

UNITED STATES
SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION
AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2020

Mr. KHANNA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3989) to amend the United States Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016 to modify certain membership and other requirements of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3989

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 “United States Semiquincentennial Commission Amendments Act of 2020”.

SEC. 2. UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.—Section 4 of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-196; 130 Stat. 685) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(4), by striking subparagraph (I) and inserting the following:

“(I) The Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts.

“(J) The Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

“(K) The Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

“(L)(i) The Chief Justice of the United States; or

“(ii) an Associate Justice or former Associate Justice appointed by the Chief Justice of the United States.”;

(2) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

“(3) REMOVAL OF MEMBERS WHO ARE PRIVATE CITIZENS.—Following notice and approval of the relevant appointing authority, on an affirmative vote of not less than ⅔ of the members of the Commission, the Commission may remove a member of the Commission appointed under subsection (b)(3).”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking “All meetings” and inserting the following:

“(1) LOCATION OF FIRST MEETING.—The first meeting”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) LOCATION OF SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.—At least 1 meeting of the Commission each year shall be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.”.

(b) DUTIES.—Section 5(c)(1) of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-196; 130 Stat. 687) is amended by striking “2 years after the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “March 31, 2020”.

(c) COORDINATION.—Section 6(b) of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-196; 130 Stat. 689) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “presiding officer of the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities, the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities” and inserting “Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services”; and

(2) in paragraph (4), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “and other” after “founding”.

(d) EXPENDITURES OF COMMISSION.—Section 9 of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-196; 130 Stat. 691) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—All expenditures of the Commission shall be made from donations, earned income, and any funds made available to carry out this Act under subsection (f).”;

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “Once each year during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “Annually during the period beginning 1 year after the Commission submits the report to the President under section 5(c)(1).”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTIONS.—The Commission shall have the exclusive right to use, and to allow others to use, the official marks, imprimaturs, and logos of the Commission.

“(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. KHANNA) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KHANNA. Madam 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 on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, nearly 250 years ago, a group of visionaries met in Philadelphia for the Second Continental Congress. Out of this unusual meeting of daring patriots, a declaration was produced stating to the world that, for the first time in the modern world, 13 Colonies would join together to become one independent nation—the United States of America, the greatest experiment in democracy that the world has ever seen.

Madam Speaker, these leaders boldly declared that no more would Americans live under the tyranny of a nation 3,000 miles away. They acted with unity and decided that our Nation will not be built upon privilege inherited by birth, but natural rights that belonged to each and every person.

In 2026, the United States will celebrate 250 years of independence. While we have not always lived up to these lofty ideals, we have continued to work to make progress and right the wrongs.

To commemorate and celebrate the founding of our Republic in 2016, Congress established the United States Semiquincentennial Commission. The Commission's goal is to encourage Americans to remember our past, celebrate our present, and look forward to a promising future. The Commission

works with public and private entities across the country to make celebrations of our 250th year of independence a time to remember for years to come.

Madam Speaker, while the Commission has done incredible work thus far, the Commission Amendments Act will make needed updates to ensure that the Commission has the resources and talent it needs to fulfill its mission of national importance.

This bill will expand the membership to include cultural and historical perspectives from individuals such as the chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. In addition, the bill will provide necessary intellectual property protections for the materials created by the Commission.

This commonsense legislation will serve to further enable the Commission to carry on its important work. It has never been more important for us to come together or remember our past, acknowledge our present, and look forward to our future as one nation devoted to the ideals of liberty and justice for all.

As someone who was born in 1976, in Philadelphia, the year of our bicentenary, this has a particular meaning to me.

Madam Speaker, I thank Senator TOOMEY and others on the committee for advancing this. Our Nation will be the first multiracial, multiethnic democracy in the history of the world, and it is a credit to our founding vision.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3989, the United States Semiquincentennial Commission Amendments Act.

Our country's Declaration of Independence was courageously signed in 1776. This makes 2026 the 250th anniversary our great Republic and its founding.

An exposition marking the 150th anniversary was in Philadelphia in 1926, and bicentennial celebrations were held throughout the country in 1976. It is only fitting that we also celebrate the 250th anniversary, another milestone anniversary.

To do this, Congress passed and the President signed the United States Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016 in the 114th Congress. The bill before us today would amend the law authorizing the Commission, with necessary changes, to allow the planning work to continue. S. 3989 grants the Commission certain flexibilities, such as no longer requiring every meeting convene at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. The law would still recognize Philadelphia's importance and requires at least one meeting per year to be held in the City of Brotherly Love.

This bill, S. 3989, would add the directors of several Federal agencies focused

on the arts to assist with the planning. The bill would also grant the Commission exclusive rights over their official logo for commercial licensing purposes, which would help provide additional funding resources for the Commission's work. These changes will allow the Commission and the rest of the United States to better celebrate our country's 250th anniversary.

