

holds these unfortunate prisoners of war for the last 17 years to exert every effort to have them finally released. This action is long overdue.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today, for the second time this year, the House is considering H.R. 1175. This legislation, introduced by my distinguished colleague from California, Mr. LANTOS, would help to locate Zachary Baumel, an American citizen and other Israeli soldiers missing in action since 1982.

On June 22, 1999 the House sent a strong message by passing H.R. 1175 with 415 votes in support of the bill. Today, the House has a chance to pass this legislation—as amended by the Senate—and send it to the President for his signature.

I believe that the Administration is concerned about the fate of these brave soldiers. However, it has been five years since the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz and others are still missing. Passage of this legislation will ensure that the Department of State raises this case on an urgent basis with all appropriate governments and authorities.

Whenever American citizens or allies of the United States are taken during conflict, we must do everything possible to obtain their release or information as to their fate. My constituents agree. Over the past several months, I have received many letters and phone calls from individuals who are concerned about this issue, requesting that I do everything possible to ensure passage of this legislation. I urge all members to vote in support of this important measure.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to voice my support for H.R. 1175, which would authorize an investigation into the disappearance of an American citizen, Zachary Baumel. It has been seventeen years since this young man, serving in the Israeli army, was captured along with the four other members of his tank battalion, in a battle with Palestinian and Syrian forces near the Lebanese town of Sultan Yaqub.

H.R. 1175 directs the Department of State to investigate the cases of Mr. Baumel, and two other soldiers, Yehuda Katz, and Zvi Feldman. The last known whereabouts of these soldiers was in Syrian-controlled territory, under the care of a Palestinian faction splintered from the PLO. As diplomatic efforts to secure the release of these men have been periodically unsuccessful to date, this legislation directs the State Department to discuss this matter on an urgent basis with officials of Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, and other appropriate governments.

The bill makes a simple request of the President, that when he is considering whether or not to provide economic assistance to these countries, that he weigh and measure the willingness of these governments and authorities to assist in locating and securing the release of these men.

Mr. Speaker, the family of Zachary Baumel has been through incredible pain and uncertainty for these last seventeen years. Their hopes have been lifted in key times of negotiation, such as the Oslo Accords—yet to no avail.

It is time that our country take another real and substantive step in requesting action on behalf of these middle eastern governments. These young men and their families deserve no less.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 1175.

The question was taken.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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.

STATISTICAL EFFICIENCY ACT OF 1999

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2885) to provide uniform safeguards for the confidentiality of information acquired for exclusively statistical purposes, and to improve the efficiency and quality of the Federal statistics and Federal statistical programs by permitting limited sharing of records among designated agencies for statistical purposes under strong safeguards, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2885

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 "Statistical Efficiency Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act:

(1) The term "agency" means any entity that falls within the definition of the term "executive agency" as defined in section 102 of title 31, United States Code, or "agency", as defined in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

(2) The term "agent" means a person who—

(A) is designated by a Statistical Data Center (as designated in section 3) to perform exclusively statistical activities authorized by law under the supervision or control of an officer or employee of that Statistical Data Center; and

(B) has agreed in writing to comply with all provisions of law that affect information acquired by that Statistical Data Center.

(3) The term "identifiable form" means any representation of information that permits information concerning individual subjects to be reasonably inferred by either direct or indirect means.

(4) The term "nonstatistical purpose" means any purpose that is not a statistical purpose, and includes any administrative, regulatory, law enforcement, adjudicatory, or other purpose that affects the rights, privileges, or benefits of a particular identifiable respondent.

(5) The term "respondent" means a person who, or organization that, is requested or re-

quired to supply information to an agency, is the subject of information requested or required to be supplied to an agency, or who provides that information to an agency.

(6) The term "statistical activities"—

(A) means the collection, compilation, processing, or analysis of data for the purpose of describing or making estimates concerning the whole, or relevant groups or components within, the economy, society, or natural environment; and

(B) includes the development of methods or resources that support those activities, such as measurement methods, models, statistical classifications, or sampling frames.

(7) The term "statistical purpose"—

(A) means the description, estimation, or analysis of the characteristics of groups without regard to the identities of individuals or organizations that comprise such groups; and

(B) includes the development, implementation, or maintenance of methods, technical or administrative procedures, or information resources that support such purposes.

SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF STATISTICAL DATA CENTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each of the following is hereby designated as a Statistical Data Center:

(1) The Bureau of Economic Analysis in the Department of Commerce.

