

(ii) by striking “agency for the following purposes:” and all that follows through “To reimburse” and inserting “agency to reimburse”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure before us.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Improper payments include overpayments, underpayments, payments to the incorrect recipient, and those that lack proper documentation. They are a longstanding and significant problem in the Federal Government. In fiscal year 2018 alone, they totaled more than \$151 billion.

Congress has passed a number of laws over the past two decades to try and address this problem, but the problem, unfortunately, persists.

S. 375, the Payment Integrity Information Act, would consolidate the existing and proper payment laws in one place in the U.S. Code and make several changes to help identify and reduce improper payments. It would require agencies to develop plans to prevent improper payments and also to identify programs with the highest risk.

It would also require the Office of Management and Budget and inspectors general to offer guidance on how to improve annual reporting on improper payments.

Finally, the bill will create a working group of Federal agencies and non-Federal partners to develop strategies for addressing the key causes of improper payments, such as fraud and eligibility determination in State-managed Federal benefits programs.

I thank Senators TOM CARPER, RON JOHNSON, GARY PETERS, and MIKE BRAUN for their good work on this commonsense measure. I commend Senator CARPER for his longstanding dedication to reducing improper payments.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important measure to reduce waste and fraud in Federal programs, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 375, the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019. I know that I am not alone in addressing the Speaker on the will of the House, but

there are very few times that we see a whole lot of good that comes out of the other Chamber in the Capitol. This is one of the rare moments.

□ 1600

So as I see this, I would actually encourage support of it.

According to the GAO, since 2003, we have had \$1.5 trillion—that is trillion with a T—in improper payments. In fiscal year 2018 alone, Federal agencies estimated that there was \$151 billion in improper payments.

The Speaker probably knows that oftentimes we have had, in Oversight Committee, annual reports on improper payments, and consistently we are talking about hundreds of billions of dollars that are sent to not only the wrong place, but in terms that are not even accounted for. And after you get hundreds of billions year after year, eventually that adds up to real money. It is time that we address it.

This is a commonsense piece of legislation that brings everything together so that we can start, hopefully, addressing the sad state of where we are in addressing improper payments. The American taxpayers demand it, the American taxpayers deserve it, and, ultimately, we have a responsibility to address it. So I rise in support of this.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG), the House sponsor for this bill.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 375, the Payment Integrity Information Act. I was proud to introduce H.R. 5389, the House companion to this bill, earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congressman, Mr. MEADOWS, as well as Representatives CHERI BUSTOS and GREG GIANFORTE for their work on this bill.

My constituents sent me here to Congress to represent some of the hardest working, creative, and entrepreneurial folks in our country. Every day, I work to protect the hard-earned dollars of these families, and I remain committed to ensuring that the Federal Government is a good steward of their tax dollars.

In fiscal year 2018 alone, the Government Accountability Office estimated that improper payments throughout the Federal Government totaled \$151 billion. Since 2003, when agencies were first directed to begin reporting improper payments, cumulative improper payments estimated across government have totaled \$1.4 trillion.

These improper payments can be overpayments, underpayments, payments made to ineligible parties, or payments that were not properly documented. Frankly, it is outrageous.

Whether it is overpaying a defense contractor or underpaying a senior on their Social Security benefits, the Federal Government has an obligation to

put commonsense policies in place to end these improper payments.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan and commonsense bill to tackle Federal waste, fraud, and abuse so that we can make room to fund the priorities that Minnesota families care so much about, like special education and addressing our crumbling infrastructure.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, again, this bill actually takes five different laws that have really not been codified in an appropriate manner, brings them together under one umbrella, and allows us to address this in a meaningful way, a commonsense bill.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues opposite to thank them for their support. I rise in support of this legislation.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of S. 375, 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 (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 375.

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.

PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2019

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 394) to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to improve the orderly transfer of the executive power during Presidential transitions.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 394

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 “Presidential Transition Enhancement Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION ENHANCEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “upon request,” and all that follows through “including” and inserting “upon request, to each President-elect, each Vice-President-elect, and, for up to 60 days after the date of the inauguration of the President-elect and Vice-President-elect, each President and Vice President, for use in connection with the preparations for the assumption of official duties as President or Vice President necessary services and facilities, including”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting “, or an employee of a committee of either House of Congress, a joint committee of the Congress, or an individual

Member of Congress,” after “any branch of the Government”; and

(i) by inserting “, or in the case of an employee in a position in the legislative branch, with the consent of the supervising Member of Congress” after “with the consent of the head of the agency”;

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) The Administrator shall expend funds for the provision of services and facilities under this section—

“(1) in connection with any obligation incurred by the President-elect or Vice-President-elect, or after the inauguration of the President-elect as President and the inauguration of the Vice-President-elect as Vice President incurred by the President or Vice President, during the period—

“(A) beginning on the day after the date of the general elections held to determine the electors of the President and Vice President under section 1 or 2 of title 3, United States Code; and

“(B) ending on the date that is 60 days after the date of such inauguration; and

“(2) without regard to whether the President-elect, Vice-President-elect, President, or Vice President submits to the Administrator a request for payment regarding services or facilities before the end of such period.”;

(3) in subsection (h)(2)(B)(ii), by striking “computers” and inserting “information technology”; and

(4) By adding at the end the following:

“(1) MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 1 of a year during which a Presidential election occurs, the Administrator shall, to the maximum extent practicable, enter into a memorandum of understanding with each eligible candidate, which shall include, at a minimum, the conditions for the administrative support services and facilities described in subsection (a).

