



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2007

No. 61

House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC, April 17, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TIM HOLDEN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX REFORM

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Today, 4 million Americans are paying the price for the misplaced tax priorities of the Bush administration and the Republicans here in Congress. For the last 6 years, their obsession with assisting the top 1/10 of a percent and other favored special interests to reduce their tax burden has riddled the Tax Code with more loopholes, adding about a million and a half more words to that code. At the same time they

have considered three mammoth and expensive tax bills in 2001, 2003 and 2004 that refused to address the alternative minimum tax inequity. They have made few modest additions with broad benefit like the 10-percent bracket but showered their real attention, their affection, and huge sums of money on those who need help the least. In the process, the \$5.6 trillion surplus inherited by this administration has evaporated, to be replaced by \$2 trillion more in additional national debt.

In the meantime, the alternative minimum tax, signed into law by Republican President Richard Nixon to ensure that the richest of Americans, who used tax shelters, pay at least some income tax, has morphed into a tax on millions of Americans who are caught because they pay their State and local taxes and are raising their families but largely leaves the most wealthy untouched.

Without extraordinary action, over the course of the next 3 years the alternative minimum tax will ensnare 32 million families, virtually every two-worker middle-class family with children. It won't bother the hedge fund manager or the NBA superstar but it will tax the teacher married to the firefighter with two kids. Because a tax shelter now means paying your local property and income taxes but does not include the tremendous tax advantage from capital gains, it won't hit the high-tech billionaire but will hit the postal worker and the nurse with three teenage kids at home.

The zeal to make permanent these tax changes has left the needs of tens of millions of Americans at risk. Indeed, the number one priority of the administration and the Republicans in Congress for taxation would not only make a true reform of the alternative minimum tax prohibitively expensive, it would rely on the ever-widening reach of the alternative minimum tax to finance their schemes.

On this day that millions of Americans are filing their tax returns and 4 million are paying the mutated, unfair alternative minimum tax, it is time to have that critical national debate on taxes in honest terms:

Should we tax people who work at jobs more than people whose money works for them?

Do we care about reducing the ability of some very privileged people to escape taxation?

What is our priority for tax reform? Is it to freeze the patchwork of special interest provisions over the last 6 years? Or to prevent 32 million families from an unjust alternative minimum tax, and then paying billions more to accountants just to calculate the damage?

I would hope that this is the last year that this unjust tax is used to provide unnecessary tax benefits for those who need them the least at the expense of those truly in need of tax relief.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 35 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

All powerful God, yet so loving and merciful, be present and attentive to those most in need. A Nation tossed by violent storms and upset by tragic

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H3403

human events surrounds grieving families and young people in schools with its prayers today.

As faith-filled Abraham reveals Your own filial love as he gazed on his son Isaac, so we identify with any parent who groans in mourning over the lifeless body of a child. Bring Your love to bear upon the campus of Virginia Tech and all the families affected by the crackling sound of gunfire and then the unbearably silence that follows. Thrown by the rush of terror and anxiety, may the people of God now reach out to them in their overwhelming moment of helplessness.

You, Lord, through the prophet Isaiah have said You would care for the young: "The Lord, our everlasting God, creator of the whole world, grows neither weary nor faint. Yet no one can fathom God with full understanding. He gives vigor to the weary, new strength to the exhausted. Even if the young and vigorous grow weary and faint, and stumble and fall, those who look to the Lord will receive new life. They will be lifted up on the wings of eagles. They will run and never tire. They will march and never grow weary."

We believe in You and with You, Lord God, they will live in Your presence until we are all reunited, forever and ever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ROSS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

TAXPAYER PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. WALZ of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1677, the Taxpayer Protection Act of 2007.

Every year thousands of taxpayers receive smaller refunds than they are entitled to. Our Tax Code is so inaccessible and complicated that many families do not claim all of the credits they so sorely need. The Taxpayer Protection Act of 2007 will improve communication between taxpayers and the IRS. By encouraging the Internal Revenue Service to reach out to those that

may qualify for the earned income tax credit, we will save struggling families many thousands of dollars.

Tax preparation is a multibillion-dollar business in America. It is useful to those who can afford it, but no one should be forced to hire an accountant or a preparer just to ensure that they can enjoy the benefits that many of us take for granted. Nor should the industry be able to prey on taxpayers with unfair refund anticipation loans.

This piece of legislation will improve the safeguards against fraud. By increasing reporting requirements on the IRS, the agency will become a vital component in the important fight against identity theft.

As many Americans rush to file their taxes on time this week, we all want to feel secure that the refund we receive is no more or less than we deserve.

TODAY IS TAX DAY

(Mr. KELLER of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today is tax day. Millions of Americans will write big fat checks to Uncle Sam. Who is paying the bill? The top 10 percent of households, families with incomes of \$100,000 or more, pay 70 percent of all Federal income taxes. Coincidentally, 70 percent of all the new jobs in America are created by small businessmen.

The tax cuts of 2003 have created 7.8 million new jobs and have given us the lowest unemployment rate in four decades. Unfortunately, the Democrat budget proposal contemplates allowing these tax cuts to expire which will give Americans the largest tax increase in history.

Under the Democrat tax increase, small businesses will be hurt and 42 million families with children will see their tax bill go up by an average of \$2,100. A married couple with two kids making \$60,000 will see their taxes go up by 60 percent.

On tax day let's remember the hardworking families who are paying the bills to Uncle Sam and oppose all new taxes.

STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE TAXPAYER PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, we are all still numb from yesterday's heart-breaking tragedy in Blacksburg, Virginia. I want to take a moment to extend my thoughts and prayers and those of my constituents in Louisville, Kentucky, to the students and faculty, friends and family at Virginia Tech University. We stand with you today in outrage and mourning, seeking answers and sharing your loss.

I rise today in strong support of the Taxpayer Protection Act. Our tax system is tailor made for accountants and

those who can afford to hire them. For those who must tread tax season alone, a dearth of regulation opens these citizens up to Internet scams and identity theft. A lack of easily accessible information ensures that money-saving provisions like the earned income tax credit go unnoticed and unutilized, costing Americans hundreds or even thousands of dollars.

The Taxpayer Protection Act changes that, turning a bureaucracy designed for accountants into a system made for Americans. This bill will ensure that Americans who benefit from the earned income tax credit are those who deserve it, not only those who are shrewd enough to find it.

Over the last 6 years we have seen a tax system that has worked very well for the extremely rich. I urge my colleagues to pass the Taxpayer Protection Act.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO MAKE TAX RELIEF PERMANENT

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, over the past few weeks Americans across our country have taken time out of their busy schedules to complete their 1040s, 1099s and W-2s by the April 17 deadline.

They did so in many different ways. Some planned ahead and mailed in their forms well before the deadline, while others are scrambling to finish work on their taxes until late tonight.

Today, taxpayers in south central Michigan are still working to meet their tax obligation for 2007. While tax day may be today, the average Michigander will have to work until April 29 of this year just to pay his or her individual tax bill.

The \$400 billion tax increase recently passed by Congress represents the largest tax increase in American history and could lead to a crippling economic recession.

Americans know best how to spend their hard-earned money, and rather than increase the tax burden, Congress needs to make tax relief permanent for hardworking American families.

By putting our fiscal house in order, this Congress can go a long way in restoring the trust of the American people and build a better, brighter future for our country.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE TAXPAYER PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. ELLSWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for two reasons. First of all, I want to extend my deepest condolences to the victims of yesterday's tragedy at Virginia Tech. The people of the Eighth District of Indiana will keep them and their families in their thoughts and prayers

I also rise today in support of the Taxpayer Protection Act. This bipartisan bill empowers middle-class Hoosier families in the fight against identity theft, and I am proud to support it.

Credit cards, on-line banking and shopping on the Internet have become a part of everyday life for many Hoosiers. These tools can make life easier for Hoosier families, but they also make Hoosiers vulnerable to criminals attempting to steal identities. With modern technology, a criminal can steal someone's credit cards, bank account and Social Security number and then proceed to spend thousands of dollars in someone else's name.

In addition to saddling families with thousands of dollars in debt, these crimes can erase years of good credit history, denying consumers the ability to buy a house or lease a car.

The Taxpayer Protection Act takes on this new threat and requires the Federal Government to notify taxpayers of any suspected identity theft. This bill is an important step in providing taxpayers the security of knowing their information is safe, and it will give Hoosiers the power to fight identity theft.

I urge my colleagues to support it.

TAX DAY

(Mr. BRADY of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, our prayers are with the Virginia Tech families as well.

Paying tax is bad enough, but the time it takes to figure them out, I think, is almost worse. You should not need an accountant to do your taxes or live in fear of making an honest mistake.

For our children's sake, we need to sunset this Tax Code and replace it with something far simpler, like a flat tax or, my choice, a retail sales tax. Can you imagine never having to fill out a tax form again in your life? Can you imagine having the IRS completely and totally out of your life?

Let's not forget we need to keep taxes low. Tax Freedom Day for Texas families is this Thursday. That is the first day since New Year's that Texas families will begin working for themselves, not for the government.

My constituents are worried that the new Democrat budget allows President Bush's tax relief to expire, which would raise taxes \$2,700 a year on our families. Washington needs to tighten its belt before it demands that our families tighten theirs.

STOP THE TAX MONSTER

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, Americans will reach deep into their pockets and pay Uncle Sam. Today, they will finish slogging

through the maze of Tax Code jargon, crunching numbers and filling out forms. Today, they will once again trust Washington with their money, because today, Mr. Speaker, is just like every other tax day before it.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are fed up with the status quo of today, and they deserve a different tomorrow. They deserve a tomorrow where they won't be taxed from the day they are born until the day they die and at every single point in between.

Americans deserve a tomorrow where saving and investing are virtues, not vices. Americans deserve a tomorrow where taxation brings efficient and responsible government. Americans deserve a tomorrow where doing their part and paying their fair share is enough. And they deserve a tomorrow where government respects their hard work and appreciates their sacrifice.

Only then will tomorrow be any different from today. May we all work positively for that new day.

□ 1215

THE VIRGINIA TECH TRAGEDY

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, with the report of rifle fire, America changed on the campus of Virginia Tech yesterday. A prestigious campus nestled in the mountains of Virginia became home to unspeakable acts of evil at the hands of a 23-year-old English major from South Korea.

The Bible tells us to mourn with those who mourn, and to pray for one another that we may be healed. I simply rise, very humbly, on behalf of the good people of eastern Indiana to assure the grieving families and community of Virginia Tech that we in Indiana are mourning with you and praying for you.

May God grant mercy to all those affected by this tragedy and grant wisdom to leaders in law enforcement and higher education as we apply the tragedy of Virginia Tech to protect our children and campuses in the future.

TAX DAY

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today the tax man cometh, and the tax man taketh away on this very day. The American people circle this on our calendar. We look forward to it with dread because we know that this is the day that the money goes in to feed an inefficient and ineffective, many times, Federal Government.

The current Congress has voted for tax increases at every single turn. They voted for more spending while eliminating tax reductions for middle-

class American families. They are getting rid of the deductions that have helped jump start the economy. The simple truth is that liberals want to take more money out of your pocket and put it into the Federal Government.

In my State, my fellow Tennesseans can expect to pay more than \$2,600 per year in coming years, thanks to the hold-on-to-your-wallet Congress that is in action today.

My colleagues and I at the Republican Study Committee have recently proposed a taxpayer bill of rights that protects the taxpayer.

