

it doesn't. That is why we need to pass this bill. If we don't, prisoners eligible for payments from before they were in jail may soon receive a lump sum retroactive check, some covering back benefits over 3 or 4 years.

Thanks in large part to the work of my Ways and Means colleague, WALLY HERGER, those with outstanding felony arrest warrants, known as fugitive felons, have not been able to receive supplemental security income, Social Security, or Social Security disability benefits.

According to the Office of the Inspector General, their data-sharing efforts with local, State, and Federal law enforcement agencies contributed to over 83,000 arrests since the program's inception in 1996. While well-intentioned, the Martinez settlement nevertheless requires Social Security to pay benefits that had been suspended. And as a result, taxpayers are now on the hook for millions of dollars. We can and we must do better.

I look forward to working with Chairman TANNER to right this wrong and draft legislation to suspend payments for those fugitives wanted for the most heinous crimes while permitting lenience in cases where good cause exemptions make sense.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TANNER. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. At this time, I'd like to recognize and yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER), a member of the Ways and Means Committee and one of our staunch allies, as much time as he may consume.

Mr. HERGER. I thank my good friend from Texas.

I rise today to discuss an issue I have been involved with for many years.

The landmark 1996 welfare reform included legislation I drafted that denies fugitive felons, along with probation and parole violators, Supplemental Security Income checks. GAO long recognized those SSI disability payments were at a high risk for fraud and abuse and encouraged Congress to act. Subsequent legislation expanded that 1996 ban to include certain Social Security checks. These provisions have been successful in saving millions of taxpayer dollars and have assisted law enforcement in making over 86,000 arrests and getting felons off the street, including a man wanted in Texas for 20 counts of child molestation.

Due to a recent court action, however, the Social Security Administration now is required to ban payments only to fugitive felons issued a warrant for trying to escape arrest rather than the broader group of fugitives with an outstanding felony arrest warrant. That action also compels SSA to restore benefits denied earlier, which will result in large retroactive payments of as much as \$30,000 per individual. Not only will this cost taxpayers millions of dollars, but I'm deeply concerned that the effectiveness of the program

we set up in 1996 could be greatly reduced.

The bill before us would immediately prevent checks for past-due Social Security and SSI benefits from being sent to currently incarcerated individuals, including checks that, without this action, could pay inmates tens of thousands of dollars while they are behind bars. Thus, the bill before us is a step in the right direction of addressing issues created by the court decision.

But there are more steps to take.

Following release of an October 2009 report from the SSA Inspector General that brought to light concerns with SSA's fugitive felon policy, I joined other Ways and Means members in requesting additional information on how SSA has used the good cause exemptions it is already allowed to make in certain cases. I believe the Social Security Administration should continue to suspend payments for those fugitives wanted based on the most heinous crimes while using the authority it already has to make good cause exemptions as appropriate.

As the legislation before us suggests, many of those made eligible for disability payments under the recent court action continue to break the law and can and do wind up in jail, costing taxpayers thousands of dollars.

I look forward to the Inspector General's response to our inquiry so that Congress can determine the best way forward to improve this important program and prevent the misuse of taxpayer dollars while protecting those who truly merit relief.

Let's stop these payments from going to prisoners today, and then keep working to ensure the right people are getting the right benefits and that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely to help only those truly in need.

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. JOHNSON for working with us on this.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. 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 Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4218.

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.

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. Res. 845, by the yeas and nays;
- H.R. 2278, by the yeas and nays;
- H. Res. 915, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 907, by the yeas and nays.

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

RECOGNIZING THE AIR FORCE AND DYESS AIR FORCE BASE ON ACHIEVING ENERGY SAVINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 845, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 845, as amended.

This will be a 15-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 409, nays 0, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 935]

YEAS—409

Ackerman	Carter	Fattah
Aderholt	Cassidy	Flinter
Adler (NJ)	Castle	Flake
Akin	Castor (FL)	Fleming
Alexander	Chaffetz	Forbes
Altmire	Chandler	Fortenberry
Andrews	Childers	Foster
Austria	Chu	Fox
Baca	Clarke	Frank (MA)
Bachmann	Clay	Franks (AZ)
Bachus	Cleaver	Frelinghuysen
Baird	Clyburn	Fudge
Baldwin	Coble	Gallegly
Barrow	Coffman (CO)	Garamendi
Bartlett	Cohen	Garrett (NJ)
Barton (TX)	Cole	Gerlach
Bean	Conaway	Giffords
Becerra	Connolly (VA)	Gingrey (GA)
Berkley	Conyers	Gohmert
Berry	Cooper	Gonzalez
Biggert	Costa	Goodlatte
Bilbray	Costello	Gordon (TN)
Bilirakis	Courtney	Granger
Bishop (GA)	Crenshaw	Graves
Bishop (NY)	Crowley	Grayson
Bishop (UT)	Cuellar	Green, Al
Blackburn	Culberson	Green, Gene
Blumenauer	Cummings	Griffith
Blunt	Dahlkemper	Guthrie
Boccheri	Davis (CA)	Gutierrez
Boehner	Davis (IL)	Hall (NY)
Bonner	Davis (KY)	Hall (TX)
Boozman	Davis (TN)	Halvorson
Boren	Deal (GA)	Hare
Boswell	DeFazio	Harman
Boustany	DeGette	Harper
Boyd	Delahunt	Hastings (FL)
Brady (PA)	DeLauro	Hastings (WA)
Brady (TX)	Dent	Heinrich
Braleley (IA)	Diaz-Balart, L.	Heller
Bright	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hensarling
Brown (SC)	Dicks	Herger
Brown, Corrine	Dingell	Herseth Sandlin
Brown-Waite,	Doggett	Higgins
Ginny	Donnelly (IN)	Hill
Buchanan	Doyle	Himes
Burgess	Dreier	Hincheey
Burton (IN)	Driehaus	Hinojosa
Butterfield	Duncan	Hirono
Buyer	Edwards (MD)	Hodes
Calvert	Edwards (TX)	Holden
Camp	Ehlers	Holt
Campbell	Ellison	Honda
Cantor	Ellsworth	Hoyer
Cao	Emerson	Hunter
Capito	Engel	Inglis
Capps	Eshoo	Inslie
Cardoza	Etheridge	Israel
Carnahan	Fallin	Issa
Carson (IN)	Farr	Jackson (IL)