(2) The Bureau of the Census in the Department of Commerce.

(3) The Bureau of Labor Statistics in the Department of Labor.

(4) The National Agricultural Statistics Service in the Department of Agriculture.

(5) The National Center for Education Statistics in the Department of Education.

(6) The National Center for Health Statistics in the Department of Health and Human Services.

(7) The Energy Consumption Division of the Energy Information Administration in the Department of Energy.

(8) The Division of Science Resources Studies in the National Science Foundation.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In the case of a reorganization that eliminates, or substantially alters the mission or functions of, an agency or agency component listed in subsection (a), the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, after consultation with the head of the agency proposing the reorganization, may designate an agency or agency component that shall serve as a successor Statistical Data Center under the terms of this Act, if the Director determines that—

(1) the primary activities of the proposed Statistical Data Center are statistical activities specifically authorized by law;

(2) the proposed Statistical Data Center would participate in data sharing activities that significantly improve Federal statistical programs or products;

(3) the proposed Statistical Data Center has demonstrated its capability to protect the individual confidentiality of any shared data; and

(4) the laws that apply to the proposed Statistical Data Center are not inconsistent with this Act.

(c) NOTICE AND COMMENT.—The head of an agency seeking designation as a successor Statistical Data Center under this section shall, after consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, provide public notice and an opportunity to comment on the consequences of such designation and on those determinations upon which the designation is proposed to be based.

(d) PROHIBITION AGAINST INCREASE IN NUMBER OF CENTERS.—No action taken under this section shall increase the number of Statistical Data Centers authorized by this Act.

SEC. 4. STATISTICAL DATA CENTER RESPONSIBILITIES.

The Statistical Data Centers designated in section 3 shall—

(1) identify opportunities to eliminate duplication and otherwise reduce reporting burden and cost imposed on the public by sharing information for exclusively statistical purposes;

(2) enter into joint statistical projects to improve the quality and reduce the cost of statistical programs;

(3) safeguard the confidentiality of individually identifiable information acquired for statistical purposes by assuring its physical security and by controlling access to, and uses made of, such information; and

(4) respect the rights and privileges of the public by observing and promoting fair information practices.

SEC. 5. LIMITATIONS ON USE AND DISCLOSURE OF DATA AND INFORMATION BY STATISTICAL DATA CENTERS.

(a) **USE OF STATISTICAL DATA OR INFORMATION.**—Data or information acquired by a Statistical Data Center for exclusively statistical purposes shall be used by the Center only for statistical purposes.

(b) **DISCLOSURE OF STATISTICAL DATA OR INFORMATION.**—Data or information acquired for exclusively statistical purposes shall not be disclosed in identifiable form, for any purpose other than a statistical purpose, without the informed consent of the respondent.

(c) **RULE FOR USE OF DATA OR INFORMATION FOR NONSTATISTICAL PURPOSES.**—A Statistical Data Center shall clearly distinguish any data or information collected for nonstatistical purposes (as authorized by law) by the Statistical Data Center by a rule that provides that the respondent supplying the data or information is fully informed, before the data or information is collected, that the data or information will be used for nonstatistical purposes.

SEC. 6. DISCLOSURE OF DATA OR INFORMATION BY AGENCIES TO STATISTICAL DATA CENTERS.

(a) **AGENCIES THAT MAY DISCLOSE DATA OR INFORMATION TO A STATISTICAL DATA CENTER.**—Subject to subsection (b), any Federal agency may disclose data or information to one or more Statistical Data Centers for exclusively statistical purposes.

(b) **LIMITATIONS ON DISCLOSURE.**—Data or information may be disclosed by an agency to one or more Statistical Data Centers under subsection (a) only if—

(1) the data or information are to be used exclusively for statistical purposes by the Statistical Data Center or Centers;

(2) the disclosure of, and proposed use of, the data or information by the Statistical Data Center is not inconsistent with any provisions of law or Executive order that explicitly limit the statistical purposes for which such data or information may be used;

(3) the disclosure is not prohibited by law or Executive order in the interest of national security;

(4) the disclosure is made under the terms of a written agreement between the Statistical Data Center or Centers and the agency supplying the data or information that specifies—

(A) the data or information to be disclosed;

(B) the purposes for which the data or information are to be used; and

(C) appropriate security procedures to safeguard the confidentiality of the data or information; and

(5) the data or information is not disclosed by that Center in identifiable form (except in a case in which the data or information was collected directly by a party to the agreement referred to in subsection (b)(4), and the agreement specifies that the data or information may be so disclosed to another party to the agreement for exclusively statistical purposes).

