

I'm concerned that we not forget the balance between information sharing within the intelligence community and privacy safeguards for sensitive data.

We must return in the 109th Congress and be prepared, when necessary, to intervene to ensure that law enforcement has the tools to secure our homeland but at the same time holds American civil liberties sacred.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this historic bipartisan legislation and of all the work this House has done to bring it to the floor today. This was by no means an easy task we set out to achieve when we received the 9/11 Commission report this past summer and set to work holding hearings during the August recess.

The Financial Services Committee's contributions to S. 2845 continues some of the most important work it, and the Congress, has ever done. Work that began in the tense hours and days after the tragic attacks on September 11, 2001, and continues today in the efforts on this House to synthesize the 9/11 Commission report into momentous legislation.

It is a testament to the work of the Financial Services Committee that the 9/11 Commission report cited with approval Title III of the USA PATRIOT Act, and said that on anti-terror financing and anti-money laundering the various elements of the government are doing a good job.

The Commission also urged Congress, law enforcement, and the intelligence community not to become complacent and to engage in ongoing and rigorous examinations of the financial system. I believe this legislation rises to meet that challenge.

The Financial Services Committee has once again come together to create bipartisan legislation aimed at disrupting the financing of terrorism and strengthening the country's anti-money laundering laws.

The package that the Committee assembled centers on four broad themes: (1) additional finding for the fight against terrorist financing; (2) new tools for the government to combat terrorist financing schemes; (3) improved international cooperation and coordination on anti-money laundering and counterterrorist financing initiatives; and (4) enhanced preparedness of the financial services sector in case of another large-scale terrorist attack.

Among the key provisions in S. 2845 that reflect the contributions by the Financial Services Committee are the following:

Technical amendments to the anti-terror finance title of the USA PATRIOT Act, which was largely drafted in the Financial Services Committee;

An authorization for additional funding for Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, which serves as the Federal government's financial intelligence unit and plays a critical role in the collection and analysis of data on suspicious financial activity;

A reauthorization of the national anti-money laundering strategy, along with grants to State and local law-enforcement agencies to investigate the financing of terror and other financial crimes;

A provision that allows the SEC to take action in an "emergency" to maintain or restore fair and orderly securities markets, ensure "prompt, accurate and safe" transaction settlement, and prevent disruptions of markets or market activities. The Secretary of the Treasury is given comparable authority over markets for government securities;

An authorization for the Secretary of the Treasury to produce currency and other security documents at the request of foreign governments;

A directive to the Secretary of Treasury to prescribe regulations requiring the reporting to FINCEN of certain cross border transmittals of funds relevant to the Department of Treasury's anti money laundering and anti terrorist financing efforts;

A restriction on federal examiners of financial institutions, for one year upon leaving the federal government, from accepting compensation for employment from a financial institution which the examiner had responsibility for examining;

A requirement for better coordination and building of international coalitions;

A Sense of Congress that the Secretary of the Treasury should continue to promote the dissemination of international anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing;

A requirement that the Secretary of Treasury convene an inter-agency council to develop policies to be pursued by the United States regarding the development of common international anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing standards;

A provision that enhances the delegation authority for the Secretary of the Treasury to appoint a Fiscal Assistant Secretary in the absence or inability to serve of the current Fiscal Assistant Secretary;

A Sense of Congress that insurance and credit rating firms should consider a firm's "compliance with standards for private sector disaster and emergency preparedness" when assessing the firm's insurability and credit-worthiness. This is consistent with the 9/11 Commission Report, which made the identical recommendation.

I want to especially thank the Members of the Financial Services Committee that were instrumental in bringing the success of this legislation. I would especially like to recognize Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee Chairman SPENCER BACHUS (AL), Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairwoman SUE KELLY (NY), Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology Vice Chair JUDY BIGGERT (IL), Ranking Member BARNEY FRANK (MA), and Committee Member LUIS GUTIERREZ. I also want to thank our counterparts in the other body for their help in resolving our issues quickly.

In sum, Mr. Speaker the Financial Services Committee's contribution to S. 2845 makes needed changes that respond directly to the 9/11 Commission's call for a continuous examination of the U.S. financial system to identify loopholes capable of being exploited by al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations, and to close down those gaps.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Conference Report on the 9/11 Commission recommendations.

The conference report, which implements the core recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, is essential to bolster our nation's security in the wake of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The report:

Establishes a Director of National Intelligence to coordinate all national intelligence efforts;

Establishes a National Counterterrorism Center to unify all elements of counterterrorism intelligence operations planning;

Establishes an independent Privacy and Civil Liberties Board within the Executive Office of the President that would ensure that privacy and civil liberties concerns are properly considered;

Establishes an Information Sharing Environment to facilitate the sharing of terrorism information among all appropriate Federal, State, local, tribal, and private sector entities, through the use of policy guidelines and technologies;

Requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and implement a national strategy for transportation security—including aviation, air cargo and maritime security measures;

Requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to improve border security—including the use of advanced technologies to secure the northern border, and remotely piloted aircraft to secure the Southwest border;

Requires federal agencies to establish minimum standards for driver's licenses and ID necessary to board domestic commercial aircraft and gain access to federal facilities.

