

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Texas for helping to bring this bill to the floor today. I congratulate my good friend from New York, Mr. KATKO, on this legislation. It is going to be very important to our men and women of the Secret Service who put their lives on the line every day in dedication to their service.

Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage all of my colleagues to support H.R. 3731, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I support the passage of H.R. 3731 today to strengthen the resolve of our men and women in the Secret Service to continue performing their essential duties in protecting the President while receiving the appropriate compensation for their efforts which go beyond normal working hours. This legislation ensures that a pay cap is no longer a barrier to paying Secret Service agents who stand watch at all hours of the night, often racking up significant overtime. The current pay cap restricts the Secret Service from paying their employees what is due to them.

Director Alles believes this legislation to be such an important initiative to pass that he personally came to discuss it with me as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee with oversight of the Secret Service. I am glad that we are, in a bipartisan way, enabling the men and women of the Secret Service to now receive the necessary compensation for the significant overtime work they perform.

The GAO reporting requirement in the legislation will also provide to Congress important analysis of how well the Secret Service has implemented the recommendations of the Protective Mission Panel. Knowing these results will help in conducting crucial oversight of the agency.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3731, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. 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.

STOPPING ABUSIVE FEMALE EXPLOITATION ACT OF 2017

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3317) to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the penalty for female genital mutilation, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3317

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 “Stopping Abusive Female Exploitation Act of 2017” or the “SAFE Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. INCREASED PENALTY FOR FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION.

Section 116 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “5 years” each place it appears and inserting “15 years”.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that States should have in place laws that require health care professionals, teachers, and other school employees to report to local law enforcement agencies any instance of suspected female genital mutilation.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RUTHERFORD. 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 material on H.R. 3317, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 3317, the Stopping Abusive Female Exploitation Act, or the SAFE Act.

This legislation increases the criminal penalty for female genitalia mutilation of a minor from a maximum of 5 years to a maximum of 15 years. It also encourages States to adopt laws to require certain professionals who work with children to report suspected mutilation cases.

Female genitalia mutilation, or FGM, is internationally recognized as a human rights violation for girls and women. It is an extreme form of abuse against women and girls, often causing serious and permanent health complications, including shock and death.

Across at least 30 countries, more than 200 million girls and women alive today have been subjected to FGM and more than 3 million girls are estimated to be at risk every year of being subjected to this procedure even though it is outlawed in 42 countries.

Congress first passed legislation making this horrific practice illegal in 1996. The Federal Prohibition of Female Genitalia Mutilation Act made it illegal to perform FGM on girls younger than 18 years of age in the United States.

In 2013, Congress passed another law, the Transport for Female Genital Mutilation Act, which amended the 1996 legislation and made it a crime to knowingly transport a girl out of the United States for the purpose of FGM, yet the practice still continues. According to some estimates, the number

of girls who have undergone FGM has tripled over the past 2 decades.

In 2017, after 20 years on the books, the first charges were filed under the FGM statute against a doctor in Michigan who performed this disfiguring assault on two 7-year-olds.

By increasing the criminal exposure for this crime, we send a message that our country will not tolerate the mutilation of our young girls and women and we will do what we can to prevent that.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. TROTT from the great State of Michigan for introducing this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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, let me thank the gentleman from Florida for managing this bill along with the previous initiative, and let me thank Mrs. MALONEY and Mr. TROTT for their leadership on this very important legislation.

Protecting girls and young women from abuse and exploitation is vital to the health of our communities. The Stopping Abusive Female Exploitation Act is intended to amend 18 U.S.C. Section 116 by raising the penalty such that the maximum penalty for the crime of genital mutilation is 15 years.

□ 1300

Given the abhorrent nature of this practice, States should have in place laws that require healthcare professionals, school employees, and other professionals who work with children to report any suspected practice of female genital mutilation to the appropriate law enforcement entity.

This legislation is important as a means for Congress to appropriately punish those who commit this crime. Female genital manipulation, cutting, is internationally recognized as a violation of human rights of girls and women. It is currently a crime in 26 States, including Michigan and Texas. It is also a Federal crime.

Around the world, at least five girls are mutilated, cut, every hour. An estimated 100 million girls and 140 million women worldwide are living with the consequences of FGM. Despite the fact that FGM has been banned in the United States since 1996, people continue to engage in this abusive practice.

