ending veterans' homelessness by 2015 and has established partnerships with other Federal agencies, such as HUD, to accomplish it.

The bill before us today will forge another important partnership in our efforts to serve homeless veterans, one with the Transportation Security Administration. Each day, as Americans travel through screening checkpoints operated by TSA at our Nation's airports, many articles of clothing are left behind. In fact, TSA reports that they collect between 500 and 1,000 garments per day.

H.R. 6328 directs the TSA Administrator to make every reasonable effort to donate this unclaimed clothing to local organizations that serve homeless or needy veterans.

I urge Members to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6328, the Clothe a Homeless Hero Act, and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I just flew in from the Buffalo airport, and there was a dusting of snow on the ground. I'm sure my colleague from Florida did not have a similar experience, but it bodes poorly for the veterans who are going to be spending the nights on the streets of Buffalo and other cold places. As the weather starts to change, it's something that's very hurtful to see, as an American, and to know that there are veterans who put on their uniform and went overseas to fight and protect all of us, and to know that 20,000 recently returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan will find themselves homeless tonight.

□ 1720

That is a national disgrace. As all of us rush through airports every week along with many thousands of Americans, it's not uncommon for scarves and hats and other articles of clothing to be inadvertently left behind at TSA checkpoints. In fact, I, myself, left a scarf behind, which prompted my thoughts of how we could handle this surplus clothing. It adds up to thousands of pounds of abandoned clothes annually. There can be no better purpose than for this unclaimed clothing to help America's homeless veterans.

Homelessness has gone on the rise among our veterans. This is absolutely an unconscionable, untenable situation. As a country, we have a moral obligation to do so much more to eradicate this untenable situation. And I know that in a bipartisan way this is one step toward that effort. Even if one of our veterans stays warm this winter because of the clothing provided through this legislation, it would have been well worth the effort.

The Clothe a Homeless Hero Act directs the TSA to make every reasonable effort to transfer unclaimed clothing to local veterans organizations or other local charitable organizations for distribution to homeless veterans and their dependents. Nothing in this bill prevents airports or the TSA from donating these items to charities of their choosing if they already have relationships in place. And most importantly, this legislation would not create a cost to the government.

When I offered this proposal in the Committee on Homeland Security, I was so grateful that it received unanimous, bipartisan support from all my colleagues. I thank the overall committee chairman, Mr. PETER KING, Ranking Member THOMPSON, members of the Committee on Homeland Security, and Subcommittee Chairman Mr. BILIRAKIS for all their support.

I urge all of our colleagues to join us in advancing this simple, deficit-neutral bill to assist the heroes who once wore the uniform and have fallen on hard times and need this clothing.

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. If the gentlewoman from New York has no further speakers, I am prepared to close.

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, as you've heard, H.R. 6328 enjoys bipartisan support of the members of the Committee on Homeland Security and deserves the full support of the House today. I think this is an important step we take, particularly with the holiday season approaching, cold weather approaching, and it's a small step that we can take to help these veterans who were heroes at one time and now need the help of all of us as American citizens.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this legislation and, in turn, support homeless veterans.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6328, the "Clothe a Homeless Hero Act."

At the outset, I would like to commend Representative HOCHUL, the author of H.R. 6328, for her tireless work on behalf of her constituents, our veterans and for her service on the Committee on Homeland Security.

Since she joined the Committee, I have watched as Representative HOCHUL worked to identify bipartisan solutions to our Nation's problems.

H.R. 6328 is the byproduct of her collaborative and thoughtful approach.

This measure requires TSA to make every reasonable effort to transfer unclaimed clothing recovered at airport security checkpoints so that it can get to needy veterans and their families.

One of the unfortunate realities we face following times of war is that some of those who fought for our freedoms face challenges in transitioning to civilian life.

We owe it to our veterans to do all that we can to ensure they get the helping hand needed to get back on their feet when they return from the battlefield.

Thanks to Representative HOCHUL's leadership, the House has an opportunity today to take a small, but important, step in support of our veterans by supporting this bill.

Mr. Speaker, as you have heard, H.R. 6328 enjoys the bipartisan support of the Members of the Committee on Homeland Security and deserves the support of the Full House today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6328.

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.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 21, 2012.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

MR. SPEAKER: In 1995 when I was first elected to the House of Representatives I came to Washington with a singular purpose—to serve the constituents of the Second District of Illinois. During that time for seventeen years I have traveled on a journey with the citizens of the Second District of Illinois, and with their unwavering support we have worked together to transform what was once an underdeveloped and nearly forgotten South Side of Chicago.

Along this journey we have accomplished much. We have built new train stations, water towers, and emergency rooms. We have brought affordable housing, community centers and healthcare clinics to those who needed it most. In all, nearly a billion dollars worth of infrastructure and community improvement has been made on the South Side of Chicago and thousands of new jobs have been created. We began this journey by promising fresh water for the people of Ford Heights and a new airport that would employ upon completion 300,000 people. Today the people of Ford Heights have fresh water and sitting on the Governor's desk is a $400,000,000 proposal for an airport that will cost the taxpayers nothing and only awaits the Governor's commitment to build it. And while our journey to strengthen our communities and provide a better future for our children will continue, I know that together we have made the Second District of Illinois a better place.