This is a strong bill that will make Cleveland, OH, and our country safer and more secure. I strongly support the bill today, and I supported it on November 20, 2004, when the House and Senate conferees reached an agreement on this landmark legislation. This bill should have been ready for the President's signature then, but unfortunately the Republican leadership played politics and delayed passage until a majority of Republicans supported the bill—even though the conference report had strong Democratic support and would have passed on November 20.

But, today, this important legislation will pass. We, Democrats, fought for this conference report to reach the floor for a vote before this 108th Congress came to a close, and we succeeded. It is time to make our country safer. It is time to overhaul our intelligence agencies in order to prevent another 9/11 attack. It is time to pass this bill in honor of the 9/11 victims and their families. Vote "yes" on this vital legislation.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the conference report on the National Security Intelligence Reform Act of 2004. I must admit that when I arrived this morning, I was dubious that this measure would actually make it to the floor. That it did is due to the incredibly hard work of the conferees and the staff from both the House and the Senate, as well as the tireless advocacy efforts of the families of 9/11, and I thank each one of them for their service to America.

There are many laudable provisions in this bill, Mr. Speaker, including most of the principal recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. I'm very pleased that the conferees were apparently able to agree that the proposed Director of National Intelligence will have meaningful budget and personnel authorities to help reshape our intelligence community to meet existing and emerging threats. I'm also pleased that another key 9/11 Commission recommendation, the creation of a National Counter Terrorism Center, will also come pass.

Also of note in this bill is its requirement that our intelligence, law enforcement, and homeland security agencies achieve a greater level of information sharing, and that this process will include Federal, State, local and tribal entities, as well as the private sector. If there is

one lesson that both the attack on Pearl Harbor and the attacks on America on 9/11 should have driven home is that information sharing among the elements of our government is paramount if we are to prevent surprise attacks. I hope these new provisions will be effective in breaking down the barriers to information sharing that figured so prominently in both of these national tragedies.

I'm also gratified that this bill includes a Privacy and Civil Liberties Board to help safeguard the freedoms that make our nation the greatest on earth. This Board will conduct oversight of executive branch policies to ensure that the privacy and civil liberties of our citizens are protected, and I hope that it will serve as an effective watchdog in that role.

Make no mistake about it: The next Mohammad Atta will not present himself for biometric or other screening at an existing border crossing point. Future al Qaeda operatives will almost certainly attempt to slip across the border at a weak or undefended point, carrying with them the false identity documents necessary to blend in and execute another attack against our citizens. We must do whatever is necessary to guard our borders, and I want to thank my colleague, the ranking member of the Homeland Security Committee, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. TURNER, for all of his hard work in this area, and to wish him well in his future endeavors.

There are some things in this bill that trouble me, Mr. Speaker. I'm concerned about the sweeping FISA authorities that are added in this bill, particularly those aimed at alleged "lone wolf" terrorists and the apparently sweeping definition of what "providing material support" to terrorists that is permitted in this bill. I realize that each of these clauses has sunset provisions, but as we've seen with the Patriot Act, such sweeping authorities can be used against innocent citizens. I will monitor the implementation of these provisions very closely, as I hope all of my colleagues will, and if evidence of abuse surfaces, I hope they will join me in modifying these provisions as necessary.

Mr. Speaker, one key 9/11 Commission recommendation that did not make its way into this bill is the need to reform congressional oversight of the intelligence community. The bill before us also includes new provisions for expanded "red teaming" within the intelligence community, and I hope that this provision will sharpen analytical products coming out of the intelligence community. But we need to face facts, Mr. Speaker: Our own house is not in order when it comes to conducting effective oversight of the intelligence community. I intend to revisit this issue in the coming Congress, and I hope my colleagues will join me in that effort.

Despite the concerns I've raised above, Mr. Speaker, this is a good compromise that will help to protect our country in the years ahead. I'm also confident that this compromise addresses the concerns that some in this body and elsewhere have raised that this reorganization of the intelligence community would somehow endanger our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan by constraining their access to real-time intelligence. This bill was held up for weeks by Members who claimed it would deny good intelligence to our soldiers in the field. Clearly, this compromise bill does not do that, and if anything, the provisions contained in this bill will only strengthen and rationalize the

collection and dissemination of intelligence to both policymakers and warfighters. A bureaucratic turf fight is a better description of the disagreement, and that is no reason to hold up this bill.

