

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk of the House.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL
EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO
SOUTH SUDAN—MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-34)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13664 of April 3, 2014, with respect to South Sudan is to continue in effect beyond April 3, 2025.

The situation in and in relation to South Sudan, which has been marked by activities that threaten the peace, security, or stability of South Sudan and the surrounding region, including widespread violence and atrocities, human rights abuses, recruitment and use of child soldiers, attacks on peacekeepers, and obstruction of humanitarian operations, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States.

Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13664 with respect to South Sudan.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 28, 2025.

□ 1415

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 31, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 31, 2025, at 12:58 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S.J. Res. 18.

That the Senate agreed to Relative to the death of the Honorable Alan Kooi Simpson, a

Senator from the State of Wyoming S. Res. 148.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.

HONORING DEPUTY SHERIFF
HECTOR CUEVAS, JR.

(Mr. OBERNOLTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor Deputy Sheriff Hector Cuevas, Jr., of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. Deputy Cuevas tragically lost his life in the line of duty on March 17 at just 36 years old.

Hector was a selfless and caring public servant, deeply committed to his community both in and out of uniform. In addition to his 6 years of dedicated service with the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department, he previously served in the Upland community as a law enforcement officer.

He was active in youth sports, mentoring young athletes through the Rialto football community and the San Bernardino Spartans Football Association.

Hector embodied humility, generosity, and service, leaving a lasting impact on everyone who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, two children, parents, and siblings. We mourn his loss, and we honor his memory. I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our deepest condolences to his family and in celebrating his legacy.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1620

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STUTZMAN) at 4 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

REPEAL REQUIREMENT FOR CON-
GRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERV-
ICE TO PREPARE ANNOTATED
CONSTITUTION AND SUPPLE-
MENTS IN HARDBOUND VERSION

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1234) to direct the Librarian of Congress to promote the more cost-effective, efficient, and expanded availability of the Annotated Constitution and pocket-part supplements by replacing the hardbound versions with digital versions.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1234

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

SECTION 1. REPEAL REQUIREMENT FOR CON-
GRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE
TO PREPARE ANNOTATED CON-
STITUTION AND SUPPLEMENTS IN
HARDBOUND VERSION.

(a) REPEAL.—The first section of Public Law 91-589 (2 U.S.C. 168) is amended—

(1) by striking “the Librarian of Congress” and inserting “(a) subject to subsection (b), the Librarian of Congress”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(b)(1) Upon the completion of the October 2031 term of the Supreme Court and upon the completion of each tenth October term of the Supreme Court thereafter, the Librarian of Congress shall have prepared a digital decennial revised edition of the Constitution Annotated, which shall contain annotations of all decisions theretofore rendered by the Supreme Court construing provisions of the Constitution, in place of the hardbound decennial revised edition of the Constitution Annotated described in subsection (a)(3).

“(2) Upon the completion of the October 2025 term of the Supreme Court and upon the completion of each subsequent October term of the Supreme Court beginning in an odd-numbered year (the final digit of which is not a 1), the Librarian shall have prepared a digital cumulative pocket-part supplement to the most recent decennial revised edition of the Constitution Annotated, which shall contain cumulative annotations of all such decisions rendered by the Supreme Court which were not included in the most recent revised edition of the Constitution Annotated, in place of the hardbound editions of the cumulative pocket-part supplement described in subsection (a)(4).”

(b) ENSURING AVAILABILITY OF DIGITAL VERSIONS.—Section 2 of Public Law 91-589 (2 U.S.C. 168a) is amended—

(1) by striking “All hardbound” and inserting “(a) All hardbound”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(b)(1) The digital decennial revised editions of the Constitution Annotated prepared under subsection (b)(1) of the first section of this Joint Resolution and the digital cumulative pocket-part supplements prepared under subsection (b)(2) of the first section of this Joint Resolution shall be available at a public website of the Library of Congress.

“(2) The Librarian of Congress shall ensure the continuing availability of the documents referred to in paragraph (1) to Congress and the public.”

(c) REPEAL OF ADDITIONAL PRINTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) MANDATORY PRINTING OF ADDITIONAL COPIES.—Section 3 of Public Law 91-589 (2 U.S.C. 168b) is amended—

(A) by striking “There shall be printed” and inserting “(a) There shall be printed”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(b) Subsection (a) does not apply after completion of the October 2025 term of the Supreme Court, and the Librarian of Congress shall provide the decennial revised editions of the Constitution Annotated and the cumulative pocket part supplements prepared under this Joint Resolution exclusively in a digital format available at a public website of the Library of Congress.”.

(2) PRINTING OF ADDITIONAL COPIES PURSUANT TO CONCURRENT RESOLUTION.—Section 4 of Public Law 91-589 (2 U.S.C. 168c) is repealed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is the Constitution Annotated, or CONAN, as it is better known today, weighing 8 pounds, 14 ounces.

Its origins date back to 1797 when Congress passed legislation requiring every Member of Congress to be provided with a copy of the Constitution. These copies were eventually expanded to include Supreme Court case citations so that Members could see which clauses of the Constitution the Court used in deciding cases.

