

in April of this year. Bill was a tireless advocate for the Law Library, and this legislation is a fitting way to honor his memory.

The Law Library of Congress maintains a unique and world-renowned collection. This bill will help ensure that the Law Library will have the resources needed to maintain and expand its collections while at the same time modernizing its systems. The act authorizes, number one, \$3.5 million for maintaining and administering the operations of the Law Library, including the cataloging of the collections of the Law Library; two, a line item for the Law Library to ensure the autonomy and ability to improve the Law Library; and, three, the creation of the William Orton Program to provide enhanced or special services and programs for the Library and otherwise support the mission of the Law Library.

The Library may carry out the program through agreements and partnerships entered into with other government and private entities, including the American Association of Law Libraries and the American Bar Association. Donations of funds and in-kind contributions in support of the program may be accepted, and it requires an annual report.

Finally, H.R. 2728 was amended by the House Administration Committee; and during markup, we made a change in the name of the Law Library to the National Law Library to increase the role and status of the Law Library. This bill authorizes to be appropriated for the program an amount equal to 40 percent of the amount of the donations accepted by the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board in support of the program. This is a 60/40 private-public split. The Law Library is an invaluable resource both to the Congress and the Nation, and we have an obligation to future generations to provide for its continuation through the establishment of the William Orton Program.

Some of the organizations that are supporting this bill include the American Bar Association, the American Association of Law Libraries, and the Northern California Association of Law Libraries.

Now, why is this bill important to the point that myself and my colleague from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) have actually spent several years working on this? Not only is this collection unique in the United States and important to the rule of law in the United States; this collection is important to the world. And I will give you an example why. When the Taliban was finally expelled from government in Afghanistan, the people of Afghanistan looked to reinstitute the rule of law; and the only place where Afghani law could be found was in the Law Library at the Library of Congress in the United States. It was through that collection that we were able to help in that civil way in the reinstitution of the rule of law.

I would just like to say one further word about the late Bill Orton. After he left the Congress, he went back into private practice, but he always volunteered his time. He spent countless hours with the bar association and others, coming and trying to help the Law Library.

He understood that it wasn't flashy, but it was important. Actually, that's just like Bill, a guy who wasn't flashy but who was serious and did important things for his country. I can remember sitting on this floor next to then-Congressman Bill Orton, discussing the issues of the day while he had his young son Will sitting on his lap. Many times during State of the Union speeches, young Will would be there with his dad.

I hope that in addition to doing these good things through passing this bill that Will and the rest of his family can take satisfaction that Bill Orton's name will forever be associated with this Law Library, and we will always be in his debt for what he has done.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I am pleased to rise in support of the bill that will pave the way for the Law Library at the Library of Congress to more fully serve this community, the legal community, academia and the public. The Law Library has one of the greatest collections of legal documents in the world, unparalleled in its breadth and depth.

The collection is so significant and diverse that following removing the Taliban from power in Afghanistan, as was suggested by my colleague from California, the Afghani people turned to the Library of Congress' archives to find a copy of the laws and Constitution of their country, Afghanistan.

Not much more than a year ago, in May 2008, a good friend and colleague of ours, the late Representative Bill Orton of Utah, appeared before the House Appropriations Committee and delivered compelling testimony toward the importance of properly funding this Law Library. It is, therefore, fitting that it is in his honor that we move this bill forward today.

Among Bill Orton's arguments for passionate support of the Law Library, perhaps two are most salient: the manner in which the current budgetary scheme forces the Library of Congress to balance the various departments against one another and the pressing need for an avenue to facilitate and dedicate private support for this Law Library. The American Bar Association, in a letter this month to the House of Representatives, echoed Bill Orton's testimony, explaining that the spreading of budgetary shortfalls has led at times to the neglect of particular portions of collections. For example, the ABA highlights the fact that the Law Library's loose leaf subscriptions are months out of date.

At the time of his testimony, Bill Orton appeared as a representative of

the American Bar Association, which is dedicated and committed to specifically address the maintenance, accessibility and relevance of the Law Library. When pressed as to whether the legal community would pitch in as a partner in financially supporting the Law Library, his response was emphatically, Yes.

With the passage of this bill, we enable our partners in the legal community to fulfill that commitment, and we give them an avenue through which that can be done.

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More personally, this bill serves as a tribute to our late colleague, Bill Orton. During his service in this body, he was a passionate advocate for the law library and its many resources. He recognized the value of the careful stewardship of the law library's institutional mission. And so I hope that with our vote today, we will move that much closer to seeing the goal of Bill Orton realized.

I urge my colleagues, therefore, to join me in supporting the memory of Bill Orton, the mission of the law library, and this bill.

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

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, before yielding back, I would simply thank the gentleman from California for being my partner in this effort. I thank, again, the members of the House Administration Committee for working with us. And remember, once again, our colleague, Bill Orton, who was such a fine person, who did so much in his life. I know that his sons, Will and Wesley, and his wife, Jacquelyn, were very proud of him, and I know that they will take satisfaction that his volunteerism is being recognized through this effort today.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2728, 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. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam 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.

