

## FARM BUREAU CENTENNIAL

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial anniversary of the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation, our State's leading and largest farm organization.

Since 1917, Nebraska Farm Bureau has been a grassroots, statewide organization led by farmers and ranchers who work to enhance and strengthen the lives of all Nebraskans. This Federation of 85 county farm bureaus has more than 61,000 member families in all 93 Nebraska counties.

For 100 years, Nebraska Farm Bureau has united our State's farm and ranch families under a common banner, doing together what they cannot do alone. Through the power of their grassroots policy development process, Nebraska Farm Bureau remains the trusted voice for Nebraska farm and ranch families.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Farm Bureau's existence, and we congratulate the organization and all of its members on reaching this important milestone. We are excited for what the next 100 years have in store.

## REMEMBERING KEVIN MAINHART

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lieutenant Deputy Kevin Mainhart. A Yell County Sheriff's deputy, Kevin was killed during a traffic stop on May 11, 2017.

Lieutenant Mainhart had served as a police officer for 20 years in West Memphis, Arkansas, before returning to Yell County 5 years ago to protect and serve his hometown. He lived a life of service that his wife, Pam, and two sons, Lucas and Cody, can be proud of.

While words will never be able to console the pain and grief his family, community, and the State of Arkansas feel, we can take solace in the words of Christ, who said: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Yell County has lost a true friend and a servant. I thank Lieutenant Mainhart for his service and sacrifice and send my most sincere condolences to his friends, family, and all those affected by this senseless act of violence.

## CHEMICAL ATTACK IN SYRIA

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, stories from the survivors of Assad's bombings and chemical attacks are almost impossible to read due to the grotesque de-

scriptions of innocent people and children suffocating, foaming at the mouth, and suffering from seizures.

If, in 2013, the Obama administration had taken decisive leadership against the use of chemical weapons, insisted on a U.N. strategy to isolate Assad and Russia, verified the elimination of Syria's chemical weapons stockpile, and created no-fly zones, we might have avoided 500,000 innocent deaths and millions of refugees.

Through his appropriate and proportionate bombing, President Trump told Assad that America will no longer ignore the unspeakable acts of violence against innocent people. We also learned that the U.S.-led coalition aircraft bombed, last week, pro-regime forces after they breached a deconfliction zone and advanced on a base occupied by U.S. special forces.

I call on the United Nations to follow America's lead by pursuing a ceasefire in Syria, creating safe zones, and holding Assad accountable for his war crimes.

## RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1603

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GUTHRIE) at 4 o'clock and 3 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.

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

## ADAM WALSH REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1188) to reauthorize certain programs established by the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1188

*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 "Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act of 2017".*

**SEC. 2. SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE (SOMA) PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION.**

*Section 126(d) of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16926(d)) is amended to read as follows:*

*"(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General \$20,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2018 through 2022, to be available only for the SOMA program."*

**SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF FEDERAL ASSISTANCE WITH RESPECT TO VIOLATIONS OF REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.**

*Section 142(b) of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16941(b)) is amended to read as follows:*

*"(b) For each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022, of amounts made available to the United States Marshals Service, not less than \$60,000,000 shall be available to carry out this section."*

**SEC. 4. DURATION OF SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN JUVENILES.**

*Subparagraph (B) of section 115(b)(2) of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16915(b)(2)) is amended by striking "25 years" and inserting "15 years".*

**SEC. 5. PUBLIC ACCESS TO JUVENILE SEX OFFENDER INFORMATION.**

*Section 118(c) of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16918(c)) is amended—*

*(1) by striking "and" after the semicolon in paragraph (3);*

*(2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and*

*(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:*

*"(4) any information about a sex offender for whom the offense giving rise to the duty to register was an offense for which the offender was adjudicated delinquent; and"*

**SEC. 6. PROTECTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FROM STATE NONCOMPLIANCE PENALTY UNDER SORNA.**

*Section 125 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16925(a)) is amended—*

*(1) by striking "jurisdiction" each place it appears and inserting "State";*

*(2) in subsection (a)—*

*(A) by striking "subpart 1 of part E" and inserting "section 505(c)"; and*

*(B) by striking "(42 U.S.C. 3750 et seq.)" and inserting "(42 U.S.C. 3755(c))"; and*

*(3) by adding at the end the following:*

*"(e) CALCULATION OF ALLOCATION TO UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—Notwithstanding the formula under section 505(c) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3755(c)), a State which is subject to a reduction in funding under subsection (a) shall—*

