

I voted Yes on H.R. 4251, the Securing Maritime Activities through Risk-based Targeting for Port Security Act.

This bill would require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to carry out two pilot programs relating to border and port security and would require reports on improving port security. The bill would also authorize funding for a security program jointly operated by the Coast Guard and the Canadian government. Finally, the bill would direct DHS to make changes to procedures for issuing Transportation Worker Identification Credentials (TWICs) to individuals who require unescorted access to secure areas of ports and certain other facilities. The current TWIC enrollment, activation, issuance, and renewal process is inefficient and costly for our nation's transportation and port employees, and this legislation will remove the red tape surrounding the process while maintaining the system's high security standards. Our ports are a vital component of our economy and a critical piece of our border security, and this bill will strengthen their security while keeping America open for business.

The bill was approved by a vote of 402 – 21.