

Responders Act.” The Committee on Homeland Security recognizes that the Committee on Science, Space and Technology has a jurisdictional interest in H.R. 542, and I appreciate your effort to allow this bill to be considered on the House floor.

I concur with you that forgoing action on the bill does not in any way prejudice the Committee on Science, Space and Technology with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future, and I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will include our letters on H.R. 542 in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this bill. I look forward to working with you on this legislation and other matters of great importance to this nation.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY,
Washington, DC, June 10, 2019.

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
*Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: I am writing to address the jurisdictional interests of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (“Science Committee”) in H.R. 542, the Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act. The Science Committee submitted, to the Speaker, a jurisdictional claim on February 25th, 2019.

While the Science Committee is claiming jurisdiction over this bill, I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner, and, accordingly agree not to insist on a sequential referral. This is, of course, conditional on our mutual understanding that nothing in this legislation or my decision to forgo sequential referral waives, reduces, or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Science Committee, and that a copy of this letter and your response will be included in the Congressional Record when the bill is considered on the House Floor.

The Science Committee also expects that you will support our request to be conferees during any House-Senate conference on H.R. 542, or similar legislation.

Thank you for your attention on this matter.

Sincerely,

EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,
Chairwoman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 542. This bill authorizes the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory in New York City, a one-of-its-kind testing lab for first responders.

The NUSTL evaluates and validates emerging technologies for use by first responders. Their work provides valuable information to first responders to increase their ability to save lives and property as departments across the Nation respond to incidents.

H.R. 542 will ensure that the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory’s work will continue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation. I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 542 represents a bipartisan effort to support the needs of State and local first responders. It is critical that the Federal Government have the capacity to develop, test, and transition the best new technologies to the first responder community.

It bears repeating that NUSTL is the only Federal lab in the country that is focused entirely on helping first responders carry out their mission.

As the tactics and weapons of terrorists evolve, NUSTL will continue to play a key role in ensuring that our first responders are not just prepared but that they remain one step ahead.

Mr. Speaker, before I close, I would note that a similar version of this bill passed the House in June 2018 by a voice vote. I would ask my colleagues to pass it again today and send it to the Senate, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 542.

The question was taken.

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

Miss RICE of New York. 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.

SECURING AMERICAN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AGAINST TERRORISM ACT OF 2019

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2476) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide funding to secure nonprofit facilities from terrorist attacks, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2476

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 “Securing American Nonprofit Organizations Against Terrorism Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. NONPROFIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 2009. NONPROFIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department a program to be known as the ‘Nonprofit Security Grant Program’ (in this section referred to as the ‘Program’). Under the Program, the Secretary, acting through the Administrator, shall make grants to eligible nonprofit organizations described in subsection (b), through the State in which such organizations are located, for target hardening and other security enhancements to protect against terrorist attacks.

“(b) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—Eligible nonprofit organizations described in this subsection (a) are organizations that are—

“(1) described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code; and

“(2) determined to be at risk of a terrorist attack by the Administrator.

“(c) PERMITTED USES.—The recipient of a grant under this section may use such grant for any of the following uses:

“(1) Target hardening activities, including physical security enhancement equipment and inspection and screening systems.

“(2) Fees for security training relating to physical security and cybersecurity, target hardening, terrorism awareness, and employee awareness.

“(3) Any other appropriate activity, including cybersecurity resilience activities, as determined by the Administrator.

“(d) PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE.—The Administrator shall make funds provided under this section available for use by a recipient of a grant for a period of not less than 36 months.

“(e) REPORT.—The Administrator shall annually for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024 submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report containing information on the expenditure by each grant recipient of grant funds made under this section.

“(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024 to carry out this section.

“(2) SPECIFICATION.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1)—

“(A) \$50,000,000 is authorized for eligible recipients located in jurisdictions that receive funding under section 2003; and

“(B) \$25,000,000 is authorized for eligible recipients in jurisdictions not receiving funding under section 2003.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (a) of section 2002 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 603) is amended by striking “sections 2003 and 2004” and inserting “sections 2003, 2004, and 2009”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2008 the following new item:

“Sec. 2009. Nonprofit security grant program.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 2476, the Securing American

Nonprofit Organizations Against Terrorism Act of 2019.