*"(1) calculate the amount to be made available to units of local government by the State pursuant to the formula under section 505(c) using the amount that would otherwise be allocated to that State for that fiscal year under section 505(c) of that Act, and make such amount available to such units of local government; and*

*"(2) retain for the purposes described in section 501 any amount remaining after the allocation required by paragraph (1)."*

**SEC. 7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN ANNUAL REPORT ON ENFORCEMENT OF REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.**

*Section 635 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16991) is amended—*

*(1) by striking "Not later than July 1 of each year" and inserting "On January 1 of each year,";*

*(2) in paragraph (3), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: ", and an*

analysis of any common reasons for noncompliance with such Act”;

(3) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the end;

(4) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(5) by adding after paragraph (5) the following:

“(6) the number of sex offenders registered in the National Sex Offender Registry;

“(7) the number of sex offenders registered in the National Sex Offender Registry who—

“(A) are adults;

“(B) are juveniles; and

“(C) are adults, but who are required to register as a result of conduct committed as a juvenile; and

“(8) to the extent such information is obtainable, of the number of sex offenders registered in the National Sex Offender Registry who are juveniles—

“(A) the percentage of such offenders who were adjudicated delinquent; and

“(B) the percentage of such offenders who were prosecuted as adults.”.

#### SEC. 8. ENSURING SUPERVISION OF RELEASED SEXUALLY DANGEROUS PERSONS.

(a) PROBATION OFFICERS.—Section 3603 of title 18, United States Code, is amended in paragraph (8)(A) by striking “or 4246” and inserting “, 4246, or 4248”.

(b) PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICERS.—Section 3154 of title 18, United States Code, is amended in paragraph (12)(A) by striking “or 4246” and inserting “, 4246, or 4248”.

#### SEC. 9. CIVIL REMEDY FOR SURVIVORS OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

Section 2255(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “three years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(2) by inserting “ends” before the period at the end.

#### SEC. 10. TRIBAL ACCESS PROGRAM.

The Attorney General is authorized to provide technical assistance, including equipment, to tribal governments for the purpose of enabling such governments to access, enter information into, and obtain information from, Federal criminal information databases, as authorized under section 534(d) of title 28, United States Code. The Department of Justice Working Capital Fund (established under section 527 of title 28, United States Code) may be reimbursed by federally recognized tribes for technical assistance provided pursuant to this section.

#### SEC. 11. ALTERNATIVE MECHANISMS FOR IN-PERSON VERIFICATION.

Section 116 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16916) is amended—

(1) by striking “A sex offender shall” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), a sex offender shall”;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) ALTERNATIVE VERIFICATION METHOD.—A jurisdiction may allow a sex offender to comply with the requirements under subsection (a) by an alternative verification method approved by the Attorney General, except that each offender shall appear in person not less than one time per year. The Attorney General shall approve an alternative verification method described in this subsection prior to its implementation by a jurisdiction in order to ensure that such method provides for verification that is sufficient to ensure the public safety.”.

#### SEC. 12. CLARIFICATION OF AGGRAVATED SEXUAL ABUSE.

Section 111(8) of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16911(8)) is amended by inserting “subsection (a) or (b) of” before “section 2241 of title 18, United States Code”.

#### SEC. 13. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION OF SEX OFFENDER ISSUES.

Section 634(c) of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) ADDITIONAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of the Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act of 2017, the National Institute of Justice shall submit to Congress a report on the public safety impact, recidivism, and collateral consequences of long-term registration of juvenile sex offenders, based on the information collected for the study under subsection (a) and any other information the National Institute of Justice determines necessary for such report.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. 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 H.R. 1188, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

In preventing child victimization, Congress, working in tandem with law enforcement, has long recognized the importance of monitoring sex offenders.

In 1994, Congress passed the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act. This legislation mandated that States track violent sex offenders and establish guidelines for tracking those offenders.

Over the years, Congress continued its vigilance in monitoring sex offenders, which ultimately culminated in a comprehensive piece of legislation titled the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006. Among other things, the Adam Walsh Act established a national sex offender registry, provided for post-conviction civil commitment of certain sex offenders, eliminated the statute of limitations for certain sex offenses against children, and created an office at the Justice Department specifically designed to monitor sex offenders.

Today I am proud to be here on the floor to champion the reauthorization of this landmark legislation.

