibitions, including necessary due process considerations, national security exemptions, case-by-case waiver processes, and second-order prohibitions.

In other words, the FASC Improvement Act consolidates the past 6 years of congressional legislation addressing national security procurement risks by reforming established processes and expanding authorities.

We need to ensure the executive branch can promptly act to protect the Federal supply chain and agency information systems from nefarious technology influenced by a foreign adversary.

This bill will help prevent American taxpayer dollars from supporting companies owned or controlled by foreign enemies and hostile actors.

This bipartisan bill provides the FASC with the teeth and resources it needs to protect the Federal supply chain.

I thank my colleagues, Oversight Committee Ranking Member JAMIE RASKIN, as well as the leadership of the Select Committee on China, Chairman MOOLENAAR and Representative KRISHNAMOORTHY, for partnering with me on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this important national security bill.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 9597, the Federal Acquisition Security Council Improvement Act. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the bill.

I thank the gentleman from Louisiana and Chairman COMER for working closely with us on the legislation.

The bill strengthens the Federal Acquisition Security Council's capacity to guard our Nation's supply chains against foreign adversaries.

The council was established in 2018, and this bill would improve its governing structure by moving it into the executive office of the President and elevating FASC membership requirements.

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The bill would always expand the council's authorities beyond supply chain security to include acquisition security more broadly and grants the council the authority to issue removal or exclusion orders of specific companies when necessary or when directed to do so by the United States Congress.

Finally, our bill would create a streamlined process for Congress to designate sources of concern and requires the council to launch an inves-

tigation into these sources, with appropriate due process government-wide input and potential subcontractor prohibitions.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the staff on both sides of the aisle for their creative collaboration on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I am closing with an admonition to everybody to vote for this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. I support the bill, Mr. Speaker, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9597, 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 REGISTER MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2024

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9592) to amend title 44, United States Code, to modernize the Federal Register, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9592

*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 Register Modernization Act of 2024".

#### SEC. 2. FEDERAL REGISTER MODERNIZATION.

(a) REFERENCES TO PRINTING.—Chapter 15 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 1502—

(A) in the heading, by striking "printing" and inserting "publishing"; and

(B) by striking "printing and distribution" and inserting "publishing";

(2) in section 1507—

(A) by striking "the duplicate originals or certified copies of the document have" and inserting "the document has"; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking "printed" and inserting "published"; and

(3) in section 1509, by striking "printing, reprinting, wrapping, binding, and distributing" each place it appears and inserting "publishing".

(b) PUBLISH DEFINED.—Section 1501 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of the definition for "person" and inserting a semicolon; and

(2) by inserting after the definition for "person" the following:

"'publish' means to circulate for sale or distribution to the public, as determined by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register; and".

(c) FILING DOCUMENTS WITH OFFICE AMENDMENT.—Section 1503 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

**"§ 1503. Filing documents with Office; notation of time; public inspection; transmission for publishing**

"The original document required or authorized to be published by section 1505 shall

be filed with the Office of the Federal Register for publication at times established by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register by regulation. The Archivist of the United States shall cause to be noted on the original of each document the day and hour of filing. Upon filing, the document shall be immediately available for public inspection. The original shall be retained by the National Archives and Records Administration and shall be available for inspection under regulations prescribed by the Archivist, unless such original is disposed of in accordance with disposal schedules submitted by the Administrative Committee and authorized by the Archivist pursuant to regulations issued under chapter 33; however, originals of proclamations of the President and Executive orders shall be permanently retained by the Administration as part of the National Archives of the United States. The Office shall transmit to the Government Publishing Office, as provided by this chapter, each document required or authorized to be published by section 1505. Every Federal agency shall cause to be transmitted for filing the original of all such documents issued, prescribed, or promulgated by the agency.”.

(d) **FEDERAL REGISTER AMENDMENT.**—Section 1504 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

**“§ 1504. ‘Federal Register’; publishing; contents; distribution; price; physical copies**

“Documents required or authorized to be published by section 1505 shall be published immediately by the Government Publishing Office in a serial publication designated the ‘Federal Register’. The Director of the Government Publishing Office shall make available the facilities of the Government Publishing Office for the prompt publication of the Federal Register in the manner and at the times required by this chapter and the regulations prescribed under it. The contents of the daily issues shall constitute all documents, required or authorized to be published, filed with the Office of the Federal Register up to the time of the day immediately preceding the day of publication fixed by regulations under this chapter. There shall be published with each document a copy of the notation, required to be made by section 1503, of the day and hour when, upon filing with the Office, the document was made available for public inspection. Distribution shall be made at a time in the morning of the day of distribution fixed by regulations prescribed under this chapter. The prices to be charged for the Federal Register may be fixed by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register established by section 1506 without reference to the restrictions placed upon and fixed for the sale of Government publications by sections 1705 and 1708. The Government Publishing Office shall print at least two physical copies of each published Federal Register issue. Of those, not less than two copies shall be stored, each in a separate facility, to ensure the preservation of the Federal Register for the purposes of continuity of government.”.