For seventeen years I have given 100 percent of my time, energy, and life to public service. However, over the past several months, as my health has deteriorated, my ability to serve the constituents of my district has continued to diminish. Against the recommendations of my doctors, I had hoped and tried to return to Washington and continue working on the issues that matter most to the people of the Second District. I know now that will not be possible.

The constituents of the Second District deserve a full-time legislator in Washington, something I cannot be for the foreseeable future. My health issues and treatment regimen have become incompatible with service in the House of Representatives. Therefore, it is with great regret that I hereby resign as a member of the United States House of Representatives, effective today, in order to focus on restoring my health.

During this journey I have made my share of mistakes. I am aware of the ongoing federal investigation into my activities and I am doing my best to address the situation responsibly, cooperate with the investigators, and accept responsibility for my mistakes, for they are my mistakes and mine alone. None of us is immune from our share of shortcomings or human frailties and I pray that I will be remembered for what I did right. It has been a profound honor to serve the constituents of Illinois's Second Congressional District and I thank them for their patience, words of support and prayers during what has been, and what will continue to be a very trying time for me and my family.

I also thank my colleagues and staff for supporting me and the citizens of my district over the past several months. I am proud to have worked alongside each of them over these many years. I know that our work and accomplishments will have a lasting positive impact on our community and our nation.

With optimism and hope I look forward to the day when my treatment is complete and my health improves. I will truly miss serving as a Member of Congress and I will never be able to fully express my gratitude to the people of Chicago, and her Southland for granting me the opportunity to serve them for 17 wonderful years.

Sincerely,

JESSE JACKSON, Jr.,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 21, 2012.

Governor PAT QUINN,
James A. Thompson Building,
Chicago, IL.

MR. GOVERNOR: In 1995 when I was first elected to the House of Representatives I came to Washington with a singular purpose—to serve the constituents of the Second District of Illinois. During that time for seventeen years I have traveled on a journey with the citizens of the Second District of Illinois, and with their unwavering support we have worked together to transform what was once an underdeveloped and nearly forgotten South Side of Chicago.

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Sincerely,

JESSE JACKSON, Jr.,
Member of Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON), the whole number of the House is 433.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 5997, by the yeas and nays; and concurring in the Senate amendment to H.R. 915, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS ALLOWABLE USE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5997) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to codify authority under existing grant guidance authorizing use of Urban Area Security Initiative and State Homeland Security Grant Program funding for enhancing medical preparedness, medical surge capacity, and mass prophylaxis capabilities, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 397, nays 1, not voting 34, as follows:

[Roll No. 609]

YEAS—397

Ackerman	Canseco	Dent
Adams	Cantor	DesJarlais
Aderholt	Capito	Deutch
Akin	Capps	Diaz-Balart
Alexander	Capuano	Doggett
Altmire	Carnahan	Dold
Amodei	Carney	Donnelly (IN)
Andrews	Carson (IN)	Doyle
Baca	Carter	Dreier
Bachmann	Cassidy	Duffy
Bachus	Castor (FL)	Duncan (SC)
Baldwin	Chabot	Duncan (TN)
Barletta	Chaffetz	Edwards
Barrow	Chandler	Ellison
Barton (TX)	Chu	Ellmers
Bass (CA)	Cicilline	Emerson
Bass (NH)	Clarke (MI)	Engel
Becerra	Clarke (NY)	Eshoo
Benishek	Clay	Farenthold
Berg	Cleaver	Farr
Berkley	Clyburn	Fincher
Berman	Coble	Fitzpatrick
Biggert	Coffman (CO)	Flake
Bilbray	Cohen	Fleischmann
Bilirakis	Cole	Fleming
Bishop (GA)	Conaway	Flores
Bishop (UT)	Connolly (VA)	Forbes
Black	Conyers	Fortenberry
Blackburn	Cooper	Foxx
Blumenauer	Costa	Frank (MA)
Bonamici	Costello	Franks (AZ)
Bonner	Courtney	Fudge
Boren	Cravaack	Garamendi
Boswell	Crawford	Gardner
Boustany	Crenshaw	Garrett
Brady (PA)	Critz	Gerlach
Brady (TX)	Crowley	Gibbs
Braley (IA)	Cuellar	Gibson
Brooks	Culberson	Gingrey (GA)
Broun (GA)	Cummings	Gohmert
Buchanan	Curson (MI)	Gonzalez
Bucshon	Davis (CA)	Goodlatte
Buerkle	Davis (IL)	Gowdy
Burgess	DeFazio	Granger
Burton (IN)	DeGette	Graves (GA)
Butterfield	DeLauro	Graves (MO)
Calvert	DelBene	Green, Al
Camp	Denham	Green, Gene