

while, you will find organizations or people who do not.

Mr. Speaker, it is surprising to me that we have to address this with the FDA because you would think that already—this is part of the problem when you put specific diseases in for what the FDA has to look at. They have to look at HIV and syphilis and other things, but these tissues can have almost anything there. We need to make sure that they have the power and, honestly, the legislative authority to accomplish the goal that we all have, and that is to protect patients.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is a very important piece of legislation, and it is bigger than just this legislation. This is something that will, in perpetuity, protect patients so we don't end up having situations like this.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have any other speakers on the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

It has been a pleasure to work with Dr. BUCSHON. He has brought great intellect and passion to his service on health issues, especially at the Energy and Commerce Committee. I also thank Representative MOOLENAAR and Representative DINGELL for their leadership on this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that Shandra Eisenga's tragedy will be turned into progress and prevention for other families across the United States.

I urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 7188 and yield back the balance of my time.

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

I thank the gentlewoman for her kind words. The Energy and Commerce Committee is a committee that works in a broad, bipartisan way to accomplish all kinds of things. I think if you look back at this Congress or previous Congresses, the number of pieces of legislation that come to this floor that have gone through our committee in a bipartisan way, you would find that is a substantial percentage of bills that come across this floor. It has been an honor and privilege to work with all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage a "yes" vote on this really important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7188, 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.

HONOR OUR LIVING DONORS ACT

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 6020) to amend the Public Health Service Act to eliminate consideration of the income of organ recipients in providing reimbursement of expenses to donating individuals, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6020

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 "Honor Our Living Donors Act".

SEC. 2. NO CONSIDERATION OF INCOME OF ORGAN RECIPIENT.

Section 377 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 274f) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c) through (f) as subsections (d) through (g), respectively;
(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

"(c) NO CONSIDERATION OF INCOME OF ORGAN RECIPIENT.—The recipient of a grant under this section, in providing reimbursement to a donating individual through such grant, shall not give any consideration to the income of the organ recipient."; and

(3) in subsection (f), as so redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "subsection (c)(1)" and inserting "subsection (d)(1)"; and
(B) in paragraph (2), by striking "subsection (c)(2)" and inserting "subsection (d)(2)".

SEC. 3. REMOVAL OF EXPECTATION OF PAYMENTS BY ORGAN RECIPIENTS.

Section 377(e) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 274f(e)), as redesignated by section 2, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by adding "or" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "; or" and inserting a period; and

(3) by striking paragraph (3).

SEC. 4. ANNUAL REPORT.

Section 377 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 274f), as amended by sections 2 and 3, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(h) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than December 31 of each year, the Secretary shall—

"(1) prepare, submit to the Congress, and make public a report on whether grants under this section provided adequate funding during the preceding fiscal year to reimburse all donating individuals participating in the grant program under this section for all qualifying expenses; and

"(2) include in each such report—

"(A) the estimated number of all donating individuals participating in the grant program under this section who did not receive reimbursement for all qualifying expenses during the preceding fiscal year; and

"(B) the total amount of funding that is estimated to be necessary to fully reimburse all donating individuals participating in the grant program under this section for all qualifying expenses.".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BUCSHON. 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 in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 6020, the Honor Our Living Donors Act, or the HOLD Act, led by Representative JAY OBERNOLTE.

This legislation will support living organ donors who give the miraculous gift of life to patients in need and their families. Donating an organ is a selfless act. The financial burdens of donation should not stand in the way of people who are motivated to give the gift of life.

Organ donors often take time off work and undergo invasive medical procedures to help patients in need. Under current law, a living donor's ability to be reimbursed for qualified expenses is based on the income of both the donor and recipient. This has proven to be an unnecessary barrier to living organ donation and has resulted in most living organ donors financing their own donations.

The HOLD Act would ensure that more heroic living donors are able to access qualified reimbursements associated with organ donation.

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6020, the Honor Our Living Donors Act, sponsored by Representatives OBERNOLTE and DELBENE.

Living donor donation is an important option for the more than 100,000 Americans on the national transplant waiting list. However, many people who would like to donate an organ have trouble paying for their related expenses. The National Living Donor Assistance Center reduces these barriers by providing reimbursement for travel, lost wages, and dependent care expenses to people pursuing living organ donation.

Currently, there are strict income restrictions on who can be reimbursed for being a living donor, including restrictions based on the income of the recipient. This bill would no longer limit donor eligibility based on the income of the recipient, allowing more donors to qualify for necessary assistance when donating organs.

This bipartisan legislation is an important step toward making living donation easier for those who choose to pursue it. It would also benefit the thousands of individuals anxiously awaiting an organ transplant.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in this effort to strengthen and expand the National Living Donor Assistance Center program. I encourage all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 6020, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the

gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE).

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to testify in support of my bill, the Honor Our Living Donors Act.

