

The ability of SOUTHCOM to utilize resources from the Soto Cano Air Base demonstrates the important role that Honduras plays in enabling the United States to provide support for security and disaster purposes. SOUTHCOM also sent personnel from Miami to join a humanitarian assessment team on the ground in Guatemala. And I was proud to see Royal Caribbean Cruises, also of Miami, work with the Pan American Development Foundation to help transport food to the tens of thousands of survivors in the days following the storm.

The growing security challenges facing Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador as a result of narcotraffickers and vicious gangs have only been complicated by this recent natural disaster. It will be critical for the United States to work with responsible democratic nations in the region to ensure that this does not become a window of opportunity for criminals.

The success we have seen in Colombia and the ongoing efforts being taken in Mexico against the drug cartels have created an unfortunate sandwich effect in Central America. But only through a united hemispheric-wide approach that is based on a shared commitment to democracy, to security, to prosperity, will we achieve success against the narcotraffickers and organized crime.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of those who suffered as a result of Tropical Storm Agatha. As the brave people of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador continue to recover from this tragic disaster, please know that we have you in our hearts and in our prayers.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1462, support for the people of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador as they persevere through the aftermath of Tropical Storm Agatha which swept across Central America causing deadly floods and mudslides. I would like to thank Mr. MACK for introducing this resolution underlining our heartfelt support for our North American neighbors in their time of desperate need.

Mr. Speaker, the countries of Central America have suffered devastating damage and loss of life at the hands of Mother Nature. Tropical Storm Agatha has left over 200 dead and over 95,000 in shelters, most of them in Guatemala. The powerful storm has inflicted over \$475,000,000 in damages throughout the region, destroying critical water and sanitation infrastructure. Combined with recent droughts, high food prices and a dramatic drop in remittances from the United States, Guatemala in particular has suffered severe food insecurity that will likely increase due to the effects of the storm.

I join my fellow members in expressing our most heartfelt condolences for the loss of life and suffering the Guatemalan, Honduran and Salvadoran people have endured in the wake of the storm. We mourn for those who are no longer with us, and extend our deepest sympathies to those they have left behind, in

many cases without food or shelter. It is a tragedy for anyone to lose their home, their father, their mother, their children, their friends. We will do everything we can to help them recover from this disaster.

But we also commend the people of these ravaged countries for their bravery, and for standing tall in the face of adversity. In spite of the frustration and sadness that come in the aftermath of a disaster, they are fighting hard to recover. They could certainly use our help.

The international community and the United States have already responded. Countries, NGOs and humanitarian aid agencies from around the world have generously contributed millions of dollars in medicine and aid, and mobilizing to transport and deliver support and supplies. The United States continue to assert and strengthen our commitment to participate in the global outpouring of support to our devastated neighbors to the south.

After all, we are no strangers to the effects of natural disasters, and many of our cities have suffered through more than their fair share. As a Representative of the good people of Houston, Texas, many of the Atlantic hurricanes and tropical storms that wreak havoc every summer hit very close to home. From Ike to Ivan to Wilma to Katrina, we know all too well the devastation that befalls those unfortunate enough to be standing in the path of one of the North Atlantic's deadly hurricanes or tropical storms. We have seen the destruction first hand; I have spoken to the victims; we have known the pain and suffering those natural disasters can cause.

We know the road of recovery can be long and fraught with challenges. But we have recovered, and so shall the people of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. And the United States must help ensure that they do.

As such, I am proud to stand behind my fellow members in calling upon the Congress to urge the Secretary of State and the United States Agency for International Development to continue working on a strategic plan to promote food security and recovery efforts, with the aim of mitigating current and future effects of the recent natural disasters that have devastated Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

Mr. MCMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1462, stating our nation's unequivocal support for those people of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador who have been affected by Tropical Storm Agatha. In the aftermath of the storm, mudslides and sinkholes formed, not only marring the natural beauty of these countries, but also causing immense amounts of damage and suffering.

Hundreds of people lost their lives, and tens of thousands were displaced from their homes. Food shortages, destruction of infrastructure, economic losses in agriculture, and damages to vital buildings will inevitably adversely affect these countries for a long time to come.

These Latin American nations represent crucial U.S. allies in the region and key economic trading partners. It is in the interest of our economic stability and national security to help them through these tough times.

Our own experiences from Hurricanes Rita and Katrina remind us that we are all vulnerable to the cruel whims of nature. We will

never forget how many countries around the world stood with us during those trying times for our nation, and we need to stand with Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador now.

I commend the United States Southern Command for providing food, water, and necessary supplies to the victims of these natural disasters. We have not been alone in providing assistance to the disaster areas; the international community has come together in support of those who have been affected, contributing millions of dollars in medical supplies and other assistance.

I urge the House of Representatives to keep in mind today those lives and livelihoods that have been destroyed in the aftermath of this disaster by supporting this resolution.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1462, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SUPPORTING DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL E-SIGN DAY

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 290) expressing support for designation of June 30 as "National E-Sign Day".