PROVIDING FOR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF PAYDAY CHANGES

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules

and pass the bill (H.R. 1752) to provide that the usual day for paying salaries in or under the House of Representatives may be established by regulations of the Committee on House Administration, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1752

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY OF COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH DAY FOR PAYING SALARIES IN OR UNDER THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Section 116(a) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2002 (2 U.S.C. 60d-1) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "Notwithstanding the previous sentence, the Committee on House Administration may by regulation provide for the payment of salaries with respect to a month on a date other than the date provided under the previous sentence as may be necessary to conform to generally accepted accounting practices."

SEC. 2. MEMBERSHIP IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EXERCISE FACILITY FOR ACTIVE DUTY ARMED FORCES MEMBERS ASSIGNED TO CONGRESSIONAL LIAISON OFFICE.

House Resolution 1068, One Hundred Tenth Congress, agreed to April 15, 2008, is enacted into law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the principal purpose of this legislation is to allow the Committee on House Administration to oversee and administer a payday schedule for all staff in the House of Representatives. It does not affect pay for Members.

The House passed a similar bill in the 110th Congress. This bill gives the Committee on House Administration the ability to set the day of pay for House employees. This flexibility will allow the committee to be more responsive to the needs of our employees, many of whom have expressed their frustration about the current system. Furthermore, this bill will give us the opportunity to be more consistent with employees in the Senate, the executive branch, and most of the private sector with regard to paydays.

The committee also adopted a technical amendment to provide that staff members of congressional liaison offices assigned to the House who are on active duty in the Armed Forces will

continue to be eligible to apply for membership in the House of Representatives staff exercise facility. The House passed a resolution, H. Res. 1068, in the 110th Congress which approved this policy, and the bill before us simply would enact it into permanent law.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 1752, which will vest in the Committee on House Administration the authority to evaluate and implement best practices to improve efficiency in our payroll process.

The House Inspector General has reported that it may be of benefit to the House to transition to a bimonthly pay cycle with a lag time. Preliminary financial assessments suggest that after incurring up-front transition costs, this change may reduce overpayments over time and reduce errors by more easily distributing the burden of incorporating payment changes into the system.

If the distinguished gentlewoman from California would enter into a colloquy on the subject of exactly how this authority is to be exercised, I would like to stress that the legislation before the House simply grants the Committee on House Administration the authority to change the pay cycle and does not in and of itself authorize any changes. As the gentlewoman is aware, any change to our current operating status with regard to payroll would have a large impact on the daily lives of House staff. It is thus important that the committee granting this authority will act cautiously and only after soliciting and evaluating the feedback of the House community.

I understand on the majority side that you would be willing to work with us to ensure that the opinions of House staff are gathered and considered prior to any potential change in the pay cycle.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. The gentleman is correct. We would be delighted to work with him on that.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I appreciate that very much.

With that, Madam Speaker, I would urge support for this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1752, 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. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam 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.

ABSENTEE BALLOT TRACK, RECEIVE, AND CONFIRM ACT

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2510) to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to reimburse States for the costs incurred in establishing a program to track and confirm the receipt of voted absentee ballots in elections for Federal office and make information on the receipt of such ballots available by means of on-line access, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2510

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 "Absentee Ballot Track, Receive, and Confirm Act".

SEC. 2. REIMBURSEMENT FOR COSTS INCURRED IN ESTABLISHING PROGRAM TO TRACK AND CONFIRM RECEIPT OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS.

(a) REIMBURSEMENT.—Subtitle D of title II of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15401 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new part:

"PART 7—PAYMENTS TO REIMBURSE STATES FOR COSTS INCURRED IN ESTABLISHING PROGRAM TO TRACK AND CONFIRM RECEIPT OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS

"SEC. 297. PAYMENTS TO STATES.

"(a) PAYMENTS FOR COSTS OF ESTABLISHING PROGRAM.—In accordance with this section, the Commission shall make a payment to a State to reimburse the State for the costs incurred in establishing, if the State so chooses to establish, an absentee ballot tracking program with respect to elections for Federal office held in the State (including costs incurred prior to the date of the enactment of this part).

"(b) ABSENTEE BALLOT TRACKING PROGRAM DESCRIBED.—

"(1) PROGRAM DESCRIBED.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—In this part, an 'absentee ballot tracking program' is a program to track and confirm the receipt of absentee ballots in an election for Federal office under which the State or local election official responsible for the receipt of voted absentee ballots in the election carries out procedures to track and confirm the receipt of such ballots, and makes information on the receipt of such ballots available to the individual who cast the ballot, by means of on-line access using the Internet site of the official's office.

"(B) INFORMATION ON WHETHER VOTE WAS COUNTED.—The information referred to under subparagraph (A) with respect to the receipt of an absentee ballot shall include information regarding whether the vote cast on the ballot was counted, and, in the case of a vote which was not counted, the reasons therefor.

"(2) USE OF TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER BY OFFICIALS WITHOUT INTERNET SITE.—A program established by a State or local election official whose office does not have an Internet site may meet the description of a program under paragraph (1) if the official has