

report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 9. The amendments referred to in section 8 of this resolution are as follows:

(1) A proper amendment, if offered by the chair of the Committee on Ways and Means or his designee; and

(2) A proper amendment, if offered by the ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or his designee.

SEC. 10. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 2145.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

Mr. MORELLE. 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 question will be postponed.

□ 1315

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

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

#### BUILDING ON REEMPLOYMENT IMPROVEMENTS TO DELIVER GOOD EMPLOYMENT FOR WORKERS ACT

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1759) to amend title III of the Social Security Act to extend reemployment services and eligibility assessments to all claimants for unemployment compensation, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1759

*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 “Building on Reemployment Improvements to Deliver Good Employment for Workers Act” or the “BRIDGE for Workers Act”.

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–123) improved program accountability for effectively serving unemployed workers and made a significant new investment in reemployment services.

(2) Research shows the longer workers are out of work, the harder it can be to maintain their skills, professional network, and stable home life.

(3) Reemployment services give workers who might otherwise struggle to find new jobs the tools that they need to get back to work—such as individualized career counseling and job search help as well as local labor market information—and they can serve as an entry point to the workforce development system.

(4) Reemployment services have been demonstrated to reduce the number of weeks that program participants receive unemployment benefits by improving their employment outcomes, including earnings.

(5) Unemployment benefits replace less than half of working income, on average, so workers who find new jobs quickly suffer less financial hardship.

(6) Combining targeted reemployment services with unemployment benefits helps keep people attached to the labor force who might otherwise become discouraged and drop out.

(7) The Congressional Budget Office estimates that, over time, investments in reemployment services create savings for taxpayers and unemployment trust funds by reducing spending on unemployment benefits.

(8) Many different types of workers can benefit from reemployment services. Reemployment services should be used to shorten the duration of unemployment for workers even if they are not projected to fully exhaust their unemployment benefits.

#### SEC. 3. ELIGIBILITY FOR REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES.

Section 306(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 506(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “individuals referred to reemployment services as described in section 303(j)” and inserting “claimants for unemployment compensation, including claimants referred to reemployment services as described in section 303(j).”; and

(2) by striking “such individuals” and inserting “such claimants”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1759, the BRIDGE for Workers Act, continues our committee’s bipartisan work to help Americans who are receiving earned unemployment insurance benefits to get back to work faster.

Unemployment benefits are a vital lifeline for Americans who have lost their jobs, helping them keep the lights on and pay the rent while they search for work. But unemployment benefits replace less than half of a worker’s paycheck, on average. Especially for lower paid workers, who may not have any savings to fall back on, the best outcome is to find a new job as quickly as possible.

When you lose your job, it can be difficult to find a new one, especially if you are older, haven’t looked for a job in a long time, or have made mistakes in the past. Reemployment services give people looking for help the personal help they need to overcome those barriers.

For instance, States might provide assistance targeted to a claimant’s needs, things like customized career and labor market information, help with application materials, or allowing them to practice for tough job interviews.

Last year, we passed important legislation to improve reemployment services and eligibility assessment grants, or RESEAs. Our legislation added important worker protections, gave States incentives to improve the quality of the services being provided for workers, and ensured that sufficient funding is available in every State and territory.

When I asked how RESEA grants were being used in my home State of Illinois, they told me about Tara, who struggled to find a new job after she was laid off, both because her skills weren’t up to date for the current labor market and because she had a criminal record. The Illinois RESEA helped her upgrade her job skills and find a job with an employer willing to take a chance, a chance on someone who had made mistakes. She is now working and going to school to get an associate’s degree in welding, so she will have better pay and benefits in the future.

The BRIDGE for Workers Act would add important and needed flexibility to allow States to serve all workers who could benefit from reemployment services, not just those who are expected to run out of benefits before finding work.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the National Association of State Workforce Agencies endorsing the BRIDGE for Workers Act.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE

WORKFORCE AGENCIES,

Washington, DC, March 13, 2019.

Hon. STEPHANIE MURPHY,

House of Representatives,

Washington, DC.