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 290

Whereas the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (ESIGN) was enacted on June 30, 2000, to ensure that a signature, contract, or other record relating to a transaction may not be denied legal effect, validity, or enforceability solely because it is in electronic form;

Whereas Congress directed the Secretary of Commerce to take all actions necessary to eliminate or reduce, to the maximum extent possible, the impediments to commerce in electronic signatures, for the purpose of facilitating the development of interstate and foreign commerce; and

Whereas June 30, 2010, marks the 10th anniversary of the enactment of ESIGN and would be an appropriate date to designate as "National E-Sign Day": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the designation of a “National E-SIGN Day”;

(2) recognizes the previous contribution made by Congress to the adoption of modern solutions that keep the United States on the leading technological edge; and

(3) reaffirms its commitment to facilitating interstate and foreign commerce in an increasingly digital world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

□ 2050

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, the E-SIGN bill, a landmark piece of legislation that has transformed how we conduct interstate commerce and business. The advent of e-signatures has brought enormous benefit to both consumers and businesses alike by drastically improving convenience, reducing costs, and increasing the speed of transactions.

As many of you know, I represent Seattle, which is one of the most wired and high-tech cities in the world. E-SIGN has greatly improved the ability of companies in my district to be more effective and competitive in the global marketplace.

I would especially like to acknowledge Seattle-based electronic signature platform provider DocuSign for being a leader in the electronic signatures and records industry and for helping spearhead the coalition to recognize June 30 as National E-SIGN Day.

DocuSign recognizes that the benefits of e-commerce extend beyond the dollar values that are placed on business activity. With over 30,000 current customers and having served over 4.5 million people to date, DocuSign provides its customers with confidence in the integrity and credibility of emerging electronic capabilities. They have been a leader in removing obstacles and barriers to business transactions online and in allowing their customers to work faster, more reliably, and more securely.

It is important we recognize the foresight and vision of those who worked so hard to pass E-SIGN 10 years ago, including Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO

and Congressman JAY INSLEE. The passage of that bill has helped more American companies to operate globally, and it has helped to increase productivity and efficiency for consumers, businesses, and governments.

When President Clinton signed the bill into law in June 2000, he said, “Just imagine if this had existed 224 years ago. The Founding Fathers wouldn’t have had to come all the way to Philadelphia on July 4 for the Declaration of Independence. They could have emailed their John Hancocks in.”

Now, 10 years later, that is what businesses and governments in every corner of the globe are able to do—instantly complete transactions that used to take days.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHIMKUS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is great to be down here with my colleague Mr. McDERMOTT. Usually, I don’t like resolutions, you know, but he approached me on the floor. This is a really important one, and I think it is important to go back over the history of what we did 10 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, everything was paper. You had to have paper copies. You couldn’t do bank transactions. You couldn’t do certifications. You couldn’t do business documentation.

My colleague mentioned ANNA ESHOO, who is a great friend of mine on the committee. JAY INSLEE is also a great friend of mine on the committee. I serve on the Energy and Commerce Committee. I’ve been on the Telecommunications Subcommittee. I think credit goes to Chairman Bliley, and I think credit goes to Billy Tauzin. The great thing about Energy and Commerce is a lot of the issues that we address cut across partisan lines, especially on the Technology Subcommittee.

So the signing of this bill really helped, as my colleague said, and it really changed the way we can conduct business in the new digital age. It is really a great credit, and it does merit taking the time to think back on those folks who pushed for this, in a bipartisan resolution and through both Chambers, in order to get the bill signed into law.

I am sure there was opposition by Members in both parties. In fact, I know one famous Democrat on the committee who wasn’t an original supporter of this. So the fact that Chairman Bliley and Billy Tauzin, as the chairmen of the subcommittee and the full committee, were all engaged in support shows what we can do when we work together.

The Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, E-SIGN, represents a critical step in harmonizing the world’s global commerce and contract law with a modern electronic and increasingly Internet-dependent world. This happened during the 106th

Congress. It was my second Congress. I came in during the 105th.

I think the other important information is with other digital e-commerce issues that we are approaching and discussing. We are discussing one in the committee now, which is the 21st century access to disabilities, which is trying to make sure that the digital age doesn’t leave the disability community behind.

So the question that we faced in the committee today was: How much do we make sure that we set the standards but that we don’t dictate technology? Because, if we dictate technology, we disincentivize the folks who are the smarts behind this new age.

What we did on E-SIGN was to say, Here are the standards. You smart people figure it out. Make sure that privacy is protected. Make sure that you can continue to keep data if people want hard copies. The other thing we allowed was for the consumers to choose. If people wanted to try this new venue, it was pretty scary. Can you imagine going on the Internet 10 years ago and saying, “I’m going to buy a pair of tennis shoes, and I’m going to put my credit card number on the computer, and they’re going to mail me this stuff, and it’s all going to work out”? It was pretty scary. People do it all the time now, but you know what? If you want to go down to the store and pay cash for those shoes, you can still do it.

So the benefit of what we did was to say let the consumers choose. Also, the benefit of what we did was to say give the business community the standards. Don’t try to squeeze them into a one-size-fits-all method. Let the great innovative minds—many of them are in my colleague’s State of Washington State—really make this stuff work.

