

of seniors who have fallen prey and unfortunately in many cases have lost their life savings to these unfortunate marketing practices.

This bill will send a very strong message. We are acting for the people of the United States of America who really deserve our help, the seniors of America. I thank everyone.

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Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from the great State of Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), who is a member of the Committee on Ways and Means and also is a better golfer than me.

Mr. CARDIN. I am not sure about the last comment, Mr. Speaker, but let me thank my friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, for his work on this legislation and all that is involved in bringing forward the sweepstake legislation.

I know in my district I have heard from many of my seniors who have been victimized by believing that they have won a sweepstake, only to send back information, and the only thing that they found out is that it cost them money to buy magazine subscriptions. They have spent thousands of dollars in hopes of winning the sweepstake that they never won.

The Attorney General in my State, Joe Curran, has documented many, many abuses by many, many sweepstake operators. This is true around the Nation.

This is an important bill. I am glad we are able to move it forward. It is going to affect thousands of our constituents in each one of our districts. Hopefully it is going to change the practice of magazine owners or magazine companies in the way that they sell their subscriptions. They have to be more direct with our constituents and let them know that they have not won a sweepstake.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), a good friend of this bill and a colleague of mine on the Committee on Armed Services.

As I mentioned, Mr. Speaker, there were many who had input into this process, and he is one of the gentlemen who has spoken to me about a very important related issue with respect to billing processes through the mail.

(Mr. HANSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is an excellent piece of legislation. I commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) for the hard work they have done on this.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of people do not realize that at the end of these sweepstakes they enter, what do they do? A lot say they buy something.

I think it is very interesting. I went down to my little town where I live and

where the gentlemen hold court that are all retired and have their coffee every morning. They told me, they said, "I buy this stuff," and they talked about a certain magazine, nine of them sitting around the table. "We all bought this magazine popular in the Second World War. We paid it immediately."

And then what happened? They kept billing them and billing them and billing them, and they sent their canceled check and nothing would happen. This is an outfit out of Florida, and one time after another.

I started checking into it. I said, well, I think you folks do not understand it. I put one in, paid mine, and immediately they billed me. I paid it, and I got billed five times in a row. I finally had to call them up to get them off of it. I tried that a number of other places. I tried it with one on home repairs, and they billed me and billed me, and finally turned it over to a collection agency.

Then I looked at my father-in-law who is 89 years old. I pay all his bills for him. He paid one bill 10 times because he did not realize he had been billed all these times. I commend the gentleman for what he is doing. I would point out, I think there is a predator billing problem going on in America right now. It has an a lot to do with these magazines and all this other paraphernalia they sell through the mail.

There is no way on Earth these people get a response. They send a letter, a copy of their canceled check, and nobody ever responds. There ought to be a way, Mr. Speaker, and maybe it is to the point that this organization called the U.S. House and Senate should do something about it, to take care of the people who are getting bilked by these people.

I thank the gentleman, and I support this legislation. I wanted to add that one further note.

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

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to say that the first amendment that I passed on the floor of this House had to do with going after telemarketing fraud. This sweepstakes issue is just another, I think, head of the same animal.

It is of note that just last week the United States Postal Service, along with key government and civic leaders, had a press conference to announce a nationwide effort to go after telemarketing fraud in a very serious way, and I just want to say that I think the House this evening collaborates in that effort by the passage of this very important piece of legislation.

I thank my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH), someone who I have had the pleasure to work with for a few years on this committee, and we have gotten a lot done.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

As we have heard today, this is a good bill. It needs to be acted on now, so let us do that.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 335, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended, and the Senate bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 335, as amended, the legislation just passed.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the order in which that motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order: House Concurrent Resolution 223, by the yeas and nays; and the conference report on H.R. 1554, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING FREEDOM DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 223.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 223, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 417, nays 0, not voting 16, as follows: