

to intervene in applications from small businesses that appear on their way towards denial. This gives small business exporters one last crack at the bat to see what can be done to get an application approved.

I was pleased to work with many of the industry groups who support Ex-Im Bank, particularly the Small Business Exporters Association, in the development of the small business provisions in S. 3938. They are supportive of these provisions.

Madam Speaker, passage of S. 3938 will send a powerful positive signal to small business exporters around the nation that there will be internal advocates for them within the Bank from the time they enter the door until the time they exit with a decision. With these new legislative enhancements to Ex-Im's charter, small business exporters will have strong shoulders to stand on to win trade deals overseas. I urge the adoption of S. 3938.

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I want to begin by thanking the outgoing and incoming Chairmen of the Financial Services Committee, Mr. OXLEY and Mr. FRANK, the outgoing DIMP subcommittee Chairwoman, Ms. PRYCE, and my colleague from New York, Mrs. MALONEY for working together in such a bipartisan way to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank.

I believe the legislation we have before us today significantly improves the ability of the bank to respond to the needs of small business exporters and particularly minority and women-owned small business exporters.

By creating a new office for socially and disadvantaged small businesses and businesses owned by women, we are responding to a critical and glaring gap in Ex-Im's outreach programs.

The office builds directly from an amendment that I co-authored in 2001, during the last reauthorization which required Ex-Im to annually report on the number and type of transactions it conducts with minority and women-owned businesses.

The inadequate reporting from Ex-Im and their token support for minority outreach has made this new office a necessity. I want to thank my colleagues for making it a priority, and specifically Ms. VELÁZQUEZ for her work on this.

I also want to express my gratitude to Ms. PRYCE and Mr. FRANK for agreeing to add language to the manager's amendment which requires the Bank President to consider qualified minority and women applicants when filling positions within this new office.

My amendment will ensure that Ex-Im conducts culturally competent and sensitive outreach by hiring individuals who can relate to the particular challenges faced by minority and women-owned small businesses and who can speak their language.

I am also supportive of the provisions in the bill to increase small business exports, simplify Ex-Im's application process, reaffirm our commitment to expanding exports to Sub-Saharan Africa and expand transparency at the Bank.

I believe that improvements to Ex-Im could still have been made, in particular, to ensure compliance with environmental standards following the completion of a transaction, and to get a better understanding of what Ex-Im's real impact is in creating and retaining American jobs.

However, in the next Congress as we conduct oversight of Ex-Im and its implementation of this bill, I hope that we can continue to examine these remaining issues.

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I would urge passage of this very important bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 3938, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO DR. NORMAN E. BORLAUG ACT OF 2006

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2250) to award a congressional gold medal to Dr. Norman E. Borlaug.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2250

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 "Congressional Tribute to Dr. Norman E. Borlaug Act of 2006".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, was born in Iowa where he grew up on a family farm, and received his primary and secondary education.

(2) Dr. Borlaug attended the University of Minnesota where he received his B.A. and Ph.D. degrees and was also a star NCAA wrestler.

(3) For the past 20 years, Dr. Borlaug has lived in Texas where he is a member of the faculty of Texas A&M University.

(4) Dr. Borlaug also serves as President of the Sasakawa Africa Association.

(5) Dr. Borlaug's accomplishments in terms of bringing radical change to world agriculture and uplifting humanity are without parallel.

(6) In the immediate aftermath of World War II, Dr. Borlaug spent 20 years working in the poorest areas of rural Mexico. It was there that Dr. Borlaug made his breakthrough achievement in developing a strand of wheat that could exponentially increase yields while actively resisting disease.

(7) With the active support of the governments involved, Dr. Borlaug's "green revolution" uplifted hundreds of thousands of the rural poor in Mexico and saved hundreds of millions from famine and outright starvation in India and Pakistan.

(8) Dr. Borlaug's approach to wheat production next spread throughout the Middle East. Soon thereafter his approach was adapted to rice growing, increasing the number of lives Dr. Borlaug has saved to more than a billion people.

(9) In 1970, Dr. Borlaug received the Nobel Prize, the only person working in agriculture to ever be so honored. Since then he has received numerous honors and awards including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Public Service Medal, the National Academy of Sciences' highest honor, and the Rotary International Award for World Understanding and Peace.

(10) At age 91, Dr. Borlaug continues to work to alleviate poverty and malnutrition. He currently serves as president of Sasakawa Global 2000 Africa Project, which seeks to extend the benefits of agricultural development to the 800,000,000 people still mired in poverty and malnutrition in sub-Saharan Africa.

(11) Dr. Borlaug continues to serve as Chairman of the Council of Advisors of the World Food Prize, an organization he created in 1986 to be the "Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture" and which presents a \$250,000 prize each October at a Ceremony in Des Moines, Iowa, to the Laureate who has made an exceptional achievement similar to Dr. Borlaug's breakthrough 40 years ago. In the almost 20 years of its existence, the World Food Prize has honored Laureates from Bangladesh, India, China, Mexico, Denmark, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

(12) Dr. Borlaug has saved more lives than any other person who has ever lived, and likely has saved more lives in the Islamic world than any other human being in history.

(13) Due to a lifetime of work that has led to the saving and preservation of an untold amount of lives, Dr. Norman E. Borlaug is deserving of America's highest civilian award: the congressional gold medal.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives are authorized to make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design, to Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, in recognition of his enduring contributions to the United States and the world.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3 at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and the cost of the gold medal.

SEC. 5. STATUS AS NATIONAL MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDAL.—The medal struck under this Act is a national medal for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all duplicate medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There are authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund, such sums as may be necessary to pay for the cost of the medals struck under this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 4 shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge Members to join in saluting an American hero who deserves to be recognized for his lifetime service to the world by passing S. 2250, the Congressional Tribute to Dr. Norman E. Borlaug Act of 2006.

Senate 2250 directs the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate to make appropriate arrangements to award a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Dr. Norman Borlaug in recognition of his enduring contributions in fighting hunger around the world. This legislation is identical to H.R. 4924, introduced by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM).

Madam Speaker, Dr. Borlaug is a Nobel Peace Prize recipient of whom few have heard, a humanitarian responsible for mounting a global campaign against hunger that saved so many of the world's neediest people through agricultural science.

In 1944, he took on the task of researching high-yield and disease-resistant cereal grains. Through trial and error, Dr. Borlaug's efforts led to the development of varieties of wheat that completely altered production agriculture as it was then known in places like Pakistan, India and Mexico. The dwarf wheat variety allowed farmers to produce far more grain per acre than anyone could have predicted. This newfound bounty gave the world's poorest people access to food, ensuring children who otherwise would have been victims of malnutrition could thrive.

Dr. Borlaug's landmark discoveries in agriculture led to what is called the "Green Revolution." However, this modest man, born and raised in Cresco, Iowa, and educated in Minnesota, once said his accomplishments were only "a temporary success in man's war against hunger and deprivation."

Madam Speaker, I recognize that many in Congress and throughout the country do not know about the progress we have made in production agriculture and are unaware of the countless contributions made by agricultural scientists such as Dr. Borlaug. However, his leadership has inspired so many others of our best and brightest students to pursue careers in agriculture sciences, and his work will live on in the lives of those who have been spared the misery of starvation.

Madam Speaker, this is an honor long overdue, and I would urge immediate passage of this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I congratulate the delegation from Iowa on bringing forward this very important symbol honoring a very great man, a man who has performed enormous service for humanity. It was first called to my attention by the gentleman from Iowa who is I believe now the dean of the majority of the Iowa delegation, and I am delighted to be the first to recognize him in that context, my very good friend and a very good leader.

Madam Speaker, I yield as much time and as much corn as he may consume to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BOSWELL).

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

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, thank you very much. I thank the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) for yielding me this time.

I would also like to thank my colleague and friend Congressman LATHAM for working on this and leading out on this very, very worthwhile tribute to Dr. Borlaug. He is from Iowa. We have known him for some time. As you might reflect, some of you, some years ago he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. It was for his work in agriculture. He started the Green Revolution. It was he that led out with the education, the expertise, the research to feed the world. He is credited with a billion people, saved their lives, fed the world—it has been quite a thing.

I happened to be serving in the Iowa legislature at the time. I was appropriations chair, and it looked like the World Food Prize was going to disappear. We saw the opportunity to bring it to Iowa. A great benefactor, which Mr. LATHAM knows, too, Mr. John Ruan II, saw the need to keep this alive, and so put forth the effort in a hard time in our country, and we called it the agricultural crisis of those days, and was willing to put forth. We started out with a little public-private partnership working together with the understanding that the Ruan family, which they have done, would take it over and run with it. Well, they have.

Dr. Borlaug was the first awardee of the World Food Prize 20 years ago in Iowa, and wow, what an appropriate person to receive this honor. It has been ongoing. Ambassador Quinn, a former ambassador at the State Department for years, serves with distinction as the administrator and CEO of the World Food Prize. It is something we are very proud of in the United States of America. We are very proud of it in our State of Iowa. It is a worthy thing.

We think of our State of Iowa and the surrounding States as the food basket of our country, and so we have a World Food Prize. This is something

that we ought to do to identify Dr. Borlaug. He is in his nineties. He is still very vital and vibrant and eloquent in his presentations, and the things he has done to reach out around the world with young people is most impressive. We have a great program and he is right in the middle of it and still providing a wonderful service, a wonderful example of what we would like to see coming from our country.

Of course, we are very proud, Tom and I and all of us in the delegation, of our State. I might add that our new Members, Mr. Braley and Mr. Lobsack, very much if they were able to would be signed on to this resolution as well, and I wanted to make note of that.

So I rise in support of Senate 2250, a tribute to Dr. Norman Borlaug. I would hope that every one of us would make this a unanimous thing, a great American, a great cause, and this is the highest recognition we can give, and we ought to do it.

I am very proud of my fellow Iowan Dr. Borlaug. He is a great humanitarian who has been credited with saving one billion lives. His research and work changed production agriculture, as we know it today. Dr. Borlaug's life has been marked with many accomplishments; one such accomplishment was founding the World Food Prize, which is located in Des Moines, Iowa. The World Food Prize recognizes contributions by individuals who have worked to improve the quality, quantity and availability of the world food supply. I am proud to say the Prize celebrated its 20th anniversary this year.

I would also like to recognize the Ruan family. When the World Food Prize was in trouble the Ruan family created a trust that would support the World Food Prize, patterned after the Nobel Peace Prize. This happened and I am pleased to report that the Ruan family, now under the leadership of John III, has fulfilled their pledge and the World Food Prize is a vital entity that we are very proud of.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM), the sponsor of the identical legislation, H.R. 4924.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for recognizing me and Mr. FRANK for his kind words about the great State of Iowa and I thank Mr. BOSWELL very much for the kind words, a great friend.

I really would like to, first of all, thank the Speaker and the majority leader for allowing this bill to come to the floor today. It is extraordinarily important that we do recognize this great humanitarian.

I would also like to thank my staff who has worked for weeks and weeks on this to get the support that is needed to bring a provision like this to the floor. It is very much appreciated.

Dr. Norman Borlaug truly is an American superhero and really not that many people have heard of him because he has worked very quietly behind the scenes. He has done great things but he is someone who does not seek recognition.

His campaign to save the lives of the world's neediest people through agricultural science deserves this very, very special recognition. How many lives has he saved? Dr. Borlaug's innovative leadership in plant breeding and agricultural production is credited with saving the lives of nearly one billion people. That is right, one billion people.

It was back in 1944 when he was given the task, like Mrs. BIGGERT mentioned, of researching high-yield, disease-resistant cereal grains to help feed the neediest people, and through all of his efforts he was successful in developing varieties of wheat that completely altered agriculture as we know it in places like Pakistan, India, Mexico, Central America.

The wheat variety he developed has allowed those farmers to produce far more grain than they ever thought possible in those regions. This bounty gave the poorest people of the world an opportunity to be fed and, most importantly, to ensure that their children were not suffering from malnutrition and starvation.

He was the person that is credited with developing the Green Revolution, which changed agriculture, changed food production worldwide. He truly is a legendary figure with the agricultural community, and his name is well-known all across the world.

I am very proud of the fact that Dr. Borlaug was born and raised in my district in Cresco, Iowa, and is known locally as a very modest man who once talked about his accomplishments, and again, as a quote, "a temporary success in man's war against hunger and deprivation."

It is almost 40 years since the Nobel Peace Prize was given to Dr. Borlaug. Today, at age 92, he continues to work for improvement in mankind, and for this reason, I introduced H.R. 4924, a companion bill to the underlying measure, Senate 2250, which is a bill to award this great humanitarian, Dr. Norman Borlaug, the Congressional Gold Medal for his lifetime of service to the world.

I know there are many in Congress who do not think about the progress we have made in production agriculture and are probably unaware of the countless contributions made by agricultural scientists like Dr. Norman Borlaug. Dr. Borlaug's leadership has inspired so many young people to enter agricultural sciences today, and his legacy will go on forever, with his forethought and his innovation.

It really is his work and the work of future innovators that will live on in the lives who have been spared so much misery from starvation, and I respectfully urge my colleagues to support the underlying bill so that we can officially recognize this great humanitarian, Dr. Norman Borlaug.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, in this Congress I run out of Iowans before the other side does. So I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman also from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), and he has been a great leader and we will miss him in Congress.

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Mr. LEACH. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I want to thank very much the chairman-to-be of the Financial Services Committee for his cooperation in bringing this forth.