It includes:

1. The right to have a Federal Government that does not grow beyond their ability to pay for it.

2. The right to receive back each dollar that they entrust to the Government for their retirement.

3. The right to expect the Government to balance the budget without having their taxes raised.

4. And the right to have a right to a simple, fair tax code that they can understand.

WILBERFORCE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, throughout this year we will celebrate the work to end one of humanity's worst acts of injustice. It was 200 years ago that William Wilberforce and his friends finally saw success in their attempt to end the British slave trade after 20 years of failed attempts.

To mark the anniversary of this tremendous accomplishment, a number of efforts are under way to inform people about this often forgotten hero of humanity. A wonderful movie about the life of Wilberforce entitled "Amazing Grace" has been released in theaters. Another documentary on his life and efforts, entitled "The Better Hour," is expected to air on public television this fall.

I have introduced a resolution in this body honoring his life and accomplishments. Yesterday, a contest was announced for high school students challenging them to follow Wilberforce's example by pursuing efforts to end modern-day slavery trafficking in men, women and children, which still plagues the world.

All of these events remind us that individuals of character and integrity really can change the world by fighting to end injustice and exploitation. That truth inspired Wilberforce in his day, and it should continue to inspire us today.

THE HATE CRIMES BILL

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers, I know, from all of us here in the House go out to the

families of those harmed and the families of those who were murdered there at Virginia Tech. We do extend our sympathies.

It seems like it would be inappropriate to bring up legislation that we are going to have a hearing on today, hate crimes. The hate crimes bill we take up will say we should protect more those with gender identity issues, with homosexuality issues, things like that, than college students, because the message of the bill is this: the hate crimes legislation says the majority of the Congress says that if you are going to hurt someone, if you are going to shoot them, brutalize them, please, make it a random, senseless act of violence like in Virginia. Don't hate them while you're hurting them.

That is a ridiculous message to send with legislation and I hope we will rethink it.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROSS). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

WILD SKY WILDERNESS ACT OF 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 886) to enhance ecosystem protection and the range of outdoor opportunities protected by statute in the Skykomish River valley of the State of Washington by designating certain lower-elevation Federal lands as wilderness, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 886

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 "Wild Sky Wilderness Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. ADDITIONS TO THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM.

(a) ADDITIONS.—The following Federal lands in the State of Washington are hereby designated as wilderness and, therefore, as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System: certain lands which comprise approximately 106,000 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Wild Sky Wilderness Proposal" and dated February 6, 2007, which shall be known as the "Wild Sky Wilderness".

(b) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and a legal description for the wilderness area designated under this Act with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives. The map and description shall

have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary of Agriculture may correct clerical and typographical errors in the legal description and map. The map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

SEC. 3. ADMINISTRATION PROVISIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) Subject to valid existing rights, lands designated as wilderness by this Act shall be managed by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and this Act, except that, with respect to any wilderness areas designated by this Act, any reference in the Wilderness Act to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) To fulfill the purposes of this Act and the Wilderness Act and to achieve administrative efficiencies, the Secretary of Agriculture may manage the area designated by this Act as a comprehensive part of the larger complex of adjacent and nearby wilderness areas.

(b) NEW TRAILS.—

(1) The Secretary of Agriculture shall consult with interested parties and shall establish a trail plan for Forest Service lands in order to develop—

(A) a system of hiking and equestrian trails within the wilderness designated by this Act in a manner consistent with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.); and

(B) a system of trails adjacent to or to provide access to the wilderness designated by this Act.

(2) Within two years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall complete a report on the implementation of the trail plan required under this Act. This report shall include the identification of priority trails for development.

(c) REPEATER SITE.—Within the Wild Sky Wilderness, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to use helicopter access to construct and maintain a joint Forest Service and Snohomish County telecommunications repeater site, in compliance with a Forest Service approved communications site plan, for the purposes of improving communications for safety, health, and emergency services.

(d) FLOAT PLANE ACCESS.—As provided by section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)), the use of floatplanes on Lake Isabel, where such use has already become established, shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable restrictions as the Secretary of Agriculture determines to be desirable.

(e) EVERGREEN MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT.—The designation under this Act shall not preclude the operation and maintenance of the existing Evergreen Mountain Lookout in the same manner and degree in which the operation and maintenance of such lookout was occurring as of the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION FOR LAND ACQUISITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to acquire lands and interests therein, by purchase, donation, or exchange, and shall give priority consideration to those lands identified as "Priority Acquisition Lands" on the map described in section 2(a). The boundaries of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and the Wild Sky Wilderness shall be adjusted to encompass any lands acquired pursuant to this section.

(b) ACCESS.—Consistent with section 5(a) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1134(a)), the Secretary of Agriculture shall ensure adequate access to private inholdings within the Wild Sky Wilderness.

(c) APPRAISAL.—Valuation of private lands shall be determined without reference to any restrictions on access or use which arise out of designation as a wilderness area as a result of this Act.

SEC. 5. LAND EXCHANGES.

The Secretary of Agriculture shall exchange lands and interests in lands, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Chelan County Public Utility District Exchange" and dated May 22, 2002, with the Chelan County Public Utility District in accordance with the following provisions:

(1) If the Chelan County Public Utility District, within ninety days after the date of enactment of this Act, offers to the Secretary of Agriculture approximately 371.8 acres within the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in the State of Washington, the Secretary shall accept such lands.

(2) Upon acceptance of title by the Secretary of Agriculture to such lands and interests therein, the Secretary of Agriculture shall convey to the Chelan County Public Utility District a permanent easement, including helicopter access, consistent with such levels as used as of date of enactment, to maintain an existing telemetry site to monitor snow pack on 1.82 acres on the Wenatchee National Forest in the State of Washington.

(3) The exchange directed by this Act shall be consummated if Chelan County Public Utility District conveys title acceptable to the Secretary and provided there is no hazardous material on the site, which is objectionable to the Secretary.

(4) In the event Chelan County Public Utility District determines there is no longer a need to maintain a telemetry site to monitor the snow pack for calculating expected runoff into the Lake Chelan hydroelectric project and the hydroelectric projects in the Columbia River Basin, the Secretary shall be notified in writing and the easement shall be extinguished and all rights conveyed by this exchange shall revert to the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 886, introduced by the gentleman from Washington State, Representative RICK LARSEN, would designate a 106,000-acre wilderness on national forest lands in the State of Washington. The proposed wilderness, to be known as the Wild Sky Wilderness, has probably been more studied and reviewed than any recent wilderness considered by the Natural Resources Committee.

This is not a new matter. Nearly identical legislation was approved by the committee in the 107th Congress. This message was subject to a hearing in 2004, at which time the administration testified they do not object to its passage.

Further, similar legislation has passed the Senate in each of the last three Congresses. The proposed wilderness includes significant low-level elevation wilderness that is home to important fish and wildlife populations. This new wilderness would link with previously designated wilderness in the national forest and would be within a few hours' distance from half of the population of Washington State.

The Wild Sky Wilderness has significant State and local support in Washington. State officials, local elected officials, businesses, and church groups have all gone on record supporting the wilderness designation.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come to designate this wilderness. I would like to commend my colleague, Representative LARSEN, and other Members of the Washington delegation for their perseverance in seeking a wilderness designation for this magnificent area.

We support passage of H.R. 886 and urge its adoption today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I would like to begin by complimenting Representative LARSEN for the hard work he has put into this legislation and for proposing wilderness only in his district. This would seem to be a basic sensible courtesy, but seems to be lost on some of his fellow Democrats.

With that said, the minority is opposed to this bill. During the markup in the Natural Resources Committee, the minority pledged its willingness to work with the majority, but this offer must have fallen upon deaf ears. In the future, we hope the majority can at least contact us after we make such a gesture.

Much of the area that would be designated by this bill does not qualify as wilderness. The 1964 Wilderness Act states explicitly that wilderness areas should be primitive and untrammeled by man. Yet the Wild Sky Wilderness Act includes several roads, a bridge, numerous culverts, and other man-made developments.

The proposal also includes areas with mining patents and lands identified by the Forest Service for timber harvest. Moreover, according to the Forest Service, road corridors within the wilderness are too narrow to ensure proper road maintenance and safe passage by travelers. Without sufficient corridors, landslides or other natural disturbances could permanently block or destroy the road.

Restrictions associated with the wilderness areas prohibit the use of mechanized or motorized activities, which would surely be needed to prepare a road. It is disingenuous for the majority to tout the public's ability to visit the Wild Sky area without protecting one of the main roads that would allow access to the Wild Sky area.

We are willing to work with the majority and have indicated our willing-

ness to do so. In the future we hope that the majority would work with us.

Wilderness areas affect local communities, are permanent, and many times have ramifications or unintended consequences. We ask the majority to take these bills seriously and study them in good faith before hurriedly passing them on to the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to my colleague, the sponsor of this legislation before us today, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN).

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of creating the first wilderness area for Washington State in over 20 years. The Wild Sky Wilderness will be unique, protecting 106,000 acres of the most pristine forests and streams in my district, while providing a clean and accessible place to hike, hunt, and fish.

The Wild Sky Wilderness Act has been carefully crafted, and it reflects years of community input. It will protect the peaks, forests and lakes of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, as well as thousands of acres of lower-elevation forest and salmon-bearing streams. Wild Sky will protect more lower-elevation acres than any other wilderness area in Washington State, bringing wilderness closer to our communities and benefiting Washington families and businesses for generations to come.

Congress passed the last national forest wilderness act in 1984 when a bipartisan effort brought a bill to President Ronald Reagan for signature that created, among other areas, the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness. This Wild Sky Wilderness Act has strong bipartisan support as well. This bill has received strong support from local Republican and Democratic legislators, former Republican Governors, and our current Democratic Governor, Christine Gregoire. Additionally, State legislators and the Snohomish County Executive have expressed their support.

The Wild Sky Wilderness Act has local support. The former mayor of the town of Index, the closest local government to the proposed wilderness, has said that "the Wild Sky Wilderness will be the best thing that ever happened in the valley." The cities of Monroe and Snohomish, both located on Highway 2 on the way to the Wild Sky, have passed resolutions of support.

The Wild Sky Wilderness Act has strong business support. REI, Inc., the Nation's largest consumer cooperative with its focus on the outdoor adventure, is an endorser, as are David and Lynn Meier, co-owners of A Stone's Throw Bed and Breakfast and A Cabin in the Sky vacation rental just down the way from the wild Skykomish wilderness. Additionally, the Snohomish County Economic Development Council supports this proposal.

This bill again marks the summit of a 5-year process of inclusiveness and

compromise. My staff and the staff of Senator PATTY MURRAY, who is the bill's prime sponsor in the Senate, have worked over the last 5 years to address local concerns. As a result of this community input, the original idea of a 120,000-acre proposal has been whittled down to the 106,000-acre bill that we are voting on today.

The spirit of compromise has been a constant in this bill's development over the last 5 years. This past winter, as an example, massive floods altered the path of the Skykomish River, displacing and destroying parts of the primary road that snakes through the proposed wilderness area. Immediately, Senator MURRAY and I brought together Snohomish County, the Forest Service and local advocates to responsibly adjust the boundaries of the proposed wilderness to ensure that the road could be repaired and remain open in the future.

