

full-time equivalent employees, the Tennessee Valley Authority is larger than some government entities whose Inspectors General are appointed by the President. S. 1707 would elevate the status of the Tennessee Valley Authority's Inspector General, and would further enhance the independence of this important office.

S. 1707 would also establish a Criminal Investigator Academy and General Forensic Laboratory for all Federal Inspectors General. These facilities would be housed in the Department of the Treasury and would provide high caliber investigative training and forensic services for Inspectors General at all departments, agencies, and government entities, regardless of size.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 1707, as has been mentioned, is intended to enhance the independence of the Inspector General of the Tennessee Valley Authority by making the position presidentially-appointed. Under current law, the Inspector General of the TVA is appointed by the agency head.

As all of us understand, the Inspectors General in all of our agencies perform a very important watchdog function. In order to be able to carry that out effectively, they need to be independent. Therefore, this bill would make the Inspector General of this agency similar to all agencies of the Federal government and require that the President appoint the Inspector General, rather than the agency head.

In addition, this bill authorizes such funds as are necessary to establish a criminal investigator academy and a forensic laboratory for the Inspector General community. It is clear that the Inspectors General need to have adequate and continuous criminal investigative training, and this academy will provide such training.

Also, the Inspectors General have a need for forensic lab capability, which this bill authorizes.

Mr. Speaker, I support the bill, and I commend Senator THOMPSON and Senator LIEBERMAN for their bipartisan work on the matter. I believe the bill will enhance the Inspector General of the TVA and promote economy, effectiveness, and efficiency within that important Federal agency, and I urge adoption of the measure.

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

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to first of all thank the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) for yielding me this time and for his support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which I think can fairly be described as noncontroversial, common-sense legislation. S. 1707 is a bill that was introduced by my colleague from Tennessee, Senator FRED THOMPSON, and I want to salute him for his work on this legislation.

This bill, S. 1707, is the companion to a bill that I originally introduced in the House, H.R. 2013. Simply put, S. 1707 will require that the Inspector General for the Tennessee Valley Authority be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

Currently, the Inspector General for the TVA is appointed by the TVA board, the very board which it is expected to oversee. This legislation will guarantee that this Inspector General is guaranteed independence, so that any waste, fraud, and abuse can be fully and adequately and properly investigated. Almost everyone agrees that Inspectors General can do much better jobs if they are not controlled by the agency or department which they are expected to oversee.

The bill which was originally introduced would apply to all 33 Federal agencies where the Inspectors General are not truly independent and are presently appointed by the department or agency which they are expected to investigate and oversee. While S. 1707 applies only to TVA, I certainly think it is a step in the right direction, and it is a very significant first step toward my goal of making all 33 of these agency Inspectors General truly independent.

I am also pleased that this bill has provisions that the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) just mentioned to establish an academy for Inspectors General that all Inspectors General can attend, so that this bill will start a process that will have ramifications far beyond TVA.

This proposal has bipartisan support, and it has been endorsed by the Tennessee Valley Authority board of directors. It has already passed the other body by unanimous consent. In addition, the Knoxville News Sentinel, which is published in the city where TVA's headquarters are located, has recommended passage of this legislation.

Finally, I would like to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) and his staff for their hard work on this bill, and for helping me bring this bill to the floor today. Mr. Speaker, I will say that this is a modest proposal which will certainly help improve the oversight of the Tennessee Valley Authority. I urge passage of S. 1707.

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for S. 1707, legislation that requires the TVA Inspector General to be nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate, as is the practice at other large federal agencies. S. 1707 also provides that the President has the authority to remove the TVA IG.

As a cosponsor of similar legislation in the House introduced by Representative JIMMY DUNCAN, I am very pleased that Congress is moving to pass this legislation before we adjourn for the year. S. 1707, like H.R. 2013, amends the Inspector General Act of 1978 to provide for the Presidential appointment of and Senate confirmation of the Inspector General for TVA.