(e) **DOCUMENTS TO BE PUBLISHED IN FEDERAL REGISTER.**—Section 1505 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “COMMENTS” and inserting “NEWS COMMENTARY”; and

(B) by striking “comments” and inserting “news commentary”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d);

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

“(c) **ALTERNATIVE PUBLICATION.**—In a continuity of operations event in which the Government Publishing Office does not fulfill

the publication requirements of this chapter, the Office of the Federal Register may establish an alternative method to publish the Federal Register until such time that the Government Publishing Office resumes publication.”; and

(4) in subsection (d), as so redesignated, in the matter following paragraph (2)—

(A) by inserting “telecommunications, the Internet,” after “the press, the radio,”; and

(B) by striking “and two duplicate originals or two certified copies” and inserting “document”.

(f) **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FEDERAL REGISTER AMENDMENT.**—Subsection (a) of section 1506 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(a) **COMPOSITION; DUTIES.**—The Administrative Committee of the Federal Register shall consist of the Archivist of the United States or Acting Archivist, who shall chair the committee, an officer of the Department of Justice designated by the Attorney General, and the Director of the Government Publishing Office or Acting Director of the Government Publishing Office. The Director of the Federal Register shall act as secretary of the committee. The committee shall prescribe, with the approval of the President or their designee, regulations for carrying out this chapter. The regulations shall provide for, among other things, the following:

“(1) The documents which shall be authorized under section 1505(b) to be published in the Federal Register.

“(2) The manner and form in which the Federal Register shall be published.

“(3) The manner and form in which agencies submit documents for publication in the Federal Register and special editions of the Federal Register.

“(4) Subject to subsection (b), the manner of distribution to Members of Congress, officers and employees of the United States, or Federal agency, for official use, and the number which shall be available for distribution to the public.

“(5) The prices to be charged for individual copies of, and subscriptions to, the Federal Register and any reprints and bound volumes of it.

“(6) The manner and form by which the Federal Register may receive information and comments from the public, if practicable and efficient.

“(7) Special editions of the Federal Register.”.

(g) **CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS AMENDMENT.**—Section 1510 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

**“§ 1510. Code of Federal Regulations**

“(a) **SPECIAL EDITION FOR CODIFICATION OF AGENCY DOCUMENTS.**—The Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, with the approval of the President or their designee, may require, from time to time as it considers necessary, the preparation and publication in a special edition of the Federal Register a complete codification of the documents of each agency of the Government having general applicability and legal effect, issued or promulgated by the agency by publication in the Federal Register or by filing with the Administrative Committee, and which are relied upon by the agency as authority for, or are invoked or used by it in the discharge of, its activities or functions, and are in effect as to facts arising on or after dates specified by the Administrative Committee.

“(b) **CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS.**—A codification prepared under subsection (a) of this section shall be published and shall be designated as the ‘Code of Federal Regulations’. The Administrative Committee shall regulate the manner and forms of publishing this codification.

“(c) **SUPPLEMENTATION, COLLATION, AND REPUBLICATION.**—The Administrative Committee shall regulate the supplementation and the collation and republication of the codification with a view to keeping the Code of Federal Regulations as current as practicable. Each unit of codification shall be supplemented and republished at least once each calendar year. The Office of the Federal Register may create updates of each unit of codification from time to time and make the same available electronically or may provide public access using an electronic edition that allows a user to select a specific date and retrieve the version of the codification in effect as of that date.

“(d) **PREPARATION AND PUBLICATION BY THE FEDERAL REGISTER.**—The Office of the Federal Register shall prepare and publish the codifications, supplements, collations, indices, and user aids authorized by this section.

“(e) **PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE.**—The codified documents of the several agencies published in the Code of Federal Regulations under this section, as amended by documents subsequently filed with the Office and published in the daily issues of the Federal Register, shall be prima facie evidence of the text of the documents and of the fact that they are in effect on and after the date of publication.

“(f) **REGULATIONS.**—The Administrative Committee, with approval of the President or their designee, shall issue regulations for carrying out this section.

“(g) **EXCEPTION.**—This section does not require codification of the text of Presidential documents published and periodically compiled in supplements to title 3 of the Code of Federal Regulations.”.

(h) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—The table of sections for chapter 15 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by striking the items related to sections 1502, 1503, and 1504 and inserting the following:

“1502. Custody and publishing of Federal documents; appointment of Director.

“1503. Filing documents with Office; notation of time; public inspection; transmission for publishing.