H.R. 2476 would authorize the Department of Homeland Security's Nonprofit Security Grant Program. This important grant program makes funding available to nonprofit organizations that are at risk of a terrorist attack.

Recently, nonprofit and religious organizations throughout the United States and abroad have experienced an alarming increase in violence and threats of violence. This year alone has been particularly tragic.

Consider, for example, the April 27 shooting in Poway, California, where a gunman opened fire on congregants at a Passover celebration.

Other such attacks include the April 21 coordinated terrorist attack on churches and hotels in Sri Lanka that killed nearly 250 people and injured more than 500 others. And the March 15 shooting at a mosque in New Zealand where 50 people were killed.

This past April, we also saw the burning of three churches in Louisiana, which we later learned were motivated by hate.

Unfortunately, however, targeting houses of worship is not a new phenomenon. There was the 2018 Tree of Life synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh where 11 people were killed; the 2017 shooting at a church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, where 26 people were killed; and the 2012 shooting at a Sikh temple in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

These attacks amplify the dire need that religious institutions and other nonprofit organizations have for effective security resources. They need these resources to keep themselves safe.

H.R. 2476 would also allow these grants to be made available to all at-risk facilities, regardless of where they are located.

The bill authorizes the program at \$75 million, with \$50 million reserved for nonprofit institutions located within the UASI areas, the Urban Area Security Initiative areas, and \$25 million reserved for institutions located outside of UASI jurisdictions.

The goal of DHS is to keep Americans safe across this country. This bill is a critical part of that goal. It would help ensure that nonprofits and places of worship across the country are protected and that congregants have the peace of mind they deserve.

I think we can all agree that protecting our communities from terrorist attacks should never be a partisan issue, and that is why the roster of 104 cosponsors for this legislation is large and diverse, with strong representation by Democrats and Republicans, myself included.

The Nonprofit Security Grant Program is one of the most sought-after grant programs for nonprofit organizations in my district, and I am grateful that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle have demonstrated such strong support for the program.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2476, the Securing American Nonprofit Organizations Act of 2019.

The Nonprofit Security Grant Program provides critical funding to harden security at houses of worship, community centers, schools, and other cultural institutions located in Urban Area Security Initiative, or UASI, regions.

This legislation expands the grant program so eligible entities not within UASI regions can also apply. These grants are used for target-hardening activities and physical security upgrades as well as for necessary security training.

The unfortunate reality is that threats to religious institutions and other soft targets are not going away and, in fact, are increasing at an alarming rate.

There have been a number of attacks, both overseas and in the United States, at places of worship. It is a stark reminder of the continued threat.

The Nonprofit Security Grant Program assists the most at-risk organizations in hardening their defenses, while allowing them to remain focused on providing services and counsel in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do so. I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, as the threats to our homeland continue to evolve, we must be prepared to face the new and emerging challenges they present.

H.R. 2476 would authorize DHS to continue assisting nonprofit organizations across the country with protecting their members and their buildings.

A version of this bill passed the House by a voice vote in the last Congress, and I hope my colleagues will do the same again today.

H.R. 2476 was also endorsed by the Jewish Federations of North America. I truly appreciate their partnership and collaboration around this critical Homeland Security program, and I include in the RECORD their letter of support.

THE JEWISH FEDERATIONS
OF NORTH AMERICA,
May 9, 2019.

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MICHAEL DENNIS ROGERS,
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMPSON AND RANKING MEMBER ROGERS: We commend you for scheduling the mark-up of H.R. 2476, the "Securing American Non-Profit Organizations Against Terrorism Act of 2019", and respectfully urge Members of the Committee to support the bill.

On April 27, 2019, white supremacist John Earnest allegedly entered the Chabad of Poway synagogue, near San Diego, CA, dur-

ing Passover services, and murdered Lori Kaye, 60, and attempted to murder Noya Dahan, 8, Almog Peretz, 34, and Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein, 57. On October 27, 2018, white supremacist Robert D. Bowers allegedly entered the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA, during Sabbath services, and murdered 11 congregants and wounded six others, including four police officers. In the months between these deadly attacks, the FBI has brought charges against would-be terrorists and violent homegrown extremists for plots and threats against synagogues, Jewish community centers, mosques, Islamic centers, and churches located in Washington, DC, New York, California, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Montana, Florida, Ohio, Texas, Kansas, Oregon and Pennsylvania.