“(2) EXISTING RESOURCES.—To the maximum extent practicable, a memorandum of understanding entered into under paragraph (1) shall be based on memorandums of understanding relating to previous Presidential transitions.

“(3) TRANSITION REPRESENTATIVE.—

“(A) DESIGNATION OF REPRESENTATIVE FOR INQUIRIES.—Each memorandum of understanding entered into under this subsection shall designate a representative of the eligible candidate to whom the Administrator shall direct any inquiries or legal instruments regarding the records of the eligible candidate that are in the custody of the Administrator.

“(B) CHANGE IN TRANSITION REPRESENTATIVE.—The designation of a new individual as the transition representative of an eligible candidate shall not require the execution of a new memorandum of understanding under this subsection.

“(C) TERMINATION OF DESIGNATION.—The designation of a transition representative under a memorandum of understanding shall terminate—

“(i) not later than September 30 of the year during which the inauguration of the President-elect as President and the inauguration of the Vice-President-elect as Vice President occurs; or

“(ii) before the date described in clause (i), upon request of the President-elect or the Vice-President-elect or, after such inauguration, upon request of the President or the Vice President.

“(4) AMENDMENTS.—Any amendment to a memorandum of understanding entered into under this subsection shall be agreed to in writing.

“(5) PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF DEVIATION.—Each party to a memorandum of under-

standing entered into under this subsection shall provide written notice, except to the extent prohibited under another provision of law, not later than 3 days before taking any action that deviates from the terms and conditions agreed to in the memorandum of understanding.

“(6) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘eligible candidate’ has the meaning given that term in subsection (h)(4).”.

(b) AGENCY TRANSITIONS.—Section 4 of the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) the term ‘nonpublic information’—

“(A) means information from the Federal Government that a member of a transition team obtains as part of the employment of the member that such member knows or reasonably should know has not been made available to the general public; and

“(B) includes information that a member of the transition team knows or reasonably should know—

“(i) is exempt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code, or otherwise protected from disclosure by law; and

“(ii) is not authorized by the appropriate government agency or officials to be released to the public; and”;

(2) in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of subsection (e)(3), by inserting “serving in a career position” after “senior representative”;

(3) by striking subsection (f)(2) and inserting the following:

“(2) ACTING OFFICERS.—Not later than September 15 of a year during which a Presidential election occurs, and in accordance with subchapter III of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, the head of each agency shall ensure that a succession plan is in place for each senior noncareer position in the agency.”; and

(4) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “November 1” and inserting “October 1”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) ETHICS PLAN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each memorandum of understanding under paragraph (1) shall include an agreement that the eligible candidate will implement and enforce an ethics plan to guide the conduct of the transition beginning on the date on which the eligible candidate becomes the President-elect.

“(B) CONTENTS.—The ethics plan shall include, at a minimum—

“(i) a description of the ethics requirements that will apply to all members of the transition team, including any specific requirement for transition team members who will have access to nonpublic or classified information;

“(ii) a description of how the transition team will—

“(I) address the role on the transition team of—

“(aa) lobbyists registered under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) and individuals who were former lobbyists registered under that Act; and

“(bb) persons registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C. 611 et seq.), foreign nationals, and other foreign agents;

“(II) prohibit a transition team member with conflicts of interest similar to those applicable to Federal employees under section 2635.402(a) and section 2635.502(a) of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, related to current or former employment, affiliations, clients, or investments, from working on par-

ticular matters involving specific parties that affect the interests of such member; and

“(III) address how the covered eligible candidate will address his or her own conflicts of interest during a Presidential term if the covered eligible candidate becomes the President-elect;

“(iii) a Code of Ethical Conduct, which each member of the transition team will sign and be subject to, that reflects the content of the ethics plans under this paragraph and at a minimum requires transition team members to—

“(I) seek authorization from transition team leaders or their designees before seeking, on behalf of the transition, access to any nonpublic information;

“(II) keep confidential any nonpublic information provided in the course of the duties of the member with the transition and exclusively use such information for the purposes of the transition; and

“(III) not use any nonpublic information provided in the course of transition duties, in any manner, for personal or private gain for the member or any other party at any time during or after the transition; and

“(iv) a description of how the transition team will enforce the Code of Ethical Conduct, including the names of the members of the transition team responsible for enforcement, oversight, and compliance.

“(C) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE.—The transition team shall make the ethics plan described in this paragraph publicly available on the internet website of the General Services Administration the earlier of—

“(i) the day on which the memorandum of understanding is completed; or

“(ii) October 1.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure before us.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

The Presidential Transition Enhancement Act would make a number of important changes to the transition process when a new President is elected.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Senators JOHNSON and CARPER for their hard work on this issue.

Many of the provisions in the bill before us today were introduced in the House by our late chairman, Elijah Cummings, in the Transition Team Ethics Improvement Act.

Most importantly, the bill would strengthen the ethics requirements for transition team members.

The Government Accountability Office issued a report in 2017 about President Trump's Presidential transition.

GAO reported that the Trump transition team required team members to sign an ethics code of conduct but failed to designate a transition team member responsible for enforcing it.

Ethics plans are important for Presidential transitions because Presidents-elect often hire transition team members who work in the private sector, but unlike Federal employees, private-sector employees are not subject to Federal ethics laws.

This bill would require eligible Presidential candidates to agree to enforce ethics plans during the transition period. The bill includes core elements of what those ethics plans should include, such as a description of how the transition team will address participation by lobbyists and individuals working for foreign governments.

The bill would also require that transition teams make the ethics plans they adopt publicly available. It also includes provisions to ensure that non-public information remains confidential and is not used in any way for personal gain.

The bill would clarify the responsibility of the General Services Administration during a transition by requiring a memorandum of understanding between the agency and the Presidential transition team. Finally, the bill would allow GSA to provide transition services for up to 60 days after an inauguration.

These provisions would help ensure smoother transitions than we have had in the past.

I am very glad this is a bipartisan bill. The Senate approved this bill without any opposition.

The peaceful transition of power from one party to another is a cornerstone of our democratic system. We must do all we can to ensure the integrity of that process.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of S. 394, the Presidential Transition Enhancement Act of 2019.

First, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman JOHNSON for taking a serious look at the needed ethics reform. The Senate has developed this legislative package in a bipartisan manner, something that we would be well served in this House to do.

At the beginning of Congress, I think the Democrats introduced H.R. 1, which was a grab bag of unrelated Democrat messaging bills. One section of H.R. 1 was really directed at the President of the United States and his administration without really addressing serious ethics reforms.

S. 394, on the other hand, is an honest ethics reform package. The bipartisan support in the Senate shows that ethics reform does not need to be a partisan exercise.

I would suggest Senator JOHNSON's bill addresses a number of ambiguities

about how agencies work with Presidential transition teams that were identified by the Trump transition team. For example, agencies and the Presidential transition team should come to an agreement about the use and disclosure of transition team records.

The bill also establishes a requirement for a transition team's ethics plan. The plan would include consideration of how conflicts of interest would be addressed by members of the transition team and the President-elect.

I hope that we can use this for our future benefit as we work together in a bipartisan manner to make sure that ethics are addressed and stop politicizing ethics reforms.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this bill, S. 394, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, 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 (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 394.

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.

ARETHA FRANKLIN POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3976) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12711 East Jefferson Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, as the "Aretha Franklin Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3976

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

SECTION 1. ARETHA FRANKLIN POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12711 East Jefferson Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, shall be known and designated as the "Aretha Franklin Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Aretha Franklin Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY 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 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.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 3976, to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 12711 East Jefferson Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, as the Aretha Franklin Post Office Building.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, Representative BRENDA LAWRENCE, for introducing this important measure to honor a cultural and civil rights heroine.

Aretha Franklin, the "Queen of Soul," was an American singer, songwriter, pianist, and civil rights activist from Detroit, Michigan. Over her career, Aretha Franklin was awarded 18 Grammy awards, along with various lifetime achievement recognitions.

Her unique vocal style not only influenced generations of future singers, but it also earned her the number one spot on Rolling Stone magazine's list of the Greatest Singers of All Time.

Aretha Franklin was also a champion for civil rights and women's rights. She frequently donated to civil rights groups, and two of her biggest hits, "Respect" and "You Make Me Feel Like a Natural Woman," became anthems for social change movements across the country.

In 1987, she was the first woman to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. She also received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush in 2005.

Aretha Franklin died of advanced pancreatic cancer on August 16, 2018, in Detroit, Michigan. Naming a post office in the city she cherished so fondly would recognize her important cultural and civic accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3976, introduced by my friend, Representative BRENDA LAWRENCE.

This bill, as has been mentioned, names a post office located in Detroit, Michigan, in honor of the "Queen of Soul," Aretha Franklin.

Aretha Franklin was an American singer, songwriter, pianist, and civil rights activist, and so we want to give honor where honor is due.

She began her career as a child singing at her church in Detroit. For the next six decades, her distinctive voice captivated listeners and influenced countless other singers.