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4 MARKUP OF H.R. 1656, THE SECRET SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF

5 2015

6 Wednesday, July 15, 2015

7 House of Representatives

8 Committee on the Judiciary

9 Washington, D.C.

10       The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:21 a.m., in  
11 Room 2141, Rayburn Office Building, Hon. Bob Goodlatte  
12 [chairman of the committee] presiding.

13       Present: Representatives Goodlatte, Chabot, Issa,  
14 Forbes, King, Franks, Gohmert, Jordan, Poe, Marino, Gowdy,  
15 Labrador, Farenthold, Collins, DeSantis, Walters, Buck,  
16 Ratcliffe, Trott, Bishop, Conyers, Jackson Lee, DelBene,  
17 Cicilline, and Peters.

18           Staff present: Shelley Husband, Majority Staff  
19 Director; Branden Ritchie, Deputy Majority Staff Director and  
20 Chief Counsel; Allison Halataei, Majority Parliamentarian and  
21 General Counsel; Caroline Lynch, Chief Counsel, Subcommittee  
22 on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations;  
23 Chris Grieco, Counsel, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism,  
24 Homeland Security, and Investigations; Kelsey Williams,  
25 Clerk; Perry Apelbaum, Minority Chief Counsel, Chief of  
26 Staff, and Staff Director; Danielle Brown, Minority  
27 Parliamentarian and Chief Legislative Counsel; Joe  
28 Graupensperger, Minority Chief Counsel, Subcommittee on  
29 Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations;  
30 Veronica Eligan, Minority Professional Staff Member; and  
31 Maggie Lopatin, Minority Clerk.

32

33 Chairman Goodlatte. Good morning. The Judiciary  
34 Committee will come to order, and without objection the chair  
35 is authorized to declare a recess of the committee at any  
36 time.

37 Pursuant to notice, I now call up H.R. 1656 for purposes  
38 of markup and move that the committee report the bill  
39 favorably to the House.

40 The clerk will report the bill.

41 Ms. Williams. H.R. 1656, to provide for additional  
42 resources for the Secret Service and to improve protections  
43 for restricted areas.

44 Chairman Goodlatte. Without objection, the bill is  
45 considered as read and open for amendment at any point.

46 [The bill follows:]

47

48 Chairman Goodlatte. And I will begin by recognizing  
49 myself for an opening statement.

50 The Secret Service has two primary missions: criminal  
51 investigations and protection of the President, Vice  
52 President, and other dignitaries. As a result, the Secret  
53 Service is entrusted with protecting some of our most  
54 valuable assets. This is an extremely difficult, high  
55 profile mission in an environment with zero margin for error.

56 The Secret Service is comprised of many outstanding and  
57 upstanding men and women who do excellent work. However,  
58 over the last few years a series of embarrassing scandals,  
59 security failures, and instances of poor judgment have rocked  
60 the Secret Service. These incidences range from agents' use  
61 of prostitutes while on official presidential travel to  
62 Colombia, an incident in the Netherlands involving  
63 intoxicated agents, and the Agency's failure to initially  
64 apprehend fence jumper, Omar Gonzalez, who was later arrested  
65 inside the White House.

66 Following these incidents, the President appointed a new  
67 director of the Secret Service, Joseph Clancy, who has  
68 implemented a number of reforms. The President also  
69 appointed a panel of experts to recommend changes to the

70 Secret Service. Through this committee's oversight and the  
71 recommendations of the panel, it is clear that despite  
72 Director Clancy's initiatives, legislative action is still  
73 necessary. We must ensure that the Agency's officers and  
74 agents are properly trained in order to successfully identify  
75 and protect threats from materializing, as well as to ensure  
76 the Agency has the tools it needs to carry out its mission.

77 H.R. 1656, the Secret Service Improvements Act of 2015,  
78 is bipartisan legislation introduced to provide much needed  
79 resources to the Agency and implement many of the U.S. Secret  
80 Service Protective Mission Panel's recommendations for  
81 improvements for the Agency. I am happy to have worked on  
82 this legislation with Ranking Member Conyers, Crime  
83 Subcommittee Chairman Sensenbrenner, and Ranking Member  
84 Jackson Lee.

