the place was closed down. I came back early today to tell you that they did not ask me, not one of them, to pass the Former Vice President Protection Act, but they did ask me, please do something about our energy, Mr. MICA. You are our Representative. Go back there and tell them that we need their help to get the economy going, to get this situation under control so we can give a great opportunity to our children, to our hopes and dreams for this great country.

I know we can do it. I know we can do it. Our predecessors have done it. I don't know why we are not doing it.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I say this in a bipartisan way, that in fact this body, and I know we are not allowed to talk about the other body, the Senate, and so I will only talk in terms of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, this bill came back with a very good piece of legislation attached to a very good piece of legislation; but it came back based on a fundamental problem between the two bodies, and I thought it appropriate to speak on it.

There is no germaneness to the second half of this bill. This is simply the Senate's ability under their rules to take something that is not germane and attach it. I wouldn't have a problem with that except under our rules, Mr. Speaker, even if we are in fact doing an immigration bill in committee, as we were last week, even if that immigration bill deals with the allocation of who gets to come into this country temporarily and permanently, if the bill only deals with one sub, sub, sub-portion of a statute, that is all we are allowed to consider. That is wrong, Mr. Speaker.

And so I address you on behalf of the inequity between something completely unrelated being attached to a bill and voted out of this body. Both of these pieces of legislation are bipartisan. But if we cannot in fact even consider like information if it is ever so slightly outside of the definition of germaneness, and then we have to accept whole pieces of legislation never voted on because they were attached by the Senate, this body needs fundamental reform as to what our rules of germaneness are.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, this bill will allow the protection of former Vice Presidents, and as the gentleman from California has indicated, the Senate under their rules, not our rules, has added another provision, an important provision, that apparently there is no controversy on addressing the problem of cyber crime. I would hope that we would accept the Senate amendment and pass the 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 the 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. SCOTT of Virginia. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 5938.

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. ISSA. 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.

NATIONAL SILVER ALERT ACT

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6064) to encourage, enhance, and integrate Silver Alert plans throughout the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6064

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I—SILVER ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

SECTION 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "National Silver Alert Act".

SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this title:

(1) STATE.—The term "State" means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(2) MISSING SENIOR.—The term "missing senior" refers to any individual who—

(A) is reported to, or identified by, a law enforcement agency as a missing person; and

(B) meets the requirements to be designated as a missing senior, as determined by the State in

which the individual is reported or identified as a missing person.

SEC. 103. SILVER ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.

The Attorney General shall, subject to the availability of appropriations under section 107, establish a national Silver Alert communications network within the Department of Justice to provide assistance to regional and local search efforts for missing seniors through the initiation, facilitation, and promotion of local elements of the network (known as Silver Alert plans) in coordination with States, units of local government, law enforcement agencies, and other concerned entities with expertise in providing services to seniors.

SEC. 104. SILVER ALERT COORDINATOR.

(a) NATIONAL COORDINATOR WITHIN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—The Attorney General shall designate an individual of the Department of Justice to act as the national coordinator of the Silver Alert communications network. The individual so designated shall be known as the Silver Alert Coordinator of the Department of Justice (referred to in this title as the ''Coordinator'').

(b) DUTIES OF THE COORDINATOR.—In acting as the national coordinator of the Silver Alert communications network, the Coordinator shall—

(1) work with States to encourage the development of additional Silver Alert plans in the network;

(2) establish voluntary guidelines for States to use in developing Silver Alert plans that will promote compatible and integrated Silver Alert plans throughout the United States, including—

(A) a list of the resources necessary to establish a Silver Alert plan;

(B) criteria for evaluating whether a situation warrants issuing a Silver Alert, taking into consideration the need for the use of such Alerts to be limited in scope because the effectiveness of the Silver Alert communications network may be affected by overuse, including criteria to determine—

(i) whether the mental capacity of a senior who is missing, and the circumstances of his or her disappearance, warrant the issuance a Silver Alert; and

(ii) whether the individual who reports that a senior is missing is an appropriate and credible source on which to base the issuance of a Silver Alert;

(C) a description of the appropriate uses of the Silver Alert name to readily identify the nature of search efforts for missing seniors; and

(D) recommendations on how to protect the privacy, dignity, independence, and autonomy of any missing senior who may be the subject of a Silver Alert;

