

has brought a bipartisan answer. We cannot allow differences that may exist between this body and the other body on other cybersecurity issues prevent us from taking action, getting something accomplished on something that everybody agrees on.

This is one of the things everybody agrees needs to happen. Information-sharing, everybody agrees on. Research and development that we'll have tomorrow on the floor, everybody agrees needs to happen.

I appreciate the work of this committee. It's an important bill. It will help make the Nation more secure, as well as this government, and I hope all Members will support it.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, at this time I have no other speakers, and I'm prepared to close.

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

Madam Speaker, I want to associate myself with all the words that have been said by both sides this evening, because we understand that cybersecurity is so very, very important to our Nation. We often look back to 9/11 and we think about what happened in that very short time, and how it disrupted our entire Nation, taking planes out of the air, causing our world to at least pause.

□ 1900

We saw the damage that was done in a matter of a few minutes.

Cybersecurity and the cyberthreat is just as great, if not far greater, and can happen very, very quickly. A cyberattack can take place very, very quickly, and it is something that we must do everything in our power to protect ourselves against. This bill does not solve all the problems, but it certainly leads us in the right direction.

Again, I want to thank the chairman. I want to thank everybody involved for the bipartisan effort and for making the security of our Nation our number one priority.

With that, I urge all of the Members to vote for this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge all Members to support the passage of this bill, H.R. 4257, as amended. I want to make one closing statement.

Often we talk about cybersecurity, and people think just about the Internet. We sit here in a room that is essentially windowless. I've been in this room when the lights are out. It is very, very dark. We would have a hard time finding our way out. Yet the very essence of keeping the grid up requires computers to talk to each other. Our phone systems, our lights, our power, our sewage, our water all depend today on interoperable computer systems that span the entire country and, in many cases, the entire world.

So, as people realize the government-to-government relationship and, par-

ticularly, the public-private partnerships that this bill encourages and asks the Office of Management and Budget to assure occur, we are doing so, of course, in order to maintain a reliable Internet; but much more importantly, the fundamentals of the very electricity that powers the Internet must be maintained and protected. I believe we've gone a long way today in the passage of this bill. I urge its passage.

I thank the gentleman from Maryland for his leadership on this important matter.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman ISSA for the hard work that he and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has undertaken in the development of H.R. 4257, the Federal Information Security Amendments Act of 2012.

This bill updates and improves the decade old Federal Information Security and Management Act (FISMA). FISMA currently requires each Federal agency to develop, document, and implement an agency-wide program to provide information security for their systems.

The Science, Space, and Technology Committee receives annual FISMA reports from each Federal agency. These reports detail the management and security of each agency's information technology resources, and the actions necessary to ensure the effectiveness of the government's information security policies.

The Science, Space, and Technology Committee monitors these reports to review the cybersecurity standards and guidelines that the National Institute of Standards and Technology sets for Federal information systems. These standards and guidelines are particularly important because along with agency use, the same standards and guidelines are frequently adopted on a voluntary basis by many organizations in the private sector. The Committee will continue to receive and review these annual FISMA reports from Federal agencies, and will provide continued oversight of NIST's role in FISMA process.

H.R. 4257 takes an important step forward in the protection of the government's information technology resources by establishing a mechanism for stronger oversight. The bill ensures implementation of new developments in technological innovation, including automated and continuous monitoring of cybersecurity threats as well as regular threat assessments.

Our Federal agencies depend on FISMA to guide them to protect federal networks. Officials are already working to integrate some of the concepts proposed by H.R. 4257, such as continuous monitoring, into the management of information systems. I am encouraged that this bill will help agencies more easily comply with the latest cybersecurity standards and guidelines set forth by NIST.

H.R. 4257 is a good bill that represents another critical piece in Congress's overall efforts to address the Nation's cybersecurity needs. There are additional tweaks that could make the bill even better, and I look forward to working with Mr. ISSA as the bill moves through the process to address remaining issues to our mutual satisfaction.

I support the passage of H.R. 4257 and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr.

ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4257, 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.

HATERS OF RELIGION

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, in the quiet town of Woonsocket, Rhode Island, a 91-year-old memorial honoring hometown soldiers stands tall outside a local fire station. A stone bottom statue with a cross on top immortalizes the fallen heroes who sacrificed so much for our country. For decades, the memorial has stood in the shadows of the fire station with no complaints from local residents.

But a group of out-of-towners, not from Woonsocket, not even from Rhode Island, but from 1,000 miles away in Wisconsin, have self-righteously objected to the cross on top of the 91-year-old memorial. The antireligious hate group demands that the cross be removed. They also demand that the firefighters' prayer and angel from the Woonsocket Fire Department Web site be removed.

Madam Speaker, the firefighter prayer asks God to give them "strength to save lives" and to protect the families of the firefighters.

County officials will not succumb to the intimidation tactics of the bigoted group. The mayor has said he will not remove the cross under any circumstances because the Constitution protects the free exercise of religion whether this hate group likes it or not.

And that's just the way it is.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, it's hard to believe that in the 21st century women in Nevada are still making only 83 cents for every dollar that a man makes.

What does that mean in real terms? It means a difference of \$7,326 a year. It is not fair. In most cases, working women in Nevada are either the primary or the sole breadwinners of their families.

That's why I'm calling on the Speaker to follow the Senate's lead and to schedule a vote on the Paycheck Fairness Act, which is legislation that will help close the unacceptable wage gap between men and women in this country. Unfortunately, far too many in the House and the Senate are still living in the Dark Ages when it comes to basic fairness for women.

Women in Nevada are still shaking their heads in disbelief that in the year