Mr. Speaker, I think everyone can agree that there are few acts more selfless than a living donor donating an organ to somebody else in need.

There is a desperate need for those organs. We have over 100,000 Americans currently actively awaiting a donated organ to save their lives, yet we don't have enough donations to go around.

It will also come as no surprise that the act of donating an organ comes with substantial financial liability and risk for the donors. There is time off work to be considered. It is an invasive medical procedure with, in some cases, an extensive recovery. There are expenses like childcare and travel. All of these things make it very expensive to donate an organ.

That is why the National Living Donor Assistance Center was established by Congress, to help fund these badly needed donations. However, it is not enough. Over 90 percent of the active living donors who donate an organ currently do so at their own expense.

One of the reasons for that is because it is so difficult to qualify under the current guidelines. In fact, it is means tested so that it is dependent on the sum of the income of the organ donor and the organ recipient. I think we should all be able to agree that that is nonsensical. Only the income of the donor should matter.

That is why this bill is so important. This bill makes that simple change that will hopefully incentivize more people to undertake the selfless act of donating an organ.

I thank you for your consideration, Mr. Speaker, and I respectfully urge adoption of the HOLD Act.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative OBERNOLTE for his very thoughtful legislation, along with Representative DELBENE. I urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 6020, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge a "yes" vote on this 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 Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6020, 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.

4610) to amend title 36, United States Code, to designate the bald eagle as the national bird.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 4610

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF BALD EAGLE AS NATIONAL BIRD.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) bald eagles are a historical symbol of the United States representing independence, strength, and freedom;

(2) the bald eagle is unique to North America;

(3) on June 20, 1782, the bald eagle was adopted as the Coat of Arms for the United States Great Seal;

(4) the bald eagle image remains the leading insignia for all branches of the United States military;

(5) the bald eagle is the leading image on thousands of Federal Government branches, departments, and agencies, including the President, Vice-President, Congress, and Senate;

(6) the bald eagle serves as the logo, trademark, and brand icon for businesses, non-profit organizations, and sports teams across the United States;

(7) bald eagles are integral to the spiritual lives and sacred belief systems of most Indigenous peoples and Tribal communities;

(8) bald eagles are prevalent in belief, practice, stories, ceremonies, dance, traditions, songs, regalia, flags, insignias, arts, craft, and other forms of spiritual reverence;

(9) bald eagle festivals are—

(A) held in over 100 locations across the United States; and

(B) key components of community engagement;

(10) the bald eagle is prevalent on—

(A) hundreds of United States stamps; and

(B) many United States coins and currencies;

(11) the bald eagle is a primary component and symbol on Federal and State flags throughout the United States; and

(12) joint efforts of the Federal Government and State and local governments, non-profit organizations, and individuals have contributed to the successful recovery of the bald eagle.

(b) DESIGNATION.—Chapter 3 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 306. National bird

"The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is the national bird."

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections for chapter 3 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the chapter heading, by striking **"AND TREE"** and inserting **"TREE, AND BIRD"**; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"§ 306. National bird."

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section, the amendments made by this section, or the adoption of the bald eagle as the national bird of the United States may be construed or used as a reason to alter, change, modify, or otherwise affect any plan, policy, management decision, regulation, or other action of the Federal Government.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. FRY) and the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on S. 4610.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the bald eagle has long been associated with and a symbol of the United States. It was first adopted in the Great Seal of the United States in 1782.

Versions of the Great Seal are used in the Seal of the President of the United States, the House of Representatives, the Senate, and by countless Federal agencies and departments.

The bald eagle appears on the flags and insignia of our military, on our passports, and on our currency. It appears on the flags and the seals of several States as well.

The bald eagle is also important to Native American Tribes across the United States. It plays a key role in sacred belief systems and traditions, stories, ceremonies, and insignias.

Despite this long and intertwined history of the United States, the bald eagle has not been officially designated as our national bird. S. 4610 would change that. This bill would amend title 36 to enshrine the bald eagle as the national bird along with our national anthem, national motto, and other symbols of our country.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 4610, a bill that would amend chapter III of title 36 of the United States Code, which codifies various national symbols to designate the bald eagle as our national bird.

The bald eagle, native to North America, is a longstanding and cherished symbol, as well as one for whom football fans in my district share a special affection. However, it may surprise people to know that the law does not already designate the bald eagle as our national bird.

In 1782, the bald eagle was adopted as part of the Coat of Arms for the Great Seal of the United States. It has been incorporated into the Seals of the United States House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, the President and Vice President of the United States, and various government departments and agencies.

It is also deeply embedded in our culture as a symbol of patriotism, reflecting the strength, majesty, and grace of our great Nation.

However, by the 1960s, this powerful symbol of American freedom was on its way to extinction due to the combined impact of environmental hazards and habitat laws.