Hon. JACKIE WALORSKI,

House of Representatives,

Washington, DC.

Hon. XOCHITL TORRES SMALL,

House of Representatives,

Washington, DC.

Hon. DARIN LAHOOD,

House of Representatives,

Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES MURPHY, WALORSKI, TORRES SMALL AND LAHOOD: We are writing on behalf of the National Association of State Workforce Agencies

(NASWA) to endorse the BRIDGE for Workers Act and express our appreciation of your bipartisan effort to authorize the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessments (RESEA) program as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-245).

Until the passage of the Act, RESEA had been limited to a widely-successful pilot grant program. Today, States around the nation now have the ability to accelerate unemployment insurance (UI) claimants' transition back to employment faster than non-participants, which is particularly important in an economy desperately in need of skilled workers.

To enhance these efforts, we are pleased to see the proposed minor statutory fix proposed in the BRIDGE for Workers Act that reflects your intent to ensure any UI claimant, not just those most likely to exhaust their benefits, are eligible for RESEA services and assessments. The current language in Section 306 of Act needs to be modified to ensure this intent is actualized and while the Appropriations Committee made such a modification in their FY 19 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill, a permanent fix would provide clarity and stability for states actively focused on helping claimants return to work expeditiously.

NASWA is the national organization representing all 50 state workforce agencies, D.C. and U.S. territories. These agencies deliver training, employment, career, and business services, in addition to administering the unemployment insurance, veteran reemployment, and labor market information programs. NASWA provides policy expertise, shares promising state practices, and promotes state innovation and leadership in workforce development.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

JON PIERPONT,  
*NASWA Board President,  
 Executive Director,  
 Utah Department of Workforce  
 Services.*

SCOTT B. SANDERS,  
*NASWA Executive Director.*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the BRIDGE for Workers Act will ensure that more workers who need reemployment services get them. Those individuals and workers, like Tara, will get back to work faster, in better jobs, and on a path to a better future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the BRIDGE for Workers Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1759, the Building on Reemployment Improvements to Deliver Good Employment for Workers Act, also known as the BRIDGE for Workers Act, which I have worked on with my colleagues, Representative MURPHY and Representative LAHOOD.

This legislation builds upon the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, where we made a significant step forward in helping those unemployed, through no fault of their own, by pairing unemployment benefits with services.

Over the last few decades, there has been a focus on automation that has removed all human interaction from

the benefit claims process. Beneficiaries have become nothing more than a number entered into a spreadsheet or into a computer database.

During the last recession, we saw that merely providing 99 weeks of unemployment benefits was not enough to help individuals return to the workforce. That is why, in 2012, we offered reemployment services and eligibility assessments, known as RESEAs, to the long-term unemployed based on successful State efforts to engage UI beneficiaries.

Since the recession, many States have rebranded unemployment to reemployment, and focused on efforts to promote rapid reemployment, because it is better for workers, their families, and an economy where we have 1 million more job openings than we have employed.

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 provides States with funding certainty, so they can invest in these services and serve greater numbers of workers. That is why H.R. 1759 is so important. It makes permanent a technical correction first made in FY 2019 appropriations.

This bill clarifies that reemployment services and eligibility assessments shall promote quicker reemployment to shorten benefit durations for all unemployment insurance claimants, not just those likely to exhaust unemployment benefits.

In my home State of Indiana, RESEA was redesigned in 2016 to assist UI claimants through early intervention to aid in a quicker return to meaningful employment and eliminate UI fraud.

Indiana's RESEA program is twofold. The initial RESEA expects beneficiaries to make an in-person visit to a WorkOne Center on approximately the sixth week of benefits. During that visit, they attend an orientation to learn more about these services, and then meet with a RESEA counselor for a one-on-one assessment interview to develop an individual reemployment plan. That plan may include workshops to improve job search or interviewing skills, or referrals to other supports or services beyond the UI agency.

Any of the RESEA initial participants who are still collecting at the 15th week of their UI claim are contacted for reengagement as part of the subsequent RESEA program. These long-term claimants are brought in for a one-on-one reassessment interview to determine if additional barriers to reemployment are present. At any point in the process where it becomes apparent that additional, more intensive services are needed, the customer then moves into the workforce system to gain more skills.

RESEAs are a valuable reemployment tool for those who have lost their job, through no fault of their own.

Again, I urge support of H.R. 1759, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 4

minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MURPHY), the sponsor of the bill.

Mrs. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the proud sponsor of this bill, the BRIDGE for Workers Act. I want to express my gratitude to the three original cosponsors of this bipartisan legislation: Congresswoman WALORSKI, Congresswoman TORRES SMALL, and Congressman LAHOOD. I also thank Chairman NEAL and Ranking Member BRADY for their leadership on the committee, and Chairman DANNY DAVIS and his staff for all the work they have done on this bill to prepare it for floor consideration.

Mr. Speaker, no American worker wants to be unemployed, and it is vital for our government to provide cost-effective support during that challenging and stressful time. Our focus should be on giving unemployed workers the skills and resources required to return to the workforce as quickly as possible. We want everyone to feel the sense of dignity that comes with earning a paycheck, providing for their family, and contributing to our economy.

One way we support unemployed workers is through the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment program. This program, administered by the Department of Labor, makes annual grants to States and territories to provide a range of services to recipients of unemployment benefits. Services include individual career counseling, assistance with job searches, and information on the local job market.

Under current law, States can only use these grants to assist workers who are expected to exhaust their unemployment benefits without having found a job. That is an unnecessary restriction that prevents many unemployed workers from getting valuable assistance.

Our bill would remove this restriction and allow States to use their grants to provide support to any individual receiving unemployment benefits, as long as the State believes these services would help the individual return to work more quickly. We provided a 1-year patch in the 2019 appropriations bill to make this change temporarily, but this bill would make it permanent.

This is a critical step because research shows the longer workers are out of work, the harder it can be to maintain their skills, their professional networks, and a stable home life. By combining targeted reemployment services with unemployment insurance benefits, we will help keep people attached to the labor force who might otherwise become discouraged and give up looking for a job.

In my home State of Florida, it is estimated this bill could provide up to 25,000 additional individuals claiming unemployment benefits each week with access to reemployment services.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to support the bipartisan BRIDGE for Workers Act.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD).

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. WALORSKI for her hard work on this particular piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1759, the BRIDGE for Workers Act, also known as the Building on Reemployment Improvements to Deliver Good Employment for Workers Act. I am also proud to join Congresswoman MURPHY, Congresswoman TORRES SMALL, and Congressman DAVIS, my colleague from Illinois, in being part of this bipartisan legislation.

Since becoming a member of the Ways and Means Committee, I have been focused on closing the JOBS Act, improving workforce development, and removing barriers to employment.

It is incumbent upon our Federal Government, in coordination with States and local governments, to ensure that those looking for a job have the necessary tools and skills they need to get back into the workforce.

Last Congress, we worked in a bipartisan fashion to codify into law the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessments program, bolstering its funding and improving the effectiveness. These reemployment services include career counseling, resume support, individualized reemployment plans, and access to trainings for those receiving unemployment insurance.

The goal of this program is to promote rapid reemployment and, ultimately, shorten benefit durations for all unemployment insurance claimants, not just those most likely to exhaust all benefits.

This bill makes a technical correction to ensure that States have the flexibility to provide reemployment services to all insurance claimants from a variety of backgrounds and help them return to work more quickly. This legislation builds on the recent law that improved the reemployment service program and will ensure that those in need of these services will be able to access them.

With over 7 million unfilled jobs in this country, it is crucial we work with our States, including my home State of Illinois, to provide the necessary resources to fill these jobs. Finding skilled workers is one of the number one issues in my district and many districts across the country: finding enough relief welders, truck drivers, construction workers, machinists, nurses, technicians, just to name a few.

Empowering individuals to get off the sideline and back into the workforce is something this body should always strive to achieve. Every week that a person is out of work, through no fault of their own, is a week too long. This bipartisan fix to reemployment will help these individuals get back to receiving what they want most: a job and a paycheck.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee for

their support on this legislation, and I urge its passage in the House.