The spirit of compromise has earned the support of groups such as the Washington Sea Plane Pilots Association, local tribes, the Wild Steelhead Coalition, the Back Country Horsemen and the Washington Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities. Additionally, my office has received approximately 4,000 letters and e-mails in support of the Wild Sky and a petition with over 10,000 names in support. Over 5 years of collaboration and compromise has resulted in a bill that has gained broad support in the best tradition of past Washington State wilderness areas. It is time to create the next generation of Washington State wilderness.

Finally, I want to thank Chairman RAHALL and his staff, Jim Zoia and Rick Healy, for their tremendous help and unwavering support for the Wild Sky Wilderness Act.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to submit the following names for the RECORD. These people conceived, fine-tuned, negotiated, along with many other people, the boundaries of the Wild Sky. Without their tireless effort, we would not be here today, and we owe them our thanks as well.

Mike Town, John Leary, Larry Romans, Tom Uniack, Rick McGuire, Mark Lawler, Harry Romberg, Norm Winn, Don Parks, Charlie Raines, Jon Owen, Michael Carroll, Jill Mckinnie, Brandon Hall, Christian Gunter, Jasper MacSllarrow, Louis Lauter, Doug Clapp, Abbey Levenshus, Charla Newman, Amanda Mahnke, Kim Johnston, Jeff Bjornstad, Jaime Shimek, Karen Waters, John Engber, Rachelle Hein, Cindy Lewis, Christy Gullion, Nalani Askov, Michelle Ackerman, Jennifer Ekstrom, Doug Scott, Bill Arthur, Doug Walker, Bill & Sue Cross, Bob Hubbard, Conway Leovy, Mark Heckert, Kem Hunter, Aaron Reardon, Peter Jackson, Tracy Nagelbush, Brian Bonlender, Michelle Koppes, Dave Sommers, Amit Ronen, Carrie Desmond.

Finally I would like to thank the late Karen M. Fant, 1949–2006. Throughout her adult life Karen spurred thousands of citizens across the State of Washington to speak up for the protection of wild places and wilderness. Early on Karen recognized the need to bring together and involve local people in efforts to protect wilderness. To do so she cofounded

and directed the Washington Wilderness Coalition. She was instrumental in forming an effective statewide community of wilderness advocates. To those who knew her, she provided never-ending inspiration and enthusiasm to keep working for the goal of protecting wilderness and wildlands in Washington State. Above all, Karen saw the potential and opportunity in everyone to be involved, play an important role, and make a difference.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington, a member of the committee, Representative JAY INSLEE.

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, this is wilderness the way wilderness is supposed to be done. I want to compliment Congressman LARSEN and Senator PATTY MURRAY for their efforts to shepherd and to fine-tune this bill. If anyone wants to see how to do a wilderness bill, come see how this one is done to take into consideration all of the local comments to pare this down to where we have the muscle and bone in this wilderness right now.

Boy, is it the right place to do it. I have a picture here of Gunn and Merchant peaks looking north from Baring Peak. I climbed Baring Peak, that is really just a little scramble, a couple of summers ago. What is so amazing about the Wild Sky Wilderness, it is both wild, and it is in the sky. It is only about 55 minutes from downtown Seattle.

□ 1230

About 2 million people can drive to this incredible Wild Sky Wilderness in about an hour, and it is a hidden gem. What you can say is that we have a new hidden gem that has been protected in the State of Washington to join the other jewels in the crown of our wilderness and our National Park System in the State of Washington, and we invite people to come out and see it. And if you come, what you will see is a very virgin country very close to an urban area.

Millions of people drive by these mountains on Highway 2 and don't even realize how wild this country is right to their left as they are going east towards eastern Washington. There are hardly even any marked trails in there. So if you want wild close to an urban area, come to the Wild Sky Wilderness. It is a very, very wonderful place to go.

But there is a second reason I want to point out why this wilderness is so important. The day I went up to the Baring Peak, I just happened to meet a father and two of his sons he was taking for a hike. He told me this is one of the earliest hikes going into Baring Lake. And if you could see the smile on this dad and the sort of interesting looks on these two kids, you know what wilderness is about, because today when we establish the Wild Sky Wilderness, we are giving a gift to these kids and their kids and their

grandkids. So these kids could be in the same position as dad has been, sometime, to have a wilderness to take their kids and their grandkids to, and they will have the same smile on their faces 100 years from now as this family did that summer day up on Baring Peak.

I want to thank the people who have been involved in this, Mike Towns specifically, a fellow who has been working on this for over 10 years. He is a teacher in Redmond, Washington. I know he will have a big smile on his face today, too. This is a great day for the continuation of wilderness in the State of Washington. It is just south of the Jackson Wilderness Area. It is a tradition that Congressman LARSEN has followed and Senator Jackson, and a proud tradition of wilderness in the State of Washington. Congratulations.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington State, Representative BAIRD.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I simply rise to congratulate my dear friend and colleague, Congressman LARSEN, for his tireless efforts on this.

This bill has been around for several Congresses. It has had wide bipartisan support. And as my friend, Mr. INSLEE, said, this was done the right way. Mr. LARSEN held countless hearings, met with virtually every imaginable interest group. There were compromises, sometimes difficult, sometimes painful compromises. But in the end, we have a truly remarkable area of land set aside. And, Mr. LARSEN, our friends in the other body, Senator MURRAY and Senator CANTWELL, worked very vigorously on this, and I congratulate them. And, as Mr. INSLEE did, I also want to congratulate the many citizen groups who worked so hard on this.

I encourage my friends on the other side to recognize that no bill will be perfect, but this is about as good as you are going to get. This is an area definitely worth preserving, and the people on the ground support it, by and large. It is one thing to say that it is nice for people to set aside wilderness in their own area and not other areas, but doesn't that converse also apply in not opposing an effort of someone to set aside a wilderness in his own area? I would think the reasoning would suggest that it would, and I urge support from both sides of the aisle on this.

I would just finally conclude with this. It is not possible for us to construct or build new wildlands. We can't do that; it is not within our power. What is within our power is to protect the small remaining areas of wildlands for all the future generations. This legislation does an admirable job of achieving this. I urge its passage, and I commend my friend and colleague, Mr. LARSEN, and the entire committee for working on this.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California, Representative MCNERNEY.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, before I give my remarks, I first want to say

that our thoughts and prayers today are with the students of Virginia Tech and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Wild Sky Wilderness Act of 2007, and I thank my colleague, Mr. LARSEN, and other members of the Washington delegation for their hard work in moving this bill forward. The Wild Sky Wilderness Act shows what we can accomplish when small businesses, concerned citizens, and elected officials work to preserve the environment.

The bill allows us to protect more than 100,000 acres of environmentally sensitive land that includes habitat for species such as the spotted owl and the bald eagle. Hikers, skiers, and fishermen of future generations will enjoy the same pristine natural environment. As we protect our country's great outdoors, we also protect some of the greatest traditions.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is good for the economy, good for the environment, and good for families. I hope my colleagues will support this legislation.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise as a cosponsor of H.R. 886, the Wild Sky Wilderness Act of 2007 to commend the House for taking long overdue action on legislation to designate the Wild Sky Wilderness. Today's approval of this well-drawn, meritorious environmental legislation is long overdue. I want to thank Congressman RICK LARSEN and Senator PATTY MURRAY for their tireless persistence on behalf of their constituents as well as Chairman RAHALL for his long standing support for the Wild Sky and for bringing this bill to the floor.

As a Member of the House Natural Resources Committee, I have been supportive of Congressman LARSEN's attempts to designate this area as wilderness and was continually frustrated at the failure of the previous Chairmen of that Committee to move this legislation and disappointed at the reasons given for inaction. Those arguments were without merit.

One of the benefits of working on this legislation was learning of the steadfast support from my constituents, the new Wild Sky Wilderness will be a popular and well-loved addition to my state's heritage of protected wild landscapes. It is overwhelmingly supported by my constituents, who live nearby. Indeed, the new Wild Sky Wilderness is within easy access of the people in the entire Puget Sound region.

This wilderness area, which is located in Snohomish County, enjoys enthusiastic support from the county council as well as our elected county executive. It also has the support of an overwhelming number of local elected leaders throughout the county, Democrats and Republicans alike, as well as a long list of local Snohomish County business owners. Over the years that the Wild Sky Wilderness has been before Congress it has earned enthusiastic editorial support from the local newspaper, the Everett Herald, as well as the major newspapers in Seattle and across the state.

I want to emphasize to my colleagues that in my State this is as popular and non-controversial a proposal as it could possibly be. I am pleased to mention the support this legislation enjoys from the Administration, including

the Agriculture Under Secretary, who in response to my questioning said that the President will sign this bill into law.

On top of its stunning wild character, the 106,577-acre Wild Sky Wilderness is particularly noteworthy because it embraces lower elevation lands than most of the existing Federal wilderness areas in our State. As a result, the new wilderness will afford statutory protection to headwaters streams and watersheds vital to the survival and restoration of healthy runs of salmon and steelhead in the Skykomish River, for which the area is named.

Passage of this legislation contributes to the important goal of protecting a greater diversity of biological communities in our National Wilderness Preservation System—including deep, forested valleys as well as towering, ice-clad mountain peaks. This lower elevation wilderness land will provide greater opportunities for year-round recreational adventures for Washington State residents.

During the congressional consideration of this wilderness proposal, our committee has dealt with a question that all too easily can mislead those who are not familiar with the 1964 Wilderness Act and of the consistent approach Congress has followed over four decades now in applying the protection of that historic conservation law to additional portions of our Federal lands.

As Congress acts on wilderness proposals such as this Wild Sky Wilderness legislation, it is important that we take care to follow the legislative history of the Wilderness Act of 1964, which was a bipartisan product of our committee, and the precedents consistently laid down over the subsequent more than four decades as Congress has enacted more than 130 laws under both Democratic and Republican leadership that have designated new wilderness areas across our country.

It is clear that the Wilderness Act reserves to Congress alone the decision as to what Federal lands are “suitable” for designation as wilderness. Subsection 2(a) of the Wilderness Act specifies that “. . . no Federal lands shall be designated as ‘wilderness areas’ except as provided for in this Act or by a subsequent Act.” Subsection 3(c) further specifies that the President may make recommendations, but that “A recommendation of the President for designation as wilderness shall become effective only if so provided by an Act of Congress.”

Despite this full history of Congressional action, some tried to question the inclusion of certain lands in the Wild Sky Wilderness because these lands showed fading evidence of past logging, old roads, and similar evidence of human use and impact. This objection, sometimes referred to as the “purity theory” of wilderness, is not based on an accurate understanding of the Wilderness Act and the intent of those who enacted it.

The new Wild Sky Wilderness includes some evidence of past human uses and impacts, including evidence of logging, old logging roads and logging railroad grades, and some culverts installed along those roads and railroad grades. In this way, it is no different than many wilderness areas Congress has previously designated as wilderness.

