

As Dr. Seuss wisely said: "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

CONGRATULATING DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' WRESTLING TEAM

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to congratulate the Duchesne High School girls' wrestling team on their remarkable achievement of winning the 1A/2A State championship.

I also recognize their coach, Shane Ivie, for being honored with the prestigious title of Outstanding Coach of the Year.

Individual champions include Breann Ivie, Ariana Jones, McKenlee Sprecher, Daniella Spencer, and Abigail Woods. Additionally, Duchesne's Leah Ivie and Altamont's Preslee Thacker each earned second-place finishes in their respective categories.

Their success is a testament to their resilience as they overcame countless challenges along the way. Breann Ivie faced serious heart issues; Daniella Spencer competed with a broken arm; and Ariana Jones, with profound strength and courage, competed while mourning the recent passing of her mother.

These young women embody the values of hard work, perseverance, and grit. I am in awe of their determination and spirit. They have shown us what true resilience looks like.

We are incredibly proud to have such talented and dedicated individuals representing Utah's Third District. Their success is not just their own. It reflects the strength and character of our community.

HONORING SARAH KEYS EVANS

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor civil rights trailblazer Sarah Keys Evans.

In 1952, Private First Class Evans, in the Women's Army Corps, courageously refused to give up her seat on a bus in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina. Her refusal took place 3½ years before Rosa Parks'.

Evans' refusal, leading to her arrest, paved the way for a crucial legal victory in the case of *Keys v. Carolina Coach Company*.

Sarah Keys Evans' legacy is significant in our country, which is why I filed legislation that would award her with the Congressional Gold Medal, an award that will honor her relentless spirit, reminding us that we must dare to create the world not as it is, but what we believe it should be.

SYRIAN JEWS INVITED HOME

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the December collapse of the dictatorial and murderous Assad regime in Syria is a cause of celebration for the Syrian people and the world.

As the Syrian people decide their path forward, an encouraging sign was reported by NPR of Jewish officials being invited by the current Syrian Government for the Jewish community to help rebuild the country. Nearly all of the more than 30,000 Syrian Jews fled the country in the 1990s.

War criminal Putin's murderous puppet, Assad, fled to Moscow as mass graves were discovered of innocent civilians. Syrians will never forget the Russian-supported mass murders destroying Aleppo, and Russian bases should be expelled from Syria.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Open borders for dictators put all Americans at risk of more 9/11 attacks imminent, as warned by the FBI. Trump is reinstituting existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength.

CONGRATULATING REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria, I congratulate and appreciate Ambassador Georgi Panayotov and our valued NATO partner of Bulgaria. A dynamic member of the European Union is the beautiful Republic of Bulgaria.

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, February 27, 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 February 27, 2025, at 3:50 p.m.:

That the Senate passed H.J. Res. 35.

Appointments:

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control Board of Trustees of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.

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 3, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Under Clause 2(g) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I herewith designate Ms. Michelle H. Reinshuttle, Deputy Clerk, and Ms. Sarah Meier, Legal Counsel, to sign any and all papers and perform all other acts for me under the name of the Clerk of the House for which they would be authorized to do by virtue of this designation, except such as are provided by statute, in case of my temporary absence or disability.

This designation shall remain in effect for the 119th Congress or until modified by me.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.

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 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1540

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VAN DREW) at 3 o'clock and 40 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.

GUIDANCE OUT OF DARKNESS ACT

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1515) to increase access to agency guidance documents.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1515

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 "Guidance Out Of Darkness Act" or the "GOOD Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGENCY.—The term "agency" has the meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(3) GUIDANCE DOCUMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "guidance document"—

(i) means an agency statement of general applicability (other than a rule that has the force and effect of law promulgated in accordance with the notice and comment procedures under section 553 of title 5, United States Code) that—

(I) does not have the force and effect of law; and

(II) is designated by an agency official as setting forth—

(aa) a policy on a statutory, regulatory, or technical issue; or

(bb) an interpretation of a statutory or regulatory issue; and

(i) may include—

(I) a memorandum;

(II) a notice;

(III) a bulletin;

(IV) a directive;

(V) a news release;

(VI) a letter;

(VII) a blog post;

(VIII) a no-action letter;

(IX) a speech by an agency official; and

(X) any combination of the items described in subclauses (I) through (IX).

(B) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—The term “guidance document”—

(i) shall be construed broadly to effectuate the purpose and intent of this Act; and

(ii) shall not be limited to the items described in subparagraph (A)(ii).

SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS ON THE INTERNET.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to section 5, on the date on which an agency issues a guidance document, the agency shall publish the guidance document in accordance with the requirements under section 4.

(b) **PREVIOUSLY ISSUED GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS.**—Subject to section 5, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each agency shall publish, in accordance with the requirements under section 4, any guidance document issued by that agency that is in effect on that date.

