

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1650

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida) at 4 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.

SUPPORTING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR FIRST RESPONDERS ACT

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4991) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4991

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 "Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL URBAN SECURITY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended—

(1) by redesignating the second section 319 (relating to EMP and GMD mitigation research and development) as section 320; and

(2) by inserting after section 320, as so redesignated, the following new section:

"SEC. 321. NATIONAL URBAN SECURITY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, shall designate the laboratory described in subsection (b) as an additional laboratory pursuant to the authority under section 308(c)(2). Such laboratory shall be used to test and evaluate emerging technologies and conduct research and development to assist emergency response providers in preparing for, and protecting against, threats of terrorism.

"(b) LABORATORY DESCRIBED.—The laboratory described in this subsection is the laboratory—

"(1) known, as of the date of the enactment of this section, as the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory;

"(2) previously known as the Environmental Measurements Laboratory; and

"(3) transferred to the Department pursuant to section 303(1)(E).

"(c) LABORATORY ACTIVITIES.—The laboratory designated pursuant to subsection (a), shall—

"(1) conduct tests, evaluations, and assessments of current and emerging technologies, including, as appropriate, cybersecurity of such technologies that can connect to the internet, for emergency response providers;

"(2) conduct research and development on radiological and nuclear response and recovery;

"(3) act as a technical advisor to emergency response providers; and

"(4) carry out other such activities as the Secretary determines appropriate."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by striking both items relating to section 319 and the item relating to section 318 and inserting the following:

"318. Social media working group.

"319. Transparency in research and development.

"320. EMP and GMD mitigation research and development.

"321. National Urban Security Technology Laboratory."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) and the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANDEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4991, the Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act. H.R. 4991 authorizes the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory, NUSTL, within the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate.

Located in New York City, NUSTL has been a critical resource in protecting our homeland since 1947. Today, NUSTL is a one-of-its-kind test and evaluation laboratory for the first responder community.

I had the opportunity to visit NUSTL last year and saw firsthand the impressive work being done there on a daily basis. During my visit, I witnessed NUSTL's work to test and validate equipment used by our first responders to protect our communities. NUSTL has conducted more than 1,000 assessments on current and emergency first responder equipment.

I also learned about NUSTL's radiological and nuclear research and development, which focuses on response and recovery efforts.

Additionally, last November, Chief Timothy Rice from the New York City Fire Department testified before the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, which I chair, on the importance of NUSTL to FDNY's daily operations. Chief Rice highlighted that the fire department's relationship with NUSTL has "strengthened the department's ability to save life and property, and ultimately, make the people of New York and millions of visitors to the region safer each day."

Simply put, this bill will authorize the test and evaluation and research and development activities currently

being conducted at NUSTL. Given the current threat environment, we need to ensure that DHS continues to support our first responders, and this bill will do just that. H.R. 4991 will ensure that the valuable work being done at NUSTL will continue for years to come.

I want to recognize the tireless efforts of the staff at NUSTL to support first responders and secure our homeland.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that this bill is supported by the American Federation of Government Employees, and I include in the RECORD their letter dated June 15, 2018.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO,

Washington, DC, June 15, 2018.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE, On behalf of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO (AFGE), which represents more than 700,000 federal and DC government workers who serve the American people in 70 different agencies, including 20 employees at the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL), I am writing to indicate our support of H.R. 4991, the Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act. This bill would provide for the authorization of this important program.

The National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL) works primarily on testing technologies used by first responders. The scientists and engineers at NUSTL ensure first responders are safe and equipped to perform their duties. They support the training of first responders to use radiation detection equipment to interdict a terrorist act involving radiological dispersion devices (RDDs) or improvised nuclear devices (INDs). They also publish reports that allow first responders to purchase radiation and explosives detection equipment best suited for their needs. They ensure unmanned aerial vehicles or drones are not used as weapons.

NUSTL labs give police officers, fire fighters and other first responders the opportunity to test drive technological equipment and offer feedback for how to make it safer and more effective. NUSTL allows first responders to test prototypes of products in the pipeline at DHS to help improve them. They also offer training about how to respond to emergencies and natural disasters. NUSTL employees' work keeps first responders safe and up to date with the latest technologies. NUSTL ensures our communities are safe and thriving.

AFGE strongly supports H.R. 4991, the Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act.

Thank you,

THOMAS S. KAHN,

Director, Legislative Affairs Department.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in voting for the Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, June 14, 2018.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing concerning H.R. 4991, the "Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act," which your Committee ordered reported on June 6, 2018.

H.R. 4991 contains provisions within the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology's Rule X jurisdiction. As a result of