“1504. ‘Federal Register’; publishing; contents; distribution; price; physical copies.”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. 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 Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 9592, the Federal Register Modernization Act.

Our government must be both transparent and accountable to the American people.

Laws requiring proper recordkeeping are vital to both. In 1935 the Federal Register Act established the Federal

Register, a daily publication of the Federal Government's activities including Presidential documents, proposed and final rules, and public notices.

In other words, the Federal Register provides official notice to the public and Congress that an executive branch document exists.

The Federal Register also provides the building blocks for the Code of Federal Regulations, which makes it easier for the American public to find and understand the Federal regulations governing our Nation.

In 1994, the Government Publishing Office began publishing the Federal Register online with modern search tools and downloadable content.

Congress has recently taken steps to make the Federal Register more efficient by passing the Federal Register Printing Savings Act in 2017. However, additional reforms are still needed to alleviate the Government Publishing Office of the 1935 law's requirement to print and distribute paper copies of the Federal Register every day.

H.R. 9592 allows the Government Publishing Office to stop wasting paper and money and instead publish the Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations online.

The bill also streamlines the process for Federal agencies to transmit official documents to the National Archives, ensuring a more efficient process for making these important Federal documents public.

Lastly, the bill provides necessary safeguards so that backup physical copies are properly stored and alternate publication systems can be established in cases of a continuity of government national crisis.

Taken together, these reforms will bring the Federal Register into the 21st century and save taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this commonsense legislation. I thank my colleague Representative GERRY CONNOLLY for partnering with me to ensure these long overdue reforms get done, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 9592, the Federal Register Modernization Act. This bill represents a big step forward in streamlining how the Federal Government retains public records and communicates with the public.

The Federal Register Act of 1935 was designed to ensure government transparency by requiring publication of Federal laws, Presidential proclamations, agency rules, and public notices in the Federal Register.

Today, with the increasing use of digital devices to conduct government operations, an electronic edition of the Federal Register is published every single business day. The publication of hard copy agency document submissions to the Office of the Federal Register creates unnecessary redundancy and administrative burdens, and, as my

friend from Louisiana says, administrative burdens and environmental waste.

In 1936, the Office of the Federal Register published 2,620 pages in a year, just over 2,500 pages. By 2023 the Federal Register had expanded to more than 90,000 pages in a year. The volume of Federal documentation has grown exponentially over the last century, so the need for a more efficient and streamlined process is obvious.

This act would align with the current digital practices of Federal agencies and eliminate the need for multiple print submissions.

This bill allows for electronic only publication of the Federal Register except for two print copies maintained by the Office of the Federal Register. By maintaining and improving the digital format of the Federal Register, the office will operate more efficiently, ultimately benefiting not only Federal agencies and the environment but also the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I support this commonsense, bipartisan legislation. I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time on this bill, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the 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 Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9592, as amended.

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

#### VALUE OVER COST ACT OF 2024

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9596) to amend title 41, United States Code, and title 10, United States Code, to provide best value through the multiple award schedule program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9596

*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 "Value Over Cost Act of 2024".

#### SEC. 2. PROVIDING BEST VALUE THROUGH THE MULTIPLE AWARD SCHEDULE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 152(3)(B) of title 41, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(B) orders and contracts under those procedures result in—

“(i) the lowest overall cost alternative; or

“(ii) in the case that the Administrator of General Services determines that obtaining

best value (as described under section 15.101 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation) is necessary to promote the best interests of the Federal Government, obtaining the best value to meet the needs of the Federal Government.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3012(3)(B) of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(B) orders and contracts under those procedures result in—

“(i) the lowest overall cost alternative; or

“(ii) in the case that the Administrator of General Services determines that obtaining best value (as described under section 15.101 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation) is necessary to promote the best interests of the Federal Government, obtaining the best value to meet the needs of the United States.”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. 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 for this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 9596, the Value Over Cost Act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DONALDS).

Mr. DONALDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Value Over Cost Act. This is a simple, commonsense piece of legislation that modernizes the antiquated Federal procurement process. Specifically, this bill provides the General Services Administration with additional contracting flexibility by allowing for the consideration of best value in addition to the lowest overall cost alternative.

Instead of just looking at the initial price tag, the Federal Government should be fiscally responsible and also consider the contractual value of products and services over time, if it is in the best interest of the Federal Government.

Ultimately, my bill increases contractual flexibility and contracting competition, provides clarity for acquisition stakeholders, maximizes the Federal Government's ability to procure modern technology, and helps the small business community by reducing regulatory burdens associated with Federal procurement.

In sum, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this commonsense piece of legislation.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in favor of H.R. 9596, the Value Over Cost Act. The GSA keeps a list of goods and services that