SEC. 4. SINGLE LOCATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—All guidance documents published under section 3 by an agency shall be published in a single location on an internet website designated by the Director under subsection (d).

(b) **AGENCY INTERNET WEBSITES.**—Each agency shall, for guidance documents published by the agency under section 3, publish a hyperlink on the internet website of the agency that provides access to the guidance documents at the location described in subsection (a).

(c) **ORGANIZATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The guidance documents described in subsection (a) shall be—

(A) categorized as guidance documents; and

(B) further divided into subcategories as appropriate.

(2) **AGENCY INTERNET WEBSITES.**—The hyperlinks described in subsection (b) shall be prominently displayed on the internet website of the agency.

(d) **DESIGNATION.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall designate an internet website on which guidance documents shall be published under section 3.

SEC. 5. DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER FOIA.

If a guidance document issued by an agency is a document that is exempt from disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Freedom of Information Act”), or contains information that is exempt from disclosure under that section, that document or information, as the case may be, shall not be subject to the requirements under this Act.

SEC. 6. RESCINDED GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS.

On the date on which a guidance document issued by an agency is rescinded, or, in the

case of a guidance document that is rescinded pursuant to a court order, not later than the date on which the order is entered, the agency shall, at the location described in section 4(a)—

(1) maintain the rescinded guidance document; and

(2) indicate—

(A) that the guidance document is rescinded;

(B) if the guidance document was rescinded pursuant to a court order, the case number of the case in which the order was entered; and

(C) the date on which the guidance document was rescinded.

SEC. 7. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.

(a) **VALIDITY OF GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to mean that noncompliance with any provision of this Act affects or otherwise impacts the validity of any guidance document.

(b) **CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect or otherwise impact whether a guidance document is subject to congressional review under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 8. REPORT ON AGENCY COMPLIANCE.

Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on agency compliance with this Act.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COMER. 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 Kentucky?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1515, the Guidance Out of Darkness Act, or the GOOD Act.

Regulatory guidance includes agency statements that, while not intended to have the force and effect of law, establish agency policies of statutory, regulatory, or technical issues. Because such guidance communicates how an agency will administer their law and its programs, it has a significant effect on regulated entities.

Regulated entities in the public should know what agency guidance says about the laws and programs that affect them. However, guidance documents are not easy to find. They are not consistently posted on agency websites.

This inconsistency burdens regulated entities, and it especially burdens small businesses who often lack the resources to hire compliance experts. The problem is so bad that agency guidance

documents are known as regulatory dark matter.

For a brief time, the first Trump administration was able to bring helpful and needed sunshine to the situation. Following the GOOD Act's passage by the House during the 115th Congress, the first Trump administration voluntarily adopted the bill's reforms through an October 2019 executive order after the Senate failed to act.

Under the executive order, guidance was required to become fully transparent online. Across the government, each agency was directed to make available on its website a single, searchable indexed database with links to all guidance documents in effect. As a result, for the first time, Members of the public could easily find whatever agency guidance they needed online in a central location.

The order was in effect during 2019 and 2020 but was regrettably rescinded by the Biden administration. As a result, agencies pulled down their guidance web pages, and guidance, once again, fell into darkness, increasing the potential for agency abuse. This is why we need to, once again, pass the GOOD Act in the House and require agencies to publish their regulatory guidance in a single, easily accessible location.

The American public deserves nothing less from their government.

I thank my committee colleague, Representative RO KHANNA from California, for cosponsoring my legislation, and I especially thank the ranking member for working with my staff to help us advance a bipartisan bill here today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this simple and necessary transparency bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1545

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1515, the Guidance Out Of Darkness Act, sponsored by our chairman, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER).

Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues like to say that this bill would cast a light on what they love to call regulatory dark matter. This melodramatic term refers to the guidance documents Federal agencies issue to help the public better understand actions and policies.

Guidance documents come in the form of interpretive rules, which describe an agency's interpretation of a statute or regulation, and general statements of agency policy. For example, an agency might issue a guidance document to clarify a regulation and its technical details or to offer more information on compliance.

Guidance documents don't have the force of law and are already publicly available. The bill simply requires the agencies to publish guidance documents on a dedicated website for ease

of access. It also requires the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to designate a single website for accessing all agency guidance documents, except for those exempt from disclosure under the FOIA.

Democrats support a transparent Federal Government that is always accountable to the public, so we support this bill, as well. We don't buy into the incendiary rhetoric of some MAGA Republicans trying to paint agency guidance documents as some kind of sinister tool of the administrative state. They are the very opposite.

My Republican colleagues have said that this bill is important because it restores elements of President Trump's Executive Order No. 13891 that was revoked by President Biden.

To set the record straight, President Biden replaced that executive order—he didn't revoke it—because it sought to limit the Federal Government's ability to address the country's challenges and serve its people. Instead, President Biden launched an important effort to modernize the regulatory review process, including the process around guidance documents, which we are addressing today.

Let's be very clear: Republicans are dead set on rolling back the ability of Federal agencies to protect the public from corporate bad actors. In contrast, Democrats are putting people before profits, including through evidence-based regulations that protect Americans' freedoms and well-being.

Passage of this bill today is a good step in the right direction, as long as we all actually are interested in regulatory transparency and accountability.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I am happy to join them. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY).

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, the basic premise of this bill, which I am happy to cosponsor, is that we should not have secret laws in the United States.

A major opportunity that we have right now is to modernize our government and to rein in the inexorable growth of the administrative state, restoring power to our elected representatives, States, local communities, and the American people themselves.

When we think about the administrative state, we think about all the regulations that are churned out, one after another, and compiled in the ever-growing Federal Register. The reality is, that is just the tip of the iceberg. Layered on top of all of that are these so-called guidance documents. These are memos, Dear Colleague letters, bulletins, all manner of what is referred to as "regulatory dark matter."

With respect to the ranking member, this is not a melodramatic term. It is actually quite appropriate. In physics, "dark matter" refers to the mysterious substance that makes up about 85 per-

cent of the mass of the universe, but no one really knows what it is. Similarly, all of these guidance documents make up a great deal of the regulatory activity in our country, yet the agencies themselves can't even manage to track them down. How is an individual or a small business supposed to find out what this particular interpretation of the law is and how it will affect them, let alone how Congress is supposed to figure out how the laws that we have passed are ultimately being enforced and administered?

This is a commonsense measure that says that all of these guidance documents, which have real teeth when it comes to the enforcement of regulations, need to be compiled in one place that is searchable and accessible to every American citizen. It is a positive step for transparency and toward restoring government by the people.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge passage of H.R. 1515, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Guidance Out Of Darkness Act, or GOOD Act, and to pass this legislation once again, like the House did in the last term. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1515.

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 CONTRACTOR CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITY REDUCTION ACT OF 2025

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 872) to require covered contractors implement a vulnerability disclosure policy consistent with NIST guidelines, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 872

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 Contractor Cybersecurity Vulnerability Reduction Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. FEDERAL CONTRACTOR VULNERABILITY DISCLOSURE POLICY.

(a) RECOMMENDATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the National Cyber Director, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and any other appropriate head of an Executive department, shall—

(A) review the Federal Acquisition Regulation contract requirements and language for contractor vulnerability disclosure programs; and

(B) recommend updates to such requirements and language to the Federal Acquisition Regulation Council.

(2) CONTENTS.—The recommendations required by paragraph (1) shall include updates to such requirements designed to ensure that covered contractors implement a vulnerability disclosure policy consistent with NIST guidelines for contractors as required under section 5 of the IoT Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2020 (15 U.S.C. 278g–3c; Public Law 116–207).

(b) PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the recommended contract language developed pursuant to subsection (a) is received, the Federal Acquisition Regulation Council shall review the recommended contract language and update the FAR as necessary to incorporate requirements for covered contractors to receive information about a potential security vulnerability relating to an information system owned or controlled by a contractor, in performance of the contract.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The update to the FAR pursuant to subsection (b) shall—

(1) to the maximum extent practicable, align with the security vulnerability disclosure process and coordinated disclosure requirements relating to Federal information systems under sections 5 and 6 of the IoT Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–207; 15 U.S.C. 278g–3c and 278g–3d); and

(2) to the maximum extent practicable, be aligned with industry best practices and Standards 29147 and 30111 of the International Standards Organization (or any successor standard) or any other appropriate, relevant, and widely used standard.

(d) WAIVER.—The head of an agency may waive the security vulnerability disclosure policy requirement under subsection (b) if—

(1) the agency Chief Information Officer determines that the waiver is necessary in the interest of national security or research purposes; and

(2) if, not later than 30 days after granting a waiver, such head submits a notification and justification (including information about the duration of the waiver) to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

(e) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SUPPLEMENT TO THE FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.—

(1) REVIEW.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall review the Department of Defense Supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulation contract requirements and language for contractor vulnerability disclosure programs and develop updates to such requirements designed to ensure that covered contractors implement a vulnerability disclosure policy consistent with NIST guidelines for contractors as required under section 5 of the IoT Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2020 (15 U.S.C. 278g–3c; Public Law 116–207).

(2) REVISIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the review required under subsection (a) is completed, the Secretary shall revise the DFARS as necessary to incorporate requirements for covered contractors to receive information about a potential security vulnerability relating to an information system owned or controlled by a contractor, in performance of the contract.

(3) ELEMENTS.—The Secretary shall ensure that the revision to the DFARS described in this subsection is carried out in accordance