

words and actions are sending to our fellow citizens. As elected officials, it is our responsibility to lead by example and make sure that our laws and institutions reflect our best aspirations of unity and respect for Americans of all backgrounds.

Passing the 21st Century Respect Act is a demonstration of our commitment to ensuring that every person who pledges allegiance to our flag feels valued and included by the Nation it represents. I encourage all of my colleagues to support H.R. 995.

Mr. Speaker, these are words from Congressman HAKEEM JEFFRIES, who is on his way.

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

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I think the legislation that we are seeing on this floor today demonstrates addressing a variety of issues, be it on our public lands, needing that to be able to be updated, private property rights to be able to update it, but probably nothing is more personal than the legislation that we are addressing at this particular moment, to be able to be respectful of individuals and have that there to actually be able to be addressed.

□ 1715

This legislation is a long time coming—much like Mr. JEFFRIES, coming to the floor—to be able to address this important piece of legislation, for the House to be able to consider, as we move forward with our business.

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

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS).

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 995, the 21st Century Respect Act, which we all know is a bipartisan bill that will remove outdated and offensive racial labels from the Code of Federal Regulations.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that words matter. They matter. We all stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance every day. Every day I take those words very, very seriously. Words do matter.

It is time that we remove outdated and offensive language from any code, policy, law, regulation: words like Eskimo, words like Oriental—my God—words like Negro. They matter. As elected officials, we have a responsibility.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, can you tell me how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California has 11 minutes remaining.

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES).

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from California for yielding and for her leadership as well as her support, in addition to Ranking Member GRIJALVA, Chairman BISHOP, Chairman LAMALFA, and the entire committee for moving

this bill expeditiously to the House floor and for their leadership and partnership in this regard. I also want to thank my good friend and fellow Judiciary Committee member, Congressman CHABOT, for his support, leadership, and cosponsorship of this legislation.

Words definitely matter. They can cause great harm and division, particularly when they are embedded in Federal statute.

So this step that we are taking today, as it relates to the 21st Century Respect Act, is important, as a symbol from this Congress, the people's House, to the Nation that we can come together, that we are all fellow Americans, and that outdated, antiquated, and racially stereotypical terms like Negro and Eskimo and Oriental are not appropriate at this time in America. They reflect a more divisive bygone era.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful to all of my colleagues for coming together in this regard, a small but meaningful step in an era otherwise characterized by great division, and perhaps an indication that we can come together as Democrats, as Republicans, and as people of diverse racial backgrounds to heal whatever divisions may remain in our society.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of my colleagues for their leadership and support.

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

Mr. TIPTON. 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 Colorado (Mr. TIPTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 995, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to modernize terms in certain regulations."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LAW ENFORCEMENT MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS ACT OF 2017

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2228) to provide support for law enforcement agency efforts to protect the mental health and well-being of law enforcement officers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. R. 2228

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 "Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. SUPPORT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

(a) INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION.—The Attorney General shall consult with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report, which shall be made publicly available, on Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs mental health practices and services that could be adopted by Federal, State, local, or tribal law enforcement agencies.

(b) CASE STUDIES.—The Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services shall submit to Congress a report—

(1) that is similar to the report entitled "Health, Safety, and Wellness Program Case Studies in Law Enforcement" published by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services in 2015; and

(2) that focuses on case studies of programs designed primarily to address officer psychological health and well-being.

(c) PEER MENTORING PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 1701(b) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (21), by striking ";" and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (22), by striking the period at the end and inserting ";" and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(23) to establish peer mentoring mental health and wellness pilot programs within State, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies."

SEC. 3. SUPPORT FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS.

The Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall develop resources to educate mental health providers about the culture of Federal, State, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies and evidence-based therapies for mental health issues common to Federal, State, local, and tribal law enforcement officers.

SEC. 4. SUPPORT FOR OFFICERS.

