

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.

In the late 1970s, the bald eagle was designated as endangered in many of the lower 48 States. Today, its population has recovered significantly, thanks to targeted conservation measures spearheaded by the Federal Government and private individuals. These included habitat protection, the banning of certain poisons and pesticides, and captive breeding programs, all of which led to the bald eagle being removed from the endangered species list and to its becoming a symbol of how the Endangered Species Act can save wildlife from extinction.

The bald eagle population in the lower 48 States has increased from 417 nesting pairs in 1963 to more than 71,400 nesting pairs and 316,700 individual birds today. In bringing this bill to the floor, we applaud the efforts of Senators AMY KLOBUCHAR, CYNTHIA LUMMIS, MARKWAYNE MULLIN, and TINA SMITH, as well as BRAD FINSTAD and ANGIE CRAIG.

I urge the House to pass this legislation to designate the bald eagle as the national bird, or as we say in Philadelphia, Go Birds.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation. I urge all Members to pass it, and send it to the President's desk.

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

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I echo the sentiments of my colleague from across the aisle and I urge my colleagues to support S. 4610.

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

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 4610, the counterpart to my bipartisan legislation to recognize the bald eagle as the National Bird of the United States of America.

Throughout this process, I have had the pleasure of working with the National Eagle Center in Wabasha, Minnesota, and we are proud that they call southern Minnesota home.

As an undisputed symbol of our Nation, the bald eagle represents the strength and independence that we hold in our hearts as American citizens, and it is past time it is rightfully recognized as the national bird.

Since 1782, the bald eagle has been a symbol of America featured on the Great Seal; however it has never been officially designated as the national bird.

It remains a symbol of freedom across the country, as it is an emblem for all branches of the military and serves as a logo, trademark, and brand icon for businesses, nonprofits, and sports teams across the country.

It is also represented on our stamps, coins, and currency, holds spiritual value for our tribal communities, and so much more.

This bi-partisan, bi-cameral legislation gives the bald eagle the long-overdue recognition it deserves.

I would like to thank Senators KLOBUCHAR and LUMMIS, as well as Representative CRAIG for partnering with me on this legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote in support.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. FRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 4610.

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.

FEDERAL JUDICIARY
STABILIZATION ACT OF 2024

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3998) to provide for the permanent appointment of certain temporary district judgeships.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3998

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 Judiciary Stabilization Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. TEMPORARY JUDGESHIPS IN THE DISTRICT COURTS.

(a) EXISTING JUDGESHIPS.—The existing judgeships for the district of Hawaii, the district of Kansas, and the eastern district of Missouri authorized by section 203(c) of the Judicial Improvements Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-650; 28 U.S.C. 133 note) and the existing judgeships for the northern district of Alabama, the district of Arizona, the central district of California, the southern district of Florida, the district of New Mexico, the western district of North Carolina, and the eastern district of Texas authorized by section 312(c) of the 21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act (Public Law 107-273; 28 U.S.C. 133 note) shall, as of the effective date of this Act, be authorized under section 133 of title 28, United States Code, and the incumbents in those offices shall hold the office under section 133 of title 28, United States Code, as amended by this Act.

(b) TABLES.—In order that the table contained in section 133 of title 28, United States Code, will, with respect to each judicial district, reflect the changes in the total number of permanent district judgeships authorized as a result of subsection (a) of this section, such table is amended—

(1) by striking the items relating to Alabama and inserting the following:

“Alabama:	
Northern	8
Middle	3
Southern	3”;

(2) by striking the item relating to Arizona and inserting the following:

“Arizona	13”;
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(3) by striking the items relating to California and inserting the following:

“California:	
Northern	14
Eastern	6
Central	28
Southern	13”;

(4) by striking the items relating to Florida and inserting the following:

“Florida:	
Northern	4
Middle	15
Southern	18”;

(5) by striking the item relating to Hawaii and inserting the following:

“Hawaii	4”;
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(6) by striking the item relating to Kansas and inserting the following:

“Kansas	6”;
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(7) by striking the items relating to Missouri and inserting the following:

“Missouri:	
Eastern	7
Western	5
Eastern and Western	2”;

(8) by striking the item relating to New Mexico and inserting the following:

“New Mexico	7”;
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(9) by striking the items relating to North Carolina and inserting the following:

“North Carolina:	
Eastern	4
Middle	4
Western	5”;

(10) by striking the items relating to Texas and inserting the following:

“Texas:	
Northern	12
Southern	19
Eastern	8
Western	13”.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

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. 3998.

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, this Congress has already taken the most important step to stabilizing our overworked Federal courts.

Last week, the House joined the Senate in decisively passing the JUDGES Act of 2024. Dozens of Democrats joined Republicans to finally add much-needed judgeships for the first time in 20 years. We urge the President to set aside partisan politics and sign the bill into law.

The bill before us today, S. 3998, is another piece of critical legislation aimed at relieving the backlog of our Federal courts. The Federal Judiciary Stabilization Act of 2024 further aids the Federal judiciary by converting 10 temporary judgeships into permanent ones.

Importantly, this bill does not create any new vacancies. Instead, this bill ensures that districts don't lose a judgeship if a judge retires or takes senior status after a temporary judgeship expires in the future.

This bill makes permanent judgeships in Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Hawaii, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Texas. Passing this bill will provide stability