As a former member of TVA's Board of Directors and a former chairman of the TVA Caucus in Congress, I believe this bill will greatly help assure the independence between the IG's office and TVA management. It is critically important to reaffirm the independence of the TVA IG, and thus Congress should amend the Inspector General Act. Most will agree that making TVA's IG a Presidential appointee will strengthen the IG's office. I applaud Senator THOMPSON and Representative DUNCAN for their leadership on this legislation. It is my hope the President will act promptly and sign this bill into law.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1707.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ICCVAM AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4281) to establish, wherever feasible, guidelines, recommendations, and regulations that promote the regulatory acceptance of new and revised toxicological tests that protect human and animal health and the environment while reducing, refining, or replacing animal tests and ensuring human safety and product effectiveness, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4281

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 "ICCVAM Authorization Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) *ALTERNATIVE TEST METHOD.*—The term "alternative test method" means a test method that—

(A) *includes any new or revised test method; and*

(B)(i) *reduces the number of animals required; (ii) refines procedures to lessen or eliminate pain or distress to animals, or enhances animal well-being; or*

(iii) *replaces animals with non-animal systems or 1 animal species with a phylogenetically lower animal species, such as replacing a mammal with an invertebrate.*

(2) ICCVAM TEST RECOMMENDATION.—The term “ICCVAM test recommendation” means a summary report prepared by the ICCVAM characterizing the results of a scientific expert peer review of a test method.

SEC. 3. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON THE VALIDATION OF ALTERNATIVE METHODS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the interagency coordinating committee that is known as the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (referred to in this Act as “ICCVAM”) and that was established by the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences for purposes of section 463A(b) of the Public Health Service Act, the Director of the Institute shall designate such committee as a permanent interagency coordinating committee of the Institute under the National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods. This Act may not be construed as affecting the authorities of such Director regarding ICCVAM that were in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, except to the extent inconsistent with this Act.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the ICCVAM shall be to—

(1) increase the efficiency and effectiveness of Federal agency test method review;

(2) eliminate unnecessary duplicative efforts and share experiences between Federal regulatory agencies;

(3) optimize utilization of scientific expertise outside the Federal Government;

(4) ensure that new and revised test methods are validated to meet the needs of Federal agencies; and

(5) reduce, refine, or replace the use of animals in testing, where feasible.

(c) COMPOSITION.—The ICCVAM shall be composed of the heads of the following Federal agencies (or their designees):

(1) Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

(2) Consumer Product Safety Commission.

(3) Department of Agriculture.

(4) Department of Defense.

(5) Department of Energy.

(6) Department of the Interior.

(7) Department of Transportation.

(8) Environmental Protection Agency.

(9) Food and Drug Administration.

(10) National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

(11) National Institutes of Health.

(12) National Cancer Institute.

(13) National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

(14) National Library of Medicine.

(15) Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

(16) Any other agency that develops, or employs tests or test data using animals, or regulates on the basis of the use of animals in toxicity testing.

(d) SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences shall establish a Scientific Advisory Committee (referred to in this Act as the “SAC”) to advise ICCVAM and the National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods regarding ICCVAM activities. The activities of the SAC shall be subject to provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The SAC shall be composed of the following voting members:

(i) At least 1 knowledgeable representative having a history of expertise, development, or evaluation of new or revised or alternative test methods from each of—

(I) the personal care, pharmaceutical, industrial chemicals, or agriculture industry;

(II) any other industry that is regulated by the Federal agencies specified in subsection (c); and

(III) a national animal protection organization established under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(ii) Representatives (selected by the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences) from an academic institution, a State government agency, an international regulatory body, or any corporation developing or marketing new or revised or alternative test methodologies, including contract laboratories.

(B) NONVOTING EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The membership of the SAC shall, in addition to voting members under subparagraph (A), include as nonvoting ex officio members the agency heads specified in subsection (c) (or their designees).

(e) DUTIES.—The ICCVAM shall, consistent with the purposes described in subsection (b), carry out the following functions:

(1) Review and evaluate new or revised or alternative test methods, including batteries of tests and test screens, that may be acceptable for specific regulatory uses, including the coordination of technical reviews of proposed new or revised or alternative test methods of interagency interest.

(2) Facilitate appropriate interagency and international harmonization of acute or chronic toxicological test protocols that encourage the reduction, refinement, or replacement of animal test methods.

(3) Facilitate and provide guidance on the development of validation criteria, validation studies and processes for new or revised or alternative test methods and help facilitate the acceptance of such scientifically valid test methods and awareness of accepted test methods by Federal agencies and other stakeholders.

