

remain accessible during out-of-school hours;

Whereas data show that students have received lower grades and been unable to complete their assignments because of their lack of Internet access at home;

Whereas improved student access to post-secondary education and workforce opportunities can be made possible by increasing the ability of students to apply for employment, postsecondary education, and financial aid opportunities;

Whereas leaders in the public and private sectors have recognized that the homework gap is an issue of national importance and partnered to find cooperative solutions to address it; and

Whereas instilling digital skills and the knowledge to succeed in the 21st century economy in the Nation's students is vital to the Nation's global competitiveness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that access to digital communications tools and connectivity is necessary to prepare youth in the United States to compete in the 21st century economy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, again, I am pleased to support another resolution from our colleagues from across the aisle.

Broadband and the Internet have become nearly indispensable parts of our 21st century economy. Whether it is bringing the world's information to your fingertips or connecting you to people around the world, it is increasingly clear that improved access to the Internet is a vital part of our digital future, and particularly so for our Nation's children.

This resolution affirms the commitment of the House of Representatives to ensuring all Americans, particularly students, have the tools they need to succeed. As members of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, Democrats and Republicans alike firmly espouse the goal of bringing broadband access to all children of the United States.

I thank the gentleman from Vermont for shining a light on this important issue, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H. Res. 939.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, here is the situation: our kids are going to school, they are

getting homework, and 70 percent of the teachers assign homework that presumes access to the Internet, but many of our kids don't have access to the Internet.

About 5 million, or one-third of households with school age children in the U.S., lack a high-speed connection at home. That is the "homework gap." It creates a lot of anxiety, as well as some inability to get the homework done. And the anxiety for these kids is that they go home, they have got an assignment, they want to do it, and they don't have the tools. It puts enormous pressure on the parents.

We have seen some reports where, in order to address this outside of the school, they will park buses that have high-speed Internet access, and the parents will bring the kids back to school and sit outside while the kids sit on the bus where they have the homework connection.

That is asking a lot of our parents, it is asking a lot of our kids, and this resolution is just acknowledging what I think we all know is the obvious. That is, if kids are going to have a shot at getting ahead, if they are going to be able to do their homework, we have got to get that Internet access out in the area so we don't have 5 million kids without it.

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It is such a real problem when you get into the rural areas, and that is where Mr. LATTA and I know that, and the reason is because extending the broadband out into the rural areas is economically more of a challenge for some of our companies.

We believe that, ultimately, we have got to have Internet access, much like we did with electricity, where we make a policy that says we are getting that broadband to the last mile. This resolution demonstrates an ongoing bipartisan commitment to achieve that goal. I know, Mr. Speaker, you have a lot of rural areas in your district as well.

I urge my colleagues to support this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, again, I thank the gentleman from Vermont. I know we have worked for well over a year now on rural issues on the committee, and I appreciate his leadership on that. I also thank the gentleman for working across the aisle with us to highlight this important need.

American students must have every tool to prepare themselves for an increasingly competitive future, and I hope that my colleagues will join me in support of this resolution.

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution, which would express the sense of the House of Representatives that students everywhere should have access to digital tools that will help to further their education in the 21st century economy.

This resolution expresses the sense of the House that the United States should be leading the world in proving the digital tools necessary to succeed and create new opportunities.

Nearly 5 million households in the United States do not have high-speed internet, meaning those households don't have access to an increasingly important aspect of a modern education.

By increasing access to millions of children around the country, we take a step forward in promoting a 21st century education.

This would also improve the global competitiveness of the United States as countries around the world increasingly promote broadband access in their educational systems.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to expand possibilities for children and to create an environment in which we can incentivize growth and new opportunities.

I thank the Energy and Commerce Committee and Congressman WELCH for their hard work and diligence on this issue.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 939.

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. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE WITH RESPECT TO THIRD-PARTY CHARGES ON CONSUMER TELEPHONE BILLS

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 932) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to third-party charges on consumer telephone bills.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 932

Whereas telephone companies are required to permit third parties to bill for services on a consumer's monthly telephone bill in certain circumstances;

Whereas "cramming" is the act of placing unauthorized charges on a wireline, wireless, or bundled services telephone bill of a consumer;

Whereas the Federal Communications Commission estimates that cramming has harmed tens of millions of people in the United States; and

Whereas existing protections against cramming have not prevented harm to consumers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that protections against cramming should be improved and consumers should be empowered to stop unwanted third-party charges on their telephone bills.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of H. Res. 932, a sense of Congress offered by our colleague, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

The use of third-party billing on consumer telephone bills can provide consumers with convenience. Unfortunately, this has also been an area that has resulted in consumer fraud.

I agree with the gentlewoman that we should support efforts to provide consumers with tools to protect themselves from experiencing unauthorized charges on their phone bills. Though there are existing protections in place that prohibit so-called cramming, it is clear that more needs to be done to ensure that America's consumers aren't footing the bills for these unauthorized and illegal charges from third-party vendors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H. Res. 932, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Consumer fraud continues, and oftentimes it is individuals figuring out how to use the Internet to get access to your bills and cram charges. Sometimes it is even companies with respected reputations that somehow go awry and then end up ripping off their customers.

It is bad in two respects. One is that it costs money that consumers don't have. I mean, most folks are trying to make ends meet and it is pretty tough.

The second is that it really undercuts the confidence that I think a consumer wants to have and is entitled to have, that when they are putting their money out, they are being treated right, they are being treated fairly.

This resolution has been sponsored by Congresswoman SCHAKOWSKY, and I have got to say that we are lucky in this Congress to have her for all these years leading the charge on consumer issues. She is vigilant, she is tough, and she is fair. Congresswoman SCHAKOWSKY brought this to the attention of this body, and I urge that all of us support this resolution. I want to acknowledge my gratitude for her work over the years as an untiring consumer advocate.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, both for yielding and for his kind words. I appreciate that.

I also thank my colleague across the aisle for his support for this resolution.

H. Res. 932 calls for action on unauthorized phone charges slipped onto consumer phone bills. As my colleague pointed out, that is called cramming.

Charges listed on your phone bill don't necessarily come from your phone company. Phone companies allow third parties to place charges on phone bills. Sometimes that can be a convenience. If you are texting a donation, that charge may also be indicated on your phone bill. However, consumers may end up paying charges that they never authorized in the first place, and scammers can cram the bill with small fees that can add up to significant sums over time.

The Federal Communications Commission estimates that the placement of unauthorized charges, known as cramming, has harmed tens of millions of Americans. Most of those phony charges go unnoticed. If you look at your phone bill, they may be listed as something vague like "monthly fee" or "service charge."

My resolution calls for action to stop this fraud. Consumer watchdogs have already taken some important steps. In 2014 and 2015, the Federal Communications Commission, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Federal Trade Commission, and State attorneys general reached settlements with major wireless carriers on cramming. Under those settlements, wireless carriers must disclose and obtain consumer consent for third-party charges on their customers' wireless bills.

While those settlements were an important step, we still have gaps in our consumer protections. The cramming settlement only covers wireless customers, and those protections are time-limited. Landline customers are only protected if their phone company takes action voluntarily.

So consumers really do need strong, ongoing protections against cramming, regardless of which phone company they use and whether they purchase wireless, landline, or bundled phone services. That is why we offer this resolution expressing the sentiment of the House that protections against cramming should be improved and consumers should be empowered to stop unwanted charges.

Again, this resolution is only a first step. I urge every phone company to ensure that their customers understand and consent to any extra charges placed on their phone bills.

In the next Congress, I am hopeful that the Energy and Commerce Committee push for stronger cramming protections through hearings and, when necessary, legislation.

As we take this important first step, I do want to thank my cosponsors on

this resolution: Congressman GENE GREEN, a member of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee; Congressman GRIJALVA; Congressman HONDA; and Congresswoman BUSTOS.

I also thank Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member PALLONE on the full Committee, and Chairman WALDEN and Ranking Member ESHOO on the Communications and Technology Subcommittee for working with us to bring this resolution to the floor.

Today I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and I look forward to working with all of you to realize this resolution's goal: No more phony charges.

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

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 932, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to third-party charges on consumer telephone bills.

This legislation resolves that it is the sense of the House that protections against cramming, which is the act of placing unauthorized charges on a telephone bill, should be improved. It is an effort to bring to light the form of fraud called cramming and its effect on consumers' bills.