H.R. 1188, the Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act of 2017, authorizes funds for the Department of Justice’s Sex Offender Management Assistance program and for the great work the United States Marshals do in locating and apprehending fugitive sex offenders who do not comply with the law’s requirements.

H.R. 1188 also contains numerous measures to encourage more States and Tribal jurisdictions to comply with

the requirements of the Federal system, in part by making changes to the law to address concerns some States have expressed.

For instance, the bill lowers the duration of sex offender registration requirements for certain juveniles and allows States to register juveniles adjudicated delinquent on a nonpublic system. It also clarifies that only juveniles who commit violent sexual assaults should be placed on a State registry.

The bill also permits alternative methods for in-person verification so that rural jurisdictions can verify location of offenders remotely, in most instances only requiring in-person verification once per year.

H.R. 1188 requires parole officers and pretrial services officers to stay informed of the conduct and provide supervision of sexually dangerous persons. Moreover, the bill strengthens civil remedies for survivors of exploitation and trafficking by allowing individuals who were victims of exploitation or trafficking as juveniles to have 10 years after becoming an adult to file suit for a civil remedy.

Mr. Speaker, we must not forget why we are here. In 1981, Adam Walsh, a 7-year-old boy, was abducted and brutally murdered in Hollywood, Florida. His death was devastating. And for many families, that kind of inconsolable pain would be incapacitating. As a father and grandfather, I cannot even imagine it.

We are thankful for the work of the Walsh family, who have dedicated their lives to child advocacy and whose work is responsible for saving the lives of countless children. I am also grateful to our colleague, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, the author of the original Adam Walsh Act, for introducing this reauthorization bill and for his own tireless advocacy on behalf of our Nation’s children.

Mr. Speaker, scripture reminds us that “children are a heritage from the Lord.” I urge my colleagues to support this strong, bipartisan legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1188, the Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act of 2017.

For those of us who have met John Walsh and know of his family, it is both unspeakable and unimaginable the feeling that families have faced when a beautiful young child has gone missing and ultimately brutalized and killed. That is what happened to John, his wife, and his family’s beautiful child in 1981.

So out of that came a lifelong commitment to ending this kind of violence against children, but, more importantly, finding the Nation’s worst criminals who would brutalize families and fail to be apprehended.

The Adam Walsh Act, in particular, established the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act—often referred to as SORNA—as a national system for the registration of sex offenders.

This bill is an important bill, and I want to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) again for his energized and effective effort reauthorizing this legislation and his commitment to fighting for the needs of protecting children. We join him in that. I am reminded of the great work of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and how they have continued their work for years. As they came into fruition, it seemed that children were missing every day. Violence was perpetrated, but laws were brought about to make a difference.

So I support this bill and I raise some reflective thoughts. I am glad that this bill reflects changes to SORNA that were agreed to by the Judiciary Committee when it last reauthorized the Adam Walsh Act in 2012 to improve the requirements for States to register sex offenders, for that was a very difficult system, and some States were complying and others were not.

Whatever one's belief may be about the wisdom of sex offender registries, prior to SORNA, many States had already developed sex offender registries on their own and devoted substantial resources to identify the most effective methods to manage sex offenders.

In the legislation, there was a certain way that SORNA wanted to handle that, therefore, States were made to disregard those efforts in favor of a one-size-fits-all. One of the principal concerns with SORNA is that it deprives States of flexibility in dealing with juvenile sex offender registration. I am glad that there is at least a recognition that States have put in good programs, so I am delighted that that flexibility can be addressed.

I also think that it is important to note that the bill has to address longstanding implementation issues. As we noted in 2012, although the legislation made some useful reforms, it failed to address fundamental concerns with SORNA, and we are still working to achieve that accomplishment.

Commendably, H.R. 1188, however, would allow States discretion in determining whether juvenile sex offender information would be accessible to the public via the internet. Of course, it continues to be a steadfast legal prohibition and structure to diminishing—or hopefully diminishing—the sex violence against children.

It will reduce the time that certain, but not all, juvenile sex offenders adjudicated as a delinquent are required to register from 25 to 15 years.

The bill has many merits, and I think the changes that have been made are extremely positive, one, in dealing with flexibility, and, two, with recognizing some flexibility as it relates to juvenile offenders.

This is legislation that many have poured their heart into because they

believe that there should be a day when this kind of violence ends, and I hope my colleagues will support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss H.R. 1188, the “Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act of 2017.” While it is an improvement over current law dealing with a very important subject, it should do more.

