

the resignation of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HAHN), the whole number of the House is 434.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 2, 2016.
Speaker PAUL D. RYAN,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN: I hereby tender my resignation from the U.S. House of Representatives effective midnight on December 31, 2016. It has been my distinct honor to serve the people of Michigan's Tenth Congressional District for the past 14 years and I look forward to continuing my life in public service.

Sincerely,

CANDICE S. MILLER,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 2, 2016.
Governor RICK SNYDER,
Lansing, MI.

DEAR GOVERNOR SNYDER: I hereby tender my resignation from the U.S. House of Representatives effective midnight on December 31, 2016. It has been my distinct honor to serve the people of Michigan's Tenth Congressional District for the past 14 years and I look forward to continuing my life in public service.

Sincerely,

CANDICE S. MILLER,
Member of Congress.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1630

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROTHFUS) at 4 o'clock and 30 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 on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

ENHANCING WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION FOR CONTRACTOR AND GRANTEE EMPLOYEES

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(S. 795) to enhance whistleblower protection for contractor and grantee employees.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 795

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

SECTION 1. ENHANCEMENT OF WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION FOR CONTRACTOR AND GRANTEE EMPLOYEES.

(a) PROTECTION FOR EMPLOYEES OF GRANTEES AND SUBGRANTEES.—

(1) DEFENSE GRANTS.—Section 2409(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting “or personal services contractor” after “subgrantee”.

(2) CIVILIAN GRANTS.—Section 4712(a)(1) of title 41, United States Code, is amended by striking “or grantee” and inserting “grantee, or subgrantee or personal services contractor”.

(3) PERMANENT EXTENSION OF PILOT PROGRAM FOR ENHANCEMENT OF CONTRACTOR PROTECTION FROM REPRISAL FOR DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 4712 of title 41, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in the section heading by striking “Pilot program for enhancement” and inserting “Enhancement”; and

(ii) by striking subsection (i).

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 47 of title 41, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 4712 and inserting the following new item:

“4712. Enhancement of contractor protection from reprisal for disclosure of certain information.”

(b) PROHIBITION ON REIMBURSEMENT FOR LEGAL FEES ACCRUED IN DEFENSE AGAINST REPRISAL CLAIMS.—

(1) DEFENSE CONTRACTS.—Section 2324(k) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by inserting “or subcontractor, or personal services contractor” after “contractor” each place it appears;

(B) by inserting “, subcontract, or personal services contract” after “contract” each place it appears; and

(C) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or to any other activity described in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 2409(a)(1) of this title” after “statute or regulation”.

(2) CIVILIAN CONTRACTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 4310 of title 41, United States Code, is amended—

(i) by inserting “, subcontractor, or personal services contractor” after “contractor” each place it appears;

(ii) by inserting “, subcontract, or personal services contract” after “contract” each place it appears; and

(iii) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “or to any other activity described in section 4712(a)(1) of this title” after “statute or regulation”.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 4304(a)(15) of title 41, United States Code, is amended by inserting “or subcontractor, or personal service contractor” after “contractor”.

(c) INCLUSION OF CONTRACT CLAUSE IN CONTRACTS AWARDED BEFORE EFFECTIVE DATE.—At the time of any major modification to a contract that was awarded before the date of the enactment of this Act, the head of the contracting agency shall make best efforts to include in the contract a contract clause providing for the applicability of the amendments made by this section and section 827 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 1833).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. 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 materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill, S. 795, a bill to enhance whistleblower protection for contractor and grantee employees. It is a bill with good bipartisan support in both Chambers of Congress.

I really do applaud and thank, in particular, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), the ranking member on our committee, who has helped champion this and point this out and lead our efforts in the House on this.

In the House, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform considered an identical bill, the Whistleblower Protections for Contractors Act, introduced by Ranking Member CUMMINGS and myself, and the committee reported this legislation by unanimous consent. In the Senate, it has been Senators McCASKILL and RON JOHNSON who have worked arm in arm on this and are also very supportive of it. Today we bring up the Senate version of this bill to expedite its approval to get this bill to the President's desk.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, whistleblowers are invaluable to the oversight work of Congress. We rely on people who are on the front lines seeing things as they truly are to provide information and blow the whistle when they see something going awry. They are one of our best sources of information about waste, fraud, and abuse within the Federal Government.

As an institution, we should try to do everything we can to encourage them to come and speak with us, and when they do, to make sure that they have the proper and adequate protections. That is exactly what this bill does, by recognizing that not all whistleblowers are Federal employees. We have robust Federal recognition and whistleblower protection for Federal employees, and we believe that contractors and others should have that as well.

It makes permanent a successful pilot program that extended whistleblower protections to civilian contractor and grantee employees. It also ensures whistleblower protections are extended to subgrantees and personal services contractors for both defense and civilian contractors. It is important because the Federal Government