Many of our Nation's major telecommunications providers have recognized this issue and have made strides in increasing protections for consumers. By passing this resolution, we are taking one step closer to protecting consumers from fraudulent activities and ensuring that those who are vulnerable in our society are no longer susceptible to scammers.

We must continue to address these cases of fraud head on, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on this issue and others.

I applaud the Energy and Commerce Committee for their work on this important legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

This is another area where I am proud to join my colleagues in showing the bipartisan work that has been the hallmark of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

I thank the gentlewoman from Illinois for her leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 932.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CENTENNIAL ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4680) to prepare the National Park Service for its Centennial in 2016 and for a second century of promoting and protecting the natural, historic, and cultural resources of our National Parks for the enjoyment of present and future generations, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4680

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “National Park Service Centennial Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—NATIONAL PARK CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE FUND

Sec. 101. National Park Centennial Challenge Fund.

Sec. 102. Comparable pass cost for seniors.

TITLE II—NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT

Sec. 201. Short title.
Sec. 202. Second Century Endowment for the National Park Service.

TITLE III—NATIONAL PARK NEXT GENERATION STEWARDS

Sec. 301. National Park Service interpretation and education.

Sec. 302. Public Land Corps amendments.

Sec. 303. Volunteers in the parks.

TITLE IV—NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION AUTHORITIES

Sec. 401. Board of directors.
Sec. 402. Authorization of appropriations; use of funds.

TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 501. National Historic Preservation Act.
Sec. 502. Award of concession contracts.

TITLE VI—TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO NATIONAL PARK AND PROGRAM LAWS

Sec. 601. Technical corrections to national park and program laws.

TITLE VII—VISITOR EXPERIENCE IMPROVEMENTS AUTHORITY

Sec. 701. Visitor experience improvements authority.

TITLE VIII—NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION AMENDMENTS ACT

Sec. 801. Short title.
Sec. 802. Reauthorization of the Historic Preservation Fund.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CHALLENGE FUND.—The term “Challenge Fund” means the National Park Centennial Challenge Fund established in title I.

(2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the National Park Service.

(3) ENDOWMENT.—The term “Endowment” means the Second Century Endowment for the National Park Service established by title II.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) SIGNATURE PROJECT OR PROGRAM.—The term “signature project or program” means any project or program identified by the Secretary as one that will help prepare the national parks for another century of conservation, preservation, and visitor enjoyment.

TITLE I—NATIONAL PARK CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE FUND

SEC. 101. NATIONAL PARK CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 1033 the following:

“CHAPTER 1035—NATIONAL PARK CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE FUND

“103501. Establishment.
“103502. Signature projects and programs.
“103503. Summary to Congress.

“§ 103501. Establishment

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Treasury an account to be known as the National Park Centennial Challenge Fund.

“(b) DEPOSITS.—All amounts received by the United States each fiscal year from sales by the National Park Service of National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Passes under section 805(b)(1) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act that are in excess of \$10,000,000 shall be deposited into the National Park Centennial Challenge Fund as offsetting collections and shall remain available to the Secretary until expended.
“(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds collected and deposited into the National Park Centennial Challenge Fund—
“(1) shall be used for projects or programs approved by the Secretary to further the mission of the Service and to enhance the visitor experience in System units;
“(2) may not be used to acquire lands or interest in lands; and
“(3) may only be used if matched, on at least a 1-to-1 basis, by non-Federal donations (including funds and fairly valued durable goods and materials) to the Service for signature projects or programs.
“(d) LIMITATION ON SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR MATCHING.—Amounts derived from the Second Century Endowment for the National Park Service shall not be treated as non-Federal donations for purposes of subsection (c)(3).

“(1) shall be used for projects or programs approved by the Secretary to further the mission of the Service and to enhance the visitor experience in System units;

“(2) may not be used to acquire lands or interest in lands; and
“(3) may only be used if matched, on at least a 1-to-1 basis, by non-Federal donations (including funds and fairly valued durable goods and materials) to the Service for signature projects or programs.

“(d) LIMITATION ON SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR MATCHING.—Amounts derived from the Second Century Endowment for the National Park Service shall not be treated as non-Federal donations for purposes of subsection (c)(3).

“(1) shall be used for projects or programs approved by the Secretary to further the mission of the Service and to enhance the visitor experience in System units;
“(2) may not be used to acquire lands or interest in lands; and
“(3) may only be used if matched, on at least a 1-to-1 basis, by non-Federal donations (including funds and fairly valued durable goods and materials) to the Service for signature projects or programs.

“§ 103502. Signature projects and programs

“(a) LIST.—The Secretary shall—
“(1) develop a list of signature projects and programs eligible for funding from the National Park Centennial Challenge Fund;
“(2) submit the list developed pursuant to paragraph (1) to the Committees on Appropriations and Energy and Natural Resources in the United States Senate, and to the Committees on Appropriations and Natural Resources in the House of Representatives; and
“(3) prioritize deferred maintenance projects, physical improvements to visitor services facilities and trail maintenance.

“(b) UPDATES.—The Secretary may, from time to time, as the Secretary finds appropriate, add any signature project or program to the list and provide notice of such addition as required by subsection (a).

“(c) PRIORITIZATION.—The Secretary shall—
“(1) prioritize deferred maintenance projects, physical improvements to visitor services facilities and trail maintenance.

“(b) UPDATES.—The Secretary may, from time to time, as the Secretary finds appropriate, add any signature project or program to the list and provide notice of such addition as required by subsection (a).

“§ 103503. Summary to Congress

“The Secretary shall provide with the submission of the President’s annual budget a summary of the status and funding of signature projects and programs.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections of title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 1033 the following:

“1035. National Park Centennial Challenge Fund103501”.

SEC. 102. COMPARABLE PASS COST FOR SENIORS.

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801, Public Law 108-447, division J, title VIII) is amended in section 805(b)(1)—

(1) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting:

“(A) The Secretary”;

(2) by striking “, at a cost of \$10.00,”;

(3) by striking “shall be valid for the lifetime of the pass holder.” and inserting the following: “shall be available—

“(i) for a period of 12 months from the date of the issuance, at a cost of \$20; and

“(ii) for the lifetime of the passholder, at a cost equal to the cost of the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass purchased under subsection (a).”;

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) The Secretary shall issue a pass under subparagraph (A)(ii), for no additional cost, to any individual who provides evidence, under policies and guidelines determined by the Secretary, that the individual has purchased a pass under subparagraph (A)(i) for each of the 4 years prior to being issued a pass under this subparagraph.”.

TITLE II—NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “National Park Foundation Endowment Act”.

SEC. 202. SECOND CENTURY ENDOWMENT FOR THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.

(a) SECOND CENTURY ENDOWMENT.—Chapter 1011 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

“§ 101121. Second Century Endowment for the National Park Service

“(a) SECOND CENTURY ENDOWMENT.—To further the mission of the Service, the National Park Foundation shall establish a special account to be known as the ‘Second Century Endowment for the National Park Service’.

“(1) FUNDS FOR THE ENDOWMENT.—The following shall apply to the Endowment:

“(A) From amounts received by the United States each fiscal year from sales by the National Park Service of Federal Recreational Lands Passes under section 805(b)(1) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, \$10,000,000 shall be deposited into the Endowment.

“(B) In addition to deposits otherwise authorized, the Endowment shall consist of any gifts, devises, or bequests that are provided to the National Park Foundation for such purpose.

“(C) The National Park Foundation shall deposit any funds received for the Endowment in a federally insured interest-bearing account or may invest funds in appropriate security obligations, as directed by the Board of Directors.

“(D) Any accrued interest or dividends earned on funds received for the Endowment shall be added to the principal and form a part of the Endowment.

“(2) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), funds in the Endowment shall be available to the National Park Foundation as offsetting collections for projects and activities approved by the Secretary that further the mission and purposes of the Service.

“(B) Gifts, devises, or bequests in the endowment under paragraph (1)(A), and any accrued interest or dividends earned thereon, shall be available to the National Park Foundation for projects and activities approved by the Secretary that further the mission and purposes of the Service.

“(C) In administering the Endowment each fiscal year, the National Park Foundation shall be guided by the District of Columbia Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act of 2007 (D.C. Code § 44-1631 et seq.), including section 44-1633 on expenditures.

“(D) No Federal funds received for the Endowment may be used by the National Park Foundation for administrative expenses of the Foundation, including for salaries, travel and transportation expenses, and other overhead expenses.