The Attorney General shall—

(1) in consultation with Federal, State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies—

(A) identify and review the effectiveness of any existing crisis hotlines for law enforcement officers;

(B) provide recommendations to Congress on whether Federal support for existing crisis hotlines or the creation of an alternative hotline would improve the effectiveness or use of the hotline; and

(C) conduct research into the efficacy of an annual mental health check for law enforcement officers;

(2) in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the head of other Federal agencies that employ law enforcement officers, examine the mental health and wellness needs of Federal law enforcement officers, including the efficacy of expanding peer mentoring programs for law enforcement officers at each Federal agency;

(3) ensure that any recommendations, resources, or programs provided under this Act protect the privacy of participating law enforcement officers; and

(4) not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, submit a report to Congress containing findings from the review and research under paragraphs (1) and (2), and final recommendations based upon those findings.

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 to include extraneous material on H.R. 2228, 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.

Today we are voting on H.R. 2228, the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act. This bill is designed to equip local law enforcement agencies with information and resources to address mental health challenges faced by officers.

Our policemen and -women report for duty every day, facing and responding to danger on our behalf. We often see them and we always appreciate them. However, we often don't consider the mental aspect of the challenges facing our officers who put themselves in harm's way to protect our communities.

Today we consider the toll their jobs take on their psychological well-being. Every day, these brave men and women face some of the highest stress situations one can imagine. When officers hang up their badges at the end of a shift, they cannot easily hang up the lingering effects of their high-stakes encounters. As this stress accumulates, it can lead to serious physical and mental health problems. Research has shown time and again that police officer occupational stress is directly correlated to heart disease, divorce, alcohol abuse, and major psychological illnesses, including acute stress disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and anxiety disorders.

Over 900,000 men and women serve as sworn law enforcement officers in the United States. Each year, more of them die from suicide than from gunfire and traffic accidents combined. Many departments have started mental health programs as preventative measures. These programs have been successful in reducing the number of police officer suicides from 300 in 1998 to 126 in 2012. But in departments where mental health and wellness programs remain absent, these problems continue. We must address this gap.

H.R. 2228 directs the Department of Justice, in consultation with the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, to equip local law enforcement agencies to address mental health challenges faced by police officers. It also permits DOJ's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services to award grants to peer mentoring pilot programs, and it directs the Attorney General to make recommendations on how to make these and other programs more effective.

Mr. Speaker, we all recognize the profound challenges faced by law enforcement in this country. Today we

also acknowledge the unseen toll that these challenges can take on the health of these brave men and women.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. BROOKS from Indiana for introducing this bill, and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for this important step in providing law enforcement agencies with the resources to treat severe mental and physical stress. Our men and women in blue deserve the appreciation and support of all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I wish and hope that all of my colleagues and Americans had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

I thank the men and women of the United States military for their service. It is particularly noteworthy that they serve in this time when families are gathered.

I thank Mr. GOODLATTE for collaborating on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2228, the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act of 2017. Ensuring the mental health and well-being of our law enforcement officers is paramount to the safety of our communities and the people our officers take a solemn oath to protect.

I am also very pleased to acknowledge VAL DEMINGS, a colleague and a member of the Homeland Security Committee, of which I serve. We are better off for the experience, commitment, and professional career that she had as a law enforcement officer and chief. She is one of the cosponsors of this legislation and I look forward to hearing from her.

Let me also take note of the fact that Texas experienced a depth of sadness over the holiday weekend when we lost one of our Department of Public Safety officers, who was killed by a perpetrator during the Thanksgiving weekend. We pray for him and his family.

H.R. 2228 is intended to provide support for law enforcement agency efforts to protect the mental health and well-being of law enforcement officers. I support this legislation as a good first step towards Congress addressing the various matters surrounding the mental health of our law enforcement officers.

We must recognize that law enforcement officers play a special role in our communities, with exceptional responsibilities to protect and serve where they see, encounter, and respond to horrendous situations that are dangerous, stressful, and often life-threatening.

Imagine those officers who came upon that scene Sunday morning in Texas a few weeks ago where 27 Texans were murdered in church and 20 were injured. Imagine churches that are frightened about worshipping. Imagine, as I left my hometown Houston, that

there were law enforcement officers who were gathered to meet with pastors to give them comfort. They are there for us.