Over the past year, the FBI has investigated more than 100 threats to religious institutions. As recently as January 2019, the Federal Government released a Joint Intelligence Bulletin that assesses that domestic actors will continue to pose a lethal threat to faith-based communities in the Homeland. The JIB advises government counterterrorism and law enforcement officials and private sector security partners responsible for securing faith-based communities to remain vigilant in light of the enduring threat to faith-based communities posed by US-based threat actors and homegrown violent extremists. The JIB also warns of the difficulty in detecting domestic terrorists and extremists because of the individualized nature of their radicalization to violence. (Source: Joint Intelligence Bulletin IA-32337-19, February 22, 2019)

In previous reports, the Department of Homeland Security has found that faith-based organizations are at particular risk of attack because of the significant number of people of like faith that gather together in a single symbolic location at specified times; the organizations typically have unrestricted access to their religious services and peripheral areas such as their parking areas and education facilities; and because these organizations most likely have limited resources for security as nonprofit institutions. As "soft targets", DHS has further assessed that these organizations are particularly vulnerable to bombing, arson attack, small arms attack, assassination and kidnapping, and chemical/biological/radiological attack. To counter these threats and vulnerabilities, DHS recommends that faith-based organizations take a number of key protective measures against threats and to mitigate the effects of an attack, including: installation of target hardening equipment, engaging in planning and preparedness activities and the acquisition of security personnel.

Recognizing that many nonprofits do not have the financial resources to implement extensive security measures, the "Securing American Non-Profit Organizations Against Terrorism Act of 2019" provides critical support for security related activities to nonprofit organizations at risk of a terrorist attack that are recommended by the Department of Homeland Security. These include support for:

Physical Security Enhancements, such as access controls, blast proofing, surveillance, fencing and bollards;

Security Training of employees and organization members and volunteers;

Exercises, such as those that validate plans and procedures, evaluate capabilities, and assess progress toward meeting capability targets;

Planning, such as the development and enhancement of security plans and protocols, emergency contingency plans, or evacuation/shelter-in-place plans; and

Contracting of Security Personnel and off-duty police officers.

In consideration of the substantial threats and attacks to nonprofit institutions by domestic and foreign terrorists and violent homegrown extremists, the vulnerability of nonprofits to destruction, incapacitation, or exploitation from a terrorist attack, and the challenges nonprofits face in providing for needed investments in target hardening and related preparedness activities, The Jewish Federations respectfully urges the Members of the Committee to support the “Securing American Non-Profit Organizations Against Terrorism Act of 2019” at markup.

Sincerely,

ROBERT B. GOLDBERG,
Senior Director, Legislative Affairs.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 2476, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2476 would, for the first time, formally authorize the Department of Homeland Security’s Nonprofit Security Grant Program.

This important grant program makes funding available to nonprofit organizations that are at risk of a terrorist attack.

Increasingly, nonprofit organizations throughout the United States and abroad have experienced an alarming increase in violence and threats of violence.

In just the first six months of 2019, the level of bloodshed in places of worship have shocked the world.

In addition to the April 27th shooting, where a gunman opened fire on congregants at a Passover celebration at a California synagogue, there was the April 21st coordinated terrorist attack on churches and hotels in Sri Lanka that killed nearly 250 people and the March 15th live-streamed mass shooting at a mosque in New Zealand, where 50 people were killed.

The horror of these attacks was compounded by the three church burnings in Louisiana in April.

Prior to this year, there were the 2018 “Tree of Life” synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, where 11 people were killed; the 2017 Sutherland Springs, Texas church shooting, where 26 people were killed; and the 2012 shooting at a Sikh Temple in Milwaukee.

These attacks amplify the need for religious and other nonprofit organizations to have access to resources to keep themselves safe from bad actors.