Again, I thank the conferees and the staff for their Herculean effort to bring us a bill we can collectively support, but above all I thank the families of 9/11. Simply put, this would not have happened without their relentless effort, and they are patriots in the truest sense of the word. I intend to vote for this measure, I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, nearly two months ago this House passed a bill that failed to address many of the 9/11 Commission's recommendations, while including objectionable provisions regarding immigration, civil liberties, and other issues. While the Senate was able to reach agreement on a bill that reflected the views of both parties, the Commission, and the 9/11 families, House leaders did not work in a similarly bipartisan way to reach agreement on the best way to implement the recommendations.

I voted for the House bill because I believe we need intelligence reform. I hoped that with the President supporting the Senate bill and every Republican in the Senate voting for it, the House Republicans' misguided criticisms of the bill wouldn't carry much weight in conference.

So I am very pleased that the conference report we are voting on today more closely reflects the Senate bill. And I am encouraged that during this last week of the 108th Congress, we have come together to put country before politics—and to send legislation to the President that will make America safer.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the conference report for H.R. 10, legislation to reform our country's intelligence agencies. I support this report so, as a country, we can move forward quickly to give the President a completed bill to sign. The security of the people of western Wisconsin is of an utmost priority, and I am supporting this measure to make changes necessary to protect our homeland.

On September 11, 2001, our Nation was brutally attacked, and several thousand of our citizens were killed. Our country was shocked and dismayed, but we were far from defeated. The resolve of our Nation is strong, and we stood up to the challenge and struck back.

After the attacks on that fateful day in September, many questions about our homeland security were raised. I supported and worked for a comprehensive Homeland Security bill that created the Homeland Security Department and cabinet level secretary. The creation of the Homeland Security Department was an important first step for our country to ensure the security of its citizens. But there remained many unanswered questions about our Nation's intelligence failures before September 11, which is why I supported the creation of the independent bipartisan 9/11 Commission.

On July 22, 2004, the 9/11 Commission provided a full and complete report to Congress and the American public. I praise the Commission for its excellent work, leadership, patriotism, and service to our country. We owe it to the families of the victims of 9/11 and to the citizens of our country to use this report to make certain this type of attack never happens again; I fully support the unanimous and bipartisan recommendations of the 9/11 Commission.

While I had several concerns with many of the provisions included H.R. 10, I decided to support passage of this legislation back in October. I supported H.R. 10 because when the safety of our country is at hand we need to be able to cross the aisle and work with our colleagues to protect our country. After passage, however, I was glad to see the conference committee move to more closely align the conference report with the 9/11 Commission's 41 recommendations and the Senate passed bill. Over the past several weeks, we have had several opportunities to pass this very important legislation, but the House leadership has been working towards passing the bill with the support of the majority.

I support this conference report for several reasons. First and foremost, the families of the 9/11 victims and the 9/11 Commission supports this conference report and have worked hard to ensure the legislation improves the safety for our country. In addition, the conference report contains not only major reforms of the intelligence community, but significant measures to improve aviation and border security and emergency preparedness and response. This bill implements a substantial portion of the 9/11 Commission's recommendations; I am happy that the conference report includes a strong National Intelligence Director as well as the essential authorities necessary for the National Intelligence Director's success. It also creates a strong National Counterterrorism Center and an independent Privacy and Civil Liberties Board.

The 9/11 report also addresses foreign policy and public diplomacy, something we cannot deal with in this legislation before us today. One of the most important chapters in the 9/11 Report was chapter 12, which offered a global strategy to work with the Arab and Muslim worlds. If we follow the recommendations in this chapter, and focus our energies on improving our economic and political ties to this part of the world, it will not only improve the image of the United States of America, but it will help reduce future terrorist attacks on our country.

Once again, I would like to thank the members of 9/11 Commission for their patriotism and hard work to help safeguard our country. I would also like to recognize the tireless work that the families of the victims of 9/11 have put into creating the Commission on the attacks, and, secondly, that legislation was brought to the floor for deliberation. Finally, I would like to thank the conferees for all their hard work on this essential legislation. I encourage my colleagues join me in supporting this long-overdue, critical legislation. This legislation is a crucial step toward making our country safer from terrorism.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is a relief to finally pass this important legislation to make America safer. The bill moves our national security and intelligence coordination efforts forward and paves the way for future counterterrorism measures.

I am concerned by some of the limits placed on the powers of the National Intelligence Director and would like to have seen stronger safeguards for individual civil liberties. I am pleased to see that the most egregious immigration provisions were removed by the Conference Committee.

While it is unfortunate that it took two months to pass this bill, the Senate overwhelmingly passed a bipartisan bill two