During a debate here on the House floor in 1969, Representative Morris K. Udall, the former chairman of our committee and himself one of the architects of the Wilderness Act, explained this practical approach intended by

the authors of the Wilderness Act to the House:

It would be nice to have our national wilderness system absolutely pure and completely free of any sign of the hand of man. But the fact is that we are getting a late start in this business of preserving America's wilderness. Logging has occurred; wood roads have been opened and later abandoned; cabins have been built which in time have decayed and fallen down; in the interest of public health and safety and to protect the natural resources there may sometimes be lookout towers and patrol cabins. All of these are imperfections within the wilderness. Yet how often is man able to create or to establish anything which is truly perfect? Very, very rarely—if ever. [Congressional Record, September 24, 1969]

Mr. Speaker, these remarks by Rep. Udall perfectly explicate the practical approach that Congress has always followed as we choose lands for protection in our National Wilderness Preservation System. He went on to further explain that:

Congress has declared it is our national policy to preserve America's wilderness resource. Whether some prior existing imperfection—something less than absolutely purity—is to be accepted into the national wilderness system should be determined by whether its inclusion will significantly contribute to the implementation of this national policy of wilderness preservation or whether its omission will significantly obstruct this policy. [CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, September 24, 1969]

In keeping with the practical approach he has so cogently summarized, I want to emphasize that some of the low elevation lands within the Wild Sky Wilderness show evidence of past human use and impacts. We have made a careful judgment that inclusion of these lands is important to serve the overall purpose of wilderness protection. As chairman Udall would have put it, every acre in the proposed Wild Sky Wilderness exhibits “substantially all the value of wilderness.” We should preserve it.

I would also like to take a moment to pay tribute to Ms. Karen Fant, who devoted her life to preserving wilderness and wildlife in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. She spent four decades organizing for conservation, working for groups including the Alaska Coalition, Sierra Club, Olympic Park Associates, Wild Sky Working Group, Washington Wilderness Coalition, and Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition. Her activism spanned many years, crossed state lines, and extended as far as Chongqing, China, where she dedicated herself to developing a strategy to address environmental degradation in Asia as a board member of the Seattle-Chongqing Sister City Association.

Karen was instrumental in passing the 1984 Washington State Wilderness Act, which sets aside over one million acres of new wilderness. She also initiated the efforts to preserve Wild Sky. I cannot imagine a better way to honor Karen's conservation legacy than for my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 886, the Wild Sky Wilderness Act of 2007. Passage of this legislation is the perfect tribute to Karen's legacy.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 886.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCERNING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLOODING OF CELILO FALLS

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 217) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the 50th anniversary of the flooding of Celilo Falls.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 217

Whereas Celilo Falls, located near The Dalles, Oregon, was a great fishing and trading location for Indian tribes and has been called the “Wall Street of the West” by historians;

Whereas artifacts suggest tribes as far as Alaska, the Great Plains and the Southwest United States came to trade and fish at Celilo for over 10,000 years;

Whereas the Umatilla, Nez Perce, Yakama and Warm Springs tribes reserved their fishing rights at their usual and accustomed places, including Celilo, when they signed treaties with the United States;

Whereas on March 10, 1957, to provide hydroelectricity and irrigation, The Dalles Dam was constructed;

Whereas the completion of the dam inundated Celilo in six hours, quickly changing the way of life for tribes that fished at Celilo; and

Whereas tribes still live and fish along the river, exercising their treaty rights agreed with the Congress of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes the 50th anniversary of the flooding of Celilo Falls and the change of life it imposed upon tribal peoples.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

The purpose of House Resolution 217, introduced by our colleague from Oregon, Mr. DAVID WU, is to express the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the 50th anniversary of the flooding of Celilo Falls. Celilo Falls was a unique natural feature formed as the Columbia River carved a path

through the hard volcanic rock east of the Cascade Mountains. On March 10, 1957, the Dalles Dam was completed, flooding the historic fishing and trading area around Celilo Falls.

For over 10,000 years, the falls had been an area of intense trading and commerce for Indian tribes from as far away as Alaska, the Great Plains, and the Southwest. The falls were also noted as an extremely abundant fishery, where tons of Columbia River salmon were caught, dried, and traded.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution simply seeks to recognize the 50th anniversary of the flooding of the falls, and to remember Celilo Falls as an important area of fishing and trading for many tribal peoples.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting House Resolution 217, and I offer my congratulations to Congressman WU for his leadership on this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

H. Res. 217 recognizes the flooding of Celilo Falls in Oregon. In 1957, the U.S. Corps of Engineers constructed the multipurpose Dalles Dam to provide much needed hydropower and irrigation for the Pacific Northwest. As a result of the dam, the falls were inundated, changing the way four tribes fished at the location.

This resolution recognizes the 50th anniversary of that change.

It is my understanding that this resolution will not be used for future litigation claims and legislative purposes, so we have no objection.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU).

Mr. WU. I thank the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, for thousands of years, a village stood at Celilo Falls on the Columbia River, which today is the boundary between the States of Oregon and Washington.

Celilo Falls was known to Native Americans as a center for gathering and trade in the Pacific Northwest. It was so important that some have even called Celilo Falls the Wall Street of the West. Lewis and Clark described it as a great emporium where "the neighboring nations assemble."

Artifacts suggest that tribes as far away as Alaska, the Great Plains, and the Southwest of the United States came to trade at the falls for salmon and other goods. The trade was so extensive and the number of tribes who came to Celilo was so extensive that the number of languages spoken developed into a trade jargon known as Chinookan, and it was used among the people conducting business at Celilo.

Celilo Falls was also known as a great salmon fishery. Salmon were both sacred to and provided economic

wealth for the tribes who fished in the area. Thousands gathered to fish and trade along the river.

Fifty years ago, Celilo Falls changed forever. In 1957, the Dalles Dam was completed a few miles downriver from Celilo. Once the dam was completed and the flood gates closed, Celilo Falls was inundated in just 6 hours.

The Dalles Dam was constructed to provide hydroelectricity, irrigation, and to enable navigation. The dams along the Columbia and other rivers created numerous benefits for the Pacific Northwest. The slack water created by the dams provided easy and safe river navigation upriver to deliver goods to the inland Northwest. Today, barges can travel as far as Lewiston, Idaho, because of the navigable waters created by the dams.

However, the benefits created by the dams changed a way of life for the tribal peoples who were the first inhabitants of the Columbia River Basin. While some may not remember Celilo Falls before the Dalles Dam was completed, its effects remain fresh in the minds of many of the tribes of the Pacific Northwest. Recently, the 50th anniversary of the flooding of the falls was acknowledged by these tribes. This event both mourned what was lost and celebrated what remains today, tribal stories and culture, a way of life. Attendees included tribal officials and tribal members throughout the Pacific Northwest, nontribal members, and various Federal, State, and local governmental officials. The attendees reflect the relationship of the various groups who now work together to manage the river for all those who live in and visit the region today.

This resolution seeks to acknowledge and commemorate the flooding of Celilo Falls. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WU. I yield to the gentleman from New Mexico.

Mr. PEARCE. I would appreciate engaging in a brief colloquy regarding H. Res. 217.

Is it the understanding of the gentleman from Oregon that the enactment of this resolution will not be used for litigation or legislative purposes?

Mr. WU. The gentleman is correct. The purpose of the resolution is commemorative, and limited to an expression of the sense of the House of Representatives.

Mr. PEARCE. I thank the gentleman for that clarification.

Mr. WU. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I would yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN).

(Mr. WALDEN of Oregon asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, colleagues, today we memorialize and remember the events of more than 50 years ago when the gates closed for

the first time on the Dalles Dam, and within 6 hours another wild and noisy stretch of the mighty Columbia River fell silent and serene in the name of progress.

Celilo Falls was also known as Wyam, which means echo of falling water, or sound of water upon the rocks. And, indeed, what a sound it must have been to hear the fourth largest river in America as it crashed over basalt rocks and cliffs. Lewis and Clark's journals refer to the falls as a place where "the river turned on edge."

This photograph here to my left is actually one my father took as a colorized slide before the falls was inundated. It shows the tribal members fishing from these wooden platforms, roped to the edge with ropes around their waist. They would spread sand out on the platforms because all the water made the platforms so slick, and then they would engage with the dip nets to hoist 40-pound, 50-pound, 60-pound salmon out of the river. The trick was not to get more than two fish in your net because that might be more than you weighed, and you ran the risk of being dragged into the river. Indeed, there was a young man who fell in the river, and later was rescued and saved because he ended up in a net and was able to be pulled out.

What a river it was and what a river it is. As the Columbia River passed over these falls, the sound could be heard from miles away. During periods of high water, nearly 1 million cubic feet of water per second would pass over these falls. Now, let me put that in comparison: Niagara Falls in New York, 200,000 cubic feet of water passes over those falls.

□ 1245

A million would have passed over these. But it wasn't just these falls, because you see the basalt rapids continued on toward the Dalles for 11 miles. So not only were there these falls, but there were other rapids and falls along the way. And it was more than just a roaring falls or an historic and bountiful fishing area. It was, as some historians noted, "the Wall Street of the West."

In his book, "The Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Trout, Their Fight for Survival," author Anthony Netboy described the scene this way:

"Here came Indians from the interior who had no fishing grounds of their own or whose fishing was poor, to trade for dried salmon, offering peltries from Montana, jade axes from the Fraser River area, horn of mountain sheep, baskets, rabbit or bearskins. The Klamath and Modoc peoples from Klamath Lake brought slaves and dentalia shells, their medium of exchange. Trade connections with the Dalles, says the anthropologist Philip Drucker, in 'Cultures of the North Pacific Coast,' stretched across the Rockies and into the Great Plains."

This was one of the most significant fisheries of the Columbia River. In

“Recalling Celilo,” author Elizabeth Woody writes:

“Historically, the Wyampum lived at Wyam for over 12,000 years. Estimates vary, but Wyam is among the longest continuously inhabited communities in North America. The elders tell us we have been here from time immemorial.

“Today we know Celilo Falls as a lost landmark. It was a place as revered as one’s own mother.”

Woody goes on to write:

“What happened at Wyam was more significant than entertainment. During the day, women cleaned large amounts of finely cut fish and hung the parts to dry in the heat of the arid landscape. So abundant were the fish passing Wyam on their upriver journey that the fish caught there could feed a whole family through the winter. Many families had enough salmon to trade with other tribes or individuals for specialty items.

“No one would starve if they could work. Even those incapable of physical work could share other talents. It was a dignified existence.”

The tribes called themselves “salmon people.” And it is easy to understand why. In 1805, Lewis and Clark estimated seeing five tons of dried salmon stacked in a single village near the Dalles.

The dawn of the 20th century brought change to the area with the construction in 1913 of the Dalles-Celilo Canal, providing the first safe passage around the falls. Then in the 1930s and 1940s, more pressures built as down-river communities suffered from floods, river traffic increased, and a Nation at war needed more electricity to power its industry.

In 1950, Congress authorized the construction of the Dalles Dam, and on March 10, 1957, the gates of this river-blocker closed and within hours, silence overtook Celilo Falls, Wyam and the way of life known for centuries.

Now, plans for construction of the dam were battled by Chief Tommy Thompson as he and the tribal members knew that the end of the falls would mean the end of life as they had known it. But they could not stop the effort. Their village was relocated. The government paid tribal members in one-time sums of nearly \$4,000, and promised sustained fisheries and access to new fishing sites.

Layfee Foster, of the Dalles, took this famous photograph of Chief Tommy Thompson and his wife, Flora, and their granddaughter, Linda George, whom I met at the ceremony at Celilo Falls last month.

I would like to read from Mr. Netboy’s book again, as he eloquently states the last of the first salmon rites that were held in April of 1956. He writes:

“On Sunday, April 20, 1956, when the Dalles Dam was about to be enclosed and the Celilo fishery, dating back to a long forgotten time would be inundated, I witnessed the last of the first salmon rites at Celilo village. The day

was warm and sunny, and hundreds of tribesmen gathered for this sad occasion on the banks of the Columbia, the women wearing multi-colored flowing dresses and scarves, and the men awkward-fitting store clothes. Emissaries of Tommy Thompson, chief of the host band, the Wyams, said to be over 100 years old, had to seek elsewhere than the Columbia for salmon because an early spring thaw in the mountains made it impossible to use the historic site to catch enough fish for the festival. They bought 400 pounds of salmon in Portland, and members of Warm Springs Reservation who had fishing rights at Celilo helped out with donations of venison and roots for the occasion.