This bill is a step forward in our effort to address concerns about the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, commonly known as SORNA.

There is no doubt that child sexual exploitation is a plague on our country.

The mistreatment of children should not be tolerated in any form.

Congress has a duty to carefully craft solutions to this problem without creating confusion or new problems.

The creation of a uniform, nationwide standard for sex offender registries in the Adam Walsh Act of 2006 was motivated by laudable goals—prevention and protection.

Congress soon found, however, that state implementation of SORNA would not occur quickly or easily.

Many states were unable to comply, and some would not comply because of disagreements about who should be subject to mandatory registration.

Problems with SORNA were still evident in 2012 when we last considered, but did not complete, reauthorization of the Adam Walsh Act.

Now, ten years after enactment, problems with SORNA remain.

According to the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs (OJP), only 17 states, 3 territories, and 103 Indian tribes, have substantially implemented SORNA.

States continue to incur penalties imposed on Byrne Justice Assistance Grants funding for noncompliance, monies that fund essential state and local programs.

Juvenile registration is still the most significant barrier to state implementation of SORNA.

Research has shown that treatment of juvenile sex offenders can and does work through therapy that involves community-based intervention, adapted to the needs of juveniles, working within multiple systems—individual, family, and school—to address the various causes of childhood delinquency.

Researchers have also found that adolescents who completed sexual offender treatment had significantly lower recidivism rates than untreated adolescents, whereas registration serves only to marginalize and label youth, causing more harm than good.

In order to implement the approaches to the treatment of juvenile offenders that have proven successful, states must have flexibility in the manner in which they handle juvenile sex offenders—flexibility that is all but denied to states by SORNA.

Although I believe juveniles should be completely removed from registration requirements, I am glad that this bill includes a provision that allows states to exempt juveniles adjudicated delinquent for sex offenses from the public website and reduces the time some juveniles will be potentially required to register from 25 to 15 years.

Under this bill, the Attorney General's annual report to Congress on sex offender registration will now include an analysis of com-

mon reasons for state noncompliance, including more detailed information on offenders, particularly juveniles, including a breakdown of the number of registered offenders who are juveniles and adults who are required to register because of statutory rape convictions or other conduct committed as juveniles.

Hopefully, this information will inform future efforts to amend SORNA.

While this bill includes provisions that address some of the concerns raised when the Adam Walsh Act was considered by this Committee in 2012, it is clear that work remains to be done if the Act is to ever achieve its purpose.

I thank Mr. SENSENBRENNER for his dedication to this issue.

I support this bill—as far as it goes—and hope my colleagues will support efforts to improve it.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), the former chairman of the Judiciary Committee and the chief sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, as the chief sponsor of this legislation, as well as the chief sponsor of the original Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, I rise in support of this legislation and hope that it is swiftly enacted.

The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act, enacted in 2006, is landmark legislation intended to keep our communities, and, most importantly, our children safe from sex offenders and other dangerous predators.

This bipartisan bill strengthened the sex offender registry requirements and enforcement, extended Federal registry requirements to Indian Tribes, and authorized funding for Federal programs intended to address and deter child exploitation.

□ 1615

The centerpiece of the Adam Walsh Act is the national Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, or SORNA for short. SORNA's goal is to create a seamless national sex offender registry to assist law enforcement efforts to detect and track offenders. SORNA provides minimum standards for State sex offender registries and created the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website, which allows law enforcement officials and the general public to search for sex offenders nationwide from just one website.

H.R. 1188, the Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act of 2017, reauthorizes two key programs from the original Adam Walsh Act: grants to the States and other jurisdictions to implement the Adam Walsh Act's sex offender registry requirements and funding for the U.S. marshals to locate and apprehend sex offenders who violate registration requirements. These programs are crucial to efforts to complete and enforce the national network of sex offender registries, particularly in light of the already passed deadline for States to come into compliance with SORNA.

Based on feedback from the States, H.R. 1188 makes targeted changes to the SORNA sex offender registry requirements. The bill changes the period of time after which juveniles adjudicated delinquent can petition to be removed from the sex offender registry for a clean record from 25 to 15 years, and provides that juveniles do not need to be included on publicly viewed sex offender registries. Instead, it is sufficient for juveniles to be included on registries that are only viewed by law enforcement entities. I believe these provisions strike an appropriate balance between being tough on juveniles who commit serious sex crimes and understanding that there can be differences between adult and juvenile offenders.