□ 1330

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU).

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the BRIDGE Act, which would ensure that all unemployment insurance beneficiaries could use reemployment service grants to get back to work sooner. Currently, only unemployed individuals who are likely to exhaust their unemployment benefits have access to these grants.

I know this change will make an impact in my district. In Pasadena, California, the Employment Development Department administers this program, which offers an orientation to dislocated workers. At the orientations, these clients are given a tour of all the services available, including partner services under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and they are then able to pick out a service that best fits their needs.

But this change would allow all individuals to have access to this program and will help coordinate services better so that staff can help these individuals so that they don't have to figure it out on their own, and then more dislocated workers in my community could find work more quickly.

It would help people like Hector. Just last week, I met with the Los Angeles Workforce Development Board and they told me his story.

Hector lost his job as an account manager, where he was making \$44.71 per hour. This forced him to seek public assistance to make ends meet for himself and his family.

Through the help of the staff at the East Los Angeles/West San Gabriel Valley America's Job Center of California, Hector was able to receive a referral for an interview with the Maintco Corporation and was provided a bus pass that enabled him to get to the interview. He was able to quickly secure employment as a finance controller and is now making \$55 an hour, which is \$11 more than when he lost his job.

We must pass this bill to make sure that individuals who lose their jobs are not out of the workforce for too long. I applaud my colleague, STEPHANIE MURPHY, for introducing this bill, and I urge my colleagues to vote for it.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES).

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want to mention that I, too, rise today in support of H.R. 1759, the BRIDGE for Workers Act. This technical correction bill builds on the progress we made in last year's budget act to provide reemployment services to help get more people back to work faster and easier.

While the intent of last year's law was to allow job counselors to consult with unemployed individuals as soon as possible, oftentimes implementation of the law led to this happening only in cases where unemployment benefits were set to expire.

Today's bill realigns reemployment services and eligibility assessment with the original intent of their mission to assist unemployed individuals as soon as possible to get people back to work.

I know, in my district, case managers at the Workforce Centers of South Central Kansas provide a critical service connecting people with jobs or skills training to further their careers.

At a time when our economy is growing at historic rates and we have more job openings than ever before, the work these centers provide is extremely important to help make sure all Americans can participate in this economic revival.

I want to thank my fellow Ways and Means Committee members for working to bring this bill to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE), a member of our subcommittee.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS).

Mr. Speaker, I am absolutely delighted to rise in support of H.R. 1759, the Building on Reemployment Improvements to Deliver Good Employment for Workers Act, also known as the BRIDGE for Workers Act.

I do want to congratulate the authors of this bill, Mrs. WALORSKI and my colleague Mrs. MURPHY, for their effort in putting this forward.

This bill aims to provide workers receiving unemployment benefits the support they need to not only get back into the workforce as soon as possible, but to prevent them from being unemployed in the first place.

This legislation is so important because it would extend reemployment services and eligibility assessments to all claimants of unemployment benefits, rather than limiting these benefits to only those who are expected to run out of benefits. Helping all unemployment insurance claimants reenter the workforce is vital for a robust economy that will only thrive with a skilled workforce.

Mr. Speaker, research shows that the longer workers are out of work, the harder it can be to maintain their skills. Reemployment services equip workers with important tools, such as individualized career counseling and job search assistance, to find a job well matched to their skills and experience more quickly. This helps to stabilize families' income.

These are the kinds of services that we need to invest in as a nation, especially since we know that not all boats are rising in this economy.

In my own State of Wisconsin, funding to the Department of Workforce

Development's Reemployment Services Program was bolstered for fiscal year 2019, with an increase of nearly \$722,000. Already, we have seen improvements in the program's effectiveness for Wisconsin in need of just a little bit of extra assistance with finding suitable employment.

Mr. Speaker, I would also note that the BRIDGE for Workers Act was a bipartisan effort, so important for getting things done. We are pleased with the overwhelming cooperation on both sides of the aisle, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, having no other speakers, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois has 9 minutes remaining.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL), a cosponsor of this bill.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my full support for H.R. 1759, the BRIDGE for Workers Act, led by Representatives Murphy, Walorski, LaHood, and myself.