“The stolid, bronze-colored chief sat at the head table in the longhouse, surrounded by silent and respectful tribesmen squatting on mats on the earthen floor. Outside, slabs of salmon were being smoked over log fires tended by women, just as when Lewis and Clark camped here in 1805 and smoked a pipe of peace with the chief.

“Chief Thompson blessed the first fish caught a few days before and made a speech in his native language that was charged with emotion. Before it was over, the vigorous old man was weeping. Although I did not understand a word, I could imagine the feelings that inspired him as he saw the last bit of land held by the tribe about to go underwater and the ancient picturesque fishery disappear. He had seen the white settlers pour into the valley, and the baleful impact they made on the natives’ culture. The churning river where he had fished as a youth, from rickety platforms, would become a placid lake. There were tears in the eyes of many who listened to him.

“When the First Salmon rites were concluded, the chief permitted newsmen to photograph him with his younger wife, Flora. Usually the festival lasted a few days, but this time it was confined to one. There were bone games in the afternoon and dances in the evening. The next morning the Portland Oregonian reported an interview with Henry Thompson, son of the chief, who said, and I quote, ‘When the dam is finished and there are no more fish at Celilo, my father will still live here and will die here. I too will die here. Both of us were born at Celilo, and here,’ pointing to the Indian cemetery on a bluff of the village, ‘amid the rimrock, we will be buried.’

“Tommy Thompson died 3 years later, and without him, without the roaring falls, and with salmon caught elsewhere, the First Salmon ceremonies held occasionally at the new Celilo village built by the Corps of Engineers on the bluff lost their flavor and meaning and were eventually abandoned.”

Today the Dalles Dam employs 150 people, generates enough electricity to power two cities the size of Portland, Oregon, helps control run-off in the spring. The power it produces makes no

carbon emissions and is 90 percent efficient.

Today the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is rehabilitating the Celilo village, spending \$13 million to build a new sewer plant, new houses, a playground, school and update the water and electrical system. A new longhouse was completed last year.

Today we memorialize the situation at Celilo, the loss of that great falls and the work that remains ahead.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) as much time as he may consume.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman’s courtesy, and I am pleased to join with my colleagues from Oregon in recognizing the importance of the anniversary of the flooding of Celilo Falls.

Mr. Speaker, we have, in the Northwest, I think, in recent years, started to re-evaluate our relationship to native peoples and to the special sites that are holy for them.

I remember in my youth Celilo Falls when it was a site of the native fishing, going by on a train, watching the dip netting, pulling these fish from the falls. It was something that I didn’t properly appreciate at the time. People in my own family were talking about the great dam that was about to be constructed, and using it as a metaphor for progress in our community.

Well, transforming the mighty Columbia River into a machine that has aided navigation and electric generation has had many positive aspects for the Pacific Northwest, but it has been devastating for the Native Americans.

Sadly, our history, since the treaty of 1855, has been one where we have not always honored even the provisions in those treaties to Native Americans. And particularly the site at Celilo, where we are talking about over 10,000 years of history, strikes special significance. It is an unparalleled meeting point for people of native tribes that, slowly but surely, now we are starting to recognize, starting to appreciate, the Federal Government is starting to invest in working with them to restore the heritage. I hope that this recognition of the significance of the 50th anniversary of the flooding of the falls might be another signal that we are appreciating our responsibility in partnership with native people, the need to work with them in terms of first foods, in terms of historic sites, in terms of restoring the spirit of partnership in those treaties too often that has not been observed.

I appreciate my colleague, Congressman WU, bringing this forward. I appreciate the Congress focusing attention on it today, but I hope it is the beginning of a more sustained effort to keep faith with our native people.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I cannot enhance or extend the word pictures given by my colleague from Oregon and would, therefore, reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, let me, if I may, inquire of the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) if he has any additional speakers.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I do not have other speakers and would yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 217.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CENTRAL TEXAS WATER RECYCLING ACT OF 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 609) to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 609

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 "Central Texas Water Recycling Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. PROJECT AUTHORIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (Public Law 102-575; 43 U.S.C. 390h et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 16 the following new section:

"SEC. 16. CENTRAL TEXAS WATER RECYCLING AND REUSE PROJECT.

"(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary, in cooperation with the City of Waco and other participating communities in the Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project is authorized to participate in the design, planning, and construction of permanent facilities to reclaim and reuse water in McLennan County, Texas.

"(b) COST SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs of the project described in subsection (a) shall not exceed 25 percent of the total cost.

"(c) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not provide funds for the operation and maintenance of the project described in subsection (a).

"(d) SUNSET OF AUTHORITY.—The authority of the Secretary to carry out any provisions of this section shall terminate 10 years after the date of enactment of this section."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in section 2 of Public Law 102-575 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 16 the following:

"Sec. 16. Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

We support the passage of H.R. 609 and commend our colleague, Representative CHET EDWARDS, for his persistence and hard work to secure authorization for this important project.

The purpose of this legislation is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project. This project would treat and recycle waste water generated by the City of Waco and six neighboring communities. Recycling and reuse of this water would decrease the strain on older treatment plants in the area and help meet future demands, providing reclaimed water for golf courses, landscaping, and other industrial uses.

The water recycling project identified in this bill will be eligible for limited financial assistance from the Bureau of Reclamation's title 16 water recycling program. Water recycling and desalination projects are proven technologies that can help stretch limited water supplies in areas such as Texas. The City of Waco is keenly aware that additional sources of water will be required to meet future water demands and should be commended for looking for sustainable solutions.

In the 109th Congress, the Subcommittee on Water and Power held a hearing on almost identical legislation. This legislation was subsequently passed by the House under suspension of the rules.

I want to express our full support for this legislation. I offer my congratulations to Congressman EDWARDS for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

This bill authorizes Federal participation in a water reuse project in McLennan County, Texas. As central Texas cities experience rapid population growth and increased water demand, these communities are being proactive to better utilize their existing water supplies. We have no objection to this well-intended bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1300

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, let me first begin by thanking Mr. GRIJALVA for his leadership and for his kind comments about our work together on this. Let me also thank Mr. PEARCE for his cooperative, bipartisan effort. These are the kinds of bills that don't fill up the press galleries, but they are certainly important to the folks in our communities throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, our communities and Nation have a responsibility to be good stewards of our water resources. And that is why I introduced H.R. 609, the Central Texas Water Recycling Act of 2007.

This bill will authorize an innovative water recycling program in partnership with my hometown of Waco, Texas, and several neighboring communities. It supports efforts to manage water resources efficiently in McLennan County by strategically locating regional satellite treatment plants that will not only provide for conservation of our community's water supply, but by doing so efficiently, will help reduce costs to taxpayers.

The initial projects under this legislation can provide up to 10 million gallons of water per day, reuse water, thereby reducing the water demand on Lake Waco. Instead of wasting valuable drinking water for use in factories and on golf courses in the July and August heat of my district, we will be able to use lower-cost recycled wastewater for those purposes and save enough drinking water to supply 20,000 households in central Texas.

The bottom line is this: Being good stewards of our water supply, we will reduce water costs for businesses, save central Texas taxpayers millions of dollars, and encourage economic growth in our area.

I want to thank Chairman RAHALL and Ranking Member YOUNG for their support of this measure; and the subcommittee chairman, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and the ranking subcommittee member, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, for their key role on this bill's passage. This is the kind of bipartisan effort, as I mentioned earlier, that shows what Congress can do when we work together on a bipartisan basis.

I also want to thank the mayors, city council, and staff from the cities of Waco, Lorena, Robinson, Hewitt, Woodway, Bellmead, and Lacy-Lakeview for their cooperative efforts that brought us here today.

Finally, I want to extend special credit to Waco's city manager, Larry Groth, a very special friend of mine, for his extraordinary leadership on this bill. Without Mr. Groth's leadership, hard work, and professionalism, we would not be here today. And as a citizen of Waco, I am grateful for his outstanding service to my hometown.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 609.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

—————

**AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN
LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATER
SUPPLY AUGMENTATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 786) to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Los Angeles County Water Supply Augmentation Demonstration Project, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 786

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATER SUPPLY AUGMENTATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (Public Law 102-575, title XVI; 43 U.S.C. 390h et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 16. LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATER SUPPLY AUGMENTATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, is authorized to participate in the planning, design, construction, and assessment of a neighborhood demonstration project to—

“(1) demonstrate the potential for infiltration of stormwater runoff to recharge groundwater by retrofitting one or more sites in the Los Angeles area with features designed to reflect state-of-the-art best management practices for water conservation, pollution reduction and treatment, and habitat restoration; and

“(2) through predevelopment and postdevelopment monitoring, assess—

“(A) the potential new water supply yield based on increased infiltration; and

“(B) the value of the new water.

“(b) COST SHARING.—The Federal share of the cost of the project described in subsection (a) shall not exceed 25 percent of the total cost of the project.

“(c) LIMITATION.—No Federal funds shall be used for the operation and maintenance of the project described in subsection (a). For purposes of this subsection, pre- and post-development monitoring for not more than 2 years before and after project installation for project assessment purposes shall not be considered operation and maintenance.

“(d) SUNSET OF AUTHORITY.—The authority of the Secretary to carry out any provisions of this section shall terminate 10 years after the date of the enactment of this section.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in section 2 of Public Law 102-575 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 16 the following:

“Sec. 16. Los Angeles County Water Supply Augmentation Demonstration Project.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

The purpose of H.R. 786, sponsored by our colleague from Lakewood, California, LINDA SÁNCHEZ, is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Los Angeles County Water Supply Augmentation Demonstration Project.

The legislation will authorize Federal financial assistance for a unique water reuse and conservation project in the Los Angeles area. The initiative will demonstrate that small-scale neighborhood projects can be built to increase local water supplies and reduce urban runoff pollution. Projects like this can help residents of southern California increase local water supplies, reduce our dependence on imported water from northern California and the Colorado River.

This is an innovative project and a good bill that deserves our support. I congratulate my colleague, Congresswoman SÁNCHEZ, for championing this legislation.

In the 109th Congress, the Subcommittee on Water and Power held a hearing on similar legislation. This legislation was subsequently passed by the House under suspension of the rules.

We strongly support H.R. 786, and I would like, once again, to thank and commend my friend, LINDA SÁNCHEZ, for her work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

H.R. 786 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of a water recharge demonstration project in southern California. To meet the needs of future population growth in this arid region, capturing stormwater runoff and recharging groundwater could substantially increase local water supplies.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California, LINDA SÁNCHEZ.

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking Mr. GRIJALVA for being so generous with time. And I would also like to thank Natural Resources Committee Chairman NICK RAHALL and Ranking Member DON YOUNG, as well as Water and Power Subcommittee Chairwoman GRACE NAPOLITANO, for recognizing the importance of this bill, H.R. 786, the “Southern California Water Augmentation Study.”

I would like to especially thank Chairwoman GRACE NAPOLITANO for her support on this bill and her leadership in moving it through the Natural Resources Committee.

