Ike to Ivan to Wilma to Katrina, we know all too well the devastation that befalls those unfortunate enough to be standing in the path of one of the North Atlantic's deadly hurricanes or tropical storms. We have seen the destruction first hand; I have spoken to the victims; we have known the pain and suffering those natural disasters can cause.

We know the road of recovery can be long and fraught with challenges. But we have recovered, and so shall the people of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. And the United States must help ensure that they do.

As such, I am proud to stand behind my fellow members in calling upon the Congress to urge the Secretary of State and the United States Agency for International Development to continue working on a strategic plan to promote food security and recovery efforts, with the aim of mitigating current and future effects of the recent natural disasters that have devastated Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1462, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SUPPORTING DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL ESIGN DAY

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 290) expressing support for designation of June 30 as ''National ESIGN Day''.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 290

Whereas the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (ESIGN) was enacted on June 30, 2000, to ensure that a signature, contract, or other record relating to a transaction may not be denied legal effect, validity, or enforceability solely because it is in electronic form;

Whereas Congress directed the Secretary of Commerce to take all actions necessary to eliminate or reduce, to the maximum extent possible, the impediments to commerce in electronic signatures, for the purpose of facilitating the development of interstate and foreign commerce; and

Whereas June 30, 2010, marks the 10th anniversary of the enactment of ESIGN and would be an appropriate date to designate as ''National ESIGN Day'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the designation of a ''National ESIGN Day'';

(2) recognizes the previous contribution made by Congress to the adoption of modern solutions that keep the United States on the leading technological edge; and

(3) reaffirms its commitment to facilitating interstate and foreign commerce in an increasingly digital world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

□ 2050

Mr. MCDERMOTT. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, the ESIGN bill, a landmark piece of legislation that has transformed how we conduct interstate commerce and business. The advent of e-signatures has brought enormous benefit to both consumers and businesses alike by drastically improving convenience, reducing costs, and increasing the speed of transactions.

As many of you know, I represent Seattle, which is one of the most wired and high-tech cities in the world. ESIGN has greatly improved the ability of companies in my district to be more effective and competitive in the global marketplace.

I would especially like to acknowledge Seattle-based electronic signature platform provider DocuSign for being a leader in the electronic signatures and records industry and for helping spearhead the coalition to recognize June 30 as National ESIGN Day.

DocuSign recognizes that the benefits of e-commerce extend beyond the dollar values that are placed on business activity. With over 30,000 current customers and having served over 4.5 million people to date, DocuSign provides its customers with confidence in the integrity and credibility of emerging electronic capabilities. They have been a leader in removing obstacles and barriers to business transactions online and in allowing their customers to work faster, more reliably, and more securely.

It is important we recognize the foresight and vision of those who worked so hard to pass ESIGN 10 years ago, including Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO and Congressman JAY INSLEE. The passage of that bill has helped more American companies to operate globally, and it has helped to increase productivity and efficiency for consumers, businesses, and governments.

When President Clinton signed the bill into law in June 2000, he said, ''Just imagine if this had existed 224 years ago. The Founding Fathers wouldn't have had to come all the way to Philadelphia on July 4 for the Declaration of Independence. They could have emailed their John Hancocks in.''

Now, 10 years later, that is what businesses and governments in every corner of the globe are able to do—instantly complete transactions that used to take days.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHIMKUS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is great to be down here with my colleague Mr. MCDERMOTT. Usually, I don't like resolutions, you know, but he approached me on the floor. This is a really important one, and I think it is important to go back over the history of what we did 10 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, everything was paper. You had to have paper copies. You couldn't do bank transactions. You couldn't do certifications. You couldn't do business documentation.

My colleague mentioned ANNA ESHOO, who is a great friend of mine on the committee. JAY INSLEE is also a great friend of mine on the committee. I serve on the Energy and Commerce Committee. I've been on the Telecommunications Subcommittee. I think credit goes to Chairman Bliley, and I think credit goes to Billy Tauzin. The great thing about Energy and Commerce is a lot of the issues that we address cut across partisan lines, especially on the Technology Subcommittee.

So the signing of this bill really helped, as my colleague said, and it really changed the way we can conduct business in the new digital age. It is really a great credit, and it does merit taking the time to think back on those folks who pushed for this, in a bipartisan resolution and through both Chambers, in order to get the bill signed into law.

I am sure there was opposition by Members in both parties. In fact, I know one famous Democrat on the committee who wasn't an original supporter of this. So the fact that Chairman Bliley and Billy Tauzin, as the chairmen of the subcommittee and the full committee, were all engaged in support shows what we can do when we work together.

The Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, ESIGN, represents a critical step in harmonizing the world's global commerce and contract law with a modern electronic and increasingly Internet-dependent world. This happened during the 106th Congress. It was my second Congress. I came in during the 105th.

I think the other important information is with other digital e-commerce issues that we are approaching and discussing. We are discussing one in the committee now, which is the 21st century access to disabilities, which is trying to make sure that the digital age doesn't leave the disability community behind.

So the question that we faced in the committee today was: How much do we make sure that we set the standards but that we don't dictate technology? Because, if we dictate technology, we disincentivize the folks who are the smarts behind this new age.

What we did on ESIGN was to say, Here are the standards. You smart people figure it out. Make sure that privacy is protected. Make sure that you can continue to keep data if people want hard copies. The other thing we allowed was for the consumers to choose. If people wanted to try this new venue, it was pretty scary. Can you imagine going on the Internet 10 years ago and saying, ''I'm going to buy a pair of tennis shoes, and I'm going to put my credit card number on the computer, and they're going to mail me this stuff, and it's all going to work out''? It was pretty scary. People do it all the time now, but you know what? If you want to go down to the store and pay cash for those shoes, you can still do it.

So the benefit of what we did was to say let the consumers choose. Also, the benefit of what we did was to say give the business community the standards. Don't try to squeeze them into a one-size-fits-all method. Let the great innovative minds—many of them are in my colleague's State of Washington State—really make this stuff work.

I've been on the Energy and Commerce Committee for, fortunately, my 14 years in Congress, and I've been on the Telecommunications Subcommittee. I should be an expert. I still don't understand it. I still don't understand how it all works, but I know that there are smart enough people who can make it work, and this is a perfect example. This 10-year anniversary, in essence, is a tremendous success story. I have a 17-year-old, a 15-year-old and a 10-year-old. They are growing up in an age where they don't know any other way of doing transactions and of doing business than what we did 10 years ago.

JIM, I appreciate your effort. I appreciate your coming to me on the floor. Like I said, I'm not a big resolution guy, but I thought this was one worthy of sitting back and of focusing on what we did in the hopes, as we move forward on other high-tech issues, that we will set the guidelines but that we will let the really smart innovators figure out how it can be done.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 290.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

□ 2100

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTERS TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT ACT

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5610) to provide a technical adjustment with respect to funding for independent living centers under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 in order to ensure stability for such centers, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. R. 5610

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 ''Independent Living Centers Technical Adjustment Act''.

SEC. 2. INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTERS TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT.

(a) GRANTS TO CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING IN STATES IN WHICH FEDERAL FUNDING EXCEEDS STATE FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the conditions described in paragraph (2) are satisfied with respect to a State, in awarding funds to existing centers for independent living (described in section 722(c) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f-1(c))) in the State, the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration—

(A) in fiscal year 2010—

(i) shall distribute among such centers funds appropriated for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.) by any Act other than the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5) in the same proportion as such funds were distributed among such centers in the State in fiscal year 2009, notwithstanding section 722(e) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f-1(e)) and any contrary provision of a State plan submitted under section 704 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 796c); and

(ii) shall disregard any funds provided to such centers from funds appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.); and

(B) in fiscal year 2011 and subsequent fiscal years, shall disregard any funds provided to such centers from funds appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5) for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.).

(2) CONDITIONS.—The conditions described in this paragraph are the following:

(A) The Commissioner receives a request from the State, not later than July 30, 2010, jointly signed by the State's designated State unit (referred to in section 704(c) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 796c(c))) and the State's Statewide Independent Living Council (established under section 705 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 796d)), for the Commissioner to disregard any funds provided to centers for independent living in the State from funds appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.).

(B) The Commissioner is not conducting a competition to establish a new part C center for independent living with funds appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 in the State.

(b) GRANTS TO CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING IN STATES IN WHICH STATE FUNDING EQUALS OR EXCEEDS FEDERAL FUNDING.—In awarding funds to existing centers for independent living (described in section 723(c) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f-2(c))) in a State, the director of the designated State unit that has approval to make such awards—

(1) in fiscal year 2010—

(A) may distribute among such centers funds appropriated for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.) by any Act other than the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 in the same proportion as such funds were distributed among such centers in the State in fiscal year 2009, notwithstanding section 723(e) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f-2(e)) and any contrary provision of a State plan submitted under section 704 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 796c); and

(B) may disregard any funds provided to such centers from funds appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.); and

(2) in fiscal year 2011 and subsequent fiscal years, may disregard any funds provided to such centers from funds appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H.R. 5610 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5610, the Independent Living