

□ 1419

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina changed his vote from “present” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 225, nays 187, answered “present” 1, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 707]

YEAS—225

Abraham	Dent	Kelly (PA)
Aderholt	DeSaulnier	Kildee
Allen	DesJarlais	King (IA)
Amodei	Dingell	King (NY)
Arrington	Doggett	Krishnamoorthi
Babin	Donovan	Kuster (NH)
Banks (IN)	Duffy	Kustoff (TN)
Barletta	Duncan (SC)	Labrador
Barr	Duncan (TN)	LaMalfa
Bergman	Dunn	Lamborn
Billirakis	Ellison	Latta
Bishop (UT)	Eshoo	Lewis (MN)
Black	Estes (KS)	Lipinski
Blackburn	Farenthold	Long
Blumenauer	Ferguson	Loudermilk
Blunt Rochester	Fleischmann	Lowey
Brady (TX)	Fortenberry	Lucas
Brat	Frankel (FL)	Luetkemeyer
Brooks (IN)	Frelinghuysen	Lujan Grisham,
Brown (MD)	Gabbard	M.
Buchanan	Gaetz	Marchant
Bucshon	Garrett	Marino
Budd	Gianforte	Marshall
Bustos	Gibbs	Massie
Butterfield	Goodlatte	McCarthy
Carter (TX)	Gowdy	McCaul
Cartwright	Graves (LA)	McClintock
Castro (TX)	Griffith	McCollum
Chabot	Grothman	McEachin
Cheney	Guthrie	McHenry
Chu, Judy	Handel	McMorris
Clay	Harper	Rodgers
Cole	Harris	McNerney
Collins (GA)	Hartzler	McSally
Collins (NY)	Heck	Meadows
Comstock	Hensarling	Meeks
Cook	Hice, Jody B.	Meng
Cooper	Higgins (LA)	Messer
Cramer	Hill	Mitchell
Crawford	Himes	Moolenaar
Crist	Hollingsworth	Mooney (WV)
Cuellar	Huffman	Moore
Culberson	Huizenga	Moulton
Cummings	Hultgren	Mullin
Curbeo (FL)	Hunter	Murphy (FL)
Curtis	Hurd	Nadler
Davidson	Issa	Newhouse
Davis (CA)	Johnson (GA)	Noem
Davis, Danny	Johnson (LA)	Norman
Davis, Rodney	Johnson, Sam	Nunes
DeLauro	Joyce (OH)	O’Rourke
Demings	Kaptur	Palazzo

Pascrell	Sanford
Pelosi	Scalise
Perlmutter	Schneider
Perry	Schweikert
Peters	Scott (VA)
Pingree	Scott, David
Posey	Sensenbrenner
Quigley	Serrano
Reed	Sessions
Reichert	Sherman
Rice (SC)	Shimkus
Roby	Shuster
Roe (TN)	Simpson
Rogers (KY)	Smith (MO)
Rohrabacher	Smith (NE)
Rokita	Smith (NJ)
Rooney, Francis	Smith (WA)
Ros-Lehtinen	Speier
Ross	Stefanik
Rothfus	Stewart
Royce (CA)	Takano
Ruppersberger	Taylor
Russell	Tenney
Rutherford	Thornberry

NAYS—187

Adams	Gallego
Aguilar	Garamendi
Amash	Gomez
Barragan	Gonzalez (TX)
Barton	Gottheimer
Bass	Graves (GA)
Beatty	Graves (MO)
Bera	Green, Al
Beyer	Green, Gene
Biggs	Grijalva
Bishop (GA)	Gutiérrez
Bishop (MI)	Hanabusa
Blum	Hastings
Bonamici	Herrera Beutler
Bost	Higgins (NY)
Boyle, Brendan	Holding
F.	Hoyer
Brady (PA)	Hudson
Brownley (CA)	Jackson Lee
Buck	Jayapal
Burgess	Jeffries
Byrne	Jenkins (KS)
Caetano	Jenkins (WV)
Carbajal	Johnson (OH)
Cárdenas	Johnson, E. B.
Carson (IN)	Jordan
Carter (GA)	Katko
Castor (FL)	Keating
Cicilline	Kelly (IL)
Clark (MA)	Kelly (MS)
Clarke (NY)	Khanna
Cleaver	Kihuen
Clyburn	Kilmer
Coffman	Kind
Cohen	Kinzinger
Comer	Knight
Conaway	LaHood
Connolly	Lance
Correa	Langevin
Costa	Larsen (WA)
Costello (PA)	Larson (CT)
Courtney	Lawrence
Crowley	Lawson (FL)
DeFazio	Lee
DeGette	Levin
Delaney	Lewis (GA)
DeBene	Lieu, Ted
Denham	LoBiondo
DeSantis	Loebbeck
Deutsch	Lofgren
Diaz-Balart	Love
Doyle, Michael	Lowenthal
F.	Lujan, Ben Ray
Emmer	Lynch
Engel	MacArthur
Espallat	Maloney,
Esty (CT)	Carolyn B.
Evans	Maloney, Sean
Faso	Mast
Fitzpatrick	Matsui
Flores	McGovern
Foxx	McKinley
Fudge	Meehan
Gallagher	Neal

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

NOT VOTING—18

Bacon	Foster
Bridenstine	Gohmert
Brooks (AL)	Gossar
Calvert	Granger

Tiberi
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Womack
Yarmuth
Young (IA)
Zeldin