Recently, Michigan was faced with the first Federal prosecution under this statute, whereby a Michigan doctor was charged with performing female genital mutilation on two girls that crossed State lines. Because this intolerable practice has no medical benefits, it has no place in our society, and those who commit these horrendous crimes should be held accountable for their actions. I, therefore, ask support for this bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Protecting girls and young women from abuse and exploitation is vital to the health of our communities.

“The Stopping Abusive Female Exploitation Act of 2017” is intended to amend 18 U.S.C. § 116 by increasing the maximum penalty for the crime of female genital mutilation (FGM) from five years to fifteen.

Given the abhorrent nature of this practice, States should have in place laws that require health care professionals, school employees and other professionals that work with children, to report any suspected practice of female genital mutilation, to the appropriate law enforcement entity.

I support this legislation as a means for Congress to appropriately punish those that commit this crime.

Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) is internationally recognized as a violation of the human rights of girls and women. It is currently a crime in 26 states, including Michigan and Texas. It is also a federal crime.

Around the world, at least five girls are mutilated/cut every hour. An estimated 100 million girls and 140 million women worldwide are living with the consequences of FGM.

Despite the fact that FGM has been banned in the United States since 1996, people continue to engage in this abusive practice.

Recently, Michigan was faced with the first federal prosecution under this statute, whereby, a Michigan doctor was charged with performing female genital mutilation on two girls that crossed state-lines.

Because this intolerable practice has no medical benefits, it has no place in our society and those who commit these horrendous crimes should be held accountable for their actions.

I therefore, support this bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, we must do everything we can to protect victims, particularly, the most vulnerable people in our society, our children.

This bill will certainly do that. Beyond serving as a deterrence for many in our society that continue to engage in the practice of female genital mutilation, this legislation will also provide a more appropriate punishment for violation of the FGM statute, under 18 U.S.C. § 116.

For all these reasons, I therefore, support this bill.

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. TROTT), my good friend.

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend from Florida for managing this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3317, the SAFE Act, legislation that will increase the Federal penalty for female genital mutilation from 5 years to 15 years.

This past April, just north of Detroit, reports of this appalling and brutal practice surfaced in my district. As a lifelong resident of southeast Michigan, I was horrified to learn that three local residents, including two physicians, professionals we trust with our children, were charged for allegedly performing and participating in this barbaric practice.

The subsequent Federal prosecution has shed light on an evil practice that

has no place in southeast Michigan or the United States. This person who claims to be a physician is a monster and has reportedly committed this heinous act hundreds of times.

This despicable practice has no place in our society, and we must ensure our Federal laws reflect this principle. We must make it clear to Americans and the rest of the world that this practice will not be tolerated.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that over 500,000 girls in the United States have undergone or are at risk of FGM. That is 500,000 girls too many. We must set a zero tolerance against this practice. This is gender violence and oppression, and it is time for the government to punish such egregious behavior accordingly.

My bipartisan SAFE Act will increase the Federal penalty from 5 to 15 years, putting it more in line with other developed countries. We need to protect our girls right here at home, and increasing the penalty will go a long way toward accomplishing this goal.

I want to thank the coauthor of this bill, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), my friend and colleague, for her work. I also want to thank Chairman GOODLATTE for his effort and leadership in moving this bill through the committee process.

Mr. Speaker, today we can step toward eradicating this barbaric practice, and I urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 3317.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is certainly a pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), a good friend and a champion of these issues dealing with vulnerable women, the original sponsor of this legislation along with Mr. TROTT.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, for her extraordinary leadership on this issue and so many others, and I thank her for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3317, the Stopping Abusive Female Exploitation, or SAFE, Act. It is a bipartisan, noncontroversial issue; and I hope this body unanimously supports it, as it will save the health and protection and stop the abuse of girls in our country.

I am the Democratic lead on this bill and, first, want to thank my friend and colleague from Michigan (Mr. TROTT) for his devotion, extraordinary leadership, and commitment to bringing this bill to the floor.

Female genital mutilation is an issue that affects women and girls in the United States and around the world.

I want to express my regret that he has decided to retire from this body. We will miss his leadership in Congress. His district, I am sure, and State will miss it, and, I must say, I believe our country will miss it. It is one thing when a woman champions a woman's

issue, but to have a like-minded man join you and lead you is a very, very special expression of leadership, and I am deeply grateful for the gentleman's leadership on behalf of the girls and women that this bill will help.

Female genital mutilation is a terrible, abusive practice that causes immense physical and emotional pain and damage to young girls that can last a lifetime. It is a Federal crime. Twenty-two States have laws against it, yet it is still being practiced in our great country.

It is illegal in the United States, and while we condemn this practice around the world, we really need to do more to stop it right here at home.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. The CDC estimates that in 2012, 500,000 females in the United States have been subjected to or are at risk of female genital mutilation, and that number is rising. It is up to us to bring that number to zero.

This bill creates a harsher and more appropriate penalty, increasing the current sentence of 5 years to 15 years imprisonment. Stricter penalties for performing the procedure are critical to eradicating this horrific abuse.

I not only thank my colleague, but also Chairman GOODLATTE and Ranking Member NADLER and our sponsors in the Senate, Senators FEINSTEIN and GRASSLEY.

This is an important bill. I hope this entire body supports it. It will literally save the lives of many young girls in our country.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers on this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), the ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3317.

Unfortunately, this bill is needed to help protect young women and girls from the horrible practice of female genital mutilation. H.R. 3317 would increase the maximum penalty from 5 years to 15 years for female genital mutilation to appropriately punish those who commit this horrible crime.

FGM, female genital mutilation, is internationally recognized as a violation of the human rights of girls and young women. It is currently a crime in 26 States, including New York, in addition to the prohibition in the Federal criminal code.

Around the world, at least five girls are mutilated in this way every single hour. An estimated 100 million girls and 140 million women worldwide are living with the consequences of genital mutilation.

Despite the fact that female genital mutilation has been banned in the United States since 1996, people continue to engage in this abusive practice. Recently, the first prosecution

was initiated under the Federal statute. A doctor in Michigan was charged with performing female genital mutilation on two girls who had been brought across State lines for this purpose.

Those who commit these horrendous crimes should be held accountable for their actions. I support increasing the maximum penalty under Federal law from 5 to 15 years in order to reflect the severity of these injuries and their long-lasting consequences and, perhaps, to better deter these crimes. Therefore, I support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

Again, let me thank the gentleman from Florida for managing and joining me in the managing of this legislation, and, again, I thank the cosponsors.

Let me also express my appreciation to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. TROTT) for his service to this Congress and, as well, for his excellent bill that is on the floor.

I thank the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), as well, for her leadership on this legislation.

I think it is important to note that these are dastardly acts against women and girls; and as I indicated, across the world, we are talking about 140 million women and 100 million girls who have been subjected to living with the consequences of the FGM. It was banned in the United States since 1996, but we know this act still goes on. So we must do everything we can to protect victims, particularly the most vulnerable people in our society: our children.

This is not a mandatory minimum. This is upwards of 15 years. This is a deserving penalty for a horrific crime. This bill will certainly do that to try to protect these children here in the United States.

Beyond serving as a deterrent for many in our society who continue to engage in the practice of female genital mutilation, this legislation will also provide appropriate punishment for violation of the FGM statute under 18 U.S.C. 116.

For all these reasons, I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I would first like to thank the gentlewoman from Texas for helping to manage these two very important bills on the floor today.

I, too, want to congratulate Mrs. MALONEY and Mr. TROTT on H.R. 3317, to ban this horrible procedure of FGM and really help to protect the women and girls of the United States.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, the Stopping Abusive Female Exploitation, or "SAFE," Act addresses the internationally-recognized

human rights violation of female genital mutilation (FGM). The Center for Disease Control estimates that approximately 500,000 women and girls in the US have undergone the procedure or are at risk of having it inflicted upon them, and it has only grown in prevalence over the last two decades. FGM provides no health benefits for women and girls, and has long-lasting and harmful physical and psychological consequences.

While FGM is rightly a federal crime under current law, the current penalty is insufficient. It does not reflect the barbaric and medieval nature of the crime; nor does it reflect the harm caused to these young girls. That is why we are considering the SAFE Act today.

As a father and grandfather, I can think of no more important work than protecting our children from those who seek to do them harm.

I commend Representative DAVE TROTT, an alumnus of this Committee, and Representative CAROLYN MALONEY, for introducing the SAFE Act and for their tireless efforts on behalf of FGM victims. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3317, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Suspending the rules and passing H.R. 3731;

Suspending the rules and passing H.R. 3317; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

SECRET SERVICE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION ACT OF 2017

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3731) to provide overtime pay for employees of the United States Secret Service, and for other purposes, as amended, 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 Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 407, nays 4, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 655]

YEAS—407

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