(4) Submit ICCVAM test recommendations for the test method reviewed by the ICCVAM, through expeditious transmittal by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (or the designee of the Secretary), to each appropriate Federal agency, along with the identification of specific agency guidelines, recommendations, or regulations for a test method, including batteries of tests and test screens, for chemicals or class of chemicals within a regulatory framework that may be appropriate for scientific improvement, while seeking to reduce, refine, or replace animal test methods.

(5) Consider for review and evaluation, petitions received from the public that—

(A) identify a specific regulation, recommendation, or guideline regarding a regulatory mandate; and

(B) recommend new or revised or alternative test methods and provide valid scientific evidence of the potential of the test method.

(6) Make available to the public final ICCVAM test recommendations to appropriate Federal agencies and the responses from the agencies regarding such recommendations.

(7) Prepare reports to be made available to the public on its progress under this Act. The first report shall be completed not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and subsequent reports shall be completed biennially thereafter.

SEC. 4. FEDERAL AGENCY ACTION.

(a) IDENTIFICATION OF TESTS.—With respect to each Federal agency carrying out a program that requires or recommends acute or chronic toxicological testing, such agency shall, not later than 180 days after receiving an ICCVAM test recommendation, identify and forward to the ICCVAM any relevant test method specified in a regulation or industry-wide guideline which specifically, or in practice requires, rec-

ommends, or encourages the use of an animal acute or chronic toxicological test method for which the ICCVAM test recommendation may be added or substituted.

(b) ALTERNATIVES.—Each Federal agency carrying out a program described in subsection (a) shall promote and encourage the development and use of alternatives to animal test methods (including batteries of tests and test screens), where appropriate, for the purpose of complying with Federal statutes, regulations, guidelines, or recommendations (in each instance, and for each chemical class) if such test methods are found to be effective for generating data, in an amount and of a scientific value that is at least equivalent to the data generated from existing tests, for hazard identification, dose-response assessment, or risk assessment purposes.

(c) TEST METHOD VALIDATION.—Each Federal agency carrying out a program described in subsection (a) shall ensure that any new or revised acute or chronic toxicity test method, including animal test methods and alternatives, is determined to be valid for its proposed use prior to requiring, recommending, or encouraging the application of such test method.

(d) REVIEW.—Not later than 180 days after receipt of an ICCVAM test recommendation, a Federal agency carrying out a program described in subsection (a) shall review such recommendation and notify the ICCVAM in writing of its findings.

(e) RECOMMENDATION ADOPTION.—Each Federal agency carrying out a program described in subsection (a), or its specific regulatory unit or units, shall adopt the ICCVAM test recommendation unless such Federal agency determines that—

(1) the ICCVAM test recommendation is not adequate in terms of biological relevance for the regulatory goal authorized by that agency, or mandated by Congress;

(2) the ICCVAM test recommendation does not generate data, in an amount and of a scientific value that is at least equivalent to the data generated prior to such recommendation, for the appropriate hazard identification, dose-response assessment, or risk assessment purposes as the current test method recommended or required by that agency;

(3) the agency does not employ, recommend, or require testing for that class of chemical or for the recommended test endpoint; or

(4) the ICCVAM test recommendation is unacceptable for satisfactorily fulfilling the test needs for that particular agency and its respective congressional mandate.

SEC. 5. APPLICATION.

(a) APPLICATION.—This Act shall not apply to research, including research performed using biotechnology techniques, or research related to the causes, diagnosis, treatment, control, or prevention of physical or mental diseases or impairments of humans or animals.

(b) USE OF TEST METHODS.—Nothing in this Act shall prevent a Federal agency from retaining final authority for incorporating the test methods recommended by the ICCVAM in the manner determined to be appropriate by such Federal agency or regulatory body.

(c) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require a manufacturer that is currently not required to perform animal testing to perform such tests. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require a manufacturer to perform redundant endpoint specific testing.

(d) SUBMISSION OF TESTS AND DATA.—Nothing in this Act precludes a party from submitting a test method or scientific data directly to a Federal agency for use in a regulatory program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY).

□ 1715

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 4281, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4281, the ICCVAM Authorization Act that will provide statutory authority for an ad hoc interagency coordinating committee that was set up over at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in 1994.

On October 5, 2000, the full Committee on Commerce considered H.R. 4281. At that time, the committee negotiated with the committee's ranking member and reached agreement on a substitute, and today I am pleased that we will be able to call up H.R. 4281 as reported from the Committee on Commerce with my full support.

This bill is a win-win for business and animal protection organizations. The legislation provides product makers, who must adequately test their products for safety before bringing them to market, with a one-stop forum to ensure that new, revised and alternative test methods are scientifically valid and acceptable for regulatory use before they spend huge amounts of money to conduct the extensive tests necessary for government approval.

For animal rights groups, the legislation offers an improved forum in which alternatives to animal tests that may reduce, refine, or replace the use of animals can be scientifically validated for regulatory use.

H.R. 4281 does not create a new Federal bureaucracy. Rather, it improves upon an existing interagency committee that is already in operation, and more clearly identifies its responsibilities and duties.

The legislation further instructs Federal programs that require relevant product testing to ensure that the accepted test methods employ sound, objective and peer reviewed science. At the same time, the legislation does not block any party from taking any new or existing test method, test or test data directly to any agency, nor does it prevent any agency from considering any test method or test data that meets its statutory objectives.

That is why so many business groups and animal rights groups alike have written to Congress in support of this legislation. These include Procter and Gamble, Colgate-Palmolive, The Gillette Company, the American Chem-

istry Council, the Chemical Specialties Manufacturers Association, the Soap and Detergent Association, the American Crop Protection Association, the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturers Association, as well as the Doris Day Animal League, the American Humane Society, the Humane Society of the United States, and the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

I am pleased to join 32 Republican and 41 Democrat cosponsors in support of this legislation. I congratulate the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) for his efforts to bring this legislation forward, and I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the Committee's ranking member, for his efforts to work with us to achieve bipartisan agreement on the bill under consideration today.

I urge passage of H.R. 4281.

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

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4281, the ICCVAM Authorization Act of 2000. ICCVAM, or the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Validation of Alternative Methods, was established by the director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in 1994 in response to a directive in the NIH Revitalization Act of 1993 instructing the National Institute to establish criteria and processes for validation and regulatory acceptance of toxicological test methods.

H.R. 4281, which was introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS), has broad bipartisan support, as well as endorsements from the administration, the animal rights community and the stakeholder industries. It provides statute authority for ICCVAM to continue its work of establishing, as feasible, guidelines and recommendations that promote the regulatory acceptance of scientifically valid new or revised or alternative test methods. It was reported unanimously by the Committee on Commerce.

H.R. 4281 clearly delineates the purposes, duties, and responsibilities of ICCVAM. It also establishes how ICCVAM's scientific recommendations will be transmitted to Federal agencies involved in toxicology testing and how agencies are expected to respond.

These steps recognize the important role of ICCVAM in maintaining an open, collaborative, scientific review process for validating new and existing testing methods and perpetuating the promotion of alternatives to the use of animals in the critically important field of toxicology testing.

I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the ranking member, for his leadership on this bill.

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

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), the prime cosponsor of this bill.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY), chairman of the committee, for helping us bring this bill as rapidly as possible to the floor; and certainly it has been a pleasure working with him these last 8 years. I wish him well in his retirement.

I also want to say that this bill has been carefully crafted through the tireless work and effort of many individuals. This bill, H.R. 4281, the ICCVAM Authorization Act, enjoys support from an overwhelming coalition of companies and groups that span the political spectrum.

We have animal groups, chemical and pharmaceutical companies, industry associations, and the current administration among the bill's supporters. We have Republicans, Democrats that agree on the bill. Many people have worked and worked to ensure that this bill would receive a consensus agreement, and I am proud to say that we have a document here that has achieved that goal.

This legislation is a testament to what can be done when different groups come together for an important cause. This legislation reaches an important outcome, reducing the number of needless animal deaths and so much more. The legislation will save the American taxpayers money by ensuring a streamline approach to approval of toxicological test methods. It will save chemical and pharmaceutical companies thousands of dollars by eliminating duplicative, time-consuming and costly test method validation at several government agencies. Everyone wins with this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by thanking the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY), chairman of the Committee on Commerce, once again; the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the ranking member; the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), the chair of the Subcommittee on Health; and of course the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), who has also worked with me very hard from the beginning to make sure this bill becomes a reality today.

I encourage all of my colleagues to join in this effort and overwhelmingly pass H.R. 4281.