Mr. Speaker, my State of New Mexico continues to suffer from one of the highest unemployment rates in the country. In one county in my district, the unemployment rate is 17 percent.

As lawmakers, we must prioritize policies that will help counties across the Nation like Luna County combat systemic problems that are preventing a swift return to the workforce.

Research shows that the longer workers are out of work, the harder it can be to maintain their skills and the more likely workers will fall out of the labor force entirely.

When I was in college, my dad lost his job to funding cuts. My parents and I had just taken out loans so that I could go to college. I remember sitting in class, worried. I was homesick, and I felt powerless to do anything to help my family through that difficult time.

My dad is one of the hardest working people I know. On his own, he got the training he needed to find a job in our hometown, but it took years. We all made sacrifices in the meantime.

I worked multiple jobs, and I graduated in 3 years to help limit that debt, and I took on my parents' loan payments to help out.

Now my dad is a schoolbus driver, and the kids he drives to school, the colleagues he serves as a union president, and our community are all better because of the work that he does. I just wish he had found his second calling earlier.

This bill will help. The earlier we retrain people, the earlier they find new careers. This helps people in their most vulnerable moments. It supports families, and it builds stronger communities.

That is why I am proud to help lead the BRIDGE for Workers Act, which will help unemployed individuals find a job faster so that they can provide for their families and get back on their feet as soon as possible.

This would fix a flaw in the current law that limits reemployment services to only those expected to remain unemployed after their benefits run out.

Reemployment services are essential, as they give people without a job the tools they need to get back to work through programs offering targeted job search assistance, career counseling, and interview and resume workshops. With greater access to these services, unemployed individuals will be more likely to find a job faster and rejoin the workforce.

This bill is also cost effective. Since it allows States to use their reemployment services grants more effectively, individuals will return to work quicker, which will generate more savings for our government.

When Americans who want to work hard get the support they need to do just that, we all succeed. I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation and help unemployed Americans across our Nation get back on their feet.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, having no other speakers, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL).

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand as a member of this subcommittee to support the BRIDGE for Workers Act.

Mr. Speaker, no person wants to be without a job. I think that the hardest and most important thing that we as Members of Congress can do is to support the American worker to not only stay employed and find jobs, but, when they have to lose their job, that they are helped to be retrained—and that is exactly what this bill will do.

This bill will provide better reemployment services. Right now, they are limited. By expanding it, we will help American workers who are unemployed get back to work quicker and faster.

I want to acknowledge that this is a bipartisan bill. It is exactly what the American people need to see us do, which is to help workers maintain their dignity by not only staying employed but, when they lose their job, getting reemployed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan piece of legislation and want to thank the chairman of our subcommittee and the ranking member of our subcommittee for bringing this bipartisan bill to the floor.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers. I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, as you have heard today, the ability to pair benefits with services can have a profound effect on the lives of workers and their families.

At a time with more than a million more jobs than we actually have unemployed, this effort is especially critical. This bill gives States the flexibility they need to make reemployment services a great success.

Again, I urge support of H.R. 1759, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I came to this session with the simple notion of coming to do a job and to go to my work. Listening to my colleagues' representations and their articulation of experiences and what this bill really means, I am renewed, and I am delighted because it is an important bill, seriously important.

Yes, in many places the economy is good; people are able to work. But bridges connect and transport, and this bridge connects people to the opportunity to get a job, to go back to work, to be able to take care of their families, to have money so that their children can go to college or they can sustain themselves while their daughter is completing her education.

□ 1345

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleagues, Mrs. MURPHY and Ms. TORRES SMALL; the ranking member of the subcommittee, Mrs. WALORSKI; and Mr. LAHOOD, my colleague from Illinois, for their ingenuity, creativity, and for the introduction of this tremendous piece of legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1759, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. 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.

#### TAXPAYER FIRST ACT OF 2019

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1957) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modernize and improve the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1957

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; ETC.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Taxpayer First Act of 2019".