As well, for example, law enforcement officers have had to respond to several recent tragedies, which include the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida, where 49 people were killed and 53 others were wounded; the killing of 5 officers and the wounding of 9 other officers, along with 2 civilians in Dallas, Texas; the San Bernardino, California, shooting of 14 innocent employees; the Las Vegas, Nevada, massacre, where a gunman killed 58 innocent concertgoers and injured nearly 500 others; and, again, most recently, as I indicated, on November 5, the deadliest mass shooting by an individual in Texas, the fifth deadliest mass shooting in the United States, as well as the deadliest shooting in an American place of worship in modern history, where 26 were gunned down in Sutherland Springs, Texas, including an 18-month-old child, a pregnant mother, and where 20 others were injured.

These horrific occurrences have become all too common in today's society. These chilling tragedies continue to affect us all. Imagine the impact that they have collectively on our law enforcement officers with whom these traumatic situations remain long after the threats are reduced. Everyone has returned home and communities they serve have regained a renewed sense of safety.

Imagine that officer that comes upon a horrific traffic accident that kills a family. Imagine their pain and their concern. Requiring these officers to continue to serve without providing them an effective avenue to process the day-to-day crisis does an injustice to them. That is why this is a very important initiative and I am really excited to support it.

I want to also raise for my colleagues that I have been a longstanding advocate for helping police officers, as we have worked together with the chairman of the committee and other members of the committee.

I want to make mention of the Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act, which takes a comprehensive approach to addressing policing issues, including recognition of the importance of sustaining the mental well-being of our officers.

This piece of legislation addresses tragedies where we have seen actions take place. Countless unfortunate incidents have happened maybe because of the lack of deescalation.

□ 1730

This bill, I hope we can move along, as this bill that we have, the underlying bill, requires the Attorney General to perform an initial analysis of existing law enforcement accreditation standards and to recommend areas for development. That gives training, and it also takes into account mental health needs and funding needs.

It authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to States, units of local government, Indian tribal governments to study law enforcement agency management and operations and to develop pilot programs to implement best practices.

It requires the Attorney General to study the prevalence and impact of any law, rule, or procedure that allows a law enforcement officer to delay the answer to questions posed, as quickly as possible, by any of the authorities investigating situations.

It authorizes appropriations for expenses related to criminal and civil enforcement activities by the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department.

It requires the Department of Justice to establish a task force to assist in local investigations, and it requires each Federal, State, and local law enforcement agency to report to the Attorney General on the actions in that particular department to help that department assess its own work.

It requires the Department of Justice to cooperate with the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund—something that was very important to me—to create and provide a distinctive medallion to be issued to the survivors of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty or memorialized on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

This is in sync with the task force that was held in the last administration that offered to discuss ways to improve policing and to help our individual police officers.

We want to be partners for safety and security and community police relations, and we want them to have good health and the ability to serve the public in a good health mindset.

Under today's bill, the Attorney General shall review current mental health practices and services of Federal agencies and report to Congress, develop resources to educate mental healthcare providers about the law enforcement culture across the board, and develop evidence-based therapies as a result.

I believe this legislation and the Law Enforcement Integrity Legislation, if passed, will create an atmosphere where law enforcement officers will be comfortable in sharing their thoughts or their assessments or best practices.

Under this bill, the underlying bill, the Director of Community Oriented Policing Services shall conduct case studies that focuses on programs designed primarily to address officer psychological health and well-being and submit such a report to Congress.

The Attorney General shall also consult with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the heads of Federal agencies to examine the mental health needs of Federal law enforcement officers and the efficacy of expanding peer mentoring programs; ensure the recommendations, resources, or programs protect the privacy of officers—that is extremely important—and report these

findings to the Congress no later than 1 year after enactment.

Mr. Speaker, the key to all of this is to build the trust between community and police, the police community and the police families and families of those who come within the range of law enforcement.

If we can all work together, we can trust each other, we will have a better system of justice. This bill is a good first step, and I look forward to working as well with other law enforcement bills, including the Law Enforcement Integrity bill that I have just so noted.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2228, the "Law Enforcement Mental Health Act of 2017." Ensuring the mental health and well-being of our law enforcement officers is paramount to the safety of our communities and the people our officers take a solemn oath to protect.