(c) **NOTICE.**—Whenever a written agreement authorized under subsection (b)(4) concerns

data that respondents were required by law to report and the agreement contains terms that could not reasonably have been anticipated by respondents who provided the data that will be disclosed, or upon the initiative of any party to such an agreement, or whenever ordered by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the terms of such agreement shall be described in a public notice issued by the agency that intends to disclose the data. Such notice shall allow a minimum of 60 days for public comment before such agreement shall take effect. The Director shall be fully apprised of any issues raised by the public and may suspend the effect of such an agreement to permit modifications responsive to public comments.

(d) **APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS.**—(1) The disclosure of data or information by an agency to a Statistical Data Center under this section shall in no way alter the responsibility of that agency under other statutes (including the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act) with respect to the disclosure or withholding of such information by that agency.

(2) If data or information obtained by an agency is disclosed to another agency pursuant to this section, all provisions of law (including penalties) that relate to the unlawful disclosure of the data or information apply to the officers, employees, or agents of the agency to which the data or information is disclosed to the same extent and in the same manner as the provisions apply to the officers and employees of the agency which originally obtained the information.

(3) The officers, employees, and agents of the agency to which the data or information is disclosed, in addition, shall be subject to the same provisions of law, including penalties, relating to the unlawful disclosure of information that would apply to officers and employees of that agency, if the information had been collected directly by that agency.

SEC. 7. COORDINATION AND OVERSIGHT BY OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall coordinate and oversee the confidentiality and disclosure policies established by this Act.

(b) **REPORT OF DISCLOSURE AGREEMENTS.**—(1) The head of a Statistical Data Center shall report to the Office of Management and Budget—

(A) each disclosure agreement entered into pursuant to section 6(b)(4);

(B) the results of any review of information security undertaken at the request of the Office of Management and Budget; and

(C) the results of any similar review undertaken on the initiative of the Statistical Data Center or an agency disclosing data or information to a Statistical Data Center.

(2) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall include a summary of all reports submitted to the Director under this subsection and any actions taken by the Director to advance the purposes of this Act in the annual report to the Congress on statistical programs submitted in accordance with section 3504(e)(2) of title 44, United States Code.

(c) **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF RULES.**—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall review and approve any rules proposed pursuant to this Act for consistency with this Act and chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code.

SEC. 8. IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subsections (b) and (c), the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, or the head of a Statistical Data Center or of an agency providing information to a Center, may promulgate such rules as may be necessary to implement this Act.

(b) **CONSISTENCY.**—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall promulgate

rules or provide such other guidance as may be needed to ensure consistent interpretation of this Act by the affected agencies.

(c) **AGENCY RULES.**—Rules governing disclosures of information authorized by this Act shall be promulgated by the agency that originally collected the information, subject to the review and approval required under this Act.

SEC. 9. EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.

(a) **TITLE 44 U.S.C.**—This Act, including the amendments made by this Act, does not diminish the authority under section 3510 of title 44, United States Code, of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to direct, and of an agency to make, disclosures that are not inconsistent with any applicable law.

(b) **EXEMPTION FROM FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.**—Data or information acquired for exclusively statistical purposes as provided in section 5 is exempt from mandatory disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code, pursuant to section 552(b)(3) of such title.

(c) **PREEMPTION OF STATE LAW.**—Nothing in this Act shall preempt applicable State law regarding the confidentiality of data collected by the States.

SEC. 10. CONFORMING AND PROPOSED CHANGES IN LAW.

(a) **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.**—(1) Section 1 of the Act of January 27, 1938 (15 U.S.C 176a) is amended by striking “The” and inserting “Except as provided in the Statistical Efficiency Act of 1999, the”.

(2)(A) Chapter 10 of title 13, United States Code, is amended by adding after section 401 the following:

“§402. Exchange of census information with Statistical Data Centers

“The Bureau of the Census is authorized to provide data collected under this title to Statistical Data Centers named in the Statistical Efficiency Act of 1999, or their successors designated under the terms of that Act.”.

(B) The table of sections for chapter 10 of title 13, United States Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to section 401 the following:

“402. Exchange of census information with Statistical Data Centers.”.