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4281, the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) Authorization Act of 2000, which will create statutory authority for the ICCVAM, a consortium of 17 federal departments and agencies cooperating on the validation of new test methods.

In recent years product manufacturers have been attempting to move away from traditional

animal tests in order to respond to public concerns about animal welfare, but have been hampered by Federal regulations slowing down the validation of alternative methods. Strengthening the ICCVAM will create a vital framework to streamline government/industry partnerships in developing and regulating new test methods.

This legislation has three objectives. First, it will establish a centralized clearinghouse for test method information. Second, it will expedite the approval of new technology and test methods with higher accuracy than animal-based test methods. Finally, it will reduce the number of test animals used in laboratories when reliable alternatives are available. This bipartisan bill is supported by a coalition of industry and animal protection organizations.

As a member of the Science Subcommittee on Basic Research I support this bill's effort to coordinate the validation and national harmonization of toxicological test methods. In 1999 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maintained its position that it will continue to do everything it can to limit the amount of animal tests and the number of animals used in the tests. Also, the National Institute of Environmental Health and Sciences, the National Toxicology Program, and the EPA have committed as much as \$5 million over the next two years to develop and validate non-animal test methods.

I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to increase testing efficiency and reduce redundant animal testing by coordinating inter-agency test validation efforts. The ICCVAM will not only conserve research funding but also drastically reduce the number of animals needlessly killed by scientific testing. As someone who received a 100% rating on my voting record from the Humane Society of the United States, I believe it is vital that Congress act on these issues and pass this legislation.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the ICCVAM Authorization Act.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4281, The Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods Authorization Act of 2000, known as ICCVAM, of which I am an original co-sponsor.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan legislation seeks to insure that the lives of millions of test animals are not taken needlessly. This legislation will reduce testing costs and reduce liability in product safety testing while increasing the accuracy of results and improving research data. This is accomplished by creating statutory authority for the existing federal Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods to establish guidelines for the acceptance of new and revised product safety tests.

The Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods, ICCVAM, is a consortium of several federal departments and agencies cooperating on the validation of new safety methods. The committee reviews alternative test methods and recommends to the various agencies where the tests could be used. This legislation simply grants ICCVAM statutory authority while requiring no additional budget expenditures.

The commonsense approach to animal testing in this measure has allowed it to gain sup-

port from a unique alliance of animal protection groups as well as consumer product industry giants. I am pleased that this legislation is being considered by the House today and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present legislation that has been carefully crafted through the tireless work and effort of many individuals. This bill, H.R. 4281, the ICCVAM Authorization Act, enjoys support from an overwhelming coalition of companies and groups that span the political spectrum.

We have animal rights groups, chemical and pharmaceutical companies, industry associations and the current administration among the bill's supporters. We even have Republican and Democrats that agree on this bill. Many people have worked and worked to ensure that this bill would receive a consensus agreement, and I am proud to say, that we have a document here that has achieved this goal.

This legislation is a testament to what can be done when different groups come together for an important cause. This legislation reaches an important outcome; reducing the number of needless animal deaths and so much more. This legislation will save the American taxpayers money by ensuring a streamlined approach to the approval of toxicological test methods. It will save chemical and pharmaceutical companies millions of dollars by eliminating duplicative, time-consuming and costly test method validation at several government agencies. Everyone wins with this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by thanking the Chairman of the Commerce Committee, Mr. BLILEY, the Ranking Member Mr. DINGELL, Health Subcommittee Chair Mr. BILIRAKIS and of course Mr. LANTOS who have worked with me from the beginning to ensure this bill's passage.

I encourage all of my colleagues to join in this effort and overwhelmingly pass H.R. 4281.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, as an original co-sponsor of H.R. 4281, the ICCVAM Authorization Act, I rise in strong support of its passage today.

I commend my colleague from California, KEN CALVERT, for his work on this important issue and for bringing the bill to the floor. I would also like to recognize the dedication and tireless work of my good friend and colleague, TOM LANTOS, who introduced the bill in the 105th Congress and has been a champion of this issue.

H.R. 4281 permanently establishes ICCVAM under the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. Under the legislation, federal agencies would be required to review and identify all regulations that require animal use for toxicity tests.

The purposes of ICCVAM are to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of federal agency test method review, eliminate unnecessary duplicative efforts and share expertise between federal regulatory agencies, optimize the utilization of scientific expertise outside the federal government, ensure that new and revised test methods are validated to meet the needs of federal agencies, and reduce, refine, or replace the use of animals in testing, where feasible.

The bill takes important steps to encourage the use of alternative testing procedures that

are of equal value as toxicity indicators and less costly—both in terms of dollars and animal lives.

Alternative tests such as the Eytex system, cloned human cells and computer models have been developed, and more alternative tests are expected to be available in the future. Unfortunately, the federal government has stymied the use and development of these technologically advanced procedures by failing to update its regulations and guidelines for testing. Under current procedures, manufacturers find it is easier to have new products approved by relying on outdated testing than through the use of new alternatives.

As a Co-chair of the Congressional Friends of Animals Caucus, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this taxpayer and animal friendly piece of legislation.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4281, the ICCVAM Authorization Act of 2000. This is a good bill, which enjoys broad bipartisan support, as well as endorsements from the Administration, the animal rights community, and industry.

H.R. 4281 provides statutory authority for the permanent continuation of the 6-year-old ICCVAM, or Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods. ICCVAM establishes guidelines and recommendations that promote regulatory acceptance of new and alternative toxicological test methods for use by Federal agencies and departments. ICCVAM's history goes back to the NIH Revitalization Act of 1993, when the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) was directed to establish and publish criteria and processes for validation and regulatory acceptance of toxicological test methods. It has continued to function under the National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods, within NIEHS ever since. All relevant Federal regulatory and scientific agencies are currently represented on ICCVAM, which receives advice from a scientific advisory committee.

H.R. 4281 emphasizes ICCVAM's priority to review and recommend alternative test methods that will reduce, refine or replace the use of animals in toxicology testing, where appropriate. As stated by the Administration, "the use of these alternative test methods will be contingent upon their effectiveness in generating data in the amount and of a scientific value that is at least equivalent to the data generated by the existing test methods they are meant to replace." ICCVAM provides a forum for this scientific review, and derives its strength by facilitating dialogue across scientific disciplines, Federal agencies and with the public.

The composition and principle duties of ICCVAM and the Scientific Advisory Committee are delineated by this legislation. The legislation also establishes the relationship between ICCVAM and the Federal agencies that are required to conduct toxicological testing. The Administration has called ICCVAM a success and pledges to provide the necessary resources to sustain it.

I support this legislation, and trust that my colleagues will do likewise.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I welcome House consideration of H.R. 4281, the

ICCVAM Authorization Act of 2000, and I want to take this opportunity to commend my colleague from California, Mr. CALVERT, for his work on this important issue and for bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, on March 27, 1996, I introduced H.R. 3173, the Consumer Products Safe Testing Act. This legislation was introduced to promote more humane business practices, increase the efficiency of the Federal Government, encourage scientific innovation and, most importantly, ensure continued consumer safety while eliminating unnecessary and inhumane product safety testing on animals. Today, H.R. 4281, the ICCVAM Authorization Act of 2000—legislation that is the successor to the bill I originally introduced in early 1996—represents the culmination of efforts which began over 5 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4281 is a non-partisan, non-controversial bill that emphasizes the protection of both human health and animal welfare by facilitating the development, acceptance and implementation of non-animal product safety tests.

This bill comes to the floor with an impressive marriage of diverse interests working together to support it. Distinguished Members from both political parties, industry leaders and animal welfare organizations have joined forces to produce a common-sense piece of legislation that safeguards both human and animal well-being. I am honored and delighted that H.R. 4281 is supported by the Procter & Gamble Company, the Gillette Company, the Colgate-Palmolive Company, the American Chemistry Council, the American Humane Association, the Humane Society of the United States, the Doris Day Animal League, and millions of Americans who have demanded safe and reliable alternatives to product safety testing on animals.

Mr. Speaker, for over fifty years, federal regulators have conducted product safety tests on animals. In the last decade, however, biotechnology companies have researched, developed, and manufactured alternative testing procedures that have proved to be just as safe, reliable, and in many cases, much more cost effective. Yet, these innovative technologies have never had an established protocol for receiving approval by federal agencies. In addition, industries desiring to implement alternative testing methods have endured a frustrating and confusing federal process for alternative test method review and approval, despite the fact that many industries have committed themselves to ensuring human safety while eliminating unnecessary, inhumane animal test methods.