H.R. 2228 is intended to provide support for law enforcement agency efforts to protect the mental health and well-being of law enforcement officers.

These horrific occurrences have become all too common in today's society. These chilling tragedies continue to affect us all. Imagine the impact they have collectively on our law enforcement officers, with whom these traumatic situations remain long after the threats are reduced, everyone has returned home and communities they serve have regained a renewed sense of safety.

Requiring these officers to continue to serve, without providing them an effective avenue to process these day-to-day crises does an injustice to them.

For example, law enforcement officers have had to respond to several recent tragedies which include: the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida, where 49 people were killed and 53 others wounded; the killing of five officers and wounding of nine other officers along with two civilians in Dallas, Texas; the San Bernardino shooting of 14 innocent employees; the Las Vegas massacre, where a gunman killed 58 innocent concert-goers and injured nearly 500 others; and again, most recently on November 5, the deadliest mass shooting by an individual in Texas, the fifth-deadliest mass shooting in the United States, as well as the deadliest shooting in an American place of worship in modern history, where 26 were gunned down in Sutherland Springs, including an 18-month-old child and a pregnant mother, and where 20 others were injured.

This is why I have been a longstanding advocate for adoption of the "Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act," which takes a comprehensive approach to addressing policing issues, including a recognition of the importance of sustaining the mental well-being of our officers.

This piece of legislation addresses the tragedies in some of our most recent cases such as: Tamir Rice, Brown, Freddie Gray and Garner and the countless others that do not receive publicity.

The bill provides seven substantive approaches towards improving law enforcement management and misconduct prosecution tools:

(1) It requires the Attorney General to perform initial analysis of existing law enforcement accreditation standards and to recommend areas for development.

(2) It authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to States, units of local government, Indian Tribal Governments, to study law enforcement agency management and operations and to develop pilot programs to implement best practices.

(3) It requires the Attorney General to study the prevalence and impact of any law, rule or procedure that allows a law enforcement officer to delay the answer to questions posed by a local internal affairs officer, prosecutor, or review board on the investigative integrity and prosecution of law enforcement misconduct.

(4) It authorizes appropriations for expenses related to criminal and civil enforcement activities by the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department.

(5) It requires the Department of Justice to establish a task force to coordinate the investigation, prosecution and enforcement efforts of Federal, state and local governments in cases related to law enforcement misconduct.

(6) It requires each Federal, State, and local law enforcement agency to report to the Attorney General data on the following: (1) traffic violation stops; (2) pedestrian stops and detentions; and (3) the use of deadly force by and against law enforcement officers.

(7) It requires the Department of Justice, in cooperation with the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, to create and provide a distinctive medallion to be issued to the survivors of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty or memorialized on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

These are all measures similar in nature to those undertaken by the Obama Task Force Initiative. In short, the Law Enforcement Integrity and Trust Act would help law enforcement officers do their jobs, knowing that they have our support. This is why it was endorsed by a broad range of legal, community-based and law enforcement groups nationwide.

Under today's bill, the Attorney General shall review current mental health practices and services of Federal agencies and report to Congress, develop resources to educate mental health care providers about the law enforcement culture across the board, and develop evidence-based therapies as a result.

Under this bill the Director of Community Oriented Policing Services shall conduct case studies that focus on programs designed primarily to address officers' psychological health and well-being and submit such report to Congress.

I support this legislation as a good first step towards Congress addressing the various matters surrounding the mental health of our law enforcement officers.

We must recognize that law enforcement officers play a special role in our communities, with exceptional responsibilities to protect and serve, where they see, encounter, and respond to horrendous situations that are both dangerous and stressful, and often life-threatening.

The Attorney General shall also consult with the Secretary of Homeland Security and head of Federal agencies to examine the mental health needs of Federal law enforcement officers and the efficacy of expanding peer mentoring programs; ensure the recommendations, resources, or programs protect the privacy of officers; and report these findings to Congress no later than one year after enactment.

