

weren't accepted. There were good, rational, concrete suggestions.

This is a critical bill that addresses some of those concerns.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman.

Ms. LEE of California. It creates an independent ombudsman, which will establish a confidential process to assist individuals with complaints against ICE and CBP.

Once more, this bill is important for our children and would develop recommendations for the establishment of an electronic tracking system to track the location of children who have been separated from a parent, legal guardian, or other relative.

We will not stand by while the Trump administration separates children from their families, so this bill takes an important step in the right direction.

By passing this bill today, we are putting critical protocols and protections in place for migrants, making sure that their well-being and health is uplifted at every step.

We cannot allow migrants to be abused by CBP and ICE any longer. It is past time to protect migrants who are seeking a chance to start a new life in America. It is past time we recognize people fleeing violence are human beings who deserve a chance to address and be part of a just immigration system.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this vital bill.

I thank Chairman THOMPSON and Congresswoman ESCOBAR for finally getting this bill to the floor.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill demonstrates just how disingenuous Democrats are about securing our borders and fixing our broken immigration system. Their Caucus is in such disarray on this issue that it took them 10 weeks and a hatchet just to find a compromise among themselves. Now, they are going to send another partisan messaging bill to the Senate, where it will promptly die.

Congratulations on the press release.

Mr. Speaker, we watched an unprecedented humanitarian crisis unfold on our Southwest border this year. It used to be that when this country faced a crisis, Democrats and Republicans came together to solve it and ensure it didn't happen again. Unfortunately, that is no longer the practice under Democratic control.

When Democrats are ready to legislate with real solutions to problems this country faces, Republicans stand ready to work with them. In the meantime, I urge all Members to oppose this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Trump administration's cruel and inhumane approach to border and immigration enforcement has subjected DHS' frontline personnel and border communities to chaotic conditions. It has also hurt families and children.

From the Remain in Mexico policy that puts children and families in harm's way indefinitely to family separation to metering, the Trump administration has haphazardly reshaped how people who seek safety in the U.S. are treated. It is essential that there be greater transparency and accountability regarding what DHS is doing along the border. More remains to be done, but H.R. 2203 includes several first steps.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 577, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 2203 is postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to a joint resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S.J. Res. 54. Joint resolution relating to a national emergency declared by the President on February 15, 2019.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, September 19, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: On September 19, 2019, pursuant to section 3307 of Title 40, United States Code, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session to consider six resolutions included in the General Services Administration's Capital Investment and Leasing Programs.

I have enclosed copies of the resolutions adopted.

Sincerely,

PETER A. DEFazio,
Chairman.

Enclosures.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, KANSAS CITY, MO

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 204,607 rentable square feet of space, including 104 official parking spaces, for the Department of Transportation and the Department of Veterans Affairs currently located at 901 Locust Street in Kansas City, MO at a proposed total annual cost of \$4,982,181 for a lease term of up to 5 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 311 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 311 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

Provided further, the Administrator of General Services may not enter into this lease if it does not contain a provision barring any individual holding a Federally-elected office, regardless of whether such individual took office before or after execution of this lease, to directly participate in, or benefit from or under this lease or any part thereof and that such provision provide that if this lease is found to have been made in violation of the foregoing prohibition or it is found that this prohibition has been violated during the term of the lease, the lease shall be void, except that the foregoing limitation shall not