(b) **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.**—(1) Section 205 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (Public Law 95-91; 42 U.S.C. 7135) is amended by adding after subsection (1) the following new subsection:

“(m)(1)(A) The Administrator shall designate an organizational unit to conduct statistical activities pertaining to energy end use consumption information. Using procedures authorized by the Statistical Efficiency Act of 1999, the Administrator shall ensure the security, integrity, and confidentiality of the information that has been submitted in identifiable form and supplied exclusively for statistical purposes either directly to the Energy Information Administration or by other Government agencies.

“(B) To carry out this section, the Administrator shall establish procedures for the disclosure of these data to Statistical Data Centers for statistical purposes only consistent with chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ‘Paperwork Reduction Act’), and the Statistical Efficiency Act of 1999.

“(2)(A) A person may not publish, cause to be published, or otherwise communicate, statistical information designated in paragraph (1) in a manner that identifies any respondent.

“(B) A person may not use statistical information designated in paragraph (1) for a nonstatistical purpose.

“(C) The identity of a respondent who supplies, or is the subject of, information collected for statistical purposes—

“(i) may not be disclosed through any process, including disclosure through legal process, unless the respondent consents in writing;

“(ii) may not be disclosed to the public, unless information has been transformed into a statistical or aggregate form that does not allow the identification of the respondent who supplied the information or who is the subject of that information; and

“(iii) may not, without the written consent of the respondent, be admitted as evidence or used for any purpose in an action, suit, or other judicial or administrative proceeding.

“(D) Any person who violates subparagraphs (A), (B), or (C), upon conviction, shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.

“(E) For purposes of this subsection:

“(i) The term ‘person’ has the meaning given the term in section 1 of title 1, United States Code, but also includes a local, State, or Federal entity or officer or employee of a local, State, or Federal entity.

“(ii) The terms ‘statistical activities’, ‘identifiable form’, ‘statistical purpose’, ‘nonstatistical purpose’, and ‘respondent’ have the meaning given those terms in section 2 of the Statistical Efficiency Act of 1999.

“(3) Statistical information designated in paragraph (1) is exempt from disclosure under sections 205(f) and 407 of this Act and sections 12, 20, and 59 of the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974, or any other law which requires disclosure of that information.”

(2) Section 205(f) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7135) is amended by inserting “, excluding information designated solely for statistical purposes under subsection (m)(1),” after “analysis”.

(3) Section 407(a) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7177(a)) is amended by inserting “, excluding information designated solely for statistical purposes under section 205(m)(1),” after “information”.

(4) The Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-275) is amended—

(A) in section 12 (15 U.S.C. 771), by adding after subsection (f) the following new subsection:

“(g) This section does not apply to information designated solely for statistical purposes under section 205(m)(1) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (Public Law 95-91).”

(B) in section 20(a)(3) (15 U.S.C. 779(a)(3)), by inserting “, excluding information designated solely for statistical purposes under section 205(m)(1) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7135)” after “information”; and

(C) in the first sentence of section 59 (15 U.S.C. 790h), by inserting “, excluding information designated solely for statistical purposes under section 205(m)(1) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7135)” after “information”.

(c) DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.—Section 306 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 242k) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(o) SHARING OF IDENTIFYING INFORMATION FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may, subject to the provisions of paragraph (2), designate as an agent of the Center (within the meaning of section 2 of the Statistical Efficiency Act of 1999) an individual—

“(A) who is not otherwise an employee, official, or agent of the Center; and

“(B) who enters into a written agreement with the Director specifying terms and conditions for sharing of statistical information.

“(2) EFFECT OF DESIGNATION.—An individual designated as an agent of the Center pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be subject to all restrictions on the use and disclosure of statistical information obtained by the individual under the agreement specified in paragraph (1)(B), and to

all civil and criminal penalties applicable to violations of such restrictions, including penalties under section 1905 of title 18, United States Code, that would apply to the individual if an employee of the Center.”

(d) DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.—The Commissioner of Labor Statistics is authorized to designate agents, as defined in section 2.

(e) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—Section 14 of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1873) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (i) to read as follows:

“(i) Information supplied to the Foundation or its contractor in survey forms, questionnaires, or similar instruments for purposes of section 3(a)(5) or (6) by an individual, by an industrial or commercial organization, or by an educational or academic institution that has received a pledge of confidentiality from the Foundation, may not be disclosed to the public unless the information has been transformed into statistical or abstract formats that do not allow the identification of the supplier. Such information shall be used in identifiable form only for statistical purposes as defined in the Statistical Efficiency Act of 1999. The names of individuals and organizations supplying such information may not be disclosed to the public.”

(2) by adding the following new subsection after subsection (i):

“(j) In support of functions authorized by section 3(a)(5) or (6), the Foundation may designate, at its discretion, authorized persons, including employees of Federal, State, or local agencies (including local educational agencies) and employees of private organizations who may have access, for exclusively statistical purposes as defined in the Statistical Efficiency Act of 1999, to identifiable information collected pursuant to section 3(a)(5) or (6). No such person may—

“(1) publish information collected under section 3(a)(5) or (6) in such a manner that either an individual, an industrial or commercial organization, or an educational or academic institution that has received a pledge of confidentiality from the Foundation, can be specifically identified;

“(2) permit anyone other than individuals authorized by the Foundation to examine in identifiable form data relating to an individual, to an industrial or commercial organization, or to an educational or academic institution that has received a pledge of confidentiality from the Foundation; or

“(3) knowingly and willfully request or obtain any confidential information described in subsection (i) from the Foundation under false pretenses.

Any person who violates these restrictions shall be fined not more than \$10,000, or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.”

(f) DISCLOSURE PENALTIES.—Section 1905 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting “, or agent of a Statistical Data Center as defined in the Statistical Efficiency Act of 1999” after “thereof” in the first two places such term appears.

(g) PROPOSED CHANGES IN LAW.—Not later than the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress a description of any additional conforming changes in law necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2885.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Federal statistical structure is currently an assortment of 70 different entities located within 12 cabinet departments within the executive branch of the Federal Government. This fragmented structure compromises the quality of statistical data and wastes limited government resources. It also imposes undue burdens on those who supply information to the Federal Government for statistical purposes.

Federal statistical agencies currently operate under a patchwork of laws and regulations that prevent them from sharing the statistical information they collect. The Bureau of the Census, for example, compiles a list of business establishments. The Bureau of Labor Statistics must compile a similar list because the two agencies cannot share this information.

Similarly, the Department of Agriculture must compile its own list of farms because it does not have access to the list of farms compiled by the Bureau of the Census.

H.R. 2885, the “Statistical Efficiency Act of 1999,” would permit these agencies to share statistical data and, at the same time, would establish a uniform standard to protect the confidentiality of information acquired for statistical purposes.

The bill designates eight Federal agencies as statistical data centers. These agencies were selected because their primary mission is to collect, produce, and disseminate statistical information. Federal agencies would be allowed to disclose data or information to these centers exclusively for statistical purposes.

The bill contains a number of provisions designed to protect the confidentiality of the information collected. Currently, Federal statistical agencies operate under a variety of confidentiality laws ranging from highly restrictive to virtually nonexistent. This bill would create a uniform set of confidentiality protections designed to safeguard statistical information from unauthorized disclosure. Under the bill, data or information acquired for statistical purposes could only be used for statistical purposes.

The disclosure of information to a statistical data center must be consistent with existing laws and must be made under the terms of a written agreement between the agencies supplying the information and the statistical data center. The agreement must

identify the data to be disclosed, the purpose for disclosure, and the procedures to be taken to safeguard the confidentiality of the information.

The bill prohibits the disclosure of data in identifiable form for nonstatistical purposes without the informed consent of the entity or individual who supplied the information. The bill also establishes criminal penalties for unlawful disclosure of this information.

Over the past two Congresses, the Subcommittee on Government Management, Information, and Technology has held three hearings focusing on proposals to improve the efficiency of the Federal statistical system, including the proposal before the House today.

Witnesses at these hearings included representatives from the administration, current and former heads of Federal statistical agencies, representatives of the General Accounting Office, and members from the academic and research communities. All of these witnesses agreed that both the quality and efficiency of the Federal statistical system would be improved by authorizing designated agencies to share statistical information under uniform confidentiality protections.

This legislation, which is similar to legislation proposed by the administration, has broad bipartisan support. Its benefits are equally broad.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important bipartisan measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation and I urge its adoption.

First I want to commend the gentleman from California (Chairman HORN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the ranking member, whose joint work has allowed us to bring this bill to the floor.

We all understand that our Government collects all kind of information. Some would say our government collects too much information. But the truth is much of this information that is collected is used to make very important policy decisions both in the agencies and on the floor of this House. It is important that this information be accurate and that it be readily available.