And I might say to the chairman-to-be that I understand that you are thinking of a theme of being pro-business with an emphasis on fairness. I think that is a very appropriate theme, and I wish you every success. This Congress has a vested interest in seeing that the next Congress works well, so I wish you well.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LEACH. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I just want to express my appreciation. Those words coming from someone I admire as much as I admire the gentleman from Iowa, they mean a great deal. I guess I would say I have never been less happy to see my side win.

Mr. LEACH. I appreciate that very much. Thank you.

I also want to thank TOM LATHAM. TOM is a wonderful friend, and he has pursued this particular measure for an American citizen that fits all of our definitions of a hero. That is particularly the perspective of all Iowans and I am sure all Americans when we think about Dr. Borlaug's career.

I would only like to make one philosophical contribution to this debate, and that is that Dr. Borlaug has been awarded the Nobel Prize for the green revolution, the notion of pure science being used to expand the production of food crops of various kinds to make it possible for people in the world to have nourishment. But it is the same science that goes into expanding biological crops that allows crops to be used for energy, and so the same science that has produced the green revolution is also producing a black evolution, the idea that food can also be used for petroleum substitutes.

We are today facing a challenge of judgment as well as a challenge of new biology, which Dr. Borlaug is also continuing to work in, that there may not be enough crops that go around for both food and fuel. But, fortunately, it is not exactly an either/or; that is, the same kernels of corn can be used for extracting ethanol as well as producing a food additive for cattle. But we are going to have to continue to develop new techniques to increase yields.

That is what is happening in many great institutions in this country, such as Iowa State University, the University of Missouri, Purdue, Minnesota, et cetera, and we are very proud of that effort.

Dr. Borlaug stands on the shoulders of prior scientists. One from Iowa who

we are also very proud of Henry Wallace, actually is the father of the movement which Dr. Borlaug pursued. It was Henry Wallace's idea to establish a research facility in Mexico in the early 1940s. That idea was brought by the then Vice-President to the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation who then chose Dr. Borlaug to head this research effort.

We in Iowa are naturally proud of the role that Iowa scientists have played. That role has been played with the help, to some degree, of government and, to a greater degree, of private charity. So this is a very American initiative and a very American scientific product that this body is honoring today. And it is honoring the leader of it, a gentleman who began his young life as many noble gentlemen begin, as a wrestler. As a wrestler from Cresco, a great Iowa wrestling town, Dr. Borlaug competed in the scientific arena where he has achieved as great merit as any scientist in this country in the 20th century.

We in Iowa are immensely proud, and I would like to thank TOM LATHAM, the leadership for allowing this bill to come forth, and the bipartisan spirit in which it is brought before us today.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that the typically thoughtful intervention by the gentleman from Iowa who often brought to our deliberations more than was there before he did, it is just one reason why I will miss him. And as the gentleman knows, I have previously been an advocate for the country making great use of his services. I am torn now, Mr. Speaker, between expressing my hope that the administration will find a way to use his services for the country, and my fear that my saying so will make that less likely.

Given that dilemma, I guess that is as much as I will say.

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. I would recognize the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) for 2 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentlewoman for recognizing me and yielding time to me. And I particularly want to take an opportunity here to thank Congressman JIM LEACH for his years of service to this country and this Congress, and to the thoughtful process that he has brought. There is a legacy left with my friend JIM LEACH here as well as a legacy from Norman Borlaug, and all of us are justifiably proud to be from a State that can produce these kind of people, both JIM LEACH and Norman Borlaug.

I wanted to point out that the work that Norman Borlaug has done to alleviate starvation in the world has put to rest many of the Malthusian arguments that we have heard over the 40 or so years that I have paid attention in the debate and the deliberation in this country: What is the limitation on what we can do to raise food and fiber and energy now for people, not just in

America, but around the world. And I have had the privilege to travel into most of the continents and meet with the people that raise the food and the fiber, and, in our case, the energy in those places. And the fingerprints of Dr. Norman Borlaug are all over this planet, all over this globe, and on the dinner table of everyone with the 6-plus billion people that now inhabit this Earth. We don't know what that limitation might be for the population, but we know it is far greater because of Dr. Norman Borlaug.

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 2250 to pay tribute to Dr. Norman E. Borlaug for his life's work to feed the world's poor.

It is because of Dr. Borlaug's success in developing high-yield and disease resistant cereal grains that billions of the world's poorest people have been fed.

In 1944, Dr. Borlaug's work began when he and his research team were tasked by the Rockefeller Foundation to increase wheat production in Mexico. Through years of cross-breeding thousands of wheat varieties, they were able to develop high-yield dwarf wheat that was resistant to diseases known to cause significant crop damage such as "rust" fungi. As a result, Mexico became self-sufficient in wheat production.

Dr. Borlaug's findings came at a time when dire predictions were being made about the world's population growth and the possibility of mass starvation in poorer parts of the world. But, he continued to build on his findings from his work in Mexico and later worked with researchers in Pakistan and India to give farmers in those countries and regions high-yield dwarf wheat to increase their wheat production. The outreach was successful, and like Mexico, those countries also became self-sufficient in producing wheat.

It is for this work that Dr. Borlaug received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970. When the board was presenting him with the honor, they made the following statement on his humanitarian contributions: "More than any other single person of this age, [he] has helped to provide bread for a hungry world. We have made this choice in the hope that providing bread will also give the world peace."

In today's world, it is easy to get caught up in our everyday lives and to overlook some of the landmark achievements that have made dramatic improvements in the lives of others. In this case, one individual improved the lives of billions of people by giving them access to life-sustaining nourishment.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Borlaug's contributions to help relieve the world's poorest of hunger have saved billions of lives, and have inspired a new generation of researchers in agriculture to continue the fight against hunger. It is for these reasons that I ask my colleagues to support this bill to honor Dr. Borlaug with the Congressional Gold Medal.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2250.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded

in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEXTROMETHORPHAN DISTRIBUTION ACT OF 2006

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5280) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the distribution of the drug dextromethorphan, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5280

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 "Dextromethorphan Distribution Act of 2006".

SEC. 2. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION; RESTRICTIONS ON DISTRIBUTION OF DEXTROMETHORPHAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter A of chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 351 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 503A the following:

"SEC. 503B. RESTRICTIONS ON DISTRIBUTION OF DEXTROMETHORPHAN.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the Dextromethorphan Distribution Act of 2006, the Secretary shall issue a final rule to prohibit the distribution of unfinished dextromethorphan to any person other than a person registered under section 510, subject to subsection (b).

"(b) FURTHER RESTRICTIONS.—Subsection (a) does not restrict the authority of the Secretary under section 201.122 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations.

"(c) UNFINISHED DEXTROMETHORPHAN.—For purposes of this section, the term "unfinished dextromethorphan" means dextromethorphan that is not contained in a drug that is in finished dosage form."

(b) ENFORCEMENT.—Section 301 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 331) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(ii) The distribution of unfinished dextromethorphan in violation of regulations under section 503B."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to rise in favor of H.R. 5280, and I would like to thank Mr. UPTON of Michigan

and Mr. LARSEN of Washington for their work on this important legislation. Dextromethorphan, or DXM as it is sometimes called, is an ingredient found in cough medicine. This ingredient relieves the coughing associated with a cold or the flu. Cough medicines containing this drug are common and can be obtained without a prescription.

While this drug is safe and effective, it is also dangerous if too much is taken. Reports have shown that some segments of the population, particularly young people, will take large amounts of this medicine in an attempt to absorb large amounts of DXM in order to get high. The abuse of this drug can cause death as well as other serious adverse effects such as brain damage, seizures, loss of consciousness, and irregular heartbeat.

The Food and Drug Administration has warned of the rise in the abuse of DXM, and the bill before us here today is an attempt to stem this abuse.

H.R. 5280 would allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to prohibit the distribution of DXM that is in bulk form to any person not registered with the FDA. It is hoped that these restrictions on the distribution of DXM will lower the potential for its abuse, while at the same time protecting the public health.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5280, the Dextromethorphan Distribution Act of 2006, a bill that would authorize the FDA to restrict the distribution of dex to registered producers of drugs and devices in order to protect the public health.

We know it is cold and flu season, and throughout our Nation pharmacies and convenience store shelves are stocked with over-the-counter medicines containing dex. Dex is an active ingredient in many over-the-counter OTC cough and cold medications. When used as directed, dex has proven to be an effective cough suppressant. Unfortunately, an alarming number of Americans, particularly teenagers, are abusing a variety of prescription over-the-counter OTC medications to get high, including those containing dex. Efforts to keep dex out of the hands of minors have proved difficult. Over-the-counter medicines containing dex are easy to find, easy to afford, and perfectly legal to possess. H.R. 5280 attempts to curb dex's misuse and abuse by restricting its access to registered producers of drugs and devices and providing the FDA with statutory tools to keep dex out of the hands of young people. This legislation is aimed at preventing drug dealers from purchasing dex wholesale and selling over the Internet and on the streets to young people seeking a cheap high.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is merely one step. Parents and guardians must continue the often difficult task of talking with our young people about drug misuse and abuse. Even if your child does