

This legislation today to require the federal government to remove Social Security numbers from Medicare identification cards and communications to Medicare beneficiaries.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which administers the Medicare program, has fallen behind most other public and private organizations in recognizing the danger of displaying Social Security numbers. The Social Security Number Protection Act ensures that the Social Security numbers of Medicare beneficiaries are properly protected.

Every year, millions of Americans are victims of identity theft—many after their Social Security numbers are stolen. Instead of leading by example, the federal government is lagging behind private health insurers and other public agencies in protecting Medicare recipients from identity theft. CMS's continued use of Social Security numbers on Medicare cards needlessly places people at risk.

This bill ensures that a premium is placed on security and that personal information is protected. It makes no sense for a CMS to continue exposing Medicare beneficiaries to the risk of identity theft. We should pass this bill quickly and fix this problem once and for all.

I believe that this is one of those clear-cut problems that is easy to fix. With identity theft on the rise, removing social security numbers from Medicare beneficiary cards is the smart thing to do. Identity theft is one of the fastest-growing crimes in the nation. Nearly 8.4 million people were victims of identity theft last year alone, and these crimes accounted for more than \$49.3 billion in fraudulent charges.

Nearly three years ago, Senator DURBIN raised concerns about the use of Social Security numbers on Medicare cards. Because of his efforts, CMS issued a report to Congress that outlined the steps that would be required to remove Social Security numbers from Medicare cards, but has failed to implement those changes.

In May 2008, the Inspector General of the Social Security Administration issued a report which concluded that: "Given the millions of individuals at risk for identity the and OMB's directive to eliminate unnecessary uses of Social Security numbers, we believe immediate action is needed to address this significant vulnerability."

Today's legislation sets a timeframe for CMS to remove Social Security numbers from Medicare cards and communications to beneficiaries. The bill will:

Require the Health and Human Services Secretary to implement procedures to eliminate the unnecessary collection, use, and display of Social Security numbers of Medicare beneficiaries within three years;

Prohibit the display or the unencrypted electronic storage of Social Security numbers on newly issued Medicare cards;

Prohibit the display or the unencrypted electronic storage of Social Security numbers on all Medicare cards with five years of enactment; and

Prohibit the display of Social Security numbers on written and electronic communications to Medicare beneficiaries, unless essential for the operation of the Medicare program.

I am proud to cosponsor legislation that will protect our elderly. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. DOGGETT. I yield back my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6600, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 3229. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the legacy of the United States Army Infantry and the establishment of the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center.

H.R. 5872. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the Boy Scouts of America, and for other purposes:

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 6098. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve the financial assistance provided to State, local, and tribal governments for information sharing activities, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agreed to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2638) "An Act making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 3569. An act to make improvements in the operation and administration of the Federal courts, and for other purposes.

S. 3641. An act to authorize funding for the National Crime Victim Law Institute to provide support for victims of crime under Crime Victims Legal Assistance Programs as a part of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984.

#### PRESIDENTIAL HISTORICAL RECORDS PRESERVATION ACT OF 2008

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 3477) to amend title 44, United

States Code, to authorize grants for Presidential Centers of Historical Excellence.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 3477

*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 Historical Records Preservation Act of 2008".

#### SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 2504 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by—

(1) redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(2) inserting after subsection (e) the following:

"(f) GRANTS FOR PRESIDENTIAL CENTERS OF HISTORICAL EXCELLENCE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Archivist, with the recommendation of the Commission, may make grants, on a competitive basis and in accordance with this subsection, to eligible entities to promote the historical preservation of, and public access to, historical records and documents relating to any former President who does not have a Presidential archival depository currently managed and maintained by the Federal Government pursuant to section 2112 (commonly known as the 'Presidential Libraries Act of 1955').

"(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—For purposes of this subsection, an eligible entity is—

"(A) an organization described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code; or

"(B) a State or local government of the United States.

"(3) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts received by an eligible entity under paragraph (1) shall be used to promote the historical preservation of, and public access to, historical records or historical documents relating to any former President covered under paragraph (1).

"(4) PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts received by an eligible entity under paragraph (1) may not be used for the maintenance, operating costs, or construction of any facility to house the historical records or historical documents relating to any former President covered under paragraph (1).

"(5) APPLICATION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity seeking a grant under this subsection shall submit to the Commission an application at such time, in such manner, and containing or accompanied by such information as the Commission may require, including a description of the activities for which a grant under this subsection is sought.

"(B) APPROVAL OF APPLICATION.—The Commission shall not consider or recommend a grant application submitted under subparagraph (A) unless an eligible entity establishes that such entity—

"(i) possesses, with respect to any former President covered under paragraph (1), historical works and collections of historical sources that the Commission considers appropriate for preserving, publishing, or otherwise recording at the public expense;

"(ii) has appropriate facilities and space for preservation of, and public access to, the historical works and collections of historical sources;

"(iii) shall ensure preservation of, and public access to, such historical works and collections of historical sources at no charge to the public;