I became interested in this effort because California and other parts of the country need to move forward on two very important issues. First, we must increase our groundwater drinking supplies. We can do this by improving the safe infiltration of surface water which seeps into the ground. Second, we must reduce urban storm-water runoff that can carry trash and contamination to our beaches and oceans. This water augmentation study addresses both of those issues.

Storm-water currently becomes contaminated by running off rooftops and roads and carrying that pollution into our oceans. Our study is assessing ways to safely absorb that water into the ground where natural purifying processes can take place. This will stem the flow of polluted water into the ocean and safely recharge our groundwater supplies. Simply put, this project is about taking the water that we lose and turning it into water we use.

This study will assess the potential of urban storm-water infiltration to augment our water supplies. It will determine the benefits, costs, and risks of infiltration. It will help us understand what conditions we need to make infiltration work and assess its potential for increasing our drinking water supply. At the same time, it will show us how to reduce water pollution, creating additional environmental and social benefits.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is designed to make southern California more water-self-sufficient and less reliant on imported water from our neighbors in the central and northern parts of our State.

This is a bipartisan effort in which there is agreement on the merits of the project throughout our government. I am very pleased that President Bush has included funding for the water augmentation study in his last four budgets, including this year.

Also, the Bureau of Reclamation has been extremely supportive of this project. In fact, they helped create it in the year 2000 because they see it as helping to solve the real problem we face in California and other, shall I say, “water-challenged” areas of the country.

Again, I would like to thank Chairman RAHALL and Ranking Member YOUNG, as well as the great staff on the

House Resources Committee; and to thank Representative NAPOLITANO for her unyielding support of this bill.

In 1907, Theodore Roosevelt said, "The conservation of natural resources is the fundamental problem. Unless we solve that problem, it will avail us little to solve all others." With your help, Southern California can make significant progress toward improving its water resources management.

I urge approval of this legislation.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 786.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ESTABLISHING DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM TO FACILITATE LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROGRAMS WITHIN CERTAIN UNITS OF NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 309) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a demonstration program to facilitate landscape restoration programs within certain units of the National Park System established by law to preserve and interpret resources associated with American history, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 309

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

SECTION 1. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to establish a demonstration program to facilitate landscape restoration programs within those units of the National Park System established by statute to preserve and interpret resources associated with American military history.

SEC. 2. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of the Interior (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary"), acting through the Director of the National Park Service, shall carry out a demonstration program that provides that receipts from timber sales shall be retained for expenditure within units of the National Park System from which the timber is removed as part of an approved plan for the restoration or protection of park resources or values.

(b) PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary shall permit each of the 24 National Battlefields, National Battlefield Parks, National Military Parks, and National Battlefield Sites in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act to participate in the demonstration

program authorized by subsection (a) if the unit has in place, before the date of the enactment of this Act, a general management plan, cultural landscape plan, or other resources management plan approved pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (43 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), that identifies specific timber for removal for purposes of cultural or historic landscape restoration or fuel load reduction.

(c) USE OF RECEIPTS.—Each unit selected to participate in the demonstration program authorized under subsection (a) shall retain receipts from the sale or disposal of timber removed from that unit. Such receipts shall be available for expenditure without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation for the following purposes only:

- (1) Landscape restoration within the unit.
- (2) Interpretive services within the unit.
- (3) Eradication of disease, insects, or invasive species within the unit.
- (4) Fuel load reduction within the unit.

SEC. 3. REPORT.

Two years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the House Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources that contains the results of the demonstration program authorized under this Act, including—

- (1) a detailed accounting of the receipts generated in each unit by the demonstration program;
- (2) the expenditure by each unit of those receipts; and
- (3) any resource or other impacts, positive or negative, on each participating unit.

SEC. 4. SUNSET.

The authority granted to the Secretary in section 2 shall expire 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Many units of the National Park System were established to conserve U.S. military history. All these units have restoration of their historic landscapes as an important management goal. This restoration entails removal of landscape features, including trees, which were not present at the time of the relevant historic event. However, removal of any natural resources from a National Park must be undertaken extremely carefully. In addition, many of these park units report a lack of funding for such work.

H.R. 309, introduced by my colleague on the Natural Resources Committee, Representative STEVE PEARCE, would create a revenue source for such projects by allowing individual units to retain proceeds from the sale of timber

removed from the unit. Importantly, the legislation is narrowly written as a demonstration project to apply within a defined list of 24 military parks and to prevent any change to existing environmental requirements governing logging on NPS land.

Representative PEARCE has worked tirelessly on behalf of this legislation and is to be commended for his efforts.

We strongly support the passage of H.R. 309, as amended, by the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I appreciate the comments by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA).

H.R. 309, introduced by me, would establish an innovative 4-year demonstration program in the National Park Service to improve and expedite landscape restoration programs within 24 units of the National Park System to better preserve and interpret resources associated with American military history.

One of the tenets of the Park Service is to preserve the look of national battlefields as they existed at the time of the conflict. Often this involves removing trees and other woody debris that encroach on sightlines. Under current law, these trees are removed and any funds from their sale are returned to the General Treasury.

As a part of this new program, selected parks would be permitted to retain receipts from any timber sales and use those funds on the respective landscape restoration programs and interpretive services. While this would not involve a lot of money, every little bit helps, especially given the National Park System maintenance backlog.

This noncontroversial bill was favorably reported last Congress by unanimous consent, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 309.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 309, 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.

SOUTHERN NEVADA READINESS CENTER ACT

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 815) to provide for the conveyance of certain land in Clark County, Nevada, for use by the Nevada National Guard.

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

H.R. 815

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 “Southern Nevada Readiness Center Act”.

SEC. 2. NEVADA NATIONAL GUARD LAND CONVEYANCE, CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, Clark County, Nevada, may convey, without consideration, to the Nevada Division of State Lands for use by the Nevada National Guard between 35 and 50 acres of land in Clark County, Nevada, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Southern Nevada Readiness Center Act” and dated October 4, 2005.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 815, introduced by the gentleman from Nevada, Representative JON PORTER, states that notwithstanding any other provision of law, Clark County, Nevada, may convey, without consideration, between 35 and 50 acres of land for the use by the Nevada National Guard as a Readiness Center.

The land in question is part of a larger block of lands conveyed to Clark County under a provision of the Public Law 109-263, the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act of 1998. These lands comprise part of the Airport Environs Overlay District for McCarran Airport, and Public Law 105-263 required that the land be managed in accordance with airport noise compatibility planning agreements.

Further, the 1998 act specified if land was sold or transferred, it had to be done at fair market value with the proceeds distributed pursuant to the act. H.R. 815 would waive this last requirement. Since the proceeds of the land is for an important public purpose, we believe the waiver is appropriate.

□ 1315

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend my colleague from Nevada, Representative PORTER, for his work on this legislation. I would note that identical legislation passed the House in the 109th Congress. We support the passage of H.R. 815 and recommend its adoption by the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 815 and yield to the author of the bill, the distinguished gentleman from Nevada (Mr. PORTER).

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, the Southern Nevada Readiness Center Act conveys land to the Army National Guard for a readiness center that will provide Guardsmen with access to facilities, technology, and equipment needed to ensure proper training and readiness.

Because the Southern Nevada National Guard's force continues to grow, this new facility is crucial. It will better train and prepare our soldiers on the front lines. The center is the first new construction for the Army National Guard in the Las Vegas valley in more than 10 years. The facility will house communications, engineering and medical Guard units. It will include a 200-person theater-style auditorium, distance-learning classrooms, medical examination rooms, a weight room, locker rooms, multiple arms vaults, a kitchen, and a maintenance bay. Soldiers will be able to prepare both physically and technically for missions. In total, between 300 and 400 Guardsmen will train at the armory on a drill weekend.

The center will not only help ensure Nevada will be prepared in the event of a crisis or a natural disaster, but also would help ensure that Guardsmen are fully trained and ready for any contingency as directed by the National Command Authority.

I commend the National Guard soldiers who volunteer to serve at home and overseas in order to keep our country safe. It is incumbent upon us to provide the proper facilities that will ensure these soldiers are well trained and prepared.

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for working in a bipartisan, bicameral manner in support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to speak on this important legislation.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 815.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COPPER VALLEY NATIVE ALLOTMENT RESOLUTION ACT OF 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 865) to grant rights-of-way for electric transmission lines over certain Native allotments in the State of Alaska, as amended.

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

H.R. 865

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 “Copper Valley Native Allotment Resolution Act of 2007”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ASSOCIATION.—The term “Association” means the Copper Valley Electric Association.

(2) NATIVE ALLOTMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “Native allotment” means—

(i) each of the following allotments issued under the Act of May 17, 1906 (34 Stat. 197, chapter 2469):

- (I) A-031653.
- (II) A-043380.
- (III) A-046337.
- (IV) AA-5896.
- (V) AA-6014, Parcel B.
- (VI) AA-6034.
- (VII) AA-7059.
- (VIII) AA-7242, Parcel B.
- (IX) AA-7336.
- (X) AA-7552.
- (XI) AA-7553.
- (XII) AA-7554.
- (XIII) AA-7600.
- (XIV) AA-8032; and

(ii) any allotment for which a patent or Certificate of Allotment has been issued under the Act of May 17, 1906 (34 Stat. 197, chapter 2469) across which the Association maintains an electric transmission line on the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “Native allotment” does not include any allotment to which the Secretary has approved the grant of a right of way or issued a patent or Certificate of Allotment that is subject to a right of way held by the Association.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of Alaska.

SEC. 3. ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is granted to the Association rights-of-way across the Native allotments for an electric transmission line owned by the Association.

(b) WIDTH.—After considering any information provided by the Association, allottee, or any other source that the Secretary determines to be relevant, the Secretary shall determine an accurate legal description of the rights-of-way, the nature of the rights granted, and the widths of the rights-of-way granted by subsection (a).

(c) CERTAIN AGREEMENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, this Act does not apply to land owned by Ahtna, Inc. and any prior or current right-of-way agreements that may exist between Ahtna, Inc. and the Copper Valley Electric Association or the State.

(d) COMPENSATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) appraise the value of the rights-of-way granted under subsection (a);

(B) pay to any owner of a Native allotment or, if the owner is deceased, an heir or assign of the owner, compensation for the grant of a right-of-way over the Native allotment in an amount determined under paragraph (2);

(C) issue recordable instruments that indicate the location of the rights-of-way over the Native allotments;

(D) provide written notice of the compensation procedure for the rights-of-way to—

(i) the owner of record for each Native allotment; or

(ii) if the owner of record is deceased, the heir or assign of the owner of record; and

(E) publish in the Federal Register and any newspaper of general circulation within the service area of the Association and location of the relevant allotment—

(i) notice of the compensation procedure established by this subsection; and

(ii) with respect to a Native allotment described in section 2(2)(A)(ii), the location of the right-of-way, as prepared by the Association and provided to the Secretary, in accordance with any requirements established by the Secretary.

(2) CALCULATION OF PAYMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of calculating the amount of compensation required under paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall determine, with respect to a portion of a Native allotment encumbered by a right-of-way—

(i) compensation for each right-of-way based on an appraisal conducted in conformity with the version of the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions that is correct as of the date of the compensation proceeding; and

(ii) interest calculated based on the section 3116 of title 40, United States Code.

(B) DATE OF VALUATION.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the date of valuation of the acquisition by the Association of each right-of-way shall be considered to be the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, judicial review under this subsection shall be limited to a review of the determination of the Secretary under paragraph (2) regarding the compensation for a right-of-way over a Native allotment.