As this is a good first step, I support the bill and ask my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS), the chief sponsor of this legislation.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for yielding. I also want to thank the gentleman for his leadership of the House Judiciary Committee and for his many, many years of support for law enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the gentlewoman from Texas for her support of this bill and for being the leading voice today to talk about trust between the law enforcement community and the communities which they protect. I believe that this bill will go a long way in helping our law enforcement and that the communities in which they serve to protect should recognize the types of trials and tribulations that our law enforcement officers face every day.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who, before coming to Congress, were leaders in the law enforcement community—including the gentlewoman from Florida, whom, I believe, we will hear from—who, day in and day out, served and protected their own communities.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act because our Nation's law enforcement officers often deal with the unthinkable. They daily face situations that can be hard to process and impossible to forget.

The work our Nation's law enforcement officers undertake puts incredible strains on them, on their families. It places them in situations that increase their chances of developing mental disorders.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, between 7 and 19 percent of police officers have symptoms of PTSD. In comparison, only 3½ percent of the general population experience PTSD. Furthermore, the suicide rate for our Nation's law enforcement officers is double the rate at which officers are killed by violent felons.

In the Fifth District of Indiana, Boone County Sheriff Mike Nielsen desperately and publicly pleaded for better mental health services after his daughter, also a police officer, tried to take her own life. She was struggling with PTSD after responding to a case involving the murder of a mother and her 4-year-old son.

Our police officers face a culture of silence when it comes to mental health challenges, and we know they need better access to mental health services to allow them to cope with these horrific types of unforgettable situations.

As a former deputy mayor of Indianapolis responsible for public safety, I know firsthand the struggles our law enforcement community members face in their work. The Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department recognized

this problem several years ago and began a pilot program that provides mental health services to officers, including counseling and referrals to doctors, psychologists, and clinicians to get them the help they need, and that program actually inspired this bill.

Recognizing the tremendous work already being done by the Veterans Administration and the Department of Defense on behalf of our Nation's servicemembers, this bill will require the Justice Department to consult with those Federal agencies to determine which mental health practices they have developed that would be most useful in the law enforcement setting.

We also have to encourage our officers to share their experiences with their colleagues who can understand and empathize with them about the traumatic events they experience while serving in the line of duty. To that end, this bill establishes a grant program within the Justice Department to establish peer mentoring mental health and wellness pilot programs within State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies.

Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that affects the law enforcement community across the country. I urge my colleagues, and I want to thank my colleagues for joining with me, to support this important proposal.

Our Nation's law enforcement officers are duty bound to protect and serve, and it is only fair that we work to protect them as well from the stress and trauma that they face to keep our communities safe.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her remarks. We are working together to build that trust and to safely secure the community and our officers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS). She brings to the United States Congress very important contributions as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Affairs. These voices are well needed. Congresswoman VAL DEMINGS is the former chief of police of the City of Orlando, Florida.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas for being a leading voice on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act, which I am proud to cosponsor with my friend and colleague, Representative SUSAN BROOKS from Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank all of my colleagues for their support on this very important issue.

Our law enforcement officers respond to some of the most horrific scenes and situations. After 27 years in law enforcement, how well I know. They respond without regard to their own personal safety, and they are the thin blue line that stands between a safe place and the dangers that lurk in our society.

We should all thank God for the men and women who patrol our streets, our

neighborhoods, our businesses, our schools, and our highways to keep us safe.

Being a law enforcement officer is not just what they do, it is who they are—all the dangers, the unknowns, the graphic crime scenes, split-second, life-and-death decisions. Don't be fooled. There is no other job quite like it.

The national president of the Fraternal Order of Police said this: "Unlike many other professions, sometimes you can't leave the job at the office."

Mr. Speaker, as a former law enforcement officer, I am proud to cosponsor the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act. This important piece of legislation would ensure that agencies are better equipped and officers have the resources needed to effectively deal with the stress and mental health challenges associated with the job.

Mr. Speaker, what an amazing opportunity we have to pass legislation to protect the mental health and overall well-being of the men and women in blue as they continue to protect and take care of us.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), a distinguished and senior member of the Judiciary Committee, the chair of the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act. This bill would take a number of steps to help protect the mental well-being of those who take extraordinary steps to protect all of us.