The bill also recognizes the unique challenges that tribes face in implementing SORNA. H.R. 1188 provides technical assistance to tribes so they can access, and enter information into, the Federal criminal information databases.

Finally, H.R. 1188 amends the statute of limitations to allow individuals who were victims of exploitation or trafficking as juveniles to have 10 years after becoming an adult to file suit for a civil remedy. It is my hope that, with these commonsense changes, more States will come into compliance.

With the passage of this legislation, Congress can send a strong message to all Americans about our continued commitment to keeping our Nation's children safe. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

First of all, we will be doing a series of bills that are extremely important, and I will make note of my interest in protecting children, but as well to broaden our work as we work in the Committee on the Judiciary on matters dealing with criminal justice reform and specifically dealing with the issue of solitary confinement, alternative sentencing for young people, and Ban the Box. I also hope that we will work on issues dealing with criminal justice reform sentencing reduction that are crucial and prison reform. There is a lot of work for us to do as we do the work on the floor today. People are waiting, and in some instances languishing, in the Nation's juvenile detention centers and various juvenile justice courts for a statement to be made by the Federal Government on seeking a second chance for those who are in the juvenile justice system.

As relates to the Adam Walsh legislation, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the other cosponsors of H.R. 1188 for their steadfast work on these issues. Nevertheless, as I indicated, let's do more with respect to dealing with the registration of juvenile offenders in terms of attempting to ensure that they will have an opportunity for rehabilitation.

While I hope we may still work to make additional improvements to this

legislation, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to again consider the importance of our duty to protect children from sexual predators in as efficient and broad-based manner as we possibly can.

I want to thank the continued service of John Walsh and offer again, as we all do, our deepest expression of remorse for the loss that he and so many families tragically have experienced at the hands of horrific sexual predators and those who would attack our children.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important bipartisan legislation. I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. GOWDY), and the chief sponsor, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), for working with me and my staff on this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support it.

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 Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1188, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GLOBAL CHILD PROTECTION ACT OF 2017

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1862) to amend title 18, United States Code, to expand the scope of certain definitions pertaining to unlawful sexual conduct, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1862

*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 "Global Child Protection Act of 2017".

#### SEC. 2. EXPANDING THE DEFINITION OF ILLICIT SEXUAL CONDUCT.

Section 2423(f)(1) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "a sexual act (as defined in section 2246) with" and inserting "any conduct involving"; and

(2) by striking "if the sexual act" and inserting "if the conduct".

#### SEC. 3. EXPANDING THE DEFINITION OF FEDERAL SEX OFFENSE.

Section 3559 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)(2)(A)—

(A) by inserting after "2244(a)(1)" the following "or 2244(a)(5)";

(B) by striking the "or" before "2423(a)";  
(C) by striking "into prostitution"; and  
(D) by inserting "or 2423(c) (relating to illicit sexual conduct)" before the semicolon at the end; and

(2) in subsection (e)(3), by striking "or 2423(a)" and inserting "2423(a), or 2423(c)".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 1862, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Children are the most vulnerable and innocent members of our society, and we have a duty to make sure our laws protect them to the fullest extent possible. H.R. 1862, the Global Child Protection Act of 2017, closes regrettable loopholes in existing child exploitation statutes to do just that.

Currently, dangerous sexual predators who violate children overseas can avoid culpability simply by engaging in what the United States Code defines as sexual contact rather than what the law defines as illicit sexual conduct. That is, they can go abroad, cause a child to sexually touch them, and return, without exposure to the criminal liability they would face had they engaged in what the law defines as illicit sexual conduct.

I am sure my colleagues would agree that it should not matter whether the offender engages in sexual conduct or contact with a child. Either way, he is a child predator. This is the very definition of a loophole, and it is putting children at risk. That is because these predators are aware of this loophole, and they are able to share this information quickly in chat groups on the internet. They plot their foreign sex tourism accordingly, to circumvent criminal liability.

H.R. 1862 closes this loophole by expanding the definition of illicit sexual conduct to include sexual contact. No longer will these predators be able to escape justice and continue to offend with impunity.

This bill also closes a loophole for recidivist offenders. It is estimated that only between 8 and 20 percent of victims of childhood sexual abuse report they have been abused. That is why it is vitally important that, when we do become aware of these offenses and secure convictions, our justice system imposes penalties to adequately punish and deter this evil.