85 This bill makes much needed improvements to the Secret  
86 Service. These improvements strengthen the security of the  
87 President, other protectees, and the White House complex,  
88 enhances Secret Service's officers' and agents' training,  
89 increases the Agency's manpower, and improves transparency  
90 and accountability within the Agency. This legislation also  
91 requires Senate confirmation of the director of the Secret

92 Service. The person entrusted to not only protect the  
93 President, but to also head a \$1.5 billion Federal law  
94 enforcement agency should be subject to the same process of  
95 advice and consent of the Senate as his counterparts at other  
96 comparable agencies. The resources and changes provided by  
97 this legislation will help to reform the Secret Service and  
98 to restore the trust that Congress, the President, and the  
99 American people must have in the vital tasks that the Secret  
100 Service carries out every day.

101 I urge my colleagues to join me in reporting this bill  
102 favorably from the committee. And it is now my pleasure to  
103 recognize the ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan,  
104 Mr. Conyers, for his opening statement.

105 Mr. Conyers. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.  
106 Members of the committee, H.R. 1656, the Secret Service  
107 Improvements Act, is an important bill that will assist the  
108 Secret Service with its critical missions of protecting the  
109 President, the Vice President, and other dignitaries.

110 In March, I was pleased to join my colleagues, Chairman  
111 Goodlatte, Crime Subcommittee Chairman Sensenbrenner, and  
112 Crime Subcommittee Ranking Member Sheila Jackson Lee, in  
113 introducing this bill. We did so because of the urgency of

114 addressing shortcomings related to the Secret Service that  
115 have come to light in recent years. Last fall, this  
116 committee held an important oversight hearing to review the  
117 operation of this vitally important agency. Then acting  
118 director, Joseph Clancy, who has since taken on the job on a  
119 more permanent basis, came before the committee to discuss  
120 the mission of the Agency and issues related to recent lapses  
121 in security that could have jeopardized the individuals the  
122 Agency is sworn to protect.

123 In particular, we moved to a closed session to engage in  
124 a frank discussion about the unacceptable incident last  
125 September in which a man was able to jump over the fence, run  
126 past Secret Service officers, and enter the White House. We  
127 learned that while there were performance errors made by some  
128 officers that day, the protective mission of the Secret  
129 Service has been jeopardized largely because the Agency has  
130 been allowed to fall into a state of disrepair. Personnel  
131 levels, for example, are unacceptably low. The long hours on  
132 duty leave little time for training. Equipment and  
133 technological systems are not updated or integrated  
134 sufficiently. And the culture of the Agency has suffered  
135 from poor leadership.

136           These conclusions were confirmed and expanded upon by  
137 the review panel established by the Department of Homeland  
138 Security, Jeh Johnson, in the wake of the White House  
139 intrusion last year. Therefore, I joined with my colleagues  
140 to introduce this bill which is designed to address these  
141 deficiencies. H.R. 1656 addresses several categories of  
142 issues that urgently need attention: leadership, resources,  
143 training, and authorities.

144           With respect to leadership, the bill requires the  
145 position of director of the Secret Service to be confirmed by  
146 the Senate after presidential nomination. With respect to  
147 resources, the bill authorizes the hiring of additional  
148 personnel and requires a review of the Agency's use of  
149 technology, an area of concern based on past security lapses.  
150 With respect to training, the bill requires more training for  
151 agents and the Uniform Division officers, and also authorizes  
152 the construction of better training facilities. With respect  
153 to authorities, the bill allows the Agency to investigate  
154 threats against former Vice Presidents in the same way it  
155 investigates threats against former Presidents.

156           In closing, I would like to note that I plan to support  
157 a manager's amendment that the chairman, I believe, will



158 offer shortly. The amendment will make minor changes as well  
159 as some important additions consistent with the goal of  
160 assisting the critical mission of this Agency.