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services at the Department of Justice reports that law enforcement has an occupational fatality rate three to five times higher than the national average for the working population. Officers respond to horrible situations that are dangerous, stressful, and sometimes life-threatening.

In addition to protecting law enforcement officers from the physical hazards associated with doing their daily jobs, we must also do more to protect them from the mental and emotional difficulties resulting from their work. That is why I support this bill, which would initiate several efforts to help the mental wellness of our law enforcement officers.

The bill calls for the collaboration of the Justice Department, the Defense Department, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to determine which mental health practices and services from the military agencies may be adopted to help civilian law enforcement.

The bill would expand the allowable uses of existing Justice Department grants to include establishment of

mental health and wellness programs within State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies.

The bill would direct the Justice Department and the Department of Health and Human Services to develop educational materials for mental health providers about the culture of law enforcement agencies.

Finally, the bill would consider improvements to crisis hotlines to better serve those from law enforcement who seek to use them.

Although I am particularly proud of New York's finest, I am glad that this bill will help law enforcement officers in every jurisdiction across the country. Their service certainly deserves the assistance this legislation will provide. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill today.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, again, let me thank the two prior speakers, Congresswoman DEMINGS and Congressman NADLER, for very insightful, very important remarks on this particular legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), someone who I know has a passion for first responders, as we have worked together even more closely after the heinous tragedy of 9/11.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the chairman, who has distinguished himself in law enforcement since he has been here.

As the co-chair of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus and an original sponsor of H.R. 2228, I rise today in strong support of the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act, and I want to join with so many of the organizations that are supporting this: the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Police Officers, the Major County Sheriffs of America, the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the National District Attorneys Association, and the Sergeants Benevolent Association.

I was proud to have worked with my co-chair, DAVID REICHERT, and Representatives SUSAN BROOKS, VAL DEMINGS, and DOUG COLLINS on this important piece of legislation for the law enforcement community.

We all agree that the brave men and women in law enforcement put themselves in difficult—if not dangerous and sometimes life-threatening, situations every day.

□ 1745

We teach officers how to handle every different situation, whether it is a domestic dispute, whether it is a hostage dispute, or any other; but we need to think about the officer who comes away from that particular experience with himself; that is about it. He goes home to his family.

It is absolutely critical we provide our law enforcement officers with all

the resources they need to effectively do their job. I have consistently fought for new equipment and advanced technology to provide physical protection for law enforcement when they are on duty. However, we must also ensure law enforcement has the resources and support and training to address mental health issues as well.

The stresses on law enforcement have continued to grow in recent years. This can have a big impact on officers' physical and mental well-being; that is why officer mental wellness needs to be a priority from the day of hire to the day of retire. We know too many officers struggle with depression, suicidal thoughts, post-traumatic stress disorder.

As co-chair of the Traumatic Brain Injury Task Force in the Congress of the United States, myself and Dr. Collins, who was the Republican from Pennsylvania, started out 20 years ago; we could fit the number of people in a telephone booth. We just about knew what we were talking about, and that has changed how we approach our military forces on the field.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PASCRELL. According to the Badge of Life, a group that studies post-traumatic stress disorder among police, we have heard tonight of how many suicides we are talking about. Tragically, many police officers with PTSD are not even aware they have the problem. Often they remain on their beat, doing the job without help or support.

By discussing the importance of improving an officer's mental health, we can reduce the stigma surrounding mental health issues in the law enforcement community. I think that this bill will bolster the connection between local mental health professionals and law enforcement. I urge passage, and, hopefully, the Senate will do it justice.

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

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

Let me, first of all, thank Congresswomen BROOKS and DEMINGS for a very astute initiative, and I look forward to us working together, along with the chairman, on other items that impact the service of our officers and the better police practices. And I cite, of course, the Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the chairman, I wanted to make mention of the fact that we have been meeting on police issues for almost 2 years in the Police Working Group, and it has been very impactful. I look forward to us igniting another meeting and being able to hear from both police and community, because we want a safe community and we want safe law enforcement.

Let me also say, as I close, that many police officers are veterans, and they have been in a war situation, and that means they have faced crises, they have faced the violence of war, and they, obviously, have experienced bouts, possibly, of PTSD or, as we know that they do, they may not yield to it and may not know it and go right into serving; whether they are fire or police, they go right into serving the community. Therefore, this legislation will be enormously helpful to them.

