

being some 18 months after the provisions of Public Law 108–25 prohibited taxpayer funding of pro-prostitution groups like SANGRAM.

That SANGRAM was a high-risk candidate for not complying with Public Law 108–25 should not have been a surprise to USAID. SANGRAM was a cosigner, along with many other high-risk candidates, of a May 18, 2005 letter to President Bush opposing the anti-prostitution pledge. Subcommittee staff found posted on a USAID-sponsored Web site, a 5-year-old report from SANGRAM that states: “We believe that when involuntary initiation into prostitution occurs, a process of socialization within the institution of prostitution exists, whereby the involuntary nature of the business changes increasingly into one of active acceptance, not necessarily with resignation. This is not a coercive process.”

I agree with President Bush that “It takes a special kind of depravity to exploit and hurt the most vulnerable members of society. Human traffickers rob children of their innocence; they expose them to the worst of life before they have seen much of life. Traffickers tear families apart. They treat their victims as nothing more than goods and commodities for sale to the highest bidder.” It is inconceivable that an organization like SANGRAM could have received funding from the American taxpayer had USAID put in place an adequate management system to carry out Public Law 108–25.

On December 13, 2005, a large briefing team from the Department of State and USAID met with staff from the Subcommittee I chair concerning this matter, in order to demonstrate ownership of the problem and to lay-out corrective measures being taken. To my dismay and astonishment, the briefers were not prepared to discuss (and exhibited little knowledge of) the pass-through entity known as Avert that USAID established and which served as the mechanism whereby NGOs in India were monitored and financed with American tax dollars. Subcommittee staff knew more than the State/USAID briefing team about this matter thanks to Google searches on the web for critical documents that had not been provided to the Subcommittee by the Administration.

In the months since that December 13 appeal was made for an electronic registry, the Subcommittee request has inspired two pieces of legislation: first in the other body, and the second we are debating here today. This scandal of financing pro-prostitution groups by USAID was highlighted by the authors in both chambers as illustrating the need for this legislation.

I urge the swift passage of this legislation. If we are going to continue to spend taxpayer money, the American people deserve to know how it is being spent and by whom. Flagrantly disgusting examples of the misuse of taxpayer funds must be made known and eliminated.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I will close by just simply saying that I don’t believe that we can overemphasize the importance of transparency in government, and especially as it relates to contracting. I would urge passage of this legislation. I am proud to be a cosponsor of it.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, the bill we are considering today, S. 2950, requires the Office

of Management and Budget to create a searchable database of federal grants and contracts accessible to the public on the Internet. I am pleased to support this bill.

In June, the House considered a watered down version of this bill, H.R. 5060. The House bill included only grants, leaving out hundreds of billions of dollars in annual spending on federal contracts. At the time, I urged Chairman DAVIS to work with me to include contract disclosure in the legislation.

The bill before us today is stronger and more comprehensive than the bill passed by the House in June. While the House bill covered only grants, the database created under this legislation will include all federal grants and contracts. If this bill is implemented properly, any citizen with Internet access will be able to examine a comprehensive set of records for information about federal spending. For each grant or contract awarded, the database will include details about the recipient of the award, as well as the amount of the award, the purpose of the funding action, and other relevant information.

There has been considerable confusion about what this bill does and does not do. The information that this bill requires to be posted on the Internet is not secret. In fact, there are existing databases that are accessible to Congress and the public that are already required to include the information covered in this bill.

Under current law, for example, there is a federal procurement database maintained by the General Services Administration. This database, called the Federal Procurement Data System, is required to contain significant amount of information about each federal contract.

Similarly, there is a grants database maintained by the Census Bureau, the Federal Assistance Data System, which collects information about domestic financial assistance awards. In addition, grants.gov and various databases maintained by individual agencies, contain some of this information.

But these databases don’t always contain the information that they are supposed to contain. They aren’t always kept up to date. And they can be difficult to use.

In essence, what this bill does is require that these existing databases be compiled into a new database that is more organized and more accessible.

Ordinarily, I would not be in favor of legislation that requires the government to spend money repackaging data that is already in existence. But this bill is an exception. The current state of the existing databases is so poor that Congress is justified in passing new legislation.

Ultimately, implementation will be key to the success of this bill. If the administration is not committed to making the legislation work, all we will get is another incomplete and hard-to-use database. My hope is that by passing this bill with broad, bipartisan support, we are sending a signal to the administration that it needs to do a better job.

Members of Congress from both parties and both the House and Senate have worked hard to make this bill a reality. I want to compliment Senator OBAMA and Senator COBURN, in particular, for their leadership. They put aside partisanship to forge the bill we are considering today. I also want to thank Chairman DAVIS for agreeing to expand the scope of this bill to cover contracts.

The legislation we are passing today is not comprehensive reform; it will not restore honesty and accountability in government. It’s a modest, bipartisan step in the direction of open government. But in the climate we’re currently in, even a small step forward is worth supporting and celebrating.

I urge support of this legislation.

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

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of S. 2590.

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 Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2590.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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HOOR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

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CORRECTING ENROLLMENT OF S. 2590, FEDERAL FUNDING ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 114) providing for corrections to the enrollment of the bill S. 2590, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 114

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That, in the enrollment of the bill S. 2590, the Secretary of the Senate shall make the following corrections:

(1) In section 2(a), strike paragraphs (2) and (3) and insert the following:

“(2) FEDERAL AWARD.—The term ‘Federal award’—

“(A) means Federal financial assistance and expenditures that—

“(i) include grants, subgrants, loans, awards, cooperative agreements, and other forms of financial assistance;

“(ii) include contracts, subcontracts, purchase orders, task orders, and delivery orders;

“(B) does not include individual transactions below \$25,000; and

“(C) before October 1, 2008, does not include credit card transactions.

