

other applications; And, it will help to advance the state of the art in the general problem areas of hydrogen production, storage, and utilization. Specifically, this legislation sets the course for the next five years for U.S. hydrogen R&D efforts and enhances the leadership role of the Department of Energy in this important area. For these reasons alone, I would urge a vote for H.R. 4138.

However, the bill also has a new title that was added by the Senate since the House passed this measure last year. This title provides broad authority to the Department to use scientists from the field as rotating staff, thereby strengthening the technical and scientific capabilities of the Department. I wholeheartedly support this initiative and applaud the Senate efforts to include this authority in H.R. 4138. I would also like to thank the House Government Reform Committee for discharging this part of the measure quickly so that we could pass this bill this year.

In closing, I would like to commend Chairman WALKER for conceiving of this bill and shepherding it through the legislative process. While we have had our differences in other areas of legislative interest this year, we both share a strong commitment to the hydrogen R&D efforts of the Federal Government and Mr. WALKER has shown an unwavering belief in this technology.

I urge the passage of H.R. 4138.

Mr. Speaker, I might mention that not only are we coauthoring this bill, but we are coauthors of this bill, which may be a unique situation in most of the legislation.

I urge the passage of H.R. 4138.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WALKER] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4138.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

#### OMNIBUS CIVIL SERVICE REFORM ACT OF 1996

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 3841) to amend the civil service laws of the United States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### H.R. 3841

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Omnibus Civil Service Reform Act of 1996".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

#### TITLE I—DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Sec. 101. Demonstration projects.

#### TITLE II—PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT ENHANCEMENT

Sec. 201. Increased weight given to performance for order-of-retention purposes in a reduction in force.

Sec. 202. No appeal of denial of periodic step-increases.

Sec. 203. Performance appraisals.

Sec. 204. Amendments to incentive awards authority.

Sec. 205. Due process rights of managers under negotiated grievance procedures.

Sec. 206. Collection and reporting of training information.

#### TITLE III—ENHANCEMENT OF THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN AND CERTAIN OTHER BENEFITS

Sec. 301. Loans under the Thrift Savings Plan for furloughed employees.

Sec. 302. Domestic relations orders.

Sec. 303. Unreduced additional optional life insurance.

#### TITLE IV—REORGANIZATION FLEXIBILITY

Sec. 401. Voluntary reductions in force.

Sec. 402. Nonreimbursable details to Federal agencies before a reduction in force.

#### TITLE V—SOFT-LANDING PROVISIONS

Sec. 501. Temporary continuation of Federal employees' life insurance.

Sec. 502. Continued eligibility for health insurance.

Sec. 503. Job placement and counseling services.

Sec. 504. Education and retraining incentives.

#### TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 601. Reimbursements relating to professional liability insurance.

Sec. 602. Employment rights following conversion to contract.

Sec. 603. Debarment of health care providers found to have engaged in fraudulent practices.

Sec. 604. Consistent coverage for individuals enrolled in a health plan administered by the Federal banking agencies.

Sec. 605. Amendment to Public Law 104-134.

Sec. 606. Miscellaneous amendments relating to the health benefits program for Federal employees.

Sec. 607. Pay for certain positions formerly classified as GS-18.

Sec. 608. Repeal of section 1307 of title 5 of the United States Code.

Sec. 609. Extension of certain procedural and appeal rights to certain personnel of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

#### TITLE I—DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

##### SEC. 101. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Paragraph (1) of section 4701(a) of title 5, United States Code, is

amended by striking subparagraph (A) and by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively.

(b) PRE-IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES.—Subsection (b) of section 4703 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(b) Before an agency or the Office may conduct or enter into any agreement or contract to conduct a demonstration project, the Office—

"(1) shall develop or approve a plan for such project which identifies—

"(A) the purposes of the project;

"(B) the methodology;

"(C) the duration; and

"(D) the methodology and criteria for evaluation;

"(2) shall publish the plan in the Federal Register;

"(3) may solicit comments from the public and interested parties in such manner as the Office considers appropriate;

"(4) shall obtain approval from each agency involved of the final version of the plan; and

"(5) shall provide notification of the proposed project, at least 30 days in advance of the date any project proposed under this section is to take effect—

"(A) to employees who are likely to be affected by the project; and

"(B) to each House of the Congress."

(c) NONWAIVABLE PROVISIONS.—Section 4703(c) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(1) any provision of subchapter V of chapter 63 or subpart G of part III of this title;"

and

(2) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

"(3) any provision of chapter 15 or subchapter II or III of chapter 73 of this title;"

(d) LIMITATIONS.—Subsection (d) of section 4703 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(d)(1) Each demonstration project shall terminate before the end of the 5-year period beginning on the date on which the project takes effect, except that the project may continue for a maximum of 2 years beyond the date to the extent necessary to validate the results of the project.

"(2)(A) Not more than 15 active demonstration projects may be in effect at any time, and of the projects in effect at any time, not more than 5 may involve 5,000 or more individuals each.

"(B) Individuals in a control group necessary to validate the results of a project shall not, for purposes of any determination under subparagraph (A), be considered to be involved in such project."

(e) EVALUATIONS.—Subsection (h) of section 4703 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"The Office may, with respect to a demonstration project conducted by another agency, require that the preceding sentence be carried out by such other agency."

(f) PROVISIONS FOR TERMINATION OF PROJECT OR MAKING IT PERMANENT.—Section 4703 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (i) by inserting "by the Office" after "undertaken"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(j)(1) If the Office determines that termination of a demonstration project (whether under subsection (e) or otherwise) would result in the inequitable treatment of employees who participated in the project, the Office shall take such corrective action as is within its authority. If the Office determines that legislation is necessary to correct an inequity, it shall submit an appropriate legislative proposal to both Houses of Congress.