So, as I said earlier, this is a good first step to helping to enhance the mental health or the mental well-being of our law enforcement officers. These officers endure stressful events on our behalf in the interest of protecting their communities, and so we will all benefit from the effective implementation of this legislation.

Therefore, I support this bill, even as I encourage us to continue our work on additional legislation to help foster better coordination between our police officers and the communities they serve.

One final point, that I have listened to officers, and they have said to me, with all that they deal with, coming upon a circumstance where a child has been injured or killed is one of the most devastating experiences they have had to have. Just imagine that.

This mental health bill will work on all of the issues that they have to address, and I ask my colleagues to support the underlying legislation, which is the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act of 2017, H.R. 2228.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, this is a good first step to helping to enhance the mental well-being of our law enforcement officers.

These officers endure stressful events on our behalf, in the interest of protecting their communities. And so, we will all benefit from the effective implementation of this legislation.

I therefore support this bill, even as I encourage my colleagues to work together on additional legislation to help foster better coordination between our police officers and the communities they serve.

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

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

I want to again thank the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS) for their leadership on this issue.

I will say again how much I appreciate the work of the gentlewoman from Texas on a whole host of law enforcement and criminal justice reform issues; and it is my hope that we will move a great many of these reforms through this House in the very near future. The gentlewoman certainly has my support for working together in a bipartisan way to accomplish that. This piece of legislation is a great step in that direction.

You can't expect law enforcement to keep all of us safe if we are not looking out for their mental health, which I

can only imagine how stressful the job is. I have had the opportunity to do several ride-alongs over the years with police officers in my district, and they have my utmost respect.

I hope that every Member of this House will vote for this important legislation.

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2228, the Law Enforcement and Mental Health and Wellness Act of 2017.

Our nation's law enforcement officers put their lives on the line each and every day to keep us safe. The resulting stress can take a tremendous toll on their mental health, and this bill seeks to address that problem. I am the son of a retired police officer and the brother of two others currently serving in law enforcement, and so I am particularly appreciative we are considering this bill today.

In the Judiciary Committee markup of H.R. 2228, I offered an amendment which would have required the Attorney General to study the specific effects of gun violence on officers' mental health as well as provide recommendations to reduce such violence. Gun violence is an epidemic in our society, and law enforcement officers are not immune. In fact, in 2016, 64 police officers died in firearm-related incidents. That was up 56 percent over 2015, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. The potential of facing deadly violence at every turn only adds to the stress faced by law enforcement.

I withdrew my amendment during our markup after Chairman BOB GOODLATTE agreed to include language in the Judiciary Committee's report on the bill reflecting the goals of my amendment. I want to thank him for following through on that commitment and including the following language in the committee report: "In conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Justice must develop educational resources for mental health providers regarding the culture of law enforcement agencies and therapies for mental health issues common to law enforcement officers. In developing these resources, the Department of Justice should examine the effect of gun violence on the mental health of officers and what can be done to solve those aspects of gun violence." Incorporating how law enforcement officers' mental health is affected by gun violence and proposing ways to reduce such violence as directed by this language will only improve the resources for law enforcement developed as a result of this bill.

Again I want to thank Chairman GOODLATTE for putting this directive regarding gun violence in the committee report. I encourage all Members to support H.R. 2228.

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. 2228, 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1829

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 6 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3017, BROWNFIELDS ENHANCEMENT, ECONOMIC REDEVELOPMENT, AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3905, MINNESOTA'S ECONOMIC RIGHTS IN THE SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST ACT

Ms. CHENEY, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-429) on the resolution (H. Res. 631) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3017) to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to reauthorize and improve the brownfields program, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3905) to require congressional approval of any mineral withdrawal or monument designation involving the National Forest System lands in the State of Minnesota, to provide for the renewal of certain mineral leases in such lands, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 2768, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 3115, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

FOWLER AND BOSKOFF PEAKS DESIGNATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2768) to designate certain mountain peaks in the State of Colorado as "Fowler Peak" and "Boskoff Peak", on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPPON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 409, nays 0, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 638]