Pocan	Rooney, Thomas	Suoizzi
Renacci	J. Smith (TX)	Wittman

□ 1426

So the Journal was approved. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present today, December 21, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted “Yes” on rollcall votes No. 706 and No. 707, and “No” on rollcall votes No. 704 and No. 705.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Mariel Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

APPOINTMENTS TO FREDERICK DOUGLASS BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). The Chair announces the Speaker’s appointment, pursuant to section 5 of the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commission Act (Pub. L. 115–77), and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commission:

Mr. HARRIS, Maryland
 And from private life:
 Ms. Sylvia Quinton, Mardela Springs, Maryland
 Dr. C. James Trotman, West Chester, Pennsylvania

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR A CEREMONY TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO BOB DOLE

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 31) authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Bob Dole, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 31

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR CEREMONY TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO BOB DOLE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used on January 17, 2018, for a ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Bob Dole.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

Nolan
Norcross
O’Halloran
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Peterson
Pittenger
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Price (NC)
Raskin
Ratcliffe
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Rogers (AL)
Rosen
Roskam
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott, Austin
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smucker
Soto
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Lee
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tipton
Titus
Torres
Upton
Valadao
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walker
Watson Coleman
Wilson (FL)
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)

The concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO AWARD THE MEDAL OF HONOR TO JOHN L. CANLEY FOR ACTS OF VALOR DURING THE VIETNAM WAR

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4641) to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to John L. Canley for acts of valor during the Vietnam War while a member of the Marine Corps, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4641

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO JOHN L. CANLEY FOR ACTS OF VALOR DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.

(a) WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 6248 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the President may award the Medal of Honor under section 6241 of such title to John L. Canley for the acts of valor during the Vietnam War described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor referred to in subsection (a) are the actions of then Gunnery Sergeant John L. Canley during combat operations from January 31, 1968, to February 6, 1968, during the Vietnam War as a member of the Marine Corps, for which he was previously awarded the Navy Cross.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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 the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or if the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

□ 1430

SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EVIDENCE REPORTING ACT OF 2017

Mrs. HANDEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1766) to reauthorize the SAFER Act of 2013, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1766

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 “Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reporting Act of 2017” or the “SAFER Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. PEDIATRIC SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINERS.

Section 304(c)(2) of the DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2004 (34 U.S.C. 40723(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “, both adult and pediatric,” after “role of forensic nurses”; and

(2) by striking “and elder abuse” and inserting “elder abuse, and, in particular, the need for pediatric sexual assault nurse examiners, including such nurse examiners working in the multidisciplinary setting, in responding to abuse of both children and adolescents”.

SEC. 3. REDUCING THE RAPE KIT BACKLOG.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 2(c)(4) of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (34 U.S.C. 40701(c)(4)) is amended by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

(b) SUNSET.—Section 1006 of the SAFER Act of 2013 (34 U.S.C. 40701 note) is amended by striking “2018” and inserting “2023”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. HANDEL) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. HANDEL. 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 material on S. 1766, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

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

S. 1766, the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reporting Act of 2017, also known as the SAFER Act, will strengthen State and local law enforcement’s ability to reduce the number of untested rape kits and help take more offenders off our streets.

Congress provides significant resources annually to the Department of Justice to help reduce backlogs of untested forensic evidence. This legislation will reauthorize the Attorney General’s authority to allocate 5 to 7 percent of funds made available to carry out the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program to help communities audit their backlogs, which is an important first step in any effort to eliminate a backlog.

Despite the cases analyzed and improvements made with our Federal resources, backlogs persist due to the ever-increasing demand for evidence testing. According to the National Institute of Justice, as the value of DNA evidence is increasingly recognized, more evidence gets collected and submitted to laboratories for analysis.

Delays in analysis of forensic evidence often result in delays of justice: serial offenders can continue victimizing, and innocent individuals may be incarcerated. The SAFER Act helps address this common impediment to the response to rape and sexual assault at the State, local, and Tribal levels.

Importantly, the SAFER Act also would clarify that pediatric forensic nurses are eligible for training and employment grants. This provision underscores the critical role that pediatric sexual assault nurse examiners can play in a community’s response to children who are victims of abuse.

S. 1766 can help ensure that resources provided for DNA analysis are focused on grant recipients making a good faith effort to estimate and manage their backlog of untested samples and improve efforts to get sex offenders off of our streets.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important measure, 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 rise in strong support of S. 1766, the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reporting Act of 2017. This bipartisan legislation passed the Senate on October 23, 2017.

I am glad that this House is moving this legislation, because it is about children. It is about the scourge that children, women, and others find themselves victims of—sexual assault.

S. 1766 will reauthorize the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 through the year 2022, by amending the language in section 2(c)(4) of 34 U.S.C. 40701(c)(4).

Furthermore, this legislation also amends other sections of the DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2004 by ensuring that role of forensic nurses pertains to both adult and pediatric care.

The SAFER Act also amends this statute by making a provision after “elder abuse” for the need of nurse examiners, particularly where there is the need for pediatric sexual assault nurse examiners, including such nurse examiners working in the multidisciplinary setting, in responding to abuse of both children and adolescents.

Finally, this legislation will sunset through 2023 by amending the SAFER Act. The SAFER Act is a critical program, administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, that allows:

Local law enforcement programs to obtain funding for programs to reduce the rape kit backlog in communities across the country;

Victims of sexual assault get justice more quickly than in the past;

Thirty-five percent of funds available under the Debbie Smith Act for grants to local law enforcement agencies to focus more resources on rape kit testing;

Five to seven percent of the Debbie Smith Act funding to be used by local jurisdictions to conduct 1-year audits of untested sexual assault evidence to identify serious areas of backlog; and