

Representative WAGNER for their wholehearted support.

The Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act is a bipartisan bill that addresses the needs of foster youth facing homelessness as they age out of the foster care system.

Every year, approximately 20,000 young people across this country age out of foster care. Studies show that between one-fifth to one-third of these young adults will become homeless in transition years.

That sudden and permanent transition from foster care to adulthood—including the loss of financial, educational, and social supports that the child welfare system provides—places these vulnerable youth at risk of homelessness and housing instability.

In my home State of Pennsylvania, for example, 32 percent of foster youth surveyed in fiscal year 2018 reported that they had been homeless by the age of 21. That is nearly a third of the young people coming out of the foster care system.

The Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act will address this problem by reforming and extending the current voucher system. It provides vouchers from HUD on demand to foster youth who are at risk of becoming homeless, rather than forcing them to spend years on waiting lists.

Furthermore, this bill incentivizes young people to participate in self-sufficiency activities by extending their assistance for up to an additional 2 years. Qualifying activities include pursuing an education, workforce development, or employment.

Finally, the Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act builds upon the current Family Unification Program under the foster youth portion to better align the child welfare and affordable housing systems and to coordinate and improve the lives of foster youth.

This bill is endorsed by more than 40 organizations, including the National Alliance to End Homelessness, National Low Income Housing Coalition, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and the Child Welfare League of America.

I thank my colleague on the Financial Services Committee in particular, Congressman STIVERS, for his leadership on this bipartisan bill; as well as Congresswoman BASS, founder and co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth; and Congressman TURNER, who has been a leader on this issue for many years.

Finally, I thank the Financial Services Committee chair, Chairwoman WATERS, for her support on this legislation.

The Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act passed the Financial Services Committee unanimously, and I urge Members of the full House to pass it as well.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER).

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania (Ms.

DEAN) for pushing this legislation with me, as well as Congresswoman BASS of California. Congressman STIVERS of Ohio has been an incredible champion. I thank Congressman WAGNER for her work on this bill.

And I want to thank, particularly, Ranking Member MCHENRY. I am not a member of this committee, and I thank Chairwoman WATERS and, of course, Ranking Member MCHENRY for taking this up and allowing me to advocate for this bill.

This is a bill of the heart. Everyone who has worked on this bill knows that we are remedying a wrong that shouldn't exist.

Mr. Speaker, several years ago, a group of Ohio foster youth, foster care alumni, and advocates came to me and explained to me the struggles that they endure as a result of the government's failure as foster parents. We fail to provide housing for these young people when they age out of foster care.

Currently, when youth age out of the foster care system, they are often placed at the back of the line to receive housing assistance, despite some targeted interventions available. Essentially, many of these youth, when they age out of foster care, age into federally created homelessness.

Now, part of this problem is that foster care is under HHS and adult housing is under HUD. Even though we know these kids are coming because we are providing them funding and we are providing them care under the foster care system under HHS, HUD acts like they have shown up for the very first day when they become adults and age out of the system.

It is our responsibility to fix this. As Congresswoman WAGNER was saying, studies show that 37 percent of foster care alumni have experienced homelessness. What a failure of a program.

The program under HHS is graduating 37 percent of its kids into homelessness; 20 percent struggle with chronic homelessness. This is after we have made a significant investment in these children's lives. It is the time that they start to go forward into adulthood that they face homelessness.

The government can and should remedy this. This bill will help with that and will give these kids, as they go into adulthood, an opportunity to jump in the front of the line—because we know they are coming; we have known they are coming for years—and give them the assistance for federally created housing so they can look toward self-sufficiency and become independent members of society.

□ 1830

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all of the Dayton, Ohio, area foster kids and the alumni who helped work on this. Congratulations to each and every one of them. We did it, Mr. Speaker. I encourage everyone to vote for this.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I simply want to thank Mrs. WAGNER for working with me and the other members of the committee. I would like to also thank Ms. DEAN and Mr. STIVERS for introducing this important piece of legislation that is aimed at protecting some of our most vulnerable young people who too often fall into homelessness after they age out of foster care.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4300, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO THE BILL (H.R. 3055) COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020

Mr. HASTINGS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-297) on the resolution (H. Res. 708) providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3055) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 3702,  
H.R. 4634; and  
H.R. 4344.

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.

REFORMING DISASTER RECOVERY 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