Madam Speaker, as the Commission noted in their 2020 report to the President, "America 250," the central theme of the celebrations, will be "educate, engage, and unite." Specifically, the Commission's primary goal with these celebrations is to inspire the American spirit; to deepen the understanding of our history and the democratic process through education; increase engagement in our communities and governing affairs; and foster unity, that includes the many Americans in our "one Nation."

Madam Speaker, I think my colleagues would agree that more than ever, Americans stand to benefit from a national celebration reflecting on our shared values which unite us as a country, a country uniquely founded on a set of ideals.

Every one of us owes a debt of gratitude to the framework of freedoms, rights, and government institutions our Founding Fathers established with such a discerning forethought. We look forward to the Commission's plans being finalized next year and for the forthcoming celebrations of America's founding, a country we all love so well.

Madam Speaker, we look forward to celebrating the 250th anniversary of America's founding. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KHANNA. Madam Speaker, I reiterate my support for this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Madam Speaker, 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. KHANNA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3989, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1430

DEEMING AN URBAN INDIAN ORGANIZATION AND EMPLOYEES A PART OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Mr. GALLEG0. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6535) to deem an urban Indian organization and employees thereof to be a part of the Public Health Service for the purposes of certain claims for personal injury, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6535

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

SECTION 1. DEEMING AN URBAN INDIAN ORGANIZATION AND EMPLOYEES THEREOF TO BE A PART OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE FOR THE PURPOSES OF CERTAIN CLAIMS FOR PERSONAL INJURY.

Title V of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1651) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 519. DEEMING AN URBAN INDIAN ORGANIZATION AND EMPLOYEES THEREOF TO BE A PART OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE FOR THE PURPOSES OF CERTAIN CLAIMS FOR PERSONAL INJURY.

"Section 102(d) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act shall apply—

"(1) to an Urban Indian organization to the same extent and in the same manner as such section applies to an Indian tribe, a tribal organization, and an Indian contractor; and

"(2) to the employees of an Urban Indian organization to the same extent and in the same manner as such section applies to employees of an Indian tribe, a tribal organization, or an Indian contractor."

SEC. 2. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GALLEG0. Madam 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 on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GALLEG0. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 6535, the Coverage for Urban Indian Health Providers Act, is a bipartisan bill authored by myself and Representative MARKWAYNE MULLIN of Oklahoma.

This bill would uphold our trust responsibility, provide long-overdue parity to the Indian Health System by extending Federal Tort Claims Act coverage to urban Indian organizations, and direct their scarce resources to saving lives instead of bureaucratic overhead.

This broadly supported policy change was also included in the President's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.

As part of our trust and treaty responsibilities, the U.S. Government has

a legal responsibility to provide healthcare to Native Americans and Alaska Natives. Congress created the Indian Health System to carry out this obligation.

The Indian Health System is made up of the Indian Health Service; Tribal health programs; and urban Indian organizations, known as UIOs.

UIOs play a pivotal role in upholding the trust responsibility by providing culturally competent care to the over 70 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives who live in urban areas, like my district in Phoenix, Arizona.

However, despite the pivotal role they play, UIOs are the only branch of the Indian Health System that are not currently eligible for liability coverage under the Federal Tort Claims Act, known as FTCA.

As a result, each UIO is forced to spend up to \$250,000 per year on individual medical liability policies. If we pass this bill today, that quarter of a million dollars will instead be spent directly on patient care and the resources these clinics need to fight COVID-19. That is why passing H.R. 6535 is especially critical now, in the midst of a pandemic that has hit Native populations the hardest, and UIOs have been disproportionately the ones servicing them and also hit hard.

This year, over 80 percent of UIOs have cut services due to the resource shortages they are experiencing, and at least three have had to shut their doors during the first wave of the pandemic. Cuts to services are devastating for the vulnerable Native communities and the UIOs that serve them. I know because I have heard from my constituents what a critical role UIOs, like Native Health of Phoenix, play in the daily lives of urban Indians.

From free food deliveries during the pandemic to seniors and low-income families, to COVID testing, primary care, and social services, UIOs and their staffs are pillars of the communities they serve and they save lives.

These heroic frontline staffs should not be singled out for exclusion from coverage under FTCA merely due to which part of the Indian Health System they serve in. Passing H.R. 6535 would immediately make these health providers eligible for FTCA coverage, and it would create a financial lifeline for these cash-strapped health clinics serving on the front lines of the pandemic.

I urge my colleagues to support frontline health workers, support Native communities, and support upholding our trust responsibilities by voting "yes" on this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 6535 would amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to extend Federal Tort Claims Act coverage to urban Indian