

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURLISON. 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 Missouri?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Financial Management Risk Reduction Act of 2024, which will improve the quality and completeness of financial audit data of large Federal grant recipients.

If an entity receives Federal financial assistance from the Federal Government, we should be able to closely review their financial statements and expenditures of Federal funds to ensure that every transaction is legitimate.

I thank my House Oversight Committee colleague, Representative MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE, for leading the House companion of this bill.

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

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

I rise in support of S. 4716, the Financial Management Risk Reduction Act, led by my esteemed colleague, Chairman GARY PETERS of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with Senator RON JOHNSON as his co-lead. I also thank Representative GREENE for leading the House companion.

Mr. Speaker, it appears financial management risk reduction is, indeed, an issue that speaks to everybody on both sides of the aisle. The bill would improve the quality and usability of independent audit data and enhance oversight of Federal funds.

The Single Audit Act of 1984 requires Federal grant recipients that receive more than \$750,000 to report an independent audit of their internal financial controls annually to the government. It sought to increase accountability while reducing burden on grant recipients by mandating a single, consolidated audit rather than audits on a discrete grant-by-grant basis. In 2022, over 40,000 State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments and not-for-profits submitted single audits.

The Financial Management Risk Reduction Act addresses recommendations made by the GAO, which were aimed at increasing the usability of single audit information to reduce Federal financial management risk. The bill codifies certain portions of OMB's Uniform Grants Guidance requiring

agencies to conduct quality control reviews on its audits and directs OMB to coordinate a governmentwide audit quality review every 6 years.

Finally, the bill would direct OMB to create a governmentwide strategy on financial risk regarding single audits and instructs GSA to create analytic tools to use single audit data more effectively.

This is a good bill that will improve the quality and accessibility of audit data, increasing the transparency and accountability of Federal spending.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, which will improve the quality and completeness of financial audit data of large Federal grant recipients, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BURLISON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 4716.

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 IMPROVEMENT IN TECHNOLOGY PROCUREMENT ACT

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9595) to improve Federal technology procurement, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9595

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 Improvement in Technology Procurement Act" or the "FIT Procurement Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ACQUISITION WORKFORCE.**—The term "acquisition workforce" means employees of an executive agency who are responsible for procurement, contracting, program or project management that involves the performance of acquisition-related functions, or others as designated by the Chief Acquisition Officer, senior procurement executive, or head of the contracting activity.

(2) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy.

(3) **CHIEF ACQUISITION OFFICER.**—The term "Chief Acquisition Officer" means a Chief Acquisition Officer appointed pursuant to section 1702 of title 41, United States Code.

(4) **CROSS-FUNCTIONAL.**—The term "cross-functional" means a structure in which individuals with different functional expertise or from different areas of an organization work together as a team.

(5) **EXECUTIVE AGENCY.**—The term "executive agency" has the meaning given the term in section 133 of title 41, United States Code.

(6) **EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING.**—The term "experiential learning" means on-the-job expe-

riences or simulations that serve to enhance workforce professional skills.

(7) **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY.**—The term "information and communications technology"—

(A) has the meaning given the term in section 4713(k) of title 41, United States Code; and

(B) includes information and communications technologies covered by any definition contained in the Federal Acquisition Regulation, including a definition added after the date of the enactment of this Act by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council pursuant to notice and comment.

(8) **RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term "relevant committees of Congress" means the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives.

(9) **SENIOR PROCUREMENT EXECUTIVE.**—The term "senior procurement executive" means a senior procurement executive designated pursuant to section 1702(c) of title 41, United States Code.

(10) **SMALL BUSINESS.**—The term "small business" has the meaning given the term "small business concern" in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

SEC. 3. ACQUISITION WORKFORCE.

(a) **EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Acquisition Institute shall establish a pilot program to consider the incorporation of experiential learning into the Federal Credentials Program, the Federal Acquisition Certification-Contracting Officer's Representative Program, and the Federal Acquisition Certification for Program and Project Managers Program, or any successor program.

(b) **TRAINING ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Federal Acquisition Institute, in coordination with the Administrator, the Administrator of General Services, and the Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government, and in consultation with the heads of other executive agencies as determined to be appropriate by the Director of the Federal Acquisition Institute, shall develop and implement or otherwise provide a cross-functional information and communications technology acquisition training program for acquisition workforce members involved in acquiring information and communications technology. The training shall do the following:

(A) Include learning objectives related to market research, communicating with industry and industry perspectives on the procurement process, including how investment decisions are impacted by Government communication and engagement, developing requirements, acquisition planning, best practices for developing and executing outcome-based contracts, and source selection strategy, evaluating proposals, and awarding and administering contracts for information and communications technology.

(B) Include learning objectives that provide a basic understanding of key technologies executive agencies need, such as cloud computing, artificial intelligence and artificial intelligence-enabled applications, and cybersecurity solutions.

(C) Include learning objectives that encourage the use of commercial or commercially available off-the-shelf technologies to the greatest extent practicable.

(D) Include case studies of lessons learned from Federal information and communications technology procurements and contracts, and related matters as determined to

be relevant by the Director of the Federal Acquisition Institute.

(E) Include experiential learning opportunities, and opportunities to practice acquisition teaming involving collaboration of team members with varied relevant domain expertise to complete acquisition-related tasks, including tasks with accelerated timelines.

(F) Include continuous learning recommendations and resources to keep the skills of acquisition workforce members current, including tools that help adopt or adapt the use of innovative acquisition practices or other flexible business practices commonly used in commercial buys.

(G) Be made available to acquisition workforce members designated by a Chief Acquisition Officer, senior procurement executive, or head of the contracting activity to participate in the training program.

(H) Inform executive agencies about streamlined and alternative procurement methods for procurement of information and communications technology, including—

(i) simplified procedures for certain commercial products and commercial services in accordance with subpart 13.5 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation, prize competitions under the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-358), competitive programs that encourage businesses to engage in Federal research or research and development with the potential for commercialization, and joint venture partnerships;

(ii) innovative procurement techniques designed to streamline the procurement process and lower barriers to entry, such as use of oral presentations and product demonstrations instead of lengthy written proposals, appropriately leveraging performance and outcomes-based contracting, and other techniques discussed on the Periodic Table of Acquisition Innovations or other similar successor knowledge management portals; and

(iii) information on appropriate use, examples and templates, and any other information determined relevant by the Administrator to assist contracting officers and other members of the acquisition workforce in using the procedures described in clauses (i) and (ii).

(I) Incorporate learning objectives to identify and mitigate waste, fraud, and abuse and ensure the protection of established privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties in the procurement process.

(2) **REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Federal Acquisition Institute shall provide to the relevant committees of Congress, the Chief Acquisition Officers Council, and the Chief Information Officers Council—

(A) a report on the progress of the Director in developing and implementing or otherwise providing the information and communications technology acquisition training described in paragraph (1); and

(B) a list of any acquisition training that the Director determines to be outdated or no longer necessary.

(3) **DURATION.**—The training program shall be updated as appropriate, but at least every 2 years after implementation, and offered for a minimum of 6 years following the date of implementation of the training program.

(C) **ACQUISITION WORKFORCE TRAINING FUND.**—Section 1703(i)(3) of title 41, United States Code, is amended by striking “Five percent” and inserting “Seven and a half percent”.

(d) **HARMONIZATION OF ACQUISITION WORKFORCE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 2 of the Artificial Intelligence Training for the Acquisition Workforce Act (Public Law 117-207; 41 U.S.C. 1703 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(4), by striking “DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.” and inserting “ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of General Services.”.

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Director, in coordination with the Administrator of General Services and any other person determined relevant by the Director” and inserting “Administrator, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget”;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “Director” and inserting “Administrator”;

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking “Director” and inserting “Administrator”;

(D) in paragraph (6), by striking “Director” and inserting “Administrator”.

SEC. 4. INNOVATIVE PROCUREMENT METHODS.