Enactment of H.R. 2476 will help non-profits and places of worship take steps to be safer.

I introduced this legislation to authorize \$75 million in grants with Representatives PETER KING (R-NY), MAX ROSE (D-NY), STEVE STIVERS (R-OH), BILL PASCRELL (D-NJ), and TROY BALDERSON (R-OH) in early May and, to date, it has over 100 Democrats and Republicans.

H.R. 2476 was endorsed by The Jewish Federations of North America.

I truly appreciate their support and commitment to this vital homeland security program.

Prospects for enactment of this legislation are good, as a bipartisan companion bill has been introduced.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for H.R. 2476.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2476, the “Securing American Non-Profit Organizations Against Terrorism Act of 2019.”

H.R. 2476 reauthorizes the Department of Homeland Security’s Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP).

The bill would fund the NSGP at \$75 million through fiscal year 2024; where \$50 million

would be reserved for nonprofit institutions located within UASI jurisdictions, and \$25 million would be reserved for nonprofit institutions located outside of UASI jurisdictions.

This bill is caused by the recent increase in violence and threats of violence against nonprofit institutions.

Examples of such violence against nonprofit organizations include:

April 27—attack on the Poway synagogue that killed 11 April 21—a coordinated terrorist attack on churches and hotels in Sri Lanka that killed nearly 250 people and injured more than 500 people.

March 15—the deadly New Zealand mosque shootings, where 50 people were killed.

It is critical that we better understand the seriousness of such violent crimes as they impact not only the victims, but also their families, communities, and the generations of people to come.

This bill will allow the Nonprofit Security Grant Program to—Target activities, including physical security enhancement equipment, inspection and the screening systems.

Pay for security training relating to physical security and cybersecurity, target hardening, terrorism awareness, and employee awareness.

Along with, any other appropriate activity, including cybersecurity resilience activities, as determined by the Administrator.

When enacted, H.R. 2476 will create a better understanding on how we can manage and prevent terrorist acts towards non-profit organizations by targeting activities and increasing security training.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2476 to confront such violence against nonprofit institutions, which pose as a strong threat to the citizens of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2476.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DHS CYBER INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAMS ACT OF 2019

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1158) to authorize cyber incident response teams at the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1158

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 “DHS Cyber Incident Response Teams Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CYBER INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2209 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 148) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(1)(B)(iv), by inserting “, including cybersecurity specialists” after “entities”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (f) through (m) as subsections (g) through (n), respectively;

(3) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection (f):

“(f) CYBER INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAMS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall maintain cyber hunt and incident response teams for the purpose of providing, as appropriate and upon request, assistance, including the following:

“(A) Assistance to asset owners and operators in restoring services following a cyber incident.

“(B) The identification of cybersecurity risk and unauthorized cyber activity.

“(C) Mitigation strategies to prevent, deter, and protect against cybersecurity risks.

“(D) Recommendations to asset owners and operators for improving overall network and control systems security to lower cybersecurity risks, and other recommendations, as appropriate.

“(E) Such other capabilities as the Under Secretary appointed under section 103(a)(1)(H) determines appropriate.

“(2) CYBERSECURITY SPECIALISTS.—The Secretary may include cybersecurity specialists from the private sector on cyber hunt and incident response teams.

“(3) ASSOCIATED METRICS.—The Center shall continually assess and evaluate the cyber incident response teams and their operations using robust metrics.

“(4) SUBMITTAL OF INFORMATION TO CONGRESS.—Upon the conclusion of each of the first four fiscal years ending after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Center shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee of the Senate, information on the metrics used for evaluation and assessment of the cyber incident response teams and operations pursuant to paragraph (3), including the resources and staffing of such cyber incident response teams. Such information shall include each of the following for the period covered by the report:

“(A) The total number of incident response requests received.

“(B) The number of incident response tickets opened.

“(C) All interagency staffing of incident response teams.

“(D) The interagency collaborations established to support incident response teams.”;

and

(4) in subsection (g), as redesignated by paragraph (2)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, or any team or activity of the Center,” after “Center”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, or any team or activity of the Center,” after “Center”.

(b) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the requirements of this Act and the amendments made by this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.