Yet, today we have no uniform system for the collection of Federal statistics. Eleven major agencies and between 50 and 60 minor agencies spend over \$2 billion every year collecting data with no uniform standards to assure either the accuracy or to protect the privacy and confidentiality of that information.

Some agencies, like the Bureau of the Census, collect information and they hold that information in confidence and that is mandated by current legislative authority. But other

agencies, like the Bureau of Labor Statistics, have a strong tradition of protecting the confidentiality of data but they have no legislative authority to support that practice.

The "Statistical Efficiency Act of 1999" accomplishes two objectives. First of all, it establishes a uniform legislative authority for the protection of information collected for statistical purposes. Second, the legislation establishes a procedure to allow agencies to share information one with the other.

This legislation will improve the efficiency of data collection and it will reduce the burden on individuals and businesses of responding to the mandates of various agencies for essentially the same information.

The first step this bill takes in facilitating data sharing among agencies is to assure the privacy and confidentiality of the information collected. This is accomplished by establishing the basic principle that all data collected for statistical purposes cannot be used for any other purpose.

For example, information collected for statistical purposes cannot be used for the enforcement of regulations or laws. This firewall between statistical purposes and regulatory enforcement is essential in obtaining the cooperation of businesses in reporting financial information.

The second step in the process laid out in this bill is to designate eight agencies involved in the collection of statistics as statistical data centers to facilitate data sharing. Under the terms of the bills, these agencies can establish written agreements for passing individually identifiable information between one another to improve the efficiency of the statistical activities. In addition, these eight agencies can facilitate data sharing among other agencies, again through written agreement.

I would like to note at this point that it is the intent of Congress in defining the term "agent" in this bill to give agencies the authority to swear in individuals who are not employees of the Federal Government as agents to facilitate data sharing. This will allow agencies like the Bureau of Labor Statistics to continue their long-standing relationship with State government for the collection of labor market statistics.

In addition, it will allow agencies to draw on expertise in the private sector for specific projects. These agents will, of course, be subject to the same requirements to protect the confidentiality of data as Federal employees of the agencies involved.

This bill also requires statistical data centers to identify ways to reduce costs and improve efficiency and quality in the Federal statistical system. The bill charges the Director of the Office of Management and Budget with the responsibility for overseeing the

confidentiality and data sharing policies of the act.

□ 1500

Finally, the bill establishes penalties for improper disclosure of information collected for statistical purposes.

H.R. 2885 is strongly supported, as the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) stated, by the administration, and this legislation represents an important step forward in improving the efficiency and quality of data collection. I urge its adoption by this House.

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

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

Since my colleague who has been so helpful on this legislation mentioned the administration's statement of policy, I would like to file that Statement of Administration Policy at this point in the RECORD.

Briefly it says, "The Administration strongly supports House passage of H.R. 2885. The bill will enhance the confidential treatment of information provided to Federal statistical agencies and facilitate the sharing of information among those agencies for statistical purposes."

I would also like to submit for the RECORD the estimate of the Congressional Budget Office on H.R. 2885 that, in essence, sums up: it is not a problem. CBO "estimates that neither the receipts nor the spending would exceed \$500,000 in any one year."

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 2885—STATISTICAL EFFICIENCY ACT—(HORN (R) CALIFORNIA AND 6 COSPONSORS)

The Administration strongly supports House passage of H.R. 2885. The bill will enhance the confidential treatment of information provided to Federal statistical agencies and facilitate the sharing of information among those agencies for statistical purposes.

* * * * *
U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, October 22, 1999.

Hon. DAN BURTON,
Chairman, Committee on Government Reform,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimates for H.R. 2885, the Statistical Efficiency Act of 1999.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is John R. Righter.

Sincerely,

BARRY B. ANDERSON
(For Dan L. Crippen).

H.R. 2885—Statistical Efficiency Act of 1999

H.R. 2885 would designate eight bureaus and offices as statistical data centers: the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the Bureau of the Census, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the National Center for Education Statistics, the National Health Center for Health Statistics, the Energy Consumption Division in the Department of Energy, and the Division of Science Resources Studies in the National Science Foundation. Together,

these agencies received appropriations of about \$2.1 billion in 1999. Subject to certain confidentiality procedures, the bill would allow the centers to share statistical data, eliminate duplicate reporting requirements, and enter into joint projects to improve the quality and lower the cost of statistical programs. In addition, the bill would allow other federal agencies to share data with the eight centers for purely statistical purposes. In general, under current law, an agency that collects data is not allowed to share the information with another agency.