SEC. 4. 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 Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 865, introduced by the gentleman from Alaska, Representative DON YOUNG, would resolve a long-standing conflict between Alaska Native land titles and utility rights-of-way in Alaska. This legislation is in response to a September 2004 GAO report entitled, "Alaska Native Allotments: Conflicts With Utility Rights-of-Way Have Not Been Resolved Through Existing Remedies."

Although the Copper Valley Electric Association, a rural non-profit electrical cooperative, holds rights-of-way granted in the 1950s and 1960s, and built electric lines prior to the filing of the Alaska Native allotment claims, there

is a conflict with land titles subsequently issued under the Alaska Native Allotment Act. In essence, H.R. 865 resolves that conflict by ratifying the existing rights-of-way across 14 specified Native allotments and providing for fair market value compensation for the landowners. As amended, the bill provides that the compensation, which is estimated by CBO to be no more than \$150,000, is subject to appropriations. We have no objection to H.R. 865.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 865. The majority, Mr. GRIJALVA, has adequately explained this bill. I thank him for his consideration on behalf of the author, DON YOUNG.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 865, 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.

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT FOR SERVICES RENDERED BY SUBCONTRACTORS FOR WORK TO BE COMPLETED AT GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1191) to authorize the National Park Service to pay for services rendered by subcontractors under a General Services Administration Indefinite Deliver/Indefinite Quantity Contract issued for work to be completed at the Grand Canyon National Park, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1191

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

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) IDIQ.—The term "IDIQ" means an Indefinite Deliver/Indefinite Quantity contract.

(2) PARK.—The term "park" means Grand Canyon National Park.

(3) PGI.—The term "PGI" means Pacific General, Inc.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION.

The Secretary is authorized, subject to the appropriation of such funds as may be necessary, to pay the amount owed to the subcontractors of PGI for work performed at the park under an IDIQ with PGI between fiscal years 2002 and 2003, provided that—

(1) the primary contract between PGI and the National Park Service is terminated;

(2) the amount owed to the subcontractors is verified;

(3) all reasonable legal avenues or recourse have been exhausted by the subcontractors to recoup amounts owed directly from PGI; and

(4) the subcontractors provide a written statement that payment of the amount verified in paragraph (2) represents payment in full by the United States for all work performed at the park under the IDIQ with PGI between fiscal years 2002 and 2003.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, during fiscal years 2002 and 2003, Grand Canyon National Park entered into construction contracts worth \$17 million with a general contractor called Pacific General, Incorporated, known as PGI.

In January 2004, numerous subcontractors employed by PGI notified National Park Service that they were not receiving payment. After an investigation, it was discovered that PGI was diverting Federal funds which should have gone to the subcontractors. PGI eventually declared bankruptcy.

It was further discovered that in a clear violation of Federal policies, the park had failed to require PGI to post a surety bond as a condition of the contract. The agency is now prohibited from paying the subcontractors directly because the funds appropriated for those contracts have already been paid to PGI. Overall, the subcontractors are owed about \$1.3 million. H.R. 1191 authorizes the Secretary to use \$1.3 million in available funds from Grand Canyon National Park to pay the subcontractors. Applicants for the funds would have to verify the amount they are owed, demonstrate that they have exhausted all reasonable legal avenues to recoup amounts owed to them by PGI, and provide written statements that the amount they are seeking represents payment in full.

Mr. Speaker, this is an imperfect solution to a difficult problem. However, these small business owners who provided quality services to the Federal Government in good faith should not have to wait any longer to receive payment.

My colleague from Arizona, Representative RENZI, is to be commended for his efforts on behalf of these small business people. Similar legislation

was approved by the House in the 109th Congress, and we urge its passage today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank the majority, Mr. GRIJALVA, for his support of H.R. 1191, and I would yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished author of the bill, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI), who has worked tirelessly for 4 years on this bill.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my chairman and colleague from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and my neighbor from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) for their assistance and support in helping us find a solution finally today.

It has been 4 years in the making. I thank you, Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. PEARCE, for being a part of pushing this across the finish line.

Our intention today is to provide legislation to fix a problem that affects almost 40 small business men and women throughout Arizona, Utah, New Mexico and the Southwest who are devastated by this unfortunate contract mismanagement that the National Park Service and Pacific General, Inc. were involved in.

I know, Mr. PEARCE, you remember from last Congress, in helping us finish on this, that many of these businesses are bankrupt today. Many of their sons and daughters aren't able to go to college because the Federal Government owes them money for work that they performed in the Grand Canyon. So today, we find a way to fix that with a technical correction in order for these subcontractors to get paid.

Mike Richardson, who is the owner of Southwest Water Works, located in Phoenix, Arizona, came before Congress, before your subcommittee last session. He testified, and he was able to bring this problem to the forefront. His dedicated assistance to bringing this matter before Congress should be commended.

After this time, the Washington Contracting and Procurement Office of the National Park Service performed an acquisition management review. In this review, the National Park Service discovered that the park had failed to ensure that PGI obtained the proper payments and performance bonds required by the National Park Service under the Miller Act. Then on February 6, 2004, the National Park Service suspended further payments to PGI, issued a suspension notice, and ceased activities with the contractor.

Unfortunately, as stated, the subcontractors were not paid for the work that they provided to the Federal Government. They fall into two categories. The first category consists of subcontractors that performed work on various projects where the National Park Service had already paid PGI for their work. Up to \$1.3 million PGI did not pay to subcontractors. I think, as Congressman GRIJALVA talked about, there were \$17 million paid overall to

the contractor; \$1.3 million never made its way down to these subcontractors.

The second category is composed of subcontractors who performed work on various projects where the National Park Service failed to pay PGI. The National Park Service has been unable to pay these contractors who performed the work at Grand Canyon because Federal law prohibits payments directly to subcontractors due to a lack of direct contractual relationship between the parties.

This bill today that Mr. GRIJALVA has championed, and Mr. PEARCE, fixes this grave inequity.

I thank you so very much for your leadership, Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. PEARCE. I appreciate your service, and understanding these are small business men and women, Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, that will benefit from your leadership on this bill.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I would yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, again let me commend the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) for this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1191, 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.

□ 1330

TAXPAYER PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1677) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance taxpayer protections and outreach, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1677

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; ETC.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Taxpayer Protection Act of 2007”.

(b) AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; etc.
- Sec. 2. Family business tax simplification.
- Sec. 3. Taxpayer notification of suspected identity theft.
- Sec. 4. Extension of time for return of property for wrongful levy.

Sec. 5. Individuals held harmless on wrongful levy, etc., on individual retirement plan.

Sec. 6. Clarification of IRS unclaimed refund authority.

Sec. 7. Prohibition on IRS debt indicators for predatory refund anticipation loans.

Sec. 8. Prohibition on misuse of Department of the Treasury names and symbols.

Sec. 9. EITC outreach.

Sec. 10. Modification of rules pertaining to FIRPTA nonforeign affidavits.

Sec. 11. Disclosure of prisoner return information to Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Sec. 12. Increase in penalty for bad checks and money orders.

SEC. 2. FAMILY BUSINESS TAX SIMPLIFICATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 761 (defining terms for purposes of partnerships) is amended by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g) and by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection:

“(f) QUALIFIED JOINT VENTURE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a qualified joint venture conducted by a husband and wife who file a joint return for the taxable year, for purposes of this title—

“(A) such joint venture shall not be treated as a partnership,

“(B) all items of income, gain, loss, deduction, and credit shall be divided between the spouses in accordance with their respective interests in the venture, and

“(C) each spouse shall take into account such spouse’s respective share of such items as if they were attributable to a trade or business conducted by such spouse as a sole proprietor.

“(2) QUALIFIED JOINT VENTURE.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term ‘qualified joint venture’ means any joint venture involving the conduct of a trade or business if—

“(A) the only members of such joint venture are a husband and wife,

“(B) both spouses materially participate (within the meaning of section 469(h) without regard to paragraph (5) thereof) in such trade or business, and

“(C) both spouses elect the application of this subsection.”.

(b) NET EARNINGS FROM SELF-EMPLOYMENT.—

(1) Subsection (a) of section 1402 (defining net earnings from self-employment) is amended by striking “, and” at the end of paragraph (15) and inserting a semicolon, by striking the period at the end of paragraph (16) and inserting “; and”, and by inserting after paragraph (16) the following new paragraph:

“(17) notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this subsection, each spouse’s share of income or loss from a qualified joint venture shall be taken into account as provided in section 761(f) in determining net earnings from self-employment of such spouse.”.

(2) Subsection (a) of section 211 of the Social Security Act (defining net earnings from self-employment) is amended by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (14), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (15) and inserting “; and”, and by inserting after paragraph (15) the following new paragraph:

“(16) Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this subsection, each spouse’s share of income or loss from a qualified joint venture shall be taken into account as provided in section 761(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 in determining net earnings from self-employment of such spouse.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2006.

SEC. 3. TAXPAYER NOTIFICATION OF SUSPECTED IDENTITY THEFT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 77 (relating to miscellaneous provisions) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 7529. NOTIFICATION OF SUSPECTED IDENTITY THEFT.

“If, in the course of an investigation under section 7206 (relating to fraud and false statements) or 7207 (relating to fraudulent returns, statements, or other documents), the Secretary determines that there was or may have been an unauthorized use of the identity of the taxpayer or dependents, the Secretary shall—

“(1) as soon as practicable and without jeopardizing such investigation, notify the taxpayer of such determination, and

“(2) if any person is criminally charged by indictment or information under either of such sections, notify such taxpayer as soon as practicable of such charge.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 77 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 7529. Notification of suspected identity theft.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to determinations made after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF TIME FOR RETURN OF PROPERTY FOR WRONGFUL LEVY.

(a) EXTENSION OF TIME FOR RETURN OF PROPERTY SUBJECT TO LEVY.—Subsection (b) of section 6343 (relating to return of property) is amended by striking “9 months” and inserting “2 years”.

(b) PERIOD OF LIMITATION ON SUITS.—Subsection (c) of section 6532 (relating to suits by persons other than taxpayers) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking “9 months” and inserting “2 years”, and

(2) in paragraph (2) by striking “9-month” and inserting “2-year”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to—

(1) levies made after the date of the enactment of this Act, and

(2) levies made on or before such date if the 9-month period has not expired under section 6343(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (without regard to this section) as of such date.

SEC. 5. INDIVIDUALS HELD HARMLESS ON WRONGFUL LEVY, ETC., ON INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6343 (relating to authority to release levy and return property) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) INDIVIDUALS HELD HARMLESS ON WRONGFUL LEVY, ETC. ON INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT PLAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines that an individual retirement plan has been levied upon in a case to which subsection (b) or (d)(2)(A) applies, an amount equal to the sum of—

“(A) the amount of money returned by the Secretary on account of such levy, and

“(B) interest paid under subsection (c) on such amount of money,

may be deposited into such individual retirement plan or any other individual retirement plan (other than an endowment contract) to which a rollover from the plan levied upon is permitted.

“(2) TREATMENT AS ROLLOVER.—If amounts are deposited into an individual retirement plan under paragraph (1) not later than the 60th day after the date on which the individual receives the amounts under paragraph (1)—

“(A) such deposit shall be treated as a rollover described in section 408(d)(3)(A)(i),

“(B) to the extent the deposit includes interest paid under subsection (c), such interest shall not be includible in gross income, and

“(C) such deposit shall not be taken into account under section 408(d)(3)(B).