I’ve been on the Energy and Commerce Committee for, fortunately, my 14 years in Congress, and I’ve been on the Telecommunications Subcommittee. I should be an expert. I still don’t understand it. I still don’t understand how it all works, but I know that there are smart enough people who can make it work, and this is a perfect example. This 10-year anniversary, in essence, is a tremendous success story. I have a 17-year-old, a 15-year-old and a 10-year-old. They are growing up in an age where they don’t know any other way of doing transactions and of doing business than what we did 10 years ago.

JIM, I appreciate your effort. I appreciate your coming to me on the floor. Like I said, I’m not a big resolution guy, but I thought this was one worthy of sitting back and of focusing on what we did in the hopes, as we move forward on other high-tech issues, that we will set the guidelines but that we will let the really smart innovators figure out how it can be done.

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

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 10th anniversary of the enactment of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act. I rise in support of designating today as "National E-SIGN Day" and commend Mr. McDERMOTT for bringing this resolution to the Floor.

Ten years ago the thought of filing your taxes electronically, renewing your drivers license, and filling out a mortgage application on your computer was one that many feared. There was uncertainty about the security of the transaction and how to verify who was on each end of the keyboard. We recognized then that we needed rules of the road that would guide us into the information society. We needed to create trust in this emerging technology called the "internet" if it was going to grow into what we hoped would be at least a new and efficient way to do business electronically in both the public and private sector.

We stood at a crossroads ten years ago. We needed to eliminate obsolete barriers to electronic commerce such as undue pen and paper requirements and other practices that slowed down innovation. In March of 1999 I introduced the H.R. 1320, the Millennium Digital Commerce Act because I recognized that the growth of electronic commerce and electronic government transactions represented a powerful force for economic growth, consumer choice, improved civic participation, and wealth creation.

Less than a year later, in January of 2000, the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act was signed into law.

As the information and innovation society is now fully integrated into almost every aspect of our lives, we stand here today to look back over the last ten years. Electronic commerce is now the driving force of our global economy. The level of confidence in the internet and the innovative tools it has created continues to grow. As we stood at that intersection ten years ago, we took our country and our consumers in the right direction.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 290 designating June 30th as "National E-SIGN Day."

Mr. McDERMOTT. 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 Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 290.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

□ 2100

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTERS TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT ACT

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5610) to provide a technical adjustment with respect to funding for independent living centers under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 in order to ensure stability for such centers, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. R. 5610

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 "Independent Living Centers Technical Adjustment Act".

SEC. 2. INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTERS TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT.

(a) GRANTS TO CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING IN STATES IN WHICH FEDERAL FUNDING EXCEEDS STATE FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the conditions described in paragraph (2) are satisfied with respect to a State, in awarding funds to existing centers for independent living (described in section 722(c) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f-1(c))) in the State, the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration—

(A) in fiscal year 2010—

(i) shall distribute among such centers funds appropriated for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.) by any Act other than the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5) in the same proportion as such funds were distributed among such centers in the State in fiscal year 2009, notwithstanding section 722(e) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f-1(e)) and any contrary provision of a State plan submitted under section 704 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 796c); and

(ii) shall disregard any funds provided to such centers from funds appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.); and

(B) in fiscal year 2011 and subsequent fiscal years, shall disregard any funds provided to such centers from funds appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5) for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.).

(2) CONDITIONS.—The conditions described in this paragraph are the following:

(A) The Commissioner receives a request from the State, not later than July 30, 2010, jointly signed by the State's designated State unit (referred to in section 704(c) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 796c(c))) and the State's Statewide Independent Living Council (established under section 705 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 796d)), for the Commissioner to disregard any funds provided to centers for independent living in the State from funds appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for the centers for independent living program under part C of

title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.).

(B) The Commissioner is not conducting a competition to establish a new part C center for independent living with funds appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 in the State.

(b) GRANTS TO CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING IN STATES IN WHICH STATE FUNDING EQUALS OR EXCEEDS FEDERAL FUNDING.—In awarding funds to existing centers for independent living (described in section 723(c) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f-2(c))) in a State, the director of the designated State unit that has approval to make such awards—

(1) in fiscal year 2010—

(A) may distribute among such centers funds appropriated for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.) by any Act other than the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 in the same proportion as such funds were distributed among such centers in the State in fiscal year 2009, notwithstanding section 723(e) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f-2(e)) and any contrary provision of a State plan submitted under section 704 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 796c); and

(B) may disregard any funds provided to such centers from funds appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.); and

(2) in fiscal year 2011 and subsequent fiscal years, may disregard any funds provided to such centers from funds appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H.R. 5610 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5610, the Independent Living Centers Technical Adjustment Act. This bill addresses an issue brought to our attention by a number of States that are at risk of having to reduce services for adults with disabilities. Authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Independent Living Center program serves adults with disabilities by providing an array of independent living services, including the information and referral services, independent living skills training, peer counseling, and individual and systems