

and Government Reform reported the bill favorably, but without a single vote from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

We all know an effective and functional MSPB is important to the health of our Federal workforce. MSPB's primary responsibility is to adjudicate appeals of Federal personnel actions. MSPB also plays a vital role in Federal whistleblower protections.

To be effective and issue decisions, MSPB needs at least a two-member quorum, but the Board has not had a quorum for over 2 years. In January 2017, Mark Robbins, as my friend mentioned, become the sole remaining member of MSPB.

Last year, Mr. Robbins' 7-year term came to an end, and he was granted a 1-year extension as authorized by law, but that extension ends this week. Starting Friday, the MSPB will be without a single Board member.

My colleagues claim this bill is an emergency measure to prevent the MSPB from extending this crisis of leadership, but I disagree. The real problem is the lack of a quorum.

Without a quorum for the last 2 years, a backlog of undecided appeals has grown to over 1,700 cases. Mr. Robbins cannot fix that problem on his own. His continued tenure will not resolve those cases.

In December, the President selected Mr. Robbins to serve as the general counsel at the Office of Personnel Management, so for the last 10 weeks, he has served in both capacities at OPM and MSPB. Mr. Robbins is planning to serve at OPM in his full capacity beginning this Friday.

Mr. Robbins has stayed at MSPB as long as he has out of a sense of duty to MSPB and its mission. I trust that my colleagues do not intend to use this bill to coerce Mr. Robbins to stay any longer than he wants to.

□ 1745

I urge my colleagues to join me in applauding Mr. Robbins for his dedication to MSPB, the Federal workforce, the President, and our country. I also urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Senate's confirmation of President Trump's nominees.

We owe it to our Federal workers to give MSPB a quorum so the board can do the important job that Congress gave it to do.

In the future, I certainly hope we can work together to provide certainty to Federal workers and whistleblowers by making MSPB operational once again.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Briefly, in responding to my friend: I agree with him. I think we need a full board. Our problem is the Senate. They didn't get around to acting in a timely fashion, and so we are faced with this.

I think it is also important to note that, although a quorum is necessary

for most work of MSPB, it isn't necessary for all of it.

So Mr. Robbins, in a caretaker, interim position, can still do some of the work of the board, including issuing stays, reviewing some of the work, and helping to avoid adding to the backlog.

He can't substitute himself fully, obviously, for a quorum in the board. My colleague is quite right about that.

What we are trying to do here is not to compel him or coerce him to stay against his wishes; it is to try to buy some time and have the board at least do some of its basic functions so that we don't come to a complete standstill. That would not be necessary, frankly, had the Senate acted.

I think my friend is right in suggesting that is the ultimate answer, and I would join him in calling on the Senate to act as swiftly as possible. But I think we have no choice but to act on this bill now.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1235, 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: "To provide that the term of office of certain members of the Merit Systems Protection Board shall be extended by a period of 1 year, and for other purposes."

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 46 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETERS) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 539, by the yeas and nays;
H.R. 276, by the yeas and nays; and
Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

INNOVATORS TO ENTREPRENEURS ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 539) to require the Director of the National Science Foundation to develop an I-Corps course to support commercialization-ready innovation companies, and for other purposes, 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 Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 385, nays 18, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 88]

YEAS—385

Adams	Cole	Galleo
Aderholt	Collins (GA)	Garamendi
Aguilar	Collins (NY)	Garcia (IL)
Allen	Comer	Garcia (TX)
Allred	Conaway	Gianforte
Amodei	Connolly	Gibbs
Armstrong	Cook	Golden
Arrington	Cooper	Gonzalez (OH)
Axne	Correa	Gonzalez (TX)
Bacon	Courtney	Gooden
Baird	Cox (CA)	Gottheimer
Balderson	Craig	Granger
Banks	Crawford	Graves (GA)
Barr	Crenshaw	Graves (LA)
Barragan	Crist	Graves (MO)
Bass	Crow	Green (TN)
Beatty	Cuellar	Green (TX)
Bera	Cummings	Grijalva
Bergman	Cunningham	Guest
Beyer	Curtis	Guthrie
Bishop (GA)	Davids (KS)	Haaland
Bishop (UT)	Davidson (OH)	Hagedorn
Blumenauer	Davis (CA)	Harder (CA)
Blunt Rochester	Davis, Rodney	Harris
Bost	Dean	Hartzler
Boyle, Brendan	DeGette	Hastings
F.	DeLauro	Hayes
Brady	DelBene	Heck
Brown (MD)	Delgado	Hice (GA)
Brownley (CA)	Demings	Higgins (LA)
Buchanan	DeSaulnier	Higgins (NY)
Bucshon	DesJarlais	Hill (AR)
Budd	Deutch	Hill (CA)
Burchett	Diaz-Balart	Himes
Burgess	Dingell	Holding
Bustos	Doggett	Hollingsworth
Butterfield	Doyle, Michael	Horsford
Byrne	F.	Houlihan
Calvert	Duffy	Hoyer
Carbajal	Duncan	Hudson
Cárdenas	Dunn	Huffman
Carson (IN)	Emmer	Huizenga
Carter (GA)	Engel	Hunter
Carter (TX)	Escobar	Hurd (TX)
Cartwright	Eshoo	Jackson Lee
Case	Espallat	Jayapal
Casten (IL)	Estes	Jeffries
Castor (FL)	Evans	Johnson (GA)
Castro (TX)	Finkenauer	Johnson (LA)
Chabot	Fitzpatrick	Johnson (OH)
Cheney	Fleischmann	Johnson (SD)
Chu, Judy	Fletcher	Johnson (TX)
Ciциlline	Flores	Jordan
Cisneros	Fortenberry	Joyce (OH)
Clark (MA)	Foster	Joyce (PA)
Clarke (NY)	Fudge	Kaptur
Clay	Fulcher	Keating
Cleaver	Gabbard	Kelly (IL)
Cloud	Gaetz	Kelly (MS)
Clyburn	Gallagher	Kelly (PA)