H.R. 2885 could lower the government's costs to collect statistical data if its results in the eight centers pooling resources and eliminating duplicate efforts. Although it is uncertain how much agencies would share resources and data under H.R. 2885, based on information from the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), CBO estimates that implementing the bill would reduce information collection costs by about \$2 million a year. Any such savings would depend on the amounts provided to these agencies in appropriations acts. In addition, by allowing agencies to share and compare data, the bill also could improve the quality of federal statistics, but CBO has no basis for estimating the budgetary impact of such improvements. Finally, subject to the availability of appropriated funds, CBO estimates that the bill would cost CBO less than \$500,000 annually to write regulations and oversee the bill's implementation.

Enacting H.R. 2885 would result in the collection of additional criminal fines, which affect both governmental receipts and direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. CBO estimates that neither the receipts nor the spending would exceed \$500,000 in any one year. H.R. 2885 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact is John R. Righter. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

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

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

Mr. HORN. I urge the adoption, Mr. Speaker, of this measure and hope everybody will support it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2885, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules

and pass the Senate bill (S. 1652) to designate the Old Executive Office Building located at 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, in Washington, District of Columbia, as the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1652

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING.

The Old Executive Office Building located at 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, in Washington, District of Columbia, shall be known and designated as the "Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS).

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The bill before us today was introduced by the distinguished Senator from Rhode Island, John Chafee, who passed away on Sunday. I first would like to express my deepest sympathies and send condolences both to the Senator's family as well as to the people of Rhode Island. John Chafee will be sorely missed.

We are here today to complete one of the legislative initiatives begun by Senator Chafee, something that he felt in fact very strongly about. Senate bill 1652 designates the Old Executive Office Building in Washington as the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. President Eisenhower distinguished himself in the military before being elected the 34th President of the United States. After graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point, Dwight Eisenhower was promoted to captain and assigned to command tank training at Camp Colt in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. For his efforts during World War I, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

In 1919, President Eisenhower continued his tank training command, this time in Camp Meade, Maryland, where he met Colonel George Patton, who would become a lifelong friend. Before World War II, President Eisenhower spent time in the Panama Canal Zone, France and in the Philippines as chief of staff to General Douglas MacArthur. Eisenhower graduated at the top of his

class from the military's command and general staff school at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Before going to the Philippines, Eisenhower's office was located in the Old Executive Office Building.

In 1939, President Eisenhower was 49 years old and held the rank of lieutenant colonel. By 1941, Eisenhower was promoted to brigadier general and after the bombing at Pearl Harbor, General George C. Marshall placed Eisenhower in charge of the war plans division. As chief American war planner, Eisenhower strongly supported the "Europe first" strategy. Eisenhower's second major campaign during World War II occurred in North Africa where he headed the operations division before General Marshall placed him in command of the U.S. Army's European theater of operations.

In 1944, Eisenhower was named Supreme Commander of the Allied expeditionary forces. The successful Normandy invasion launched on D-Day was the ultimate thrust which led to the German defeat. On December 15, 1944, Eisenhower was promoted to the Army's highest rank, General of the Army.

In 1952, after serving as president of Columbia University and commander of NATO forces, Eisenhower sought and won the Republican nomination for President. President Eisenhower was overwhelmingly elected to serve two terms as our Nation's President. His accomplishments as President span from the peaceful resolution of the Korean War to the implementation of desegregation, to fighting communism, to implementation of the interstate highway system. He presided over a remarkable time of peace and prosperity in this country. President Eisenhower became an elder statesman following his two terms as President. His worldly accomplishments and direct involvement with the Old Executive Office Building make this a most deserving honor.

I have given only the briefest sketch of Eisenhower's accomplishments, but when we think about it, when we speak of Eisenhower, we use the term Supreme Commander, General of the Army, and we associate with him men like Patton, MacArthur and Marshall. These men changed the world and for the better. We too often lose sight of the accomplishments of men like Dwight Eisenhower due to the press of our day-to-day responsibilities.

I support this bill and encourage my colleagues to support it as well.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in support of S. 1652, a bill to designate the Executive Office Building at 17th and Pennsylvania Avenue here in Washington, D.C. as the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building.