However, as the number of citations grew by hundreds, the copies became less useful to Members because most had no idea what the cases were about and what questions were before the Court.

So, in 1921, Congress began requiring reprints of the Constitution to include explanatory language that would make sense of the case citations throughout. This format is still used today.

Initially, CONAN was printed every 10 years or so, but by 1970, Members began to complain that it was outdated almost as soon as it was printed. They addressed this by requiring that paperbound supplements to CONAN be printed every 2 years. Since 1972, that is what we have done: print a hardbound version of CONAN every 10 years and a paperbound supplement every 2 years.

CONAN obviously has a rich history, dating back over two centuries. Nothing about H.R. 1234 erases or changes this history.

The Constitution provides the framework for our government, and understanding that framework and how the Supreme Court has applied it to its decisions over the years is as essential today as it was 200 years ago.

What has changed, however, is the way people get their information. Today, most of us rely on digital sources for the most up-to-date information, whether it is news, airfares, the weather, or Supreme Court case citations.

According to the GPO, the number of print copies of CONAN requested in 2012 by the House, Senate, and the Joint Committee on Printing was just over 1,000. Ten years later, in 2022, the number of requested copies dropped to just 659.

It is no coincidence that this drop in requests coincides with the 2019 launch of a digital version of CONAN. Over the past 5 years, the CONAN website has become an invaluable resource to individual citizens, schools, libraries, and, of course, Congress.

It has received more than 28 million visits since it was created and features hundreds of pages of constitutional analysis and content. The site is publicly accessible, easy to search, provides links to Supreme Court decisions, and, perhaps most importantly, is updated in real time by the CRS.

All of this raises the question of why are we wasting taxpayer dollars printing this giant, hardcover version of CONAN, along with the paperbound supplements, when a superior, digital version already exists?

According to the CBO, replacing this version of CONAN with a digital version would reduce the Library of Congress' operating costs by \$4 million over the next 4 years.

Eliminating the print requirement will also eliminate inefficient use of CRS staff time. Requiring CRS staff to spend countless hours formatting and paginating the print version of CONAN does not support the work of Congress, nor does it benefit our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, replacing the CONAN print requirement with a digital requirement is a no-brainer. The digital version provides Members and other users with the most up-to-date information and constitutional analysis available at a significant cost savings to taxpayers.

History shows that Congress has consistently taken steps to ensure that CONAN meets the evolving needs of Members and other users. Passing H.R. 1234 is a logical next step in maintaining CONAN's relevancy and usefulness, both to Congress and to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1234. I urge quick action in the Senate, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1234. This bill, as has been indicated, modernizes Congress and improves efficiency by eliminating the requirement that the Congressional Research Service print hardbound versions of its Annotated Constitution.

This measure, which I am proud to co-lead, passed by voice vote last Con-

gress, and I am hopeful it will again today. I will take a moment to thank my dear friend, the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE), who chairs the Committee of House Administration's Subcommittee on Modernization and Innovation. I thank her for all of her hard work. It is always a delight to work with her.

I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I didn't bring a physical copy of the Annotated Constitution. I am not sure I could lift it, and I think Mrs. BICE is stronger than I am.

This mandate to print the Annotated Constitution does come with significant and unnecessary personnel cost for the Congressional Research Service. As Mrs. BICE indicated, eliminating it would save us an estimated \$4 million over the next 4 years.

At the Committee on House Administration where I have the privilege of serving as the ranking member, we spent a significant amount of time talking about the Supreme Court's decision in *Loper Bright v. Raimondo*.

That case ended four decades of precedent known as the *Chevron* deference, which required courts to defer to reasonable agency interpretations of ambiguous statutes.

While we may not all agree on the merits of this decision, there is bipartisan consensus that unless we want the courts deciding every single open policy question, then we, Congress, have to draft laws that are far more technical in specificity than we do now. That cannot be done without major assistance from subject matter experts such as those at the Congressional Research Service.

To that end, it is my hope that the millions we save from passing this bill will be promptly reinvested in CRS to enhance its capacity, an absolutely essential step as Congress continues to work to maintain our Article I authorities and prerogatives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this practical, forward-thinking legislation. Again, I thank my colleague, Mrs. BICE, for her leadership, her partnership, and her friendship.

□ 1630

Mr. Speaker, I consider this a model of bipartisanship. What a great way to start off the week.

I again say, in the interests of modernization, saving important taxpayer dollars, and making sure that we are more responsive to the American people, I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation. I thank Mrs. BICE again for her bipartisanship, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I thank the ranking member, Mr. MORELLE, for his support and bipartisanship in coauthoring this legislation with me.

This is an easy win for taxpayers, saving taxpayers \$4 million using a digital versus the current printed version.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support from my colleagues, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1234.

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.

FILING RELIEF FOR NATURAL DISASTERS ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 517) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules for postponing certain deadlines by reason of disaster, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 517

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 "Filing Relief for Natural Disasters Act".

SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF RULES FOR POSTPONING CERTAIN DEADLINES BY REASON OF DISASTER.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO POSTPONE FEDERAL TAX DEADLINES BY REASON OF STATE-DECLARED DISASTERS.**—Section 7508A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and (e) as subsections (d), (e), and (f), respectively, and by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

“(c) **SPECIAL RULE FOR STATE-DECLARED DISASTERS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary (after consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency) may, upon the written request of the Governor of a State (or the Mayor, in the case of the District of Columbia), apply the rules of subsections (a) and (b) to a qualified State declared disaster in the same manner as a disaster, fire, or action otherwise described in subsection (a).

“(2) **QUALIFIED STATE DECLARED DISASTER.**—For purposes of this section, the term ‘qualified State declared disaster’ means, with respect to any State, any natural catastrophe (including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, winddriven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought), or, regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or explosion, in any part of the State, which in the determination of the Governor of such State (or the Mayor, in the case of the District of Columbia) causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant the application of the rules of this section.

“(3) **STATE.**—For purposes of this section, the term ‘State’ includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”.

(b) **MANDATORY EXTENSIONS EXTENDED TO 120 DAYS.**—Section 7508A(e) of such Code, as redesignated by subsection (a), is amended—

(1) by striking “60 days” in paragraph (1)(B) thereof and inserting “120 days”,

(2) by striking “60-day” in paragraph (6) thereof and inserting “120-day”, and

(3) by striking “60-DAY” in the heading and inserting “120-DAY”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to declarations made after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Filing Relief for Natural Disasters Act, introduced by Ways and Means Committee members Representatives KUSTOFF and CHU.

For too many Americans, help from the Federal Government after a natural disaster can take too much time to arrive. This bipartisan bill authorizes the Treasury Department, in consultation with FEMA, to postpone tax filing deadlines for Americans living in State-declared disaster areas just as they do for federally declared disasters.

If a State moves faster in declaring an emergency, the Treasury Department can more quickly respond when it comes to an individual's tax obligations. This legislation will help disaster victims receive desperately needed tax relief sooner rather than later.

Additionally, this legislation doubles the current mandatory tax filing extension following a federally declared disaster declaration from 60 to 120 days.

For most people recovering from a disaster, taxes fall lower on their to-do list than more immediate needs like finding shelter, food, and caring for loved ones. By extending this deadline, we are providing families the breathing room and additional time to get their lives back together.

President Trump was elected on the promise of finally making the government work better for working people. All Americans, but especially Americans recovering from a natural disaster, deserve easier tax filing. With tax day in just a few days, we must look for commonsense, bipartisan ways to make filing and paying taxes less of a hassle.

I thank both sponsors of this legislation for leading on this issue on behalf of the people they represent and all Americans.

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

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

I rise in strong support of H.R. 517, the Filing Relief for Natural Disasters Act. I thank Representative DAVID KUSTOFF for his partnership on this bipartisan bill, which was reported out of

the Ways and Means Committee unanimously last month.

Each year, States like California declare State-level emergencies for disasters like wildfires, hurricanes, floods, or earthquakes. Under current law, disaster victims can only receive Federal filing relief if and when the President of the United States declares a Federal disaster.

While President Biden immediately declared a Federal disaster for the Los Angeles fires that devastated my district in January, that was unusually fast. Often, those declarations can take days or even weeks, which was the case in 2020 after wildfires, including the Bobcat fire in the San Gabriel Mountains, ravaged my State. That means if disaster strikes during filing season, taxpayers run the risk of missing Federal filing deadlines through no fault of their own.

Additionally, there may be serious natural disasters that affect taxpayers' ability to file but don't ever get declared as a Federal disaster. That is because such a declaration is subject to a very specific process under the Stafford Act. If a disaster does not exceed a State's capacity to respond without the help of FEMA, the President can't declare a Federal disaster, even if taxpayers impacted need filing relief.

Our bill solves this problem by giving Treasury and the IRS authority to postpone Federal filing deadlines in response to a request by a Governor who has declared a State-level disaster, and it would double the minimum duration of these filing extensions from 60 to 120 days.

I also urge my colleagues to work with me to support the victims of January's Los Angeles fires, including the Eaton fire in my district, by passing a supplemental disaster appropriations package with no strings attached.

The Eaton fire took 17 of my constituents' lives, burned 9,500 structures, and left 20,000 people in my district homeless. While FEMA has been there since the start, we will need more help from Congress.

Wildfires, like all natural disasters, know no political parties, and never in our country's history has Congress placed policy conditions on aid for disaster victims.

I look forward to passing this legislation and then continuing our work to support survivors with a supplemental disaster aid package.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ways and Means Committee Chairman JASON SMITH for his leadership and also his support on this legislation, and I thank our colleague, JUDY CHU, for joining me in introducing what I think is an important piece of legislation.

This bill, the Filing Relief for Natural Disasters Act, H.R. 517, is a bipartisan bill and a commonsense bill. It