Now, for the first time, this legislation which we are considering here on the floor of the House today will enable industries to cut through bureaucratic red-tape and speed the implementation of safe and reliable non-animal test methods. While functioning solely on an ad-hoc basis, the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) has established sound criteria for the validation and acceptance of alternative methods to product safety testing on animals and it will require federal agencies to consider the ICCVAM's recommendations on alternative test methods. More importantly, H.R. 4281 eliminates the incentive for indus-

tries to prefer status quo animal tests by giving the ICCVAM the authority to make an otherwise fragmented regulatory process coherent, cost effective, and more readily accessible.

Mr. Speaker, the adoption of H.R. 4281 will demonstrate a commitment to increasing the health and environmental safety of all Americans by simplifying the process by which industries implement more technologically advanced methods of research into their product safety testing protocols. We must ensure that as we enter the 21st century the Federal Government is working efficiently to incorporate scientific progress into product safety tests and not solely relying on antiquated and inhumane animal tests to safeguard human health. With this in mind, Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to join me by supporting H.R. 4281.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4281, 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.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read:

“A bill to establish, wherever feasible, guidelines, recommendations, and regulations that promote the regulatory acceptance of new or revised scientifically valid toxicological tests that protect human and animal health and the environment while reducing, refining, or replacing animal tests and ensuring human safety and product effectiveness.”

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RICHMOND NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK ACT OF 2000

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5225) to revise the boundaries of the Richmond National Battlefield Park based on the findings of the Civil War Sites Advisory Committee and the National Park Service and to encourage cooperative management, protection, and interpretation of the resources associated with the Civil War and the Civil War battles in and around the city of Richmond Virginia, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5225

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; DEFINITIONS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Richmond National Battlefield Park Act of 2000”.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) BATTLEFIELD PARK.—The term “battlefield park” means the Richmond National Battlefield Park.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) In the Act of March 2, 1936 (Chapter 113; 49 Stat. 1155; 16 U.S.C. 423j), Congress authorized the establishment of the Richmond National Battlefield Park, and the boundaries of the battlefield park were established to permit the inclusion of all military battlefield areas related to the battles fought during the Civil War in the vicinity of the city of Richmond, Virginia. The battlefield park originally included the area then known as the Richmond Battlefield State Park.

(2) The total acreage identified in 1936 for consideration for inclusion in the battlefield park consisted of approximately 225,000 acres in and around the city of Richmond. A study undertaken by the congressionally authorized Civil War Sites Advisory Committee determined that of these 225,000 acres, the historically significant areas relating to the campaigns against and in defense of Richmond encompass approximately 38,000 acres.

(3) In a 1996 general management plan, the National Park Service identified approximately 7,121 acres in and around the city of Richmond that satisfy the National Park Service criteria of significance, integrity, feasibility, and suitability for inclusion in the battlefield park. The National Park Service later identified an additional 186 acres for inclusion in the battlefield park.

(4) There is a national interest in protecting and preserving sites of historical significance associated with the Civil War and the city of Richmond.

(5) The Commonwealth of Virginia and its local units of government have authority to prevent or minimize adverse uses of these historic resources and can play a significant role in the protection of the historic resources related to the campaigns against and in defense of Richmond.

(6) The preservation of the New Market Heights Battlefield in the vicinity of the city of Richmond is an important aspect of American history that can be interpreted to the public. The Battle of New Market Heights represents a premier landmark in black military history as 14 black Union soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor in recognition of their valor during the battle. According to National Park Service historians, the sacrifices of the United States Colored Troops in this battle helped to ensure the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution to abolish slavery.

(b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act—

(1) to revise the boundaries for the Richmond National Battlefield Park based on the findings of the Civil War Sites Advisory Committee and the National Park Service; and

(2) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to work in cooperation with the Commonwealth of Virginia, the city of Richmond, other political subdivisions of the Commonwealth, other public entities, and the private sector in the management, protection, and interpretation of the resources associated with the Civil War and the Civil War battles in and around the city of Richmond, Virginia.

SEC. 3. RICHMOND NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK; BOUNDARIES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—For the purpose of protecting, managing, and interpreting the resources associated with the Civil War battles in and around the city of Richmond, Virginia, there is established the