

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill.

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, to my colleague Mr. HUNTER and those who have assisted in the drafting of the bill, particularly our staff, I want to thank you for making all of this possible.

This bill, which does extend the authorization for the Coast Guard, also provides very, very important elements, most of which you have heard here today. I would urge its passing.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Ranking Member GARAMENDI and all the staff who worked so hard on this, and, again, the ranking member of the full committee, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Chairman SHUSTER for their help, leadership, and support on this.

Explanation of Sec. 310. Atlantic Coast Port Access Route Study. This section would require the Coast Guard to complete its ongoing Atlantic Coast Port Access Route Study (PARS) by April 2016. This provision was included in H.R. 1987 because the House was concerned about the impacts on navigation safety from the construction of certain offshore renewable energy projects. The Study will assist the federal government, as well as stakeholders, to understand potential impacts and whether the siting of these projects could pose hazards to safe navigation, especially projects built in or near vessel traffic routes.

The Coast Guard's Atlantic Coast PARS working group has developed standards and a methodology for assessing potential impacts on navigation safety including high, medium and low or minimal impacts. The purpose of the study and the reason for developing standards and methodologies is to assist in future determinations of waterway suitability for proposed development projects.

When the Atlantic Coast PARS began, it excluded the waters in and around Nantucket Sound. These waters are heavily traveled by commercial vessels, fishing and recreational vessels as well as passenger and freight ferries. Because of increased vessel traffic and the potential impacts to navigation from any future development, this section would direct the Coast Guard to complete a separate port access route study of Nantucket Sound using the new standards and methodologies developed by the Coast Guard's working group. The Atlantic Coast PARS will help the Coast Guard determine whether they should revise current regulations to improve navigation safety by establishing safety fairways, traffic separation zones or new vessel routing. The Nantucket Sound PARS is intended to guide decision-makers to ensure that any future development in Nantucket Sound will have minimal impact and low risk to navigational safety. This section would require the completion of the Nantucket Sound PARS by December

I urge the passage of H.R. 4188.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4188.

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.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3094

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I am a cosponsor of H.R. 3094, and I ask unanimous consent that my name be withdrawn as a cosponsor of H.R. 3094.

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

There was no objection.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CBRNE DEFENSE ACT OF 2015

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3875) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish within the Department of Homeland Security a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives Office, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3875

*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 “Department of Homeland Security CBRNE Defense Act of 2015”.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; Table of contents.
- Sec. 2. CBRNE Office.
- Sec. 3. Chemical Division.
- Sec. 4. Biological Division.
- Sec. 5. Nuclear Division.
- Sec. 6. Explosives Division.
- Sec. 7. Savings provisions.
- Sec. 8. Clerical amendments.

#### SEC. 2. CBRNE OFFICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by adding at the end the following new title:

#### “TITLE XXII—CBRNE OFFICE

#### “Subtitle A—Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives Office

#### “SEC. 2201. CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, NUCLEAR, AND EXPLOSIVES OFFICE.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives Office (referred to in this title as the ‘CBRNE Office’). The CBRNE Office shall be comprised of the Chemical Division, the Biological Division, the Nuclear Division, and the Explosives Division. The CBRNE Office may include a Health Division.

“(b) MISSION OF OFFICE.—The mission of the CBRNE Office is to coordinate, strengthen, and provide chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives (CBRNE) capabilities in support of homeland security.

“(c) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The Office shall be headed by an Assistant Secretary for the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nu-

clear, and Explosives Office (referred to in this title as the ‘Assistant Secretary’), who shall be appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

“(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Assistant Secretary shall—

“(1) develop, coordinate, and maintain overall CBRNE strategy and policy for the Department;

“(2) develop, coordinate, and maintain for the Department periodic CBRNE risk assessments;

“(3) serve as the primary Department representative for coordinating CBRNE activities with other Federal departments and agencies;

“(4) provide oversight for the Department's preparedness for CBRNE threats;

“(5) provide support for operations during CBRNE threats or incidents; and

“(6) carry out such other responsibilities as the Secretary determines appropriate, consistent with this title.

“(e) OTHER OFFICERS.—The Director of the Chemical Division, the Director of the Biological Division, the Director of the Nuclear Division, and the Director of the Explosives Division shall report directly to the Assistant Secretary.

#### “SEC. 2202. COMPOSITION OF THE CBRNE OFFICE.

“The Secretary shall transfer to the CBRNE Office, the functions, personnel, budget authority, and assets of the following:

“(1) The Office of Health Affairs as in existence on the day before the date of the enactment of this title, including the Chief Medical Officer authorized under section 516, and the National Biosurveillance Integration Center authorized under section 316.

“(2) The Domestic Nuclear Detection Office authorized under title XIX, as in existence on the date before the date of the enactment of this title (and redesignated as the Nuclear Division).

“(3) CBRNE threat awareness and risk assessment activities of the Science and Technology Directorate.

“(4) The CBRNE functions of the Office of Policy and the Office of Operations Coordination.

“(5) The Office for Bombing Prevention of the National Protection and Programs Directorate, as in existence on the day before the date of the enactment of this title.

#### “SEC. 2203. HIRING AUTHORITY.

“In hiring personnel for the CBRNE Office, the Secretary shall have the hiring and management authorities provided in section 1101 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (5 U.S.C. 3104 note; Public Law 105-261), except that the term of appointments for employees under subsection (c)(1) of such section may not exceed five years before granting any extension under subsection (c)(2) of such section.

#### “SEC. 2204. GRANTS, COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS, AND OTHER TRANSACTIONS AND CONTRACTS.

“The Assistant Secretary, in carrying out the responsibilities under this title, may distribute funds through grants, cooperative agreements, and other transactions and contracts.

#### “SEC. 2205. TERRORISM RISK ASSESSMENTS.

“(a) TERRORISM RISK ASSESSMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary shall, in coordination with relevant Department components and other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, develop, coordinate, and update periodically terrorism risk assessments of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats.

“(2) COMPARISON.—The Assistant Secretary shall develop, coordinate, and update periodically an integrated terrorism risk assessment that assesses all of the threats referred to in paragraph (1) and, as appropriate, explosives threats, and compares each such threat against one another according to their relative risk.

“(3) INCLUSION IN ASSESSMENT.—Each terrorism risk assessment under this subsection shall include a description of the methodology used for each such assessment.

“(4) UPDATES.—Each terrorism risk assessment under this subsection shall be updated not less often than once every two years.

“(5) PROVISION TO CONGRESS.—The Assistant Secretary shall provide a copy of each risk assessment under this subsection to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate not later than 30 days after completion of each such assessment.

“(b) METHODOLOGY.—In developing the terrorism risk assessments under subsection (a), the Assistant Secretary, in consultation with appropriate Federal departments and agencies, shall—

“(1) assess the proposed methodology to be used for such assessments; and

“(2) consider the evolving threat to the United States as indicated by the intelligence community (as such term is defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4))).

“(c) USAGE.—The terrorism risk assessments required under subsection (a) shall be used to inform and guide allocation of resources for chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threat activities of the Department.

“(d) INPUT AND SHARING.—The Assistant Secretary shall, for each terrorism risk assessment under subsection (a)—

“(1) seek input from national stakeholders and other Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial officials involved in efforts to counter chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats;

“(2) ensure that written procedures are in place to guide the development of such assessments, including for input, review, and implementation purposes, among relevant Federal partners;

“(3) share such assessments with Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial officials with appropriate security clearances and a need for the information in the classified versions of such assessments; and

“(4) to the maximum extent practicable, make available an unclassified version of such assessments for Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial officials involved in prevention and preparedness for chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear events.

**“SEC. 2206. CBRNE COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC MESSAGING.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary, shall develop an overarching risk communication strategy for terrorist attacks and other high consequence events utilizing chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear agents or explosives that pose a high risk to homeland security, and shall—

“(1) develop threat-specific risk communication plans, in coordination with appropriate Federal departments and agencies;

“(2) develop risk communication messages, including pre-scripted messaging to the extent practicable;

“(3) develop clearly defined interagency processes and protocols to assure coordinated risk and incident communications and information sharing during incident response;

“(4) engage private and nongovernmental entities in communications planning, as appropriate;

“(5) identify ways to educate and engage the public about CBRNE threats and consequences;

“(6) develop strategies for communicating using social and new media; and

“(7) provide guidance on risk and incident communications for CBRNE events to State, local, tribal, and territorial governments, and other stakeholders, as appropriate.

“(b) COMMUNICATION DURING RESPONSE.—The Secretary shall provide appropriate timely, accurate information to the public, governmental partners, the private sector, and other appropriate stakeholders in the event of a suspected or confirmed terrorist attack or other high consequence event utilizing chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear agents or explosives that pose a high risk to homeland security.

“(c) REPORTS.—

“(1) DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on current and future efforts of the Department to develop the communication strategy required under subsection (a).

“(2) FINALIZATION.—Not later than two years after the date the report required under paragraph (1) is submitted, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate the communication strategy required under subsection (a).

**“SEC. 2207. CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, NUCLEAR, AND EXPLOSIVES INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION SHARING.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department shall—

“(1) support homeland security-focused intelligence analysis of terrorist actors, their claims, and their plans to conduct attacks involving chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear materials or explosives against the United States;

“(2) support homeland security-focused intelligence analysis of global infectious diseases, public health, food, agricultural, and veterinary issues;

“(3) support homeland security-focused risk analysis and risk assessments of the homeland security hazards described in paragraphs (1) and (2) by providing relevant quantitative and nonquantitative threat information;

“(4) leverage existing and emerging homeland security intelligence capabilities and structures to enhance prevention, protection, response, and recovery efforts with respect to a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosives attack;

“(5) share appropriate information regarding such threats to appropriate State, local, tribal, and territorial authorities, as well as other national biosecurity and biodefense stakeholders; and

“(6) perform other responsibilities, as assigned by the Secretary.

“(b) COORDINATION.—Where appropriate, the Under Secretary of Intelligence and Analysis shall coordinate with the heads of other relevant Department components, including the Assistant Secretary, members of the intelligence community, including the National Counter Proliferation Center and the National Counterterrorism Center, and other Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial authorities, including officials from

high-threat areas, to enable such entities to provide recommendations on optimal information sharing mechanisms, including expeditious sharing of classified information, and on how such entities can provide information to the Department.

“(c) REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section and annually thereafter for five years, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on—

“(A) the intelligence and information sharing activities under subsections (a) and (b) and of all relevant entities within the Department to prevent, protect against, prepare for, respond to, mitigate, and recover from terrorist attacks and other high consequence events utilizing chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear agents or explosives that pose a high risk to homeland security; and

“(B) the Department’s activities in accordance with relevant intelligence strategies.

“(2) ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall also include—

“(A) a description of methods established to assess progress of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis in implementing this section; and

“(B) such assessment of such progress.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term ‘intelligence community’ has the meaning given such term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

“(2) NATIONAL BIOSECURITY AND BIODEFENSE STAKEHOLDERS.—The term ‘national biosecurity and biodefense stakeholders’ means officials from Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial authorities and individuals from the private sector who are involved in efforts to prevent, protect against, prepare for, respond to, mitigate, and recover from a biological attack or other phenomena that may have serious health consequences for the United States, including infectious disease outbreaks.”

(b) AFTER ACTION AND EFFICIENCIES REVIEW.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Assistant Secretary for the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives Office of the Department of Homeland Security (established pursuant to section 2201 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a) of this section), shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that—

(1) reviews the functions and responsibilities of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives Office of the Department (established pursuant to section 2201 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a) of this section) to identify and eliminate areas of unnecessary duplication;

(2) provides a detailed accounting of the management and administrative expenditures and activities of the Office, including expenditures related to the establishment of the CBRNE Office, such as expenditures associated with the utilization of the Secretary’s authority to award retention bonuses pursuant to Federal law;

(3) identifies any potential cost savings and efficiencies within the CBRNE Office or its divisions; and

(4) identifies opportunities to enhance the effectiveness of the management and administration of the CBRNE Office to improve operational impact and enhance efficiencies.

(C) CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, NUCLEAR AND EXPLOSIVES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall assess the organizational structure of the management and execution of the Department of Homeland Security's chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives research and development activities, and shall develop and submit to the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate at the time the President submits the budget under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, for the fiscal year that follows the issuance of the Comptroller General review required pursuant to subsection (d) a proposed organizational structure for the management and execution of such chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives research and development activities.

(2) ORGANIZATIONAL JUSTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall include in the assessment required under paragraph (1) a thorough justification and rationalization for the proposed organizational structure for management and execution of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives research and development activities, including the following:

(A) A discussion of the methodology for determining such proposed organizational structure.

(B) A comprehensive inventory of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives research and development activities of the Department of Homeland Security and where each such activity will be located within or outside such proposed organizational structure.

(C) Information relating to how such proposed organizational structure will facilitate and promote coordination and requirements generation with customers.

(D) Information relating to how such proposed organizational structure will support the development of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives research and development priorities across the Department.

(E) If the chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives research and development activities of the Department are not co-located in such proposed organizational structure, a justification for such separation.

(F) The strategy for coordination between the Under Secretary for Science and Technology and the Assistant Secretary for the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives Office on chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives research and development activities.

(G) Recommendations for necessary statutory changes.

(3) LIMITATION ON ACTION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may not take any action to reorganize the structure referred to in paragraph (1) unless the Secretary receives prior authorization from the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate permitting any such action.

(d) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REVIEW OF CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIO-

LOGICAL, NUCLEAR, AND EXPLOSIVES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the organizational structure of the Department of Homeland Security's management and execution of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives research and development activities.

(2) SCOPE.—The review required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of the organizational structure for the management and execution of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives research and development activities of the Department of Homeland Security, including identification of any overlap or duplication of effort.

(B) Recommendations to streamline and improve the organizational structure of the Department's management and execution of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives research and development activities.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the review required under this subsection.

(e) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ANALYZED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL, AND PRIVATE ENTITIES WITH RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO HOMELAND SECURITY.—Paragraph (8) of section 201(d) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121(d)) is amended by striking “and to agencies of State” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “to State, local, tribal, territorial, and appropriate private entities with such responsibilities, and, as appropriate, to the public, in order to assist in preventing, protecting against, preparing for, responding to, mitigating, and recovering from terrorist attacks against the United States.”.

(f) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2) of section 103(a) (6 U.S.C. 113(a)), by striking “Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs, the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, or the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs,” and inserting “Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs or the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs.”;

(2) in section 302 (6 U.S.C. 182)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (13) and (14) as paragraphs (14) and (15), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (12) the following new paragraph:

“(13) collaborating with the Assistant Secretary for the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives Office on all chemical, biological, and explosives research and development activities.”;

(3) in subsection (b) of section 307 (6 U.S.C. 187), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(8) CBRNE DEFENSE.—The Director shall coordinate with the Assistant Secretary for the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives Office on all chemical, biological, and explosives research and development activities.”; and

(4) in subsection (c) of section 516 (6 U.S.C. 321e)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “, including the health impacts of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear agents and explosives” after “natural disasters”;

(B) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) coordinating the Department's policy, strategy, and preparedness for pandemics and emerging infectious diseases;” and

(C) in paragraph (6), by striking “Under Secretary for Science and Technology” and inserting “Assistant Secretary for the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives Office”.

### SEC. 3. CHEMICAL DIVISION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title XXII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2 of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following new subtitle:

#### “Subtitle B—Chemical Division

##### “SEC. 2211. CHEMICAL DIVISION.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the CBRNE Office a Chemical Division, headed by a Director of the Chemical Division (in this subtitle referred to as the ‘Director’).

“(b) MISSION AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Director shall be responsible for coordinating departmental strategy and policy relating to terrorist attacks and other high-consequence events utilizing chemical agents that pose a high risk to homeland security, including the following:

“(1) Developing and maintaining the Department's strategy against chemical threats.

“(2) Serving as the Department representative for chemical threats and related activities with other Federal departments and agencies.

“(3) Providing oversight of the Department's preparedness, including operational requirements, for chemical threats.

“(4) Enhancing the capabilities of Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial governments, and private entities as appropriate, against chemical threats.

“(5) Evaluating and providing guidance to Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial governments, and private entities as appropriate, on detection and communication technology that could be effective in terrorist attacks and other high-consequence events utilizing chemical agents.

“(6) Supporting and enhancing the effective sharing and use of appropriate information generated by the intelligence community (as such term is defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4))), law enforcement agencies, other Federal, State, local tribal, and territorial governments, and foreign governments, on chemical threats.

##### “SEC. 2212. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director may, subject to the availability of appropriations for such purpose, partner with high-risk urban areas or facilities to conduct demonstration projects to enhance, through Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial governments, and private entities, capabilities of the United States to counter terrorist attacks and other high-consequence events utilizing chemical agents that pose a high risk to homeland security.

“(b) GOALS.—The Director may provide guidance and evaluations for all situations and venues at risk of terrorist attacks and other high-consequence events utilizing chemical agents, such as at ports, areas of mass gathering, and transit facilities, and may—

“(1) ensure all high-risk situations and venues are studied; and

“(2) ensure key findings and best practices are made available to State, local, tribal, and territorial governments and the private sector.

“(c) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—The Director shall notify the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate not later than 30 days before initiating a new demonstration project.”.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate an assessment of the Department of Homeland Security’s programs and activities related to terrorist attacks and other high-consequence events utilizing chemical agents that pose a high risk to homeland security.

#### SEC. 4. BIOLOGICAL DIVISION.

Title XXII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2 of this Act and as amended by section 3 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subtitle:

##### “Subtitle C—Biological Division

#### “SEC. 2221. BIOLOGICAL DIVISION.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the CBRNE Office a Biological Division, headed by a Director of the Biological Division (in this subtitle referred to as the ‘Director’).

“(b) MISSION AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Office shall be responsible for coordinating departmental strategy and policy relating to terrorist attacks and other high-consequence events utilizing biological agents that pose a high risk to homeland security, including the following:

“(1) Developing and maintaining the Department’s strategy against biological threats.

“(2) Serving as the Department representative for biological threats and related activities with other Federal departments and agencies.

“(3) Providing oversight for the Department’s preparedness, including operational requirements, for biological threats.

“(4) Enhancing the capabilities of Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial governments, and private entities as appropriate, against biological threats.

“(5) Supporting and enhancing the effective sharing and use of appropriate information generated by the intelligence community (as such term is defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4))), law enforcement agencies, other Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial governments, and foreign governments, on biological threats.

“(6) Achieving a biological detection program.

“(7) Maintaining the National Biosurveillance Integration Center, authorized under section 316.”.

#### SEC. 5. NUCLEAR DIVISION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title XXII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2 of this Act and as amended by sections 3 and 4 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subtitle:

##### “Subtitle D—Nuclear Division

#### “SEC. 2231. NUCLEAR DIVISION.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall include within the CBRNE Office the Nuclear Division under title XIX, headed by the Director of the Nuclear Division (in this subtitle referred to as the ‘Director’) pursuant to section 1901.

“(b) MISSION AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the responsibilities specified in title XIX, the Director shall also be responsible for coordinating departmental strategy and policy relating to terrorist attacks and

other high-consequence events utilizing nuclear or other radiological materials, and for coordinating Federal efforts to detect and protect against the unauthorized importation, possession, storage, transportation, development, or use of a nuclear explosive device, fissile material, or radiological material in the United States, and to protect against an attack using such devices or materials against the people, territory, or interests of the United States, in accordance with title XIX.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title XIX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended—

(1) in the title heading, by striking “DOMESTIC NUCLEAR DETECTION OFFICE” and inserting “NUCLEAR DIVISION”;

(2) in section 1901 (6 U.S.C. 591)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “DOMESTIC NUCLEAR DETECTION OFFICE” and inserting “NUCLEAR DIVISION”;

(B) in subsection (a), by striking “There shall be established in the Department a Domestic Nuclear Detection Office” and inserting “There is in the Department a Nuclear Division, located in the CBRNE Office”; and

(C) in subsection (b), by striking “Director for Domestic Nuclear Detection, who shall be appointed by the President” and inserting “Director of the Nuclear Division”;

(3) in subsection (a) of section 1902 (6 U.S.C. 592)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting after “responsible for” the following: “coordinating departmental strategy and policy relating to terrorist attacks and other high-consequence events utilizing nuclear or other radiological materials, and for”;

(ii) by striking “to protect” and inserting “protecting”;

(B) in paragraph (11), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “Domestic Nuclear Detection Office” and inserting “Nuclear Division”;

(4) by repealing section 1903 (6 U.S.C. 593);

(5) in section 1906 (6 U.S.C. 596)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “Domestic Nuclear Detection” and inserting “the Nuclear Division”;

(ii) by striking “paragraphs (6) and (7) of”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “paragraphs (6) and (7) of”;

(6) in section 1907 (6 U.S.C. 596a)—

(A) by striking “Annual” each place it appears and inserting “Biennial”;

(B) by striking “each year” each place it appears and inserting “every two years”;

(C) by striking “previous year” each place it appears and inserting “previous two years”;

(D) in the heading of subsection (a), by striking “ANNUAL” and inserting “BIENNIAL”;

(E) subsection (b)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “ANNUAL” and inserting “BIENNIAL”;

(ii) in paragraph (1), by inserting “odd-numbered” after “each”;

(iii) in paragraph (2), by striking “annual” and inserting “biennial”;

(7) by adding at the end the following new section:

#### “SEC. 1908. DOMESTIC IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL NUCLEAR DETECTION ARCHITECTURE.

“In carrying out the mission of the Office under subparagraph (A) of section 1902(a)(4), the Director of the Nuclear Division shall provide support for planning, organization, equipment, training, exercises, and operational assessments to Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial governments to assist such governments in implementing radiological and nuclear detection capabilities in

the event of terrorist attacks or other high-consequence events utilizing nuclear or other radiological materials that pose a high risk to homeland security. Such capabilities shall be integrated into the enhanced global nuclear detection architecture referred to in such section 1902(a)(4), and shall inform and be guided by architecture studies, technology needs, and research activities of the Office.”.

(c) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, or rule to the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office or the Director for Domestic Nuclear Detection of the Department of Homeland Security shall be deemed to be a reference to the Nuclear Division or the Director of the Nuclear Division, respectively, of the Department.

#### SEC. 6. EXPLOSIVES DIVISION.

Title XXII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2 of this Act and as amended by sections 3, 4, and 5 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subtitle:

##### “Subtitle E—Explosives Division

#### “SEC. 2241. EXPLOSIVES DIVISION.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the CBRNE Office an Explosives Division, headed by a Director of the Explosives Division (in this subtitle referred to as the ‘Director’).

“(b) MISSION AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Director shall be responsible for coordinating departmental strategy and policy relating to terrorist attacks and other high-consequence events utilizing explosives that pose a high risk to homeland security, including the following:

“(1) Developing and maintaining the Department’s strategy against explosives threats.

“(2) Serving as the Department representative for explosives threats and related activities with other Federal departments and agencies.

“(3) Providing oversight of the Department’s preparedness, including operational requirements, for explosives threats.

“(4) Enhancing the capabilities of Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial governments, and private entities as appropriate, to counter terrorist attacks and other high-consequence events utilizing explosives.

“(5) Evaluating and providing guidance to Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial governments and appropriate private entities on detection and communication technology that could be effective during terrorist attacks or other high-consequence events utilizing explosives.

“(6) Supporting and enhancing the effective sharing and use of appropriate information generated by the intelligence community (as such term is defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4))), law enforcement agencies, other Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial government agencies, and foreign governments, on explosives threats.”.

#### SEC. 7. SAVINGS PROVISIONS.

Nothing in this Act shall change the authority of the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to lead the emergency management system of the United States. Nothing in this Act shall alter the responsibility of the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Homeland Security to serve as the principal advisor to the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency on medical and public health issues pursuant to paragraph (1) of section 516(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 321e(c)).

#### SEC. 8. CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.

The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to title XIX and inserting the following new item:

“TITLE XIX—NUCLEAR DIVISION”;

(2) by striking the item relating to section 1901 and inserting the following new item:

“Sec. 1901. Nuclear Division.”;

(3) by striking the item relating to section 1903;

(4) by adding after the item relating to section 1907 the following new item:

“Sec. 1908. Domestic Implementation of the global nuclear detection architecture.”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“TITLE XXII—CBRNE OFFICE

“Subtitle A—Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives Office  
“Sec. 2201. Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives Office.

“Sec. 2202. Composition of the CBRNE Office.

“Sec. 2203. Hiring authority.

“Sec. 2204. Grants, cooperative agreements, and other transactions and contracts.

“Sec. 2205. Terrorism risk assessments.

“Sec. 2206. CBRNE communications and public messaging.

“Sec. 2207. Chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives intelligence and information sharing.”.

“Subtitle B—Chemical Division

“Sec. 2211. Chemical Division.

“Sec. 2212. Demonstration projects.”.

“Subtitle C—Biological Division

“Sec. 2221. Biological Division.”.

“Subtitle D—Nuclear Division

“Sec. 2231. Nuclear Division.”.

“Subtitle E—Explosives Division

“Sec. 2241. Explosives Division.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCAUL) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill, the Department of Homeland Security CBRNE Defense Act of 2015.

The threat from weapons of mass destruction is real and growing. We have seen groups like ISIS make makeshift chemical weapons; and on the battlefield last summer, a laptop reportedly retrieved from an ISIS hideout in Syria contained plans for weaponizing bubonic plague and documents discussing advantages of using biological weapons. They have also boasted about plans to smuggle radiological material into the United States. With recent FBI stings in places like Moldova, we know that there are sellers ready to supply the ingredients for these tools

of terror, which brings us to the purpose of this legislation before us today.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Homeland Security must play a leading role in defending our homeland from CBRNE threats. Departments and agencies across the United States Government have centralized their weapons of mass destruction programs to provide clear focal points for dealing with this threat. Within the Department of Homeland Security, however, leadership, expertise, personnel, and resources related to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive threats are disbursed across numerous organizations within DHS headquarters. By consolidating offices within the DHS headquarters with responsibility for CBRNE, H.R. 3875 will ensure better coordination within the Department and interagency.

Mr. Speaker, we are living in dangerous times, and we must ensure the Federal Government is prepared to address these threats. This bill will ensure that the Department of Homeland Security is able to do so.

Before I close, I would like to thank Chairmen SHUSTER and SMITH for their cooperation in moving this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, December 8, 2015.

Hon. MICHAEL T. McCAUL,  
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,  
Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN McCAUL: I write concerning H.R. 3875, the “Department of Homeland Security CBRNE Defense Act of 2015”. This legislation includes matters that I believe fall within the rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

In order to expedite Floor consideration of H.R. 3875, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure agrees to forgo action on this bill. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill would not prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the Committee’s rule X jurisdiction.

I request that you please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest into the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,  
Washington, DC, December 8, 2015.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,  
Chairman, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHUSTER, Thank you for your interest in H.R. 3875, the “Department of Homeland Security CBRNE Defense Act of 2015.” I appreciate your cooperation in allowing the bill to move expeditiously under suspension of the House Rules on December 8, 2015. Because your assertion of jurisdictional interest was raised after the report for H.R.

3875 was filed, the Parliamentarians were not able to render an official decision as to any jurisdictional claim the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee may have had.

I agree that the absence of a decision on this bill will not prejudice any claim the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee may have had, or may have with respect to similar measures in the future.

A copy of this letter will be entered into the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. McCAUL,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, December 8, 2015.

Hon. MICHAEL McCAUL,  
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing concerning H.R. 3875, the “Department of Homeland Security CBRNE Defense Act of 2015,” which your Committee reported on November 16, 2015.

H.R. 3875 contains provisions within the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology’s Rule X jurisdiction. As a result of your having consulted with the Committee and in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology will forego action on the bill. This is being done on the basis of our mutual understanding that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with respect to the appointment of conferees, or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,  
Washington, DC, December 8, 2015.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,  
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH, Thank you for your interest in H.R. 3875, the “Department of Homeland Security CBRNE Defense Act of 2015.” I appreciate your cooperation in allowing the bill to move expeditiously under suspension of the House Rules on December 8, 2015. Because your assertion of jurisdictional interest was raised after the report for H.R. 3875 was filed, the Parliamentarians were not able to render an official decision as to any jurisdictional claim the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology may have had.

I agree that the absence of a decision on this bill will not prejudice any claim the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology may have had, or may have with respect to similar measures in the future.

A copy of this letter will be entered into the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. McCAUL,  
Chairman.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3875, the Department of Homeland Security CBRNE Defense Act of 2015.

Mr. Speaker, we were here 2 days ago, and I said that the American people are looking for the homeland to be safe. As I stand here today in the backdrop of a recent classified briefing for many Members, I again say that the issue of homeland security is not a partisan issue.

I am very grateful to Mr. MCCAUL and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, the ranking member, for their bipartisanship and the bipartisanship of this committee. Working alongside the other jurisdictional committees—that includes my other committee, Judiciary, that has, as their ranking member, Mr. CONYERS, and chairman, Mr. GOODLATTE, and many other committees—our commitment should be to secure the American people.

So, in this instance, pursuant to the fiscal year 2013 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, the Department of Homeland Security was directed to evaluate its activities related to preventing and responding to threats posed by chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive, CBRNE, weapons and to determine whether there were ways to improve coordination of those activities.

Nearly 2 years later, DHS submitted its report to Congress and requested that certain activities and offices within the Department be consolidated to create a center of gravity for the DHS CBRNE activities.

H.R. 3875 seeks to implement much of the Department's proposal. In particular, the bill would bring the Office of Health Affairs, the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, the Office of Bombing Prevention, the chemical and biological risk assessment activities Science and Technology Directorate, and staff from the Office of Policy and Office of Coordination Operations together in a single office, headed by a new assistant secretary.

I distinctly remember being in some of the meetings and hearings that drew about some of these coordinated activities, and I believe the new assistant secretary will be a very effective tool for making America safer.

During committee consideration of the measure, the committee accepted an amendment authored by Ranking Member THOMPSON to protect the missions of the offices brought together and prevent some of the disruption that could be caused by this kind of reorganization.

The amendment acknowledges that this reorganization will likely necessitate new expenditures. For instance, DHS may need to utilize retention bonuses to retain highly skilled, much-sought-after nuclear and biodefense experts who otherwise would leave DHS because of their lowered position and reduced prospects for advancement. I believe we should do that.

Ranking Member THOMPSON's amendment also protects the role of the Chief

Medical Officer as a leader within the Department on public health and medical issues by preserving the CMO's direct line to the Secretary.

The amendment allows for the establishment of a health division within the new office which could serve as a base of operations for the Chief Medical Officer's public health activities.

I might comment very briefly further on this. We have found that we live in a situation where, whether it is a natural disaster, but in this instance a terrorist situation that comes about, there is certainly major need for coordinated health activities that a person briefed, informed, and trained under DHS, with the expertise, can give to local entities and States.

For example, a hospital in my community, St. Joseph Medical Center, is the only hospital in a very intense downtown urban center. We would be interested in making sure that all of those health systems work.

As a nation, we cannot afford to have focus and attention toward the CBRNE mission diminished as a result of the unavoidable staff upheaval and infighting associated within any organization of this order.

Accordingly, I am pleased that H.R. 3875, as amended, will help bolster the Department's ability to carry out this reorganization without diminishing its ability to continue to carry out its CBRNE mission.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak in support of H.R. 3875, the "Department of Homeland Security CBRNE Defense Act of 2015."

As a Senior Member of the Homeland Security Committee, I served as Ranking Member of the Border and Maritime Subcommittee during the last Congress and in a previous Congress chaired the Subcommittee on Transportation Security.

It is important that the House take up the issue of how the WMD programs within the Department of Homeland Security are managed, which is why I am an original sponsor of the bill.

Events over the last Congress make it clear that Congress should be even more vigilant in providing for the protection of the United States.

Congress should be mindful of the: United States' leadership in the effort to forge an enforceable and verifiable nuclear agreement with Iran; deadliness of chemical weapons when they were used during the Syrian conflict against unarmed men, women, and children; and arrival of Ebola in Dallas, Texas and the cases that were treated around the nation.

The bill authorizes an Office of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (CBRNE) Defense within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Departments and agencies across the U.S. government have centralized their weapons of mass destruction (WMD) defense programs to provide clear focal points for dealing with this threat.

However, DHS responsibilities in the chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives areas continue to be spread across many offices in the Department with varying authorities and functions, affecting strategic direction as well as interdepartmental and interagency coordination.

This bill will bring DHS into line with the Defense Department, State Department, CIA, and FBI, which each have a lead office or bureau charged with defending America against chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives (CBRNE) threats.

This is the result of many years of oversight by the Committee on Homeland Security on the Department's management of CBRNE activities.

The bill authorizes a CBRNE Office, led by a Presidentially-appointed Assistant Secretary.

The bill directs the Secretary to include within the new CBRNE Office: the Office of Health Affairs; the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office; risk assessment activities and personnel of the Science and Technology Directorate; CBRNE activities and personnel of the Office of Policy and Operations Coordination and Planning; and the Office for Bombing Prevention.

The bill provides specific responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary and needed structure for the management of CBRNE activities.

DHS provided its proposal for consolidation of CBRNE activities to the Committee in June.

The Subcommittees on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications; and Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies held a hearing in July on the Department's proposal.

I urge my colleagues on in the House to join me in supporting this important step forward.

Our work is not yet done, but we are creating the groundwork for a safer and more resilient WMD deterrent, detection, and remediation federal homeland effort.

I appreciate the Homeland Security Committee's interest in my bill H.R. 85, Terrorism Prevention and Critical Infrastructure Protection Act.

Like Chairman MCCAUL, and Ranking Member THOMPSON, I regard securing our nation's critical infrastructure from terrorist threats as a top national and homeland security priority.

I share the understanding regarding how important it is to draft legislation that addresses the cyber threat posed by computer viruses and worms designed to destroy or cripple industrial control systems that sustain critical infrastructure is a serious challenge.

#### RECOMMENDATION: SUPPORT

Fixing a Broken Bureaucracy—H.R. 3875 increases transparency and accountability at DHS by bringing the Department's fragmented WMD defense programs under one roof and putting a lead official in charge.

Most security agencies (the Defense Department, State Department, CIA, and FBI) have a lead office or bureau charged with using their resources to defend America against chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives (CBRNE) threats.

But DHS does not—its WMD defense programs are scattered across multiple offices, a fractured approach that weakens our ability to confront these dangers on the frontlines.

The disorganization creates inefficiency, generates confusion about who is in charge at DHS, makes interagency collaboration more difficult, and drives away top talent.

The CBRNE Defense Act combines six separate offices and programs into one central CBRNE Office at DHS headquarters, led by a senior official who reports directly to the Secretary.

Elevating a Critical Mission—H.R. 3875 creates a stronger, unified office equipped to keep the nation safe from WMD threats, and

it ensures these issues will always stay on the Department's "front burner."

America faces persistent risk from terrorists and rogue states that want to threaten our people with weapons of mass destruction.

But under the current structure at DHS, important WMD defense efforts can get lost in the bureaucratic noise.

By consolidating these programs, the legislation will keep WMD challenges on the radar of top officials.

It will also allow DHS to conduct its CBRNE activities more strategically and effectively.

Streamlining Government—H.R. 3875 helps prevent taxpayer dollars from being wasted—and aims to reduce overlap and duplication wherever possible.

Hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars have been spent on failed CBRNE programs at DHS that were ill-planned and lacked effective oversight and management.

This legislation ensures DHS programs for combating WMD threats will be better coordinated and more closely monitored at the highest levels of the Department.

The bill simplifies the Secretary's ability to oversee the Department's WMD defense activities by consolidating standalone offices and streamlining the reporting structure.

I also creates the possibility of long-term savings by allowing the merged offices to combine their administrative functions.

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers. If the gentlewoman from Texas has no further speakers, I am prepared to close once the gentlewoman does.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for his leadership. I do not have any further speakers, but I would like to close and thank the committee as well for considering a bill that is now being reviewed—I want to thank the committee—H.R. 85, Terrorism Prevention and Critical Infrastructure Protection Act, which I hope contributes to all of our discussions about securing America.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, in particular, H.R. 3875, would consolidate important CBRNE activities within the Department of Homeland Security. I am hopeful that this reorganization will improve DHS' ability to carry out its mission in this space.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the diversity in the terrorist landscape is unprecedented. There are actors with aspirations to hit Western targets with deadly conventional weapons. There are also actors that are actively seeking to secure radiological and other non-conventional weaponry to exact maximum death, destruction, and chaos.

The Department of Homeland Security, first established after 9/11, has been designated and dictated to by the American people to keep them safe. It has an important role to play to address these threats. It is my great hope that this reorganization will help DHS take its CBRNE efforts to the next level.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, let me first thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, for their coordination on this bill. I think this committee, probably more than any other one, has operated in a very bipartisan fashion. I am proud of that, as a chairman. I think in matters of national security, that is how we should operate, to reach across the aisle to get good things done for the American people to make them safer. So let me just say thank you for that.

I don't have to remind you, Mr. Speaker, the threats are real out there. We got a classified briefing on San Bernardino, the pipe bombs that were manufactured. In Dabiq Magazine, ISIS' latest publication, they discuss the ease with which to move a nuclear device through transnational criminal organizations into the Western Hemisphere: through Mexico and across our southwest border. That is precisely the kind of threat that this bill is designed to stop.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3875, 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.

□ 1545

#### DHS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY REFORM AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3578) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002, to strengthen and make improvements to the Directorate of Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3578

*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 "DHS Science and Technology Reform and Improvement Act of 2015".

#### SEC. 2. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN SUPPORT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended—

(1) in section 301 (6 U.S.C. 181)—

(A) by striking "There" and inserting the following new subsection:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—There"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(b) MISSION.—The Directorate of Science and Technology shall be the primary research, development, testing, and evaluation arm of the Department, responsible for coordinating the research, development, testing, and evaluation of the Department to strengthen the security and resiliency of the United States. The Directorate shall—

"(1) develop and deliver knowledge, analyses, and innovative solutions that are responsive to homeland security capability gaps and threats to the homeland identified by components and offices of the Department, the first responder community, and the Homeland Security Enterprise (as such term is defined in section 322) and that can be integrated into operations of the Department;

"(2) seek innovative, system-based solutions to complex homeland security problems and threats; and

"(3) build partnerships and leverage technology solutions developed by other Federal agencies and laboratories, State, local, and tribal governments, universities, and the private sector.";

(2) in section 302 (6 U.S.C. 182)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, shall" and inserting the following new subsection:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, shall carry out the mission described in subsection (b) of section 301 and shall";

(B) in subsection (a), as so amended by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph—

(i) in paragraph (1), by inserting "and serving as the senior scientific advisor to the Secretary" before the semicolon at the end;

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) by striking "national";

(II) by striking "biological,," and inserting "biological,,"; and

(III) by inserting "that may serve as a basis of a national strategy" after "terrorist threats";

(iii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) by striking "the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis and the Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection" and inserting "components and offices of the Department"; and

(II) by inserting "terrorist" before "threats";

(iv) in paragraph (4), by striking "except that such responsibility does not extend to human health-related research and development activities" and inserting the following: "including coordinating with relevant components and offices of the Department appropriate to—

"(A) identify and prioritize technical capability requirements and create solutions that include researchers, the private sector, and operational end users, and

"(B) develop capabilities to address issues on research, development, testing, evaluation, technology, and standards for the first responder community,

except that such responsibility does not extend to the human health-related research and development activities;";

(v) in paragraph (5)(A), by striking "biological,," and inserting "biological,,";

(vi) by amending paragraph (12) to read as follows:

"(12) coordinating and integrating all research, development, demonstration, testing, and evaluation activities of the Department, including through a centralized Federal