(3) develop proposed protocols for efforts to recover missing seniors and to reduce the number of seniors who are reported missing, including protocols for procedures that are needed from the time of initial notification of a law enforcement agency that the senior is missing through the time of the return of the senior to family, guardian, or domicile, as appropriate, including—

(A) public safety communications protocol;

(B) case management protocol;

(C) command center operations;

(D) reunification protocol; and

(E) incident review, evaluation, debriefing, and public information procedures;

(4) work with States to ensure appropriate regional coordination of various elements of the network;

(5) establish an advisory group to assist States, units of local government, law enforcement agencies, and other entities involved in the Silver Alert communications network with initiating, facilitating, and promoting Silver Alert plans, which shall include—

(A) to the maximum extent practicable, representation from the various geographic regions of the United States; and

(B) members who are—

(i) representatives of senior citizen advocacy groups, law enforcement agencies, and public safety communications;

(ii) broadcasters, first responders, dispatchers, and radio station personnel; and

(iii) representatives of any other individuals or organizations that the Coordinator determines are necessary to the success of the Silver Alert communications network; and

(6) act as the nationwide point of contact for—

(A) the development of the network; and

(B) regional coordination of alerts for missing seniors through the network.

(c) COORDINATION.—

(1) COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES.—The Coordinator shall coordinate and consult with the Secretary of Transportation, the Federal Communications Commission, the Assistant Secretary for Aging of the Department of Health and Human Services, the head of the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, and other appropriate offices of the Department of Justice in carrying out activities under this title.

(2) STATE AND LOCAL COORDINATION.—The Coordinator shall consult with local broadcasters and State and local law enforcement agencies in establishing minimum standards under section 105 and in carrying out other activities under this title, as appropriate.

(d) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Coordinator shall submit to Congress a report on the activities of the Coordinator and the effectiveness and status of the Silver Alert plans of each State that has established or is in the process of establishing such a plan. Each such report shall include—

(1) a list of States that have established Silver Alert plans;

(2) a list of States that are in the process of establishing Silver Alert plans;

(3) for each State that has established such a plan, to the extent the data is available—

(A) the number of Silver Alerts issued;

(B) the number of individuals located successfully;

(C) the average period of time between the issuance of a Silver Alert and the location of the individual for whom such Alert was issued;

(D) the State agency or authority issuing Silver Alerts, and the process by which Silver Alerts are disseminated;

(E) the cost of establishing and operating such a plan;

(F) the criteria used by the State to determine whether to issue a Silver Alert; and

(G) the extent to which missing individuals for whom Silver Alerts were issued crossed State lines;

(4) actions States have taken to protect the privacy and dignity of the individuals for whom Silver Alerts are issued;

(5) ways that States have facilitated and improved communication about missing individuals between families, caregivers, law enforcement officials, and other authorities; and

(6) any other information the Coordinator determines to be appropriate.

SEC. 105. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ISSUANCE AND DISSEMINATION OF ALERTS THROUGH SILVER ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF MINIMUM STANDARDS.—Subject to subsection (b), the Coordinator shall establish minimum standards for—

(1) the issuance of alerts through the Silver Alert communications network; and

(2) the extent of the dissemination of alerts issued through the network.

(b) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—The minimum standards established under subsection (a) of this section, and any other guidelines and programs established under section 104, shall be adoptable on a voluntary basis only.

(2) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The minimum standards shall, to the maximum extent practicable (as determined by the Coordinator in consultation with State and local law enforcement agencies), provide that appropriate information relating to the special needs of a missing senior (including health care needs) are disseminated to the appropriate law enforcement, public health, and other public officials.

(3) GEOGRAPHIC AREAS.—The minimum standards shall, to the maximum extent practicable (as determined by the Coordinator in consultation with State and local law enforcement agencies), provide that the dissemination of an alert through the Silver Alert communications network be limited to the geographic areas which the missing senior could reasonably reach, considering the missing senior's circumstances and physical and mental condition, the modes of transportation available to the missing senior, and the circumstances of the disappearance.

(4) AGE REQUIREMENTS.—The minimum standards shall not include any specific age requirement for an individual to be classified as a missing senior for purposes of the Silver Alert communication network. Age requirements for determinations of whether an individual is a missing senior shall be determined by each State, and may vary from State to State.

(5) PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES PROTECTIONS.—The minimum standards shall—

(A) ensure that alerts issued through the Silver Alert communications network comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local privacy laws and regulations; and

(B) include standards that specifically provide for the protection of the civil liberties and sensitive medical information of missing seniors.

(6) STATE AND LOCAL VOLUNTARY COORDINATION.—In carrying out the activities under subsection (a), the Coordinator may not interfere with the current system of voluntary coordination between local broadcasters and State and local law enforcement agencies for purposes of the Silver Alert communications network.

SEC. 106. TRAINING AND OTHER RESOURCES.

(a) TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.—The Coordinator shall make available to States, units of local government, law enforcement agencies, and other concerned entities that are involved in initiating, facilitating, or promoting Silver Alert plans, including broadcasters, first responders, dispatchers, public safety communications personnel, and radio station personnel—

(1) training and educational programs related to the Silver Alert communication network and the capabilities, limitations, and anticipated behaviors of missing seniors, which shall be updated regularly to encourage the use of new tools, technologies, and resources in Silver Alert plans; and

(2) informational materials, including brochures, videos, posters, and web sites to support and supplement such training and educational programs.

(b) COORDINATION.—The Coordinator shall coordinate—

(1) with the Assistant Secretary for Aging of the Department of Health and Human Services in developing the training and educational programs and materials under subsection (a); and

(2) with the head of the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program within the Department of Justice, to determine if any existing material with respect to training programs or educational materials developed or used as part of such Patient Alert Program are appropriate and may be used for the programs under subsection (a).

SEC. 107. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SILVER ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Justice such sums as may be necessary to carry out the Silver Alert communications network as authorized under this title.

SEC. 108. GRANT PROGRAM FOR SUPPORT OF SILVER ALERT PLANS.

(a) GRANT PROGRAM.—Subject to the availability of appropriations to carry out this section, the Attorney General shall carry out a program to provide grants to States for the development and enhancement of programs and activities for the support of Silver Alert plans and the Silver Alert communications network.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—Activities funded by grants under the program under subsection (a) may include—

(1) the development and implementation of education and training programs, and associated materials, relating to Silver Alert plans;

(2) the development and implementation of law enforcement programs, and associated equipment, relating to Silver Alert plans;

(3) the development and implementation of new technologies to improve Silver Alert communications; and

(4) such other activities as the Attorney General considers appropriate for supporting the Silver Alert communications network.

(c) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of any activities funded by a grant under the program under subsection (a) may not exceed 50 percent.

(d) DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS ON GEOGRAPHIC BASIS.—The Attorney General shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure the distribution of grants under the program under subsection (a) on an equitable basis throughout the various regions of the United States.

(e) ADMINISTRATION.—The Attorney General shall prescribe requirements, including application requirements, for grants under the program under subsection (a).

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) There is authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Justice $5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to carry out this section and, in addition, $5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to carry out subsection (b)(3).

(2) Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in paragraph (1) shall remain available until expended.

SEC. 109. SAMMY KIRK VOLUNTARY ELECTRONIC MONITORING PROGRAM.

(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Attorney General, after consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, is authorized to award grants to States and units of local government to carry out programs to provide voluntary electronic monitoring services to elderly individuals to assist in the location of such individuals if such individuals are reported as missing.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $2,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2014.

(c) DESIGNATION.—The grant program authorized under this section shall be referred to as the ''Sammy Kirk Voluntary Electronic Monitoring Program''.

TITLE II—KRISTEN'S ACT REAUTHORIZATION

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as ''Kristen's Act Reauthorization of 2008''.

SEC. 202. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Every year thousands of adults become missing due to advanced age, diminished mental capacity, or foul play. Often there is no information regarding the whereabouts of these adults and many of them are never reunited with their families.

(2) Missing adults are at great risk of both physical harm and sexual exploitation.

(3) In most cases, families and local law enforcement officials have neither the resources nor the expertise to undertake appropriate search efforts for a missing adult.

(4) The search for a missing adult requires cooperation and coordination among Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies and assistance from distant communities where the adult may be located.

(5) Federal assistance is urgently needed to help with coordination among such agencies.

SEC. 203. GRANTS FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF ORGANIZATIONS TO FIND MISSING ADULTS.

(a) GRANTS.—

(1) GRANT PROGRAM.—Subject to the availability of appropriations to carry out this section, the Attorney General shall make competitive grants to public agencies or nonprofit private organizations, or combinations thereof, to—

(A) maintain a national resource center and information clearinghouse for missing and unidentified adults;

(B) maintain a national, interconnected database for the purpose of tracking missing adults who are determined by law enforcement to be endangered due to age, diminished mental capacity, or the circumstances of disappearance, when foul play is suspected or circumstances are unknown;

(C) coordinate public and private programs that locate or recover missing adults or reunite missing adults with their families;

(D) provide assistance and training to law enforcement agencies, State and local governments, elements of the criminal justice system, nonprofit organizations, and individuals in the prevention, investigation, prosecution, and treatment of cases involving missing adults;

(E) provide assistance to families in locating and recovering missing adults; and

(F) assist in public notification and victim advocacy related to missing adults.

(2) APPLICATIONS.—The Attorney General shall periodically solicit applications for grants under this section by publishing a request for applications in the Federal Register and by posting such a request on the website of the Department of Justice.

(b) OTHER DUTIES.—The Attorney General shall—

(1) coordinate programs relating to missing adults that are funded by the Federal Government; and

(2) encourage coordination between State and local law enforcement and public agencies and nonprofit private organizations receiving a grant pursuant to subsection (a).

SEC. 204. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title $4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their marks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, thousands of vulnerable older adults go missing each year as a result of dementia, diminished capacity, foul play, and other unusual circumstances.

For example, the Alzheimer's Foundation of America estimates that more than 5 million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's disease. It is estimated that 60 percent of these men and women are likely to wander from their homes. If they do, the disorientation and confusion may keep many from finding their way back home. Their safe return often depends upon them being found quickly. If not found within 24 hours, roughly half risk serious illness, injury, or death.

Three Members of Congress, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK), and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), individually introduced legislation to address this serious problem in separate bills. H.R. 6064 combines the best parts of these bills into one.

Title I, the National Silver Alert Act, establishes a national program patterned after the successful Amber Alert program for children.

It creates a national Silver Alert coordinator responsible for developing voluntary guidelines, standards, and protocols for States to consider in the creation of their local Silver Alert plans.

It establishes the Department of Justice grant program to help States develop and implement local Silver Alert programs.

And it establishes the Sammy Kirk Voluntary Electronic Monitoring Program which will provide grants for voluntary electronic monitoring services for elderly individuals.

Title II reauthorizes the Kristen's Act which expired in 2005. That act provides for competitive grants to both public and nonprofit private agencies for a national resource center, information clearinghouse, and database for tracking missing adults, training and other related activities.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. MYRICK and Mr. BILIRAKIS for their hard work and bipartisan efforts to address this critical problem of missing adults.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I too rise in support of this important piece of legislation and am pleased that a cosponsor of this bill, someone who has contributed meaningfully to the bill and to its amendments, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is with us, and I yield to him such time as he may consume.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6064, the National Silver Alert Act sponsored by my colleague from Texas, Congressman LLOYD DOGGETT.

I first became involved in the issue of finding missing seniors earlier this year when one of my constituents, Mary Lallucci, lost her mother, who had left her care-giving facility and could not be located. She had driven her car into the Gulf of Mexico and drowned.

This tragedy unfortunately highlighted the very real problem of older

individuals who suffer from diseases which leave them easily confused and disoriented, wandering away from their homes or care-giving facilities and meeting harm because family, friends, and authorities cannot find them in time.

The inability to find missing elderly is a problem State and Federal policymakers should address before something like this happens again. That is why I support the bill before us today which includes provisions from the Silver Alert legislation I introduced earlier this year.

The National Silver Alert Act is a bipartisan bill developed by Congressman DOGGETT, myself, and Congresswoman SUE MYRICK. It combines portions of missing persons bills that each of us have introduced.

The National Silver Alert Act includes language from my bill, the Silver Alert Grant Program Act, which creates within the Department of Justice a grant program to help States establish and operate Silver Alert notification systems to help find missing individuals who suffer from Alzheimer's disease and other dementia-related illnesses.

The measure we are considering today also establishes a national Silver Alert communications network to assist regional and local missing persons search efforts and requires an annual report to determine the effectiveness of State Silver Alert plans to help guide their establishment in other States.

The bill also reauthorizes Kristen's Act. Mrs. MYRICK's bill provides grants to public and nonprofit organizations to help them find abducted adults.

I was honored to work with these two fine Members, and pleased that we were able to combine these complementary bills.

I want to thank them for their work, as well as the willingness of the Judiciary Committee Chairman JOHN CONYERS, Ranking Member LAMAR SMITH, and Crime Subcommittee Chairman BOBBY SCOTT and Ranking Member RANDY FORBES, for moving this bill through their panels in such an expeditious manner.

I believe that all States, especially my State of Florida, should establish systems similar to the highly successful Amber Alert program to help find those suffering from dementia-related illnesses and prevent tragedies like the one that occurred in my community.

The Amber Alert system has a remarkable track record of success because necessary information is filtered so that relevant details are transmitted to appropriate authorities as quickly as possible.

The experiences of States that already have developed such Amber Alert systems suggests that these programs save lives. States have found that, just as with missing and abducted children, timely notification and dissemination of appropriate information about missing seniors greatly improves the chances that they will be found before they harm themselves.

I believe that the Federal Government can and should help States develop notification systems to prevent these all-too-frequent tragedies. This is especially important in my State which has more residents age 65 or older than any State in the Nation. My State needs Silver Alert and it needs it now.

Passage of this bill today will bring Florida and other States without these life-saving systems one step closer to improving the ability to find missing seniors in the crucial few hours after they go missing.

We have many people to thank for that, including Mary Lallucci, whose determined advocacy for Silver Alert has inspired me and serves as a loving tribute to her mother's memory.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Lallucci was asked whether she thought a Silver Alert system in Florida could have saved her mother. ''Who knows,'' she said. ''Unfortunately, I will never know.''

I urge my colleagues to support the National Silver Alert Act to prevent another family from being forced to struggle with that same uncertainty.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the author of this legislation, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for his help and leadership on this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6064, the National Sliver Alert Act, which I authored and on which we have had very good bipartisan cooperation. I appreciate the statement, the concern and cooperation of the gentleman from Florida who has recounted a very serious incident that occurred in his State, and I appreciate the leadership of the gentlewoman from North Carolina. We merged our proposals in committee and have reauthorized through this legislation the National Center for Missing Adults.

Our seniors, who have worked a lifetime building families, giving back to their communities, deserve dignity and respect in their retirement years. And when some of them are unable to care for themselves, they need our support. There is no silver bullet to providing that support, but one meaningful way of helping is through the national Silver Alert system that this measure would establish nationwide.

Silver Alert is a public notification system triggered by the report of the missing senior with dementia or other mental impairment, similar to Amber Alert which has worked so successfully to find missing children, where we rely on postings on the highways, radio, television, and various forms of media to broadcast information about missing persons, to locate them, and bring them safely home.

Sixty percent of those with Alzheimer's wander away from home at some point during their disability. If not found within 24 hours, up to half will suffer serious injury or death. Only 4 percent of those who leave home are able to get back without some assistance. Silver Alert provides that assistance.

Responding to this need, 11 States, including my home State of Texas, have already enacted such programs, and another five States are seriously considering State legislation.

While this is successful and important, we believe that every American should have the benefits of Silver Alert and that all States can benefit from learning about best practices that are occurring around the country.

□ 1700

The National AMBER Alert law, which Congress approved in 2003, has provided the national leadership to coordinate State programs, link States to resources and best practices, and fund the technology and improvements necessary to assure the best assistance that we can provide.

National Silver Alert will do much the same, coordinating from the Justice Department with the Federal Communication Commission, the Department of Transportation and the Administration on Aging to avoid duplication of efforts. This is a voluntary program that will help States initiate Silver Alert programs and sustain those that are already underway.

In short, coordination saves lives. Reuniting missing seniors with their families requires a rapid, united response. What's missing from efforts to locate missing seniors is sufficient Federal support, and this bill closes that gap.

With National Silver Alert, communities can use and build on existing resources to help keep our seniors safe. And as the population of the United States ages, more and more seniors will need this kind of support.

Since its inception in Texas last September, Silver Alert has been invoked 52 times. Forty-eight of the missing seniors were located safely, and 13 of these recoveries were directly attributable to Silver Alert.

One of these successes involved an 85-year-old man in my district in Austin. He left his home in Austin, drove south to San Antonio, then turned around and drove back, all the way through Austin to Dallas, a total of 325 miles. If it had occurred, instead of on I–35 in Texas, if it occurred here in the Northeast, he would have traveled through seven States.

He was finally located in a parking lot at a department store late at night in Dallas. The responding officer had heard about the Silver Alert, knew there was a missing person from Austin in a dark green Buick. They were able to connect him back, after some treatment for dehydration, and get him back the next morning to his family in Austin.

A National Silver Alert program complements other existing programs like Project Lifesaver, the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Program Alert Program, and I believe that Silver Alert

will be effective with a unique ''wide net'' approach. The ability to broadcast the alert beyond the immediate vicinity will complement existing programs and assure more missing seniors are found within that crucial first 24 hours.

I especially want to thank two Texans, Bill Cummings and Carlos Higgins of the Texas Silver Haired Legislature, who first asked me to develop this legislation to replicate nationally the success that they experienced through Texas Silver Alert. This bill shows that it is still possible, at least on a rather occasion, for an individual citizen who has a good cause but no lobbyists to get the attention of Congress and get legislation, creative solutions adopted. Since they first proposed the bill to me it has gained the endorsement of the Elder Justice Coalition, the National Silver Haired Legislature, the Child Alert Foundation, the National Citizens Coalition for Nursing Home Reform, and the Assisted Living Federation of America.

I appreciate the cooperation of my colleagues in getting this measure approved. I urge its adoption, recognizing that by working together we can take an important step toward making our seniors safe.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, this is a good piece of legislation hammered out on a bipartisan basis. I urge the passage of this bill. I know that the 11 States that already have a Silver Alert would greatly appreciate knowing that if someone passes from their State to an adjoining State, that that protection they provide to their citizens would be provided to their citizens in another State.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time and urge support.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume simply to thank our colleagues for working cooperatively together. I hope we pass the legislation.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the National Silver Alert Act.

As a society we are judged by how we care for our most vulnerable in our community—our young children and our senior citizens.

This legislation, the National Silver Alert Act, is replicating an issue we have had remarkable success with—the Amber Alert for missing children. The Amber Alert for missing children has allowed 420 children to return safely to their homes.

It is time we replicate this success for our seniors.

Sixty percent of people with Alzheimer's or dementia will wander away at some point, and half of those who aren't found in the first 24 hours will be injured or die. This statistic is all too real for those across the Nation who have experienced the fear of losing a loved one first hand.

I know full well about this—last year an elderly man near Green Bay, Wisconsin, got in his car for what was supposed to be a short trip to the convenience store. Nearly 8 hours and 490 miles later, he stopped at a local grocery store in my district, disoriented, and confused. Luckily a Macomb county sheriff located this man's son in Wisconsin and the man returned home safely.

However, for a few frantic hours, his family in Wisconsin had no idea if he was lost, in an accident, or worse.

Just imagine if this system was in place last year. Maybe a motorist or a police officer would have seen this man's car driving along the expressway and got him assistance before he made it all the way to Michigan.

Situations like these happen across America—and it is important that we fund programs like the National Silver Alert act to properly locate our seniors who have gone missing.

By creating a national communications network to assist in efforts to locate missing senior citizens, we are improving the likelihood that they remain free of harm.

As a cosponsor of the National Silver Alert Act, I ask my colleagues to join me in protecting our senior citizens and implementing this very important program.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, Today is a very important day for anyone who has ever lived through the nightmare of an adult loved one gone missing. The National Silver Alert Act will reauthorize Kristen's Act and give these people hope. Kristen Modafferi disappeared shortly after her 18th birthday. I asked the family how I could help. After visiting with them and hearing a detailed account of their nightmare, I introduced Kristen's Act in 1999. It was swiftly ratified in both the House and Senate before being signed into law by President Clinton in 2000.

Kristen's Act reauthorizes funding to maintain a national clearinghouse for missing adults whose disappearance is determined by law enforcement to be foul play. As with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, this bill provides assistance to law enforcement and families in missing persons cases of those over the age of 17. Kristen's Act expired in 2005. I introduced a reauthorization in the 109th Congress, unfortunately my attempts to get it passed were unsuccessful. Today, with the help of my friends from across the aisle, we honor the efforts of so many and pay tribute to mournful families by ratifying this bill.

Kristen Modafferi disappeared in 1997. She was an extremely bright, hard-working young lady and attended North Carolina State University. She had just finished her freshman year; and like so many other college students, she decided she wanted to go to another city to spend the summer and work and have a new experience. So she moved to San Francisco. She enrolled in photography class at Berkeley and got a job at a local coffee shop. She began settling in and making friends.

On Monday, June 23—which was just a mere 3 weeks after her 18th birthday—she left her job at the coffee shop and headed to the beach for the afternoon. She has not been seen since.

When her panicked parents called National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, they heard these unbelievable words, ''I'm sorry—we cannot help you.'' They were shocked to discover that because Kristen was 18, the Center could not place her picture and story into its national database, or offer any assistance whatsoever.

In fact, there is no national agency in the United States to help locate missing adults.

Unfortunately, the Modaferris are not alone. The families of thousands of missing adults—50,930 cases as of last year—have found that law enforcement and other agencies respond very differently when the person who has disappeared is not a child.

Coping with the disappearance of a family member is a traumatic experience—and I know personally what the Modaferris went through. But to be forced to conduct the search on their own without any skills or resources is simply unjust. Kristen's Act does send a message to these families that they deserve help in locating endangered and involuntarily missing loved ones.

Endangered missing adults, regardless of their age, should receive not only the benefit of a search effort by local law enforcement—but also the help of an experienced national organization.

By approving this bill, families will never again have to hear they cannot be assisted because a loved one is too old.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I support the National Silver Alert Act. I also urge my colleagues to support this bill. It is necessary.

Thousands of vulnerable older adults go missing each year as a result of dementia, diminished capacity, foul play or other unusual circumstances. The Alzheimer's Foundation of America estimates that over five million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's disease, and that sixty percent of these are likely to wander from their homes. Alzheimer's disease and other dementia related illnesses often leave their victims disoriented and confused and unable to find their way home. According to the Alzheimer's Association, up to 50 percent of wanderers risk serious illness, injury or death if not found within 24 hours. The problem can be exacerbated greatly by national disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina, that can, in a matter of hours, increase the number of missing persons by the thousands.

At least eight states, along with non-profit organizations such as the National Center for Missing Adults, Project Lifesaver International and the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, have developed programs to address various aspects of the problem of missing adults, but the need for a coordinated national approach, similar to the Amber Alert Program for children, still exists. In addition, financial support is needed for existing and new local and state programs.

The Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, administered by the Department of Justice, is the only federal program that currently provides grant funding to locate vulnerable elderly individuals who go missing. Authorization for this program ceased in 1998, but Congress has continued to appropriate some monies for it through fiscal year 2008, when it appropriated $940,000. Another federal law, Kristen's Act, had authorized annual grants in the amount of $1 million for fiscal years 2001 through 2004 to assist law enforcement agencies in locating missing adults and for other purposes. Between fiscal years 2002 through 2006, Kristen's Act grants were made through the Edward Byrne Discretionary Grants Program, primarily to the National Center for Missing Adults, a non-profit organization. In 2006, Congress appropriated $150,000 for this purpose.

A. H.R. 6064, THE ''NATIONAL SILVER ALERT ACT''

Importantly, today I urge my colleagues to support another important piece of legislation, H.R. 6064, the National Silver Alert Act. H.R.

6064 sets forth a comprehensive national program. It directs the Attorney General to establish a permanent national Silver Alert communications program within the Department of Justice to provide assistance to regional and local search efforts for missing seniors. The bill requires the Attorney General to assign a Department of Justice officer as a Silver Alert Coordinator.

The Silver Alert Coordinator acts as a nationwide point of contact, working with states to encourage the development of local elements of the network, known as Silver Alert plans, and to ensure regional coordination. The bill requires the Coordinator to develop protocols for efforts relating to reporting and finding missing seniors and to establish voluntary guidelines for states to use in developing Silver Alert plans. The bill requires the Coordinator to establish an advisory group (1) to help States, local governments and law enforcement agencies with Silver Alert plans, (2) to provide training and educational programs to states, local governments and law enforcement agencies, and (3) to submit an annual report to congress. The bill also requires the Coordinator to establish voluntary minimum standards for the issuance of alerts through the Silver Alert communications network.

H.R. 6064 directs the Attorney General, subject to the availability of appropriations, to provide grants to States for the development and implementation of programs and activities relating to Silver Alert plans. The bill authorizes $5 million for fiscal year 2009 for this purpose. The bill also authorizes an additional $5 million for fiscal year 2009 specifically for the development and implementation of new technologies. The Federal share of the grant may not exceed 50 percent and amounts appropriated under this authorization shall remain available until expended.

B. MY PAST AMENDMENTS ON ELDER JUSTICE BILLS

In similar elder legislation, namely the Elder Justice Act and the Elder Abuse Victims Act, I co-sponsored amendments with Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California to provide funding to State, Local, and non-profit programs to locate missing elderly. Specifically, my amendment would allow a voluntary electronic monitoring pilot program to assist with the elderly when they are reported missing. In these particular bills, my amendment would allow the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to issue grants to states and local government to carry out pilot programs to provide voluntary electronic monitoring services to elderly individuals to assist in the location of such individuals when they are reported missing.

C. ELDER LEGISLATION IS IMPORTANT

Elder legislation such as the legislation before us today and the prior elder bills that I mentioned are important. As elder Americans enter their twilight years, we must do more to protect and ensure their safety. Nothing reminds me more of the necessity of this kind of legislation than my very own experiences in Houston, Texas. A few years ago, the family of Sam Kirk, a native of Houston, Texas, called me to help look for him. Mr. Kirk was elderly and suffered from dementia. He had wandered off and could not be located for several days. His family looked for him for many days but could not find him. In an act of desperation, they called on me to lend my services to help them find him. I helped his family look for him and we found him. When we found Mr. Kirk, he was dehydrated and in need of medical attention. We searched for hours and days to find him. It was worth the time and effort we spent to find him alive and well. Legislation that helps America find and take care of its lost and missing elders is extremely important.

SAMMY KIRK AMENDMENT

I fought hard to get an amendment to this bill, H.R. 6064, the National Silver Alert. The amendment would authorize a voluntary electronic monitoring program to be used to assist in the location of elderly persons. Specifically, the amendment requires the Attorney General, after consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to award grants to States and units of local government to carry out programs to provide for voluntary electronic monitoring services to elderly individuals to assist in the location of such individuals in the event that such persons are reported missing. It is authorized for $2 million for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2014. The amendment is named after Mr. Sammy Kirk, a former constituent of the 18th Congressional District who suffered from alzheimers and was lost. I, along with his family, searched for him for three days only to find him dead near the bayou. The Sam Kirk amendment ensures that other senior Alzheimer patients do not suffer the same fate as Mr. Kirk.

I believe that my amendment and these bills help elderly people. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6064, 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. ISSA. 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.

SCHOOL SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS ACT OF 2008

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2352) to enhance the safety of elementary schools, secondary schools, and institutions of higher education, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2352

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 ''School Safety Enhancements Act of 2008''.

TITLE I—ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS

SEC. 101. GRANT PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL SECURITY.

Section 2701 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''Placement'' and inserting ''Installation''; and

(ii) by inserting ''surveillance equipment,'' after ''detectors,'';

(B) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) Establishment of hotlines or tiplines for the reporting of potentially dangerous students and situations.'';

(2) by striking subsection (d)(1) and inserting the following:

''(1) The Federal share of the costs of a program provided by a grant under subsection (a) shall be not more than 80 percent of the total of such costs.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(g) INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of the School Safety Enhancements Act of 2008, the Director and the Secretary of Education, or the designee of the Secretary, shall establish an interagency task force to develop and promulgate a set of advisory school safety guidelines. The advisory school safety guidelines shall be published in the Federal Register by not later than one year after such date of enactment. In developing the final advisory school safety guidelines, the interagency task force shall consult with stakeholders and interested parties, including parents, teachers, and agencies.''.

SEC. 102. APPLICATIONS.

Section 2702(a)(2) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797b(a)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

''(2) be accompanied by a report, signed by the chief education officer and the attorney general or other chief law enforcement executive of the State, unit of local government, or Indian tribe, certifying that each proposed use of the grant funds will be—

''(A) an effective means for improving the safety of one or more schools;

''(B) consistent with a comprehensive approach to preventing school violence; and

''(C) individualized to the needs of each school at which those improvements are to be made.''.

SEC. 103. ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Section 2703 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797c) is amended by striking ''and the activities for which those funds were used'' and inserting ''and a detailed itemization of how those funds were utilized''.

SEC. 104. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 2705 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797e) is amended by striking ''$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2009'' and inserting ''$50,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2009 and 2010''.

SEC. 105. ADDITIONAL AMENDMENT.

Paragraph (5) of section 2701(b) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797a(b)) (as amended by section 101 of this Act) is further amended by inserting '', including hazardous conditions'' after ''and situations''.

SEC. 106. ADDITIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE GRANT PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL SECURITY.

Section 2701(b) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C.