YEAS—409

Abraham	Curtis	Huffman
Adams	Davidson	Huizenga
Aderholt	Davis (CA)	Hultgren
Aguilar	Davis, Danny	Hunter
Allen	Davis, Rodney	Hurd
Amash	DeFazio	Issa
Amodei	DeGette	Jackson Lee
Arrington	DeLauro	Jayapal
Babin	DelBene	Jeffries
Bacon	Demings	Jenkins (KS)
Banks (IN)	Denham	Jenkins (WV)
Barletta	Dent	Johnson (GA)
Barr	DeSaulnier	Johnson (LA)
Barragán	DesJarlais	Johnson (OH)
Barton	Deutch	Johnson, E. B.
Bass	Diaz-Balart	Johnson, Sam
Beatty	Dingell	Jones
Bera	Doggett	Jordan
Bergman	Donovan	Joyce (OH)
Beyer	Doyle, Michael	Kaptur
Biggs	F.	Katko
Bilirakis	Duffy	Keating
Bishop (GA)	Duncan (SC)	Kelly (IL)
Bishop (MI)	Duncan (TN)	Kelly (MS)
Bishop (UT)	Dunn	Kelly (PA)
Blackburn	Ellison	Khanna
Blum	Emmer	Kihuen
Blumenauer	Engel	Kildee
Blunt Rochester	Eshoo	Kilmer
Bonamici	Española	Kind
Bost	Estes (KS)	King (IA)
Boyle, Brendan	Esty (CT)	King (NY)
F.	Evans	Kinzinger
Brady (PA)	Farenthold	Knight
Brady (TX)	Faso	Krishnamoorthi
Brat	Ferguson	Kuster (NH)
Brooks (AL)	Fitzpatrick	Kustoff (TN)
Brooks (IN)	Fleischmann	LaHood
Brown (MD)	Flores	LaMalfa
Brownley (CA)	Fortenberry	Lamborn
Buchanan	Foster	Lance
Buck	Fox	Langevin
Bucshon	Frankel (FL)	Larsen (WA)
Budd	Franks (AZ)	Larson (CT)
Burgess	Frelinghuysen	Latta
Bustos	Fudge	Lawrence
Byrne	Gabbard	Lawson (FL)
Calvert	Gaetz	Lee
Capuano	Gallagher	Levin
Carbajal	Gallego	Lewis (GA)
Cárdenas	Garamendi	Lewis (MN)
Carson (IN)	Garrett	Lieu, Ted
Carter (GA)	Gianforte	Lipinski
Carter (TX)	Gibbs	LoBiondo
Cartwright	Gohmert	Loeb
Castro (TX)	Gomez	Loftgren
Chabot	Gonzalez (TX)	Long
Cheney	Goodlatte	Loudermilk
Chu, Judy	Gosar	Love
Ciçilline	Gottheimer	Lowenthal
Clark (MA)	Gowdy	Lowe
Clarke (NY)	Granger	Luetkemeyer
Clay	Graves (GA)	Lujan Grisham,
Cleaver	Graves (LA)	M.
Clyburn	Graves (MO)	Luján, Ben Ray
Coffman	Green, Al	Lynch
Cohen	Green, Gene	MacArthur
Cole	Griffith	Maloney,
Collins (GA)	Grijalva	Carolyn B.
Collins (NY)	Grothman	Maloney, Sean
Comer	Guthrie	Marchant
Comstock	Hanabusa	Marino
Conaway	Handel	Marshall
Connolly	Harper	Massie
Cook	Harris	Mast
Cooper	Hartzler	Matsui
Correa	Hastings	McCarthy
Costa	Heck	McCaul
Costello (PA)	Hensarling	McClintock
Courtney	Hice, Jody B.	McCollum
Cramer	Higgins (LA)	McEchin
Crawford	Higgins (NY)	McGovern
Crist	Hill	McHenry
Crowley	Himes	McKinley
Cuellar	Holding	McMorris
Culberson	Hollingsworth	Rodgers
Cummings	Hoyer	McNerney
Curbelo (FL)	Hudson	McSally