“(3) SEARCHABLE WEBSITE.—The term ‘searchable website’ means a website that allows the public to—

“(A) search and aggregate Federal funding by any element required by subsection (b)(1);

“(B) ascertain through a single search the total amount of Federal funding awarded to an entity by a Federal award described in paragraph (2)(A)(i), by fiscal year;

“(C) ascertain through a single search the total amount of Federal funding awarded to an entity by a Federal award described in paragraph (2)(A)(ii), by fiscal year; and

“(D) download data included in subparagraph (A) included in the outcome from searches.”

(2) In section 2(b)(1), strike “section and section 204 of the E-Government Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-347; 44 U.S.C. 3501 note),” and insert “section, section 204 of the E-Government Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-347; 44 U.S.C. 3501 note), and the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 403 et seq.).”

(3) In section 2, strike subsection (c) and insert the following:

“(c) WEBSITE.—The website established under this section—

“(1) may use as the source of its data the Federal Procurement Data System, Federal Assistance Award Data System, and Grants.gov, if all of these data sources are searchable through the website and can be accessed in a search on the website required by this Act, provided that the user may—

“(A) specify such search shall be confined to Federal contracts and subcontracts;

“(B) specify such search shall be confined to include grants, subgrants, loans, awards, cooperative agreements, and other forms of financial assistance;

“(2) shall not be considered in compliance if it hyperlinks to the Federal Procurement Data System website, Federal Assistance Award Data System website, Grants.gov website, or other existing websites, so that the information elements required by subsection (b)(1) cannot be searched electronically by field in a single search;

“(3) shall provide an opportunity for the public to provide input about the utility of the site and recommendations for improvements;

“(4) shall be updated not later than 30 days after the award of any Federal award requiring a posting; and

“(5) shall provide for separate searches for Federal awards described in subsection (a) to distinguish between the Federal awards described in subsection (a)(2)(A)(i) and those described in subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii).”

(4) Add at the end the following:

“SEC. 4. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

“Not later than January 1, 2010, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report on compliance with this Act.”

The Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THOMAS J. MANTON POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6033) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 39-25 61st Street in Woodside, New York, as the “Thomas J. Manton Post Office Building”.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 6033

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

SECTION 1. THOMAS J. MANTON POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 39-25 61st Street in Woodside, New York, shall be known and designated as the “Thomas J. Manton Post Office Building”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Thomas J. Manton Post Office Building”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks 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. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6033, offered by the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) would designate the post office building in Woodside, New York, as the Thomas J. Manton Post Office Building.

Mr. Manton passed away in July of this year. The attendance of over 800 people at his service was a testament to his lasting impact as a public servant and friend to the New York community.

His history of public service began with his time in the Marine Corps and continued until his final day as Chair of the Queens County Democratic Organization. He also worked as a New York City police officer while simultaneously attending law school, and in 1970 he began the first of what would be 14 years as a New York City Council Member. In 1985, he was elected to Congress, where he served his country and constituents until 1999.

A steadfast advocate of diversity, Mr. Manton balanced the needs of the people from multiple backgrounds with heartfelt understanding and great compassion. His constituents remember him as a humanitarian and advocate who was never too busy to return a phone call or share his time.

With gratitude for his devotion and service to our country, I would ask all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 3063.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as

he may consume to the sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise, and it is an honor for me to rise this evening, in support of H.R. 6033, legislation, as duly noted by my friend Mr. DAVIS, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 39-25 61st Street in Woodside, New York, as the Thomas J. Manton Post Office Building.

I want to first extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Chairman TOM DAVIS for his expediting this legislation to the floor. As was mentioned, Tom Manton died only recently, at the end of July, and to have this bill on the floor as quickly as we have, I owe a great deal of debt to TOM. Thank you, Mr. DAVIS, for your work on this.

I also want to thank the ranking member, Mr. HENRY WAXMAN, again a gentleman who saw fit to move this legislation quickly; the majority leader, JOHN BOEHNER, as well and his office. In particular I want to thank Denise Wilson of the Government Reform staff as well for her helping move this forward. I want to thank our leader, NANCY PELOSI, and Chairman BARTON and Ranking Member JOHN DINGELL for their help in moving this expeditiously to the floor.

I also want to thank all my colleagues from New York who unanimously supported this renaming, but particularly I want to thank the dean of our delegation from Long Island and Queens County, Representative GARY ACKERMAN, as well as CAROLYN MALONEY, NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, GREG MEEKS, ANTHONY WEINER, and, of course, we can't forget the dean of the New York delegation, CHARLIE RANGEL, but all New Yorkers, with the support of both Democrat and Republican, without cause. NITA LOWEY, for her work and for all their friendship with Tom Manton and their kind words back in July when this House recognized his passing.

I appreciate that. My constituents certainly appreciate that as well. I know that the Manton family, in particular Diane Manton, is very appreciative of the honor that we bestow upon her late, great husband, former Congressman Tom Manton.

Many of my colleagues in Congress are familiar with the exemplary service of former Congressman Tom Manton because you served with him. But for those who don't recall, he served with honor and distinction in the United States House of Representatives from 1984 to 1999. He replaced the then legendary former Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro.

Before that, Tom Manton came from humble Irish American roots. He loved his country, America, and certainly loved his ancestral homeland of Ireland as well, and that was reflected in the community he grew up in. Woodside, New York, was and still remains a