

I have been a long-standing advocate for the child care industry because I understand the challenges many working families face when it comes to obtaining reliable, affordable, and quality child care.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have supported numerous initiatives that strengthen the viability of the child care sector.

Most recently, I supported:

H.R. 7327, the “Child Care for Economic Recovery Act”;

H.R. 7027, the “Child Care is Essential Act”; and

H.R. 7909, the “Ensuring Children and Child Care Workers are Safe Act”.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today, voicing my support for H.R. 8326 because it serves as a vital component to our nation’s economic reopening strategy.

According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, approximately 50 percent of parents who have not yet returned to work cite childcare as a reason they have not returned.

By passing H.R. 8326 today, we have the opportunity expand access to quality child care, so that individuals who are pursuing opportunities with these public works projects will not have to worry about choosing between employment opportunities and child care.

I urge all Members to join me in voting for H.R. 8326, the “Child Care is Economic Development Act.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8326.

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.

NATIONAL CHILDREN’S MUSEUM ACT

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5919) to amend title 40, United States Code, to require the Administrator of General Services to enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Children’s Museum to provide the National Children’s Museum rental space without charge in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5919

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 “National Children’s Museum Act”.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CHILDREN’S MUSEUM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Museum and Library Services Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–81) designated the Capital Children’s Museum, the predecessor to the National Children’s Museum, as the “National Children’s Museum”;

(2) the National Children’s Museum operates under section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is organized under the laws of the District of Columbia;

(3) the mission of the National Children’s Museum is to inspire children to care about and change the world; and

(4) the National Children’s Museum is located in the federally-owned Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center.

(b) NATIONAL CHILDREN’S MUSEUM.—Chapter 67 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 6735. National Children’s Museum

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator of General Services shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Children’s Museum for the operation of the National Children’s Museum in the approximately 32,369 square feet of space commonly known as suite C-001 (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Space’) of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center for the duration of the retail space license agreement between Trade Center Management Associates, LLC, or a successor entity, and the Museum, dated December 4, 2017, including any exercised renewal options.

“(b) CONTENTS.—The cooperative agreement under subsection (a) shall include provisions that—

“(1) require, for the period in which the General Services Administration owns or controls the Space, the General Services Administration to provide rent for the Space; and

“(2) terminate such agreement if—

“(A) the Museum does not continue to qualify as a nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

“(B) the Museum no longer uses the Space as a children’s museum; and

“(3) prohibits the Museum from transferring the interest in such agreement.

“(c) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—To carry out this section, the Administrator shall use funds derived from—

“(1) the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation fund; or

“(2) the International Trade Center fund.

“(d) REPORT.—The cooperative agreement under subsection (a) shall require the National Children’s Museum to submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate an annual report on the operations and finances of the Museum.”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 67 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§6735. National Children’s Museum.”.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 5919, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5919, the National Children’s Museum Act. This is a bill that I wrote and am grateful that the House is considering it today. I thank Chairman DEFAZIO and Ranking Member GRAVES for their support of this bill.

This bipartisan bill would require the General Services Administration to enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Children’s Museum, a congressionally designated museum, to allow the museum to remain in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, as it is called, a federally owned building in the Nation’s Capital, without charge for the duration of its existing lease. There is precedent for Congress’ requiring the General Services Administration to enter into a cooperative agreement for the use of a Federal building in the District of Columbia by a private museum without charge. The National Building Museum operates under such an agreement.

This bill would allow the National Children’s Museum—the Nation’s first combination children’s museum and science center—to remain centrally located in the Nation’s Capital for the benefit of the millions who visit and live in the city and the national capital region. Originally named the Capital Children’s Museum, the National Children’s Museum was a staple in the District for decades. The institution opened in 1974 in a former convent on H Street Northeast. In 2003, Congress recognized the immense value of having a children’s museum in D.C. and officially designated the museum as the National Children’s Museum. Now the museum is bringing new and innovative science, technology, engineering, arts, and math—or STEAM—exhibits to the Nation’s Capital, building on more than 30 years of educating D.C. children and families.

Importantly, this bill would relieve concerns about the ability of the museum to survive the coronavirus pandemic. When the museum reopened in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center this year, it immediately attracted many visitors from throughout the national capital region and the Nation but was forced by the pandemic to close 18 days later.

At this time, the museum remains temporarily closed until further notice. Still, the museum has continued to offer valuable STEAM resources to our children as they navigate these new challenging learning circumstances, including over 75 at-home experiment and project video programs, monthly

podcasts, virtual field trips, and a Climate Action Heroes Digital Exhibit, among other resources.

When the museum does open, capacity will be restricted by at least 70 percent under social distancing guidelines. Due to the anticipated reduction in capacity, the museum is estimating operating revenues will amount to only 30 percent of the original goal for next year. Once returned to full capacity, the museum expects to serve half a million visitors a year, filling the STEAM content void in our Nation's Capital and throughout the country.

Despite the many benefits it brings to the Nation's Capital, the museum is an outlier. It is the only congressionally designated museum expected to pay rent in a Federal building. This bill will allow the museum to remain in its current Federal location and allow staff to focus on bringing 21st century STEAM learning techniques to the Nation's Capital.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5919 directs GSA to provide rent relief to the National Children's Museum currently housed in the Federal Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. This bill will provide the National Children's Museum with similar relief afforded to other congressionally designated museums. I want to thank the fine gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for working with Ms. NORTON on this bipartisan piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER), who is my good friend from our region.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the National Children's Museum Act. I give great thanks to ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, RODNEY DAVIS, PETER DEFAZIO, and others who worked so hard on this legislation.

Children's museums are extraordinary gifts for the life of the mind. We give our kids imaginations, dreams, possibilities, and whole new universes. Children's museums change the trajectories of their lives, and this is the legacy of the National Children's Museum in the Nation's Capital.

For decades, the museum was much beloved in the city. We often took our kids to the old convent in northeast D.C., but after moving in 2004 in order to grow, it has been fighting to get back to its roots ever since.

We are lucky to have it located now in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, again in the heart of D.C., but still it faces barriers to reach its past success.

Even though this august body made it a congressionally designated museum in 2003, it is the only such con-

gressionally designated museum expected to pay rent in a Federal building. With this bill, the nonprofit museum will be able to thrive and remain financially viable and accessible to our Nation's children and work with the GSA in a way that makes sense.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my friends not just to vote for this bill, but after we have crushed the pandemic to bring their children and grandchildren to be thrilled and inspired by our National Children's Museum.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS), who is my good friend.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Mr. ROUZER, for the time, and I do want to say thank you to my colleague and partner on the Highways and Transit Subcommittee, Ms. HOLMES NORTON, and also to Mr. BEYER and all who work to make sure that we are here today to do what is right.

We are here to make sure that the National Children's Museum here in Washington, D.C., is able, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, to still be able to provide the entertainment and offer its offerings of activities to our kids, not just here in Washington, D.C., but throughout this great country.

Today is the day we can celebrate in a bipartisan way so that we can allow GSA to give them a break, to help this community, and to help them find some sense of normalcy by being able to safely attend and participate in the activities of the National Children's Museum.

Pre-pandemic, the museum offered our children the ability to interact with exhibits focused on science, technology, engineering, arts and math. This allowed our kids to be able to foster a greater appreciation for STEM fields.

Who knows?

The next great member of the next pandemic response team could have had their interest piqued in working in science by going to the children's museum here in Washington, D.C.

We need STEM education now more than ever, and this is an opportunity to show the world that Republicans and Democrats in this institution can agree to get things done.

I thank Ms. HOLMES NORTON for working with me and working with all of us on this very important piece of legislation, and I ask my colleagues to support it.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, in closing, H.R. 5919 will provide much-needed rental relief for the National Children's Museum consistent with the policy for other congressionally designated museums.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank Ranking Member DAVIS for his work on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge its support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge 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 gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5919, 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.

SECURE FEDERAL LEASES FROM ESPIONAGE AND SUSPICIOUS ENTANGLEMENTS ACT

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1869) to require the disclosure of ownership of high-security space leased to accommodate a Federal agency, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1869

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Secure Federal Leases from Espionage And Suspicious Entanglements Act” or the “Secure Federal LEASEs Act”.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Government Accountability Office has reported that the Federal Government often leases high-security space from private sector landlords;

(2) the General Services Administration collects highest-level and immediate ownership information through the System for Award Management, but it is not currently required to collect beneficial ownership information and lacks an adequate system for doing so;

(3) the General Services Administration and Federal agencies with leasing authority may not know if foreign owners have a stake in the buildings leased by the agencies, either through foreign-incorporated legal entities or through ownership in United States-incorporated legal entities, even when the leased space is used for classified operations or to store sensitive data; and

(4) according to a report of the Government Accountability Office, dated January 2017, that examined the risks of foreign ownership of Government-leased real estate, “leasing space in foreign-owned buildings could present security risks such as espionage and unauthorized cyber and physical access”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) BENEFICIAL OWNER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term “beneficial owner” means, with respect to a covered entity, each natural person who, directly or indirectly, through any contract, arrangement, understanding, relationship, or otherwise—

(i) exercises control over the covered entity; or

(ii) has a substantial interest in or receives substantial economic benefits from the assets of the covered entity.

(B) EXCEPTIONS.—The term “beneficial owner” does not include, with respect to a covered entity—