(a) **INCREASE IN SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION THRESHOLD.**—Section 134 of title 41, United States Code, is amended by striking “\$250,000” and inserting “\$500,000”.

(b) **INCREASE IN MICRO PURCHASE THRESHOLD.**—Section 1902(a)(1) of title 41, United States Code, is amended by striking “\$10,000” and inserting “\$25,000”.

(c) **ADVANCES FOR COMMERCIAL TECHNOLOGY SUBSCRIPTIONS AND TENANCY.**—Section 3324(d) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by inserting “or commercially available content” after “publication”; and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) charges for information and communications technology subscriptions, reservations, or tenancy, which means the sharing of computing resources in a private or public environment, including cloud environments, for which the ordering agency defines appropriate access and security standards.”.

SEC. 5. INCREASING COMPETITION IN FEDERAL CONTRACTING.

(a) **USE OF PAST PERFORMANCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall issue guidance, including examples and templates where appropriate, on—

(A) when a wider range of projects, such as commercial or non-government, as well as Government projects, should be accepted as relevant past performance, in order to have increased competition among eligible firms with capability to perform a requirement, such as a requirement without much precedent;

(B) a means by which an agency may validate non-government past performance references, such as by requiring an official of an entity providing past performance references to attest to their authenticity and by providing verifiable contact information for the references; and

(C) use of alternative evaluation methods other than past performance that may be appropriate for a requirement without much precedent, such as demonstrations and testing of technologies as part of the proposal process.

(2) **SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.**—The guidance issued under paragraph (1) shall supplement existing Federal and agency policy and procedures for consideration of past performance and other evaluation factors and methods.

(b) **ENHANCING COMPETITION IN FEDERAL PROCUREMENT.**—

(1) **COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment

of this Act, the Administrator shall convene the Chief Acquisition Officers Council (in this section referred to as the “Council”), to make recommendations to identify and eliminate specific, unnecessary procedural barriers that disproportionately affect the ability of small businesses to compete for Federal contracts, with a focus on streamlining documentation and qualification requirements unrelated to the protection of privacy and civil liberties.

(2) **CONSULTATION.**—The Council shall obtain input from the public, including from the APEX Accelerators program (formerly known as Procurement Technical Assistance Center network) and other contractor representatives, to identify Federal procurement policies and regulations that are obsolete, overly burdensome or restrictive, not adequately harmonized, or otherwise serve to create barriers to small business participation in Federal contracting or unnecessarily increase bid and proposal costs.

(3) **EXAMINATION OF ACTIONS.**—The Council shall consider the input obtained under paragraph (2) and any other information determined to be relevant by the Council to identify legislative, regulatory, and other actions to increase competition and remove barriers to small business participation in the procurement process.

(4) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council, the Chief Acquisition Officers Council, and other executive agencies as appropriate, shall implement the regulatory and other non-legislative actions identified under paragraph (3), as determined necessary by the Administrator, to remove barriers to entry for small businesses seeking to participate in Federal Government procurement.

(5) **BRIEFING.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall brief the relevant committees of Congress on the legislative actions identified under paragraph (3), and the actions implemented under paragraph (4).

(c) **CONSIDERATION OF COST-EFFICIENCY AND QUALITY.**—The Administrator shall advocate for and prioritize contracting policies that ensure that cost-efficiency and quality of goods and services are key determining factors in awarding Federal contracts.

SEC. 6. COMPTROLLER GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION IN FEDERAL PROCUREMENT.

Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress and make publicly available a report that—

(1) assesses the current level of small business participation in Federal procurement, identifying barriers, opportunities, and the impact of existing policies on the ability of small businesses to compete in Federal procurement;

(2) catalogs and evaluates the effectiveness of programs intended to support small business participation in Federal procurement; and

(3) analyzes trends in small business involvement in Federal technology projects, including data on contract awards, the diversity of sectors represented, and the geographic distribution of small business contractors.

SEC. 7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST PROCEDURES.

The Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council and the Administrator shall update the Federal Acquisition Regulation as necessary to provide additional guidance to executive agencies to address personal and organizational conflicts of interest involving members of the acquisition workforce.

SEC. 8. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDING.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURLISON. 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 Missouri?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 9595, the FIT Procurement Act. This bill streamlines the procurement process for small businesses and small transactions and would enable the government to take full advantage of commercial best practices.

This legislation achieves this in three ways: first, by increasing the micro purchase threshold, or the MPT, from \$10,000 to \$25,000; second, by increasing the simplified acquisition threshold, or the SAT, from \$250,000 to \$500,000; and, third, by authorizing advance payments for certain types of software and cloud computing.

On the first, I would note that purchases under the MPT, which currently account for a tiny fraction of overall government contract spending, do not require the involvement of a Federal contracting officer. For this reason, raising the MPT from \$10,000 to \$25,000 is estimated by George Mason's Baroni Center for Government Contracting to save more than \$40 million annually in Federal administrative costs. This allows contracting officers to focus more time on larger acquisitions, where the potential for waste, fraud, and abuse is far greater.

Further, purchases above the MPT and below the SAT are subject to simplified procedures in order to reduce administrative costs and promote opportunities for small businesses.

By increasing the SAT from \$250,000 to \$500,000, this bill provides opportunities for small businesses and reduces administrative burdens for smaller government contracts.

Finally, by allowing for advance payments for software services, this bill saves taxpayer dollars by allowing Federal agencies to access the discounts that are currently available through upfront payments to the private sector.

I thank Chairman COMER and his staff for working with me on this effort in the Oversight Committee, and I thank Senators PETERS and CRUZ for leading the Senate companion to this legislation.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 9595, the FIT Procurement Act. This bill is modeled after a bipartisan Senate bill led by Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman GARY PETERS, along with Senator CRUZ.

The act streamlines and simplifies Federal procurement to help agencies acquire commercial technology in a timelier way and to make it easier for businesses to compete for contracts.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to support this bill today. I associate myself with the remarks of the distinguished gentleman from Missouri. I urge passage of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, which will streamline the procurement process for small businesses and small transactions, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BURLISON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9595.

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.

1ST LIEUTENANT ANDRES ZERMENO POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6244) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1535 East Los Ebanos Boulevard in Brownsville, Texas, as the "1st Lieutenant Andres Zermeno Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6244

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

SECTION 1. 1ST LIEUTENANT ANDRES ZERMENO POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1535 East Los Ebanos Boulevard in Brownsville, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "1st Lieutenant Andres Zermeno 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 "1st Lieutenant Andres Zermeno Post Office Building".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURLISON. 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 Missouri?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would rename a post office in Texas after 1st Lieutenant Andres Zermeno. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 6244, introduced by Congressman VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, which would honor the impressive legacy and the sacrifice of 1st Lieutenant Zermeno by naming a post office after him in Brownsville.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ).

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 6244, to rename the post office located at 1535 East Los Ebanos Boulevard in Brownsville, Texas, after 1st Lieutenant Andres Zermeno.

Mr. Speaker, 1st Lieutenant Zermeno was born November 30, 1984, in Brownsville, Texas. He went on to graduate from St. Mary's University in San Antonio. While a student at St. Mary's, he participated in the university's ROTC program and enlisted in the Texas National Guard.

After graduating from St. Mary's, he was commissioned into the United States Army as a first lieutenant. On September 25, 2011, while serving in a combat operation known as Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, while on patrol, 1st Lieutenant Zermeno was sadly killed in action by a rocket-propelled grenade.

Lieutenant Zermeno is a hero who laid down his life to protect our freedoms, leaving his loving wife and two children behind.

By passing H.R. 6244, we as a nation will honor 1st Lieutenant Zermeno and the sacrifice he made on behalf of our great Nation. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in honoring the life and legacy of an American hero.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his compelling remarks, and I support passage of H.R. 6244. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill to designate a post office for 1st Lieutenant Zermeno, an American war hero who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BURLISON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6244.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the