161 This is a bipartisan bill, and I thank the chairman and  
162 my colleagues for their work on this issue, and I yield back  
163 the balance of my time.

164 Chairman Goodlatte. Thank you, Mr. Conyers. And I now  
165 recognize myself for the purpose of offering an amendment,  
166 and the clerk will report the amendment.

167 Ms. Williams. Amendment to H.R. 1656, offered by Mr.  
168 Goodlatte, page 2, beginning --

169 Chairman Goodlatte. Without objection, the amendment is  
170 considered as read.

171 [The amendment of Chairman Goodlatte follows:]

172

173 Chairman Goodlatte. And I recognize myself to explain  
174 the amendment. This amendment makes a number of important  
175 technical changes and improvements to the underlying bill.  
176 In January of this year, a drone landed on the White House  
177 lawn, sparking concerns about the security risk posed by  
178 unmanned aerial vehicles. The committee reviewed the  
179 criminal statute that protects the White House and other  
180 restricted buildings and grounds, and determined that the  
181 statute does not prohibit the landing of drones in these  
182 restricted spaces.

183 H.R. 1656 amends the restricted buildings and grounds  
184 statute to prohibit drones and other objects. The manager's  
185 amendment clarifies this language to limit it to those who  
186 purposefully cause a drone or other object to enter  
187 restricted grounds. The amendment also clarifies the  
188 language related to vice presidential protection. It  
189 slightly alters the language in the underlying bill so that  
190 the crime of threatening the Vice President, former Vice  
191 President, or his family, mirrors the same provisions  
192 providing for Secret Service protection of those protectees.  
193 This will also allow the Secret Service to investigate  
194 threats against those protectees.

195           The manager's amendment also makes a slight change to  
196 the number of additional members of the presidential  
197 protective detail to mirror the recommendations of the  
198 Protective Panel, and makes clear that all Secret Service  
199 protective details can use the new training facilities  
200 authorized in the underlying bill. The manager's amendment  
201 also makes several important additions to the underlying  
202 bill. First, it alters current law to make sure that the  
203 Secret Service can install alarms and security measures at  
204 former President's primary and secondary residences. Current  
205 law, passed decades ago, prevents the Secret Service from  
206 obtaining approval for necessary security upgrades to these  
207 properties to ensure the safety of our former Presidents.

208           Second, and perhaps most importantly, the manager's  
209 amendment includes a provision to create an ethics office  
210 within the General Counsel's office at the Secret Service.  
211 This suggestion came at the request of the ranking member of  
212 the Crime Subcommittee, Ms. Jackson Lee, and I want to thank  
213 her for her contribution to this amendment and for her work  
214 on the underlying bill.

215           I urge support for these important changes.

216           Mr. Conyers. Mr. Chairman?

217 Chairman Goodlatte. And now I recognize the gentleman  
218 from Michigan, Mr. Conyers.

219 Mr. Conyers. Thank you very much. This bipartisan bill  
220 now adds the manager's amendment to make a number of  
221 improvements to the underlying bill, and I support this  
222 amendment, which would strengthen the underlying bill in  
223 several different ways. It establishes within the Secret  
224 Service an ethics program office to administer the ethics  
225 laws, regulations, and policies governing its employees. It  
226 also increases the number of Secret Service agents the bill  
227 authorizes to be hired.

228 It authorizes the Secret Service to investigate serious  
229 threats against former Vice Presidents in the same way it  
230 investigates threats against former Presidents, and it allows  
231 for better protection former Presidents at their residences.  
232 It also prohibits knowingly causing objects, such as drones,  
233 from entering restricted buildings or grounds such as the  
234 White House complex.

235 The Secret Service is dedicated to critical missions  
236 related to protection and criminal investigation, and in  
237 recent years we have learned of a number of deficiencies of  
238 the Agency related to leadership, performance, and ethics.

239 And so, I urge my colleagues to support the manager's  
240 amendment in addressing these important issues. I thank you  
241 and yield back the balance of my time.

242 Chairman Goodlatte. The chair thanks the gentleman.  
243 Are there other members seeking recognition? For what  
244 purpose does the gentleman from California?

245 Mr. Issa. I move to strike the last word.

246 Chairman Goodlatte. The gentleman is recognized for 5  
247 minutes.

248 Mr. Issa. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I want to thank  
249 you and the ranking member for bringing this important  
250 legislation.

251 Within the committee's jurisdiction, I believe you have  
252 carefully added a number of additional very good features.  
253 One of them that I am particularly interested in is by adding  
254 the Vice President and their family, immediate family, in  
255 perpetuity, we create a situation in which guidance is likely  
256 needed, which I believe can be done in report language. That  
257 guidance would be one that would make it clear that if 20  
258 years after a Vice President leaves office their son were to  
259 have a threat, that there must be a nexus to the official  
260 duties, historic official duties, of the Vice President or

261 their standing as a former Vice President. This likely would  
262 be equally true of, let us just say, an adult child of 10,  
263 20, 30, 40 years earlier a President.

264 The history of the President and the First Lady being  
265 protected is one that I believe is good, and, in fact, the  
266 12-year limitation that currently exists on a protective  
267 detail perhaps is one done in haste that in time we will  
268 revisit. Additionally, the Oversight chairman I understand  
269 intends to offer an amendment that would require that they be  
270 included in the reporting. I would like to preempt and  
271 presume that that will be offered, and lend my support to  
272 this for two important reasons.

273 First of all, the Oversight Committee has historically  
274 been at the center of reviewing and participating in the  
275 reforms and the cultural changes necessary at the Selective  
276 Service. Secondly, they have direct jurisdiction over the  
277 pay benefits and organization of the Secret Service. And I  
278 said "selective," but I meant "Secret Service." Therefore, I  
279 think that it is particularly important that they have all  
280 information in a direct fashion.

281 Lastly, I want to make it clear that our jurisdiction  
282 does not allow for reorganization of the Secret Service, nor

283 do we have the ability to tell them how to get their culture  
284 in order. But I want to go on record as saying that for too  
285 long there have been two or three or four Secret Services:  
286 one, the one that guards the President and is considered to  
287 be elite; two, the additional plain clothes people who do not  
288 immediately serve on that detail, but serve on other similar  
289 details; three, the uniformed men and women who guard the  
290 White House and other facilities; and four, those who would  
291 be similar, but find themselves stationed in and around  
292 Washington, D.C. in support of the hundreds of diplomatic  
293 missions here in Washington, D.C.

294 It is clear that the Oversight Committee needs to take a  
295 serious look at reorganizing the Secret Service so that it  
296 becomes one service so there is not a different standard or a  
297 different morale. Some years ago, the Oversight Committee  
298 made the changes necessary to equalize the pay between these  
299 various parts of the Secret Service. And the break in by  
300 jumping the fence and running at the White House showed all  
301 too clearly that the level of training, morale, and  
302 expectation for the uniformed members of the Secret Service  
303 would seem to have been a different standard than the  
304 immediate Protective Service.

305           Lastly, as we add additional slots and have to fund  
306 them, it is clear that if you had one force where every  
307 single individual could in rotation and throughout their  
308 career serve in any position and not be relegated to one that  
309 might be boring and tedious perhaps for their entire career,  
310 that the retention, the morale, the esprit de corps, and the  
311 likelihood of proper protection of both the First Family,  
312 other protected individuals, and the facilities that they  
313 occupy would be greatly enhanced.

314           So I want to thank the chairman for doing everything  
315 that could be done in the bill. I have no amendment other  
316 than asking for report language that would clarify the  
317 limitations of the discretion that you are providing in the  
318 law. And I thank the gentleman, and I would yield to him.

319           Chairman Goodlatte. Would the gentleman yield? First  
320 of all, I thank him for his interest that he has taken in  
321 this matter, not only now, but when he was chairman of the  
322 Oversight and Government Reform Committee. I agree with his  
323 comments.

324           We will happy to work with you on the language, but want  
325 to make sure it is clear, in the manager's amendment it is  
326 clear that the protective service for family members of the



327 former Vice President is not in perpetuity. It is only for a  
328 limited period of time, 6 months, which may be extended under  
329 certain circumstances. But in any event, we will work with  
330 you to --

331 Mr. Issa. And I thank the chairman. I was not  
332 referring to the protective period, but the threat which  
333 would go on in perpetuity for the individuals and the family.  
334 If I understood the amendment, if you threaten a former Vice  
335 President's son or a former Vice President himself, it is not  
336 6 months. It is forever as I understood it, not 6 months.  
337 Is that correct?

338 Chairman Goodlatte. Our understanding may be a little  
339 different, but we will work with you on --

340 Mr. Issa. I look forward to clarifying that, and I  
341 thank the chairman.

342 Chairman Goodlatte. For what purpose does the  
343 gentlewoman --

344 Ms. Jackson Lee. I rise to strike the last word.

345 Chairman Goodlatte. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5  
346 minutes.

347 Ms. Jackson Lee. Let me thank Mr. Goodlatte and Mr.  
348 Conyers for this legislation that manages to provide some

349 additional instructions to the Secret Service. And let me  
350 say as a member of the Homeland Security Committee dealing  
351 with the Secret Service, but, more importantly, dealing with  
352 them and their service, first of all, let me acknowledge the  
353 many men and women who are in the Secret Service who over the  
354 decades have served this Nation and served this Nation ably.  
355 This is a storied organization and one that has a long  
356 history in the United States.

357 I want to just generally speak on making this a team  
358 effort. I was in Colombia when the 2012 incident occurred.  
359 It could not have been more a time of disappointment,  
360 embarrassment, chagrin, if you might say it, since this was a  
361 presidential trip. And I think that has created a very  
362 unfortunate future pathway that the Secret Service in its  
363 name has to overcome. I could cite the incident at the White  
364 House in terms of the bomb detection and two Secret Service  
365 agents alleged to have been inebriated or the jumping of the  
366 fence as a series of incidences that causes great pain to  
367 many of us.

368 I would say that Director Clancy coming back into  
369 service, first of all, as all of the Secret Service, is a  
370 great patriot, he, in particular, having come back out of

371 retirement, and having made a statement just a few weeks ago  
372 about his intent to reform this Agency. I would hope that  
373 maybe collectively Homeland Security and the Judiciary  
374 Committee would help him in doing so. But I want to  
375 acknowledge and thank the chairman and ranking member for  
376 allowing my amendment to be in the manager's amendment, and  
377 note that I worked with the Secret Service to develop and  
378 include a provision in this amendment that addresses a  
379 critical issue, and that is the personal behavior of its  
380 agents and other personnel.

381 My amendment would create an ethics program office to  
382 fully and effectively implement and administer the ethics,  
383 laws, and policies governing Secret Service. My amendment  
384 complements the other provisions of the bill that primarily  
385 deal with issues related to resources, training, and  
386 equipment, several very important elements. We heard a  
387 discussion I think by Director Clancy, if I am not mistaken,  
388 to the ranking member and chairman that he wanted a mini-  
389 White House that he needed resources to build. And so, we  
390 know that there are training enhancements that we can have.

391 But my amendment complements those requests and  
392 provisions in this legislation. Much of this response to the

393 need to upgrade the Agency is in response to recent security  
394 lapses, most prominently the incident last September in which  
395 a man was able to climb over the White House fence, evade  
396 Uniform Division officers, burst through the door of the  
397 North Portico, and made it all the way to the East Room. And  
398 it has already been acknowledged the many errors were made.

399 In addition to such instances of security lapses, there  
400 have been a number of incidences of misconduct of Secret  
401 Service agents, and as I mentioned already, the 2012 incident  
402 in Colombia. And at that time, the Secret Service convened a  
403 professionalism reinforcement working group. However, I  
404 think my amendment that is now included in the manager's  
405 amendment will specifically list and include the  
406 responsibilities by creating the ethics program office, and  
407 burden or impress upon the Secret Service that we should have  
408 a zero failure mission in a high pressure environment,  
409 recognizing that the misconduct of agents jeopardizes other  
410 agents whom they are sworn to protect.

411 The Secret Service needs to maintain and strengthen a  
412 culture of ethical behavior, which includes accountability  
413 for ethical behavior, but really befits the storied  
414 organization that they are, and to exhibit accountability

415 because it is critical for the effectiveness of this Agency.  
416 I understand the Secret Service welcomes the creation of this  
417 office, and, as I indicated, I have a great deal of respect  
418 for the Secret Service and overall men and women, Director  
419 Clancy, and the prior agents, leaders that were there. And  
420 though some had to step down and some retired, I know their  
421 heart was in the right place.

422 And so, I would ask my colleagues to support the  
423 manager's amendment, but that we continue to have oversight  
424 over the Agency to work with them to be able to do their  
425 duties at the highest ethical level and the highest level of  
426 security. I have confidence that they can do so.

427 With that, I yield back my time.

428 Chairman Goodlatte. The chair thanks the gentlewoman.

429 The question is on the amendment.

430 Those in favor will respond by saying aye.

431 Those opposed, no.

432 In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it, and the  
433 amendment is agreed to.

434 Are there any other amendments? For what purpose does  
435 the gentleman from Texas seek recognition?

436 Mr. Ratcliffe. I have an amendment at the desk, Mr.

437 Chairman.

438 Chairman Goodlatte. The clerk will report the  
439 amendment.

440 Ms. Williams. Amendment to H.R. 1656, offered by Mr.  
441 Ratcliffe of Texas, page 5, line 20, insert after "the  
442 director of the Secret Service," the following: "in  
443 consultation with the under secretary for science and  
444 technology of the Department of Homeland Security and other  
445 experts."

446 [The amendment of Mr. Ratcliffe follows:]

447

448 Chairman Goodlatte. The gentleman is recognized for 5  
449 minutes on his amendment.

450 Mr. Ratcliffe. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My amendment  
451 is simple, but necessary. It would require the director of  
452 the Secret Service to consult with the Department of Homeland  
453 Security's under secretary for science and technology, or  
454 S&T, and with other experts before devising and adopting  
455 procedures to evaluate the ways that technology can be used  
456 to secure the White House and respond to threats against  
457 individuals protected by the Secret Service.

458 My amendment preserves the existing relationship between  
459 the Secret Service and S&T, one which provides support  
460 through research, through development, and through the  
461 testing and evaluating of technologies. To be clear, my  
462 amendment does not alter the status quo in this regard, but  
463 only ensures that the Secret Service, like other DHS  
464 components, consults with S&T in order to ensure that it is,  
465 in fact, utilizing the most effective and up to date tools.

466 In consulting with S&T, the Secret Service would be able  
467 to identify additional needs for new technologies, and S&T  
468 would be able to assist in providing the basic scientific  
469 research and support that is necessary to address those

470 needs. The amendment requires the Secret Service to consult  
471 with both S&T and other experts on technologies to be adopted  
472 to support its integrated protective and investigative  
473 mission in order to ensure that the Secret Service is  
474 utilizing the most current technologies available.

475 Through coordinated consultation, my amendment will also  
476 reduce the opportunity for unnecessary duplication of effort  
477 within S&T, the Secret Service, and across all of the  
478 Department of Homeland Security. I ask my colleagues to  
479 support this amendment to ensure that the Secret Service is  
480 properly consulting with experts, both inside and outside the  
481 Department of Homeland Security, when evaluating technologies  
482 to support the Secret Service mission.

483 I yield back the balance of my time, and thank the  
484 chairman.

485 Chairman Goodlatte. The chair thanks the gentleman, and  
486 recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

487 Mr. Conyers. Mr. Chairman and members, this is a  
488 thoughtful amendment and an important addition to the bill,  
489 and I support it. I yield back the balance of my time.

490 Chairman Goodlatte. The chair thanks the gentleman and  
491 recognizes himself in support of the amendment, and I thank



492 the gentleman for offering it, and I urge its adoption. I  
493 know he is doing important work with the Science and  
494 Technology Group at the Department of Homeland Security  
495 through his position on the Homeland Security Committee, and  
496 understands the Secret Service is also working with this  
497 group to improve their technology. I am hopeful that with  
498 the help of the Science and Technology Group, as well as  
499 other important technology experts, the Secret Service can  
500 modernize its technology.

501       Once again, I thank Mr. Ratcliffe for his amendment, and  
502 I urge its adoption by the committee.

503       The question occurs on the amendment.

504       All those in favor will respond by saying aye.

505       Those opposed, no.

506       The ayes have it. The amendment is agreed to.

507       Are there further amendments? For what purpose does the  
508 gentleman from South Carolina seek recognition?

509       Mr. Gowdy. I move to strike the last word. I have an  
510 amendment.

511       Chairman Goodlatte. The clerk will report the  
512 amendment.

513       Ms. Williams. Amendment to H.R. 1656, offered by Mr.

514 Mr. Gowdy of South Carolina, page 5, line --

515 Chairman Goodlatte. Without objection, the amendment is

516 considered as read.

517 [The amendment of Mr. Gowdy follows:]

518

519 Chairman Goodlatte. And the gentleman is recognized for  
520 5 minutes on his amendment.

521 Mr. Gowdy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an  
522 amendment drafted in whole by our colleague and friend, the  
523 chairman of Oversight. It is self-explanatory. And on his  
524 behalf, I would certainly encourage our colleagues to give it  
525 every consideration that they think it is appropriate. I  
526 think it is a good amendment, and would welcome their  
527 support.

528 Chairman Goodlatte. Would the gentleman yield?

529 Mr. Gowdy. I would be happy to.

530 Chairman Goodlatte. I thank the gentleman for yielding,  
531 and I want to thank him for offering this amendment. I want  
532 to thank Chairman Chaffetz for initiating this effort as  
533 well.

534 Two of the provisions of the underlying bill include  
535 reports due to this committee, to the Homeland Security  
536 Committee, and our Senate counterparts. Since reports are  
537 due to the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs  
538 Committee, it is fitting that we include a reporting  
539 requirement to the House counterpart, the House Oversight and  
540 Government Reform, which has done much good work in this

541 area, and which the gentleman from Utah chairs.

542 I want to thank him for his suggestion and thank the  
543 gentleman from South Carolina for offering the amendment, and  
544 urge its adoption.

545 Mr. Conyers. Would the gentleman yield?

546 Mr. Gowdy. I would be happy to yield to gentleman from  
547 Michigan.

548 Mr. Conyers. Thank you so much. This is amendment that  
549 will expand the reporting requirements in the bill, and, of  
550 course, I have no objection to it and I urge its passage.  
551 Thank you for yielding.

552 Mr. Gowdy. Thank you very much, and I would yield back,  
553 Mr. Chairman.

554 Chairman Goodlatte. The chair thanks the gentleman.

555 The question occurs on the amendment offered by the  
556 gentleman from South Carolina.

557 All those in favor, respond by saying aye.

558 All those opposed, no.

559 In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it, and the  
560 amendment is agreed to.

561 Are there further amendments?

562 [No response.]

563 Chairman Goodlatte. A reporting quorum being present,  
564 the question is on the motion to report the bill, H.R. 1656,  
565 as amended, favorably to the House.

566 Those in favor, say aye.

567 Those opposed, no.

568 The ayes have it, and the bill, as amended, is ordered  
569 reported favorably. Members will have 2 days to submit  
570 views.

571 [The information follows:]

572

573 Chairman Goodlatte. Without objection, the bill will be  
574 reported as a single amendment in the nature of a substitute  
575 incorporating all adopted amendments. And staff is  
576 authorized to make technical and conforming changes.

577 This concludes our business today. Thanks to all  
578 members for attending.

579 The meeting is adjourned.

580 [Whereupon, at 10:50 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]