

gain access to the U.S. mainland because we are only 1,600 kilometers away from the U.S. mainland.

Since 1998 Mr. Speaker, close to 1000 Chinese nationals have entered the U.S. Virgin Islands to transit undetectably into the mainland. These landings have occurred mainly during the pre-dawn hours at one of the several cays on the Island of St. John. The sheer number of individuals who are able to infiltrate the island is indicia of vulnerability to a possible terrorist attack.

The lack of a Border Patrol Security Unit, has placed an unreasonable burden on other Federal agencies such as the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, which has to now spend considerable amount of man-hours apprehending, processing and detaining aliens in custody. This detracts from the time ICE would have to carryout its investigatory duties.

Just last month, there was an article published in the Economist Magazine describing the V.S. V.I as "America's most vulnerable point, a lovely place" but "woefully unprepared for a terrorist attack." The article points out that "illegal aliens land in the Virgin Islands openly and regularly, yet they are rarely caught." Having a Border Patrol unit in the Virgin Islands, Mr. Speaker, will not only greatly enhance the security of the Virgin Islands, but the entire Nation as well.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1030.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers on H. Res. 1030, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1030.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill and a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 5187. An act to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize additional appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for fiscal year 2007.

H. Con. Res. 480. Concurrent resolution to correct the enrollment of the bill H.R. 3127.

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. 5574. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize support for graduate medical education programs in children's hospitals.

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

S. 3421. An act to authorize major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes.

BIODEFENSE AND PANDEMIC VACCINE AND DRUG DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2006

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5533) to prepare and strengthen the biodefenses of the United States against deliberate, accidental, and natural outbreaks of illness, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5533

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 "Biodefense and Pandemic Vaccine and Drug Development Act of 2006".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

Sec. 3. Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority; National Biodefense Science Board.

Sec. 4. Clarification of countermeasures covered by Project BioShield.

Sec. 5. Technical assistance.

Sec. 6. Procurement.

SEC. 3. BIOMEDICAL ADVANCED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; NATIONAL BIODEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD.

Title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 241 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 319K the following:

"SEC. 319L. BIOMEDICAL ADVANCED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

"(a) BIOMEDICAL ADVANCED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.—

"(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Department of Health and Human Services the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority.

"(2) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall coordinate and oversee the acceleration of countermeasure and product advanced research and development by—

"(A) facilitating collaboration among the Department of Health and Human Services, other Federal agencies, relevant industries, academia, and other persons, with respect to such advanced research and development;

"(B) promoting countermeasure and product advanced research and development;

"(C) facilitating contacts between interested persons and the offices or employees authorized by the Secretary to advise such persons regarding requirements under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and under section 351 of this Act; and

"(D) promoting innovation to reduce the time and cost of countermeasure and product advanced research and development.

"(3) DIRECTOR.—The BARDA shall be headed by a Director (referred to in this section as the 'Director') who shall be appointed by the Secretary and to whom the Secretary shall delegate such functions and authorities as necessary to implement this section.

"(4) DUTIES.—

"(A) COLLABORATION.—To carry out the purpose described in paragraph (2)(A), the Secretary shall—

"(i) facilitate and increase the expeditious and direct communication between the Department of Health and Human Services and rel-

evant persons with respect to countermeasure and product advanced research and development, including by—

"(I) facilitating such communication regarding the processes for procuring such advanced research and development with respect to qualified countermeasures and qualified pandemic or epidemic products of interest; and

"(II) soliciting information about and data from research on potential qualified countermeasures and qualified pandemic or epidemic products and related technologies;

"(ii) at least annually—

"(I) convene meetings with representatives from relevant industries, academia, other Federal agencies, international agencies as appropriate, and other interested persons;

"(II) sponsor opportunities to demonstrate the operation and effectiveness of relevant biodefense countermeasure technologies; and

"(III) convene such working groups on countermeasure and product advanced research and development as the Secretary may determine are necessary to carry out this section; and

"(iii) carry out the activities described in section 6 of the Biodefense and Pandemic Vaccine and Drug Development Act of 2006.

"(B) SUPPORT ADVANCED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—To carry out the purpose described in paragraph (2)(B), the Secretary shall—

"(i) conduct ongoing searches for, and support calls for, potential qualified countermeasures and qualified pandemic or epidemic products;

"(ii) direct and coordinate the countermeasure and product advanced research and development activities of the Department of Health and Human Services;

"(iii) establish strategic initiatives to accelerate countermeasure and product advanced research and development and innovation in such areas as the Secretary may identify as priority unmet need areas; and

"(iv) award contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and enter into other transactions, for countermeasure and product advanced research and development.

"(C) FACILITATING ADVICE.—To carry out the purpose described in paragraph (2)(C) the Secretary shall—

"(i) connect interested persons with the offices or employees authorized by the Secretary to advise such persons regarding the regulatory requirements under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and under section 351 of this Act related to the approval, clearance, or licensure of qualified countermeasures or qualified pandemic or epidemic products; and

"(ii) ensure that, with respect to persons performing countermeasure and product advanced research and development funded under this section, such offices or employees provide such advice in a manner that is ongoing and that is otherwise designated to facilitate expeditious development of qualified countermeasures and qualified pandemic or epidemic products that may achieve such approval, clearance, or licensure.

"(D) SUPPORTING INNOVATION.—To carry out the purpose described in paragraph (2)(D), the Secretary may award contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements, or enter into other transactions, such as prize payments, to promote—

"(i) innovation in technologies that may assist countermeasure and product advanced research and development;

"(ii) research on and development of research tools and other devices and technologies; and

"(iii) research to promote strategic initiatives, such as rapid diagnostics, broad spectrum antimicrobials, and vaccine manufacturing technologies.

"(5) TRANSACTION AUTHORITIES.—

"(A) OTHER TRANSACTIONS.—In carrying out the functions under subparagraph (B) or (D) of paragraph (4), the Secretary shall have authority to enter into other transactions for countermeasure and product advanced research and development.