

want to get into a debate today, I will just say a core principle of immigration law has always been that the United States Government doesn't tell American citizens who they get to fall in love with and marry. And a second core principle is, when our U.S. citizen marries somebody from another country, the American doesn't have to move to France, his wife gets to move here. So that's something that we will protect as this debate goes forward.

This bill has bipartisan support, and I urge its adoption.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support H.R. 5569. I am proud to join my colleagues in cosponsoring this timely legislation. I would like to thank my colleague, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN, Chairwoman of the Immigration Subcommittee, for her leadership on sponsoring this legislation. I would also like to thank Mr. Blake Chisam, counsel on the Immigration Subcommittee, and Mr. Arthur Sidney, of my staff, for their important work in including my amendment in the bill.

By way of background and explanation, H.R. 5569 extends for five years the EB-5 regional center pilot program. Congress created the fifth employment-based preference, EB-5, immigrant visa category in 1990 for immigrants seeking to engage in a commercial enterprise that will benefit the U.S. economy and create at least 10 full-time jobs.

The basic amount required to invest is \$1 million, although that amount may be \$500,000 if the investment is made in a "targeted employment area." Of the approximately 10,000 numbers available for this preference each year, 3,000 are reserved for entrepreneurs who invest in targeted employment areas. A separate allocation of 3,000 visas is set aside for entrepreneurs who immigrate through a regional center pilot program.

In 2003, Congress asked the U.S. Government Accountability Office, GAO, to study the EB-5 program. The GAO report concluded that the program has been under-used for a variety of reasons, including the rigorous application process and the failure to issue regulations implementing the 2002 law. The report found that even though few people have used the EB-5 category, EB-5 participants have invested an estimated \$1 billion in a variety of U.S. businesses.

My amendment expresses the sense of Congress that, to the extent possible, qualifying investments should be made in targeted employment areas, including rural areas and areas of high unemployment. My amendment defines rural areas as an area other than an area within a metropolitan statistical area with in the outer boundary of any city or town having a population of 20,000 or more based upon the most recent decennial census of the United States. My amendment also defines an area of high unemployment as an area that has experienced unemployment of at least 150 percent of the national average rate.

The purpose of my amendment is to ensure that all of America will benefit from greater development and investment. The amendment is a bold first step in ensuring that all Americans have a seat at the table and are able to progress and advance as a result of foreign investment as Americans in the wealthy cities and suburbs. I have long championed the rights of Americans in the rural areas and in

underserved communities. These Americans are our brothers and sisters. To be sure, no Americans should be left out from investment. My amendment makes sure that these groups that are often forgotten are not left out.

Ms. ZOE, LOFGREN of California. 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 California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5569, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to extend for 5 years the EB-5 regional center pilot program, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FORMER VICE PRESIDENT PROTECTION ACT OF 2008

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5938) to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide secret service protection to former Vice Presidents, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5938

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 referred to as the "Former Vice President Protection Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. SECRET SERVICE PROTECTION FOR FORMER VICE PRESIDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Section 3056(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting immediately after paragraph (7) the following:

"(8) Former Vice Presidents, their spouses, and their children who are under 16 years of age, for a period of not more than six months after the date the former Vice President leaves office. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall have the authority to direct the Secret Service to provide temporary protection for any of these individuals at any time thereafter if the Secretary of Homeland Security or designee determines that information or conditions warrant such protection."; and

(2) in the sentence immediately preceding subsection (b) of section 3056, by striking "(7)" and inserting "(8)".

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this Act shall apply with respect to any Vice President holding office on or after the date of enactment of the Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that

all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5938, the Former Vice President Protection Act of 2008, a much-needed permanent solution that would authorize protection for our former Vice Presidents and their families.

As you no doubt know, the President of the United States, along with his or her spouse and children, are provided continued protection by the United States Secret Service after the President leaves office, but the law does not provide such protection for a former Vice President and his or her family. Rather, Congress has, on an intermittent basis, authorized such protection for limited periods of time.

In the near future, Congress will again be faced with this issue. In January, Vice President CHENEY will be leaving office, and we will presumably decide to provide continued Secret Service protection for him and his family, as has been done for every Vice President in recent decades. But this ad hoc process is inefficient, and the legislation before us replaces it with a permanent fix to current law. Specifically, it provides for Secret Service protection to a former Vice President, including his or her spouse and children under 16 years of age, for 6 months, and it permits this period to be extended if information or conditions so warrant.

I would urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in strong support of H.R. 5938, the Former Vice President Protection Act of 2008.

The Secret Service must be authorized by law or the President to provide protection. Federal law provides Secret Service protection to sitting Presidents and Vice Presidents, former Presidents, their spouses and children, visiting heads of state, Presidential candidates, and other dignitaries. However, the statute does not include former Vice Presidents.

For the past 30 years, it has been common practice for former Vice Presidents to receive protection on a temporary basis via a joint resolution of Congress or Presidential memorandum. This temporary protection typically continues for 6 months after the Vice President leaves office. When necessary, Congress or the President has extended this protection for an additional 6 months.

H.R. 5938, the Former Vice President Protection Act, makes this routine

practice a permanent authority of the Secret Service. H.R. 5938 amends title 18 to provide statutory protection of former Vice Presidents, their spouses and their children under the age of 16 for the initial 6 months after leaving office. The bill also provides the Secret Service with the authority to reevaluate the need for continued protection in 6-month increments.

The permanent authority granted by H.R. 5938 will improve the Secret Service's ability to prepare for the protection of Vice Presidents after they leave office. Preparation for such security takes time and can often overlap administrations. Permanent authority will allow for the development of long-term protection plans.

The upcoming change of administrations, not to mention the current threat level, makes permanent statutory authority for the Secret Service to provide such protections even more timely.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5938, the "Former Vice President Protection Act of 2008." I would like to thank the Chair of the Judiciary Committee, Congressman CONYERS, for introducing this bill and for providing leadership on this important issue.

The former vice presidents of the United States have brought to that office significant public service experience, including as members of Congress or state governors. Some came to their role as president of the Senate already familiar with the body, having served as U.S. Senators. Several vice presidents later returned to serve again in the Senate, among them former President Andrew Johnson. Two vice presidents, George Clinton and John C. Calhoun, held the office under two different presidents.

Of the fourteen vice presidents who fulfilled their ambition by achieving the presidency, eight succeeded to the office on the death of a president, and four of these were later elected president. Two vice presidents, Hannibal Hamlin and Henry Wallace, were dropped from the ticket after their first term, only to see their successors become president months after taking office, when the assassination of Abraham Lincoln made Andrew Johnson president and the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt raised Harry Truman to the presidency. Similarly, when Spiro Agnew resigned, he was replaced under the Twenty-fifth Amendment by Gerald R. Ford, who became president when Richard M. Nixon resigned less than a year later.

The vice-presidency was generally held by men of mature years, with most of them in their fifties or sixties when they took office. The youngest, John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky, was thirty-six at the beginning of his term. At seventy-two, Alben Barkley, another Kentuckian, was the oldest when his term began.

Because I recognize the importance of the vice-presidency and the pivotal role it plays in American politics, I believe that tribute, respect, honor, and protection should be afforded to the person, and the family, that has obtained this position. I am proud to support this legislation.

Specifically, Title 18 U.S.C. provides former Presidents and their spouses protection by the United States Secret Service after leaving office but provides no such protection for former Vice Presidents and their families. H.R. 5938, authorizes the United States Secret Service to protect the former Vice President of the United States, his/her spouse, and his/her children under the age of 17 for not more than six months after the Vice President leaves office. The bill would also allow protection to continue should circumstances warrant extension.

After the assassination of President William McKinley in 1901, Congress informally requested Secret Service presidential protection. A year later, the Secret Service assumed full-time responsibility for protection of the President. Today, the secret service, which is under the Department of Homeland Security, is tasked with protecting the President of the United States and spouse and children under 17 years old for up to ten years after serving in office. The Secret Service also provides protection for widow(er) of the President and it provides protection for foreign heads of state and accompanying spouse when they visit the United States.

To date, four presidents have been assassinated, and there have been approximately twelve other assassination attempts on U.S. presidents. Under current law, because of the prestige of the office of President, current and former Presidents are protected by the secret service. Former Vice Presidents have not received any protection from the secret service after the vice president's term in office had expired. This legislation would ensure that Vice Presidents get protection for as long as necessary. Thus, the legislation ensures the safety and well-being of the Vice-President, spouse, and children under 17 years of age. This bill recognizes the important role of the office of Vice President. It is a powerful role with important responsibilities. This bill makes an important statement regarding our appreciation, commitment, and respect to the second most powerful position in this, our great country.

I think this bill makes sense. It is reasonable in its scope and its terms. I am proud to support this bill and I urge my colleagues to do likewise.

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

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of H.R. 5938 and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5938.

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.

CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT IMPROVEMENT ACT

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5593) to amend title 5, United States Code, to make technical amendments to certain provisions of title 5, United States Code,

enacted by the Congressional Review Act, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5593

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 "Congressional Review Act Improvement Act".

SEC. 2. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT.

(a) GOVERNMENT PAPERWORK REDUCTION.—Section 801 of title 5, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT FOR SUBMITTAL TO BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS OF RULES OTHERWISE PUBLISHED IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER.—Subsection (a)(1) is amended—

(A) by striking "each House of the Congress and to" in subparagraph (A);

(B) by striking "each House of", and inserting "on request" after "Congress", in subparagraph (B); and

(C) by striking subparagraph (C).

(2) LISTING IN CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF EACH RULE RECEIVED BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Subsection (e) is amended to read as follows:

"(e)(1) The Comptroller General shall submit to each House of Congress a weekly report containing a list of each rule received by the Comptroller General pursuant to subsection (a) since the last such report was submitted. The report shall include a notation for each such rule indicating whether or not the rule is a major rule.

"(2) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall cause to be published in the Congressional Record, in that portion of the Record relating to the proceedings of the House of Representatives, each report received from the Comptroller General under paragraph (1) since the last such publication in the House portion of the Record and, for each rule listed in such report, a statement of referral by the Speaker to the committee or committees of the House with responsibility for review of that rule.

"(3) There shall be published in the Congressional Record, in that portion of the Record relating to the proceedings of the Senate, each report received from the Comptroller General under paragraph (1) since the last such publication in the Senate portion of the Record and, for each rule listed in such report, a statement of the referral, if any, to the committee or committees of the Senate with responsibility for review of that rule."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Chapter 8 of such title is further amended—

(1) in section 801(a)(3)(A)(i), by striking "Congress" and inserting "Comptroller General";

(2) in section 801(a)(4), by striking "Congress" and inserting "the Comptroller General";

(3) in section 801(d)(2)(B), by striking "Congress" and inserting "the Comptroller General";

(4) in section 802(a), by striking "Congress" the first place it appears and inserting "the Comptroller General"; and

(5) in section 802(b)(2)(A), by striking "Congress" and inserting "Comptroller General".

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act shall take effect 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) each will control 20 minutes.