For purposes of subparagraph (B), an amount shall be treated as interest only to the extent that the amount deposited exceeds the amount of the levy.

“(3) REFUND, ETC., OF INCOME TAX ON LEVY.—If any amount is includible in gross income for a taxable year by reason of a levy referred to in paragraph (1) and any portion of such amount is treated as a rollover under paragraph (2), any tax imposed by chapter 1 on such portion shall not be assessed, and if assessed shall be abated, and if collected shall be credited or refunded as an overpayment made on the due date for filing the return of tax for such taxable year.

“(4) INTEREST.—Notwithstanding subsection (d), interest shall be allowed under subsection (c) in a case in which the Secretary makes a determination described in subsection (d)(2)(A) with respect to a levy upon an individual retirement plan.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to amounts paid under subsections (b), (c), and (d)(2)(A) of section 6343 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6. CLARIFICATION OF IRS UNCLAIMED REFUND AUTHORITY.

Section 6103(m)(1) (relating to tax refunds) is amended by inserting “, and through any other means of mass communication,” after “media”.

SEC. 7. PROHIBITION ON IRS DEBT INDICATORS FOR PREDATORY REFUND ANTICIPATION LOANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (f) of section 6011 (relating to promotion of electronic filing) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) PROHIBITION ON IRS DEBT INDICATORS FOR PREDATORY REFUND ANTICIPATION LOANS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out any program under this subsection, the Secretary shall not provide a debt indicator to any person with respect to any refund anticipation loan if the Secretary determines that the business practices of such person involve refund anticipation loans and related charges and fees that are predatory.

“(B) REFUND ANTICIPATION LOAN.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘refund anticipation loan’ means a loan of money or of any other thing of value to a taxpayer secured by the taxpayer’s anticipated receipt of a Federal tax refund.

“(C) IRS DEBT INDICATOR.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘debt indicator’ means a notification provided through a tax return’s acknowledgment file that a refund will be offset to repay debts for delinquent Federal or State taxes, student loans, child support, or other Federal agency debt.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to determinations after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8. PROHIBITION ON MISUSE OF DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY NAMES AND SYMBOLS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 333 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting “internet domain address,” after “solicitation,” both places it appears.

(b) PENALTY FOR MISUSE BY ELECTRONIC MEANS.—Subsections (c)(2) and (d)(1) of section 333 of such Code are each amended by inserting “or any other mass communications by electronic means,” after “teletext,”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to violations occurring after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 9. EITC OUTREACH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 32 (relating to earned income) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(n) NOTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL ELIGIBILITY FOR CREDIT AND REFUND.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent possible and on an annual basis, the Secretary shall provide to each taxpayer who—

“(A) for any preceding taxable year for which credit or refund is not precluded by section 6511, and

“(B) did not claim the credit under subsection (a) but may be allowed such credit for any such taxable year based on return or return information (as defined in section 6103(b)) available to the Secretary,

notice that such taxpayer may be eligible to claim such credit and a refund for such taxable year.

“(2) NOTICE.—Notice provided under paragraph (1) shall be in writing and sent to the last known address of the taxpayer.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 10. MODIFICATION OF RULES PERTAINING TO FIRPTA NONFOREIGN AFFIDAVITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 1445 (relating to exemptions) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(9) ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURE FOR FURNISHING NONFOREIGN AFFIDAVIT.—For purposes of paragraphs (2) and (7)—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) shall be treated as applying to a transaction if, in connection with a disposition of a United States real property interest—

“(i) the affidavit specified in paragraph (2) is furnished to a qualified substitute, and

“(ii) the qualified substitute furnishes a statement to the transferee stating, under penalty of perjury, that the qualified substitute has such affidavit in his possession.

“(B) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out this paragraph.”.

(b) QUALIFIED SUBSTITUTE.—Subsection (f) of section 1445 (relating to definitions) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) QUALIFIED SUBSTITUTE.—The term ‘qualified substitute’ means, with respect to a disposition of a United States real property interest—

“(A) the person (including any attorney or title company) responsible for closing the transaction, other than the transferor’s agent, and

“(B) the transferee’s agent.”.

(c) EXEMPTION NOT TO APPLY IF KNOWLEDGE OR NOTICE THAT AFFIDAVIT OR STATEMENT IS FALSE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (7) of section 1445(b) (relating to special rules for paragraphs (2) and (3)) is amended to read as follows:

“(7) SPECIAL RULES FOR PARAGRAPHS (2), (3), AND (9).—Paragraph (2), (3), or (9) (as the case may be) shall not apply to any disposition—

“(A) if—

“(i) the transferee or qualified substitute has actual knowledge that the affidavit referred to in such paragraph, or the statement referred to in paragraph (9)(A)(ii), is false, or

“(ii) the transferee or qualified substitute receives a notice (as described in subsection (d)) from a transferor’s agent, transferee’s agent, or qualified substitute that such affidavit or statement is false, or

“(B) if the Secretary by regulations requires the transferee or qualified substitute

to furnish a copy of such affidavit or statement to the Secretary and the transferee or qualified substitute fails to furnish a copy of such affidavit or statement to the Secretary at such time and in such manner as required by such regulations.”.

(2) LIABILITY.—

(A) NOTICE.—Paragraph (1) of section 1445(d) (relating to notice of false affidavit; foreign corporations) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) NOTICE OF FALSE AFFIDAVIT; FOREIGN CORPORATIONS.—If—

“(A) the transferor furnishes the transferee or qualified substitute an affidavit described in paragraph (2) of subsection (b) or a domestic corporation furnishes the transferee an affidavit described in paragraph (3) of subsection (b), and

“(B) in the case of—

“(i) any transferor’s agent—

“(I) such agent has actual knowledge that such affidavit is false, or

“(II) in the case of an affidavit described in subsection (b)(2) furnished by a corporation, such corporation is a foreign corporation, or

“(ii) any transferee’s agent or qualified substitute, such agent or substitute has actual knowledge that such affidavit is false, such agent or qualified substitute shall so notify the transferee at such time and in such manner as the Secretary shall require by regulations.”.

(B) FAILURE TO FURNISH NOTICE.—Paragraph (2) of section 1445(d) (relating to failure to furnish notice) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) FAILURE TO FURNISH NOTICE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If any transferor’s agent, transferee’s agent, or qualified substitute is required by paragraph (1) to furnish notice, but fails to furnish such notice at such time or times and in such manner as may be required by regulations, such agent or substitute shall have the same duty to deduct and withhold that the transferee would have had if such agent or substitute had complied with paragraph (1).

“(B) LIABILITY LIMITED TO AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION.—An agent’s or substitute’s liability under subparagraph (A) shall be limited to the amount of compensation the agent or substitute derives from the transaction.”.

(C) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading for section 1445(d) is amended by striking “OR TRANSFEREE’S AGENTS” and inserting “, TRANSFEREE’S AGENTS, OR QUALIFIED SUBSTITUTES”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to dispositions of United States real property interests after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 11. DISCLOSURE OF PRISONER RETURN INFORMATION TO FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (k) of section 6103 (relating to disclosure of certain return and return information for tax administration purposes) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(10) DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN RETURN INFORMATION OF PRISONERS TO FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Under such procedures as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may disclose to the head of the Federal Bureau of Prisons any return information with respect to individuals incarcerated in Federal prison whom the Secretary has determined may have filed or facilitated the filing of a false return to the extent that the Secretary determines that such disclosure is necessary to permit effective Federal tax administration.

“(B) RESTRICTION ON REDISCLOSURE.—Notwithstanding subsection (n), the head of the Federal Bureau of Prisons may not disclose

any information obtained under subparagraph (A) to any person other than an officer or employee of such Bureau.

“(C) RESTRICTION ON USE OF DISCLOSED INFORMATION.—Return information received under this paragraph shall be used only for purposes of and to the extent necessary in taking administrative action to prevent the filing of false and fraudulent returns, including administrative actions to address possible violations of administrative rules and regulations of the prison facility.

“(D) ANNUAL REPORT.—In each of the calendar years 2007 through 2010, the Secretary shall submit to Congress and make publicly available a report on the filing of false and fraudulent returns by individuals incarcerated in Federal and State prisons. Such report shall include statistics on the number of false and fraudulent returns associated with each Federal and State prison.

“(E) TERMINATION.—No disclosure may be made under this paragraph after December 31, 2010.”.

(b) RECORDKEEPING.—Paragraph (4) of section 6103(p) is amended by striking “(k)(8)” both places it appears and inserting “(k)(8) or (10)”.

(c) EVALUATION BY TREASURY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR TAX ADMINISTRATION.—Paragraph (3) of section 7803(d) is amended by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (A), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting “; and”, and by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) not later than December 31, 2009, submit a written report to Congress on the implementation of section 6103(k)(10).”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall apply to disclosures made after December 31, 2007.

(2) ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 6103(k)(10)(D) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to annual reports), as added by this section, shall apply to reports submitted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 12. INCREASE IN PENALTY FOR BAD CHECKS AND MONEY ORDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6657 (relating to bad checks) is amended—

(1) by striking “\$750” and inserting “\$1,250”, and

(2) by striking “\$15” and inserting “\$25”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to checks or money orders received after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 1677 and am pleased to be a lead co-sponsor of this bill with Chairman RANGEL.

Today is the due date for Americans to file their tax returns. On this day, it is wise for the House to consider a bill to increase taxpayer protection and expand outreach efforts to millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill; this is a timely bill. The Taxpayer Protection Act is a result of a hearing held by the Oversight Subcommittee that I chair. H.R. 1677 is an important

first step in standing up, really standing up for the American taxpayer. It is a shame that people use fraudulent tax schemes to steal Social Security numbers and financial information from Americans.

This legislation protects taxpayers from misleading Web sites and identity theft. H.R. 1677 provides higher penalties for persons who use either Web site names that may be confused with the official IRS Web site or mass e-mails that appear to be from the IRS. This bill requires the IRS to notify you if your identity is stolen in a tax scam.

You should not become more vulnerable for being a responsible citizen. The Taxpayer Protection Act prohibits the IRS from providing certain information to businesses that the IRS believes make predatory loans based on tax refunds. These short-term loans often charge interest rates sometimes above 100 percent that victimize low-income workers.

H.R. 1677 will also assist with efforts to reach millions of working Americans who are eligible to claim the earned income tax credit. These taxpayers often do not take advantage of the EITC. They have a right to know of all benefits available to them. Under this bill, the IRS will expand its current outreach program to help more low-income Americans receive this tax credit, a credit which lifts millions of families out of poverty each year.

This bipartisan legislation moves us in the right direction to make tax issues simpler and clearer for the average person. We must fight poverty, fight fraud, and provide these basic protections for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support the Taxpayer Protection Act, and I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote “yes” for H.R. 1677.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the Taxpayer Protection Act. This legislation is a package of commonsense reforms that passed the Ways and Means Committee by a voice vote with broad bipartisan support, and I want to take this opportunity to thank Chairman RANGEL of the full Ways and Means Committee, as well as Chairman LEWIS, the chairman of our Oversight Subcommittee, for working in a bipartisan, pragmatic and commonsense way on this legislation, and for working in a bipartisan way thus far generally in the committee. I also want to thank Ranking Member MCCREY for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, true to its name, this bill will protect taxpayers and expand their rights. One important reform will prevent Internet domains from using the Treasury Department’s name or symbol, which is usually done to trick people into giving out sensitive personal or financial information. Clearly, this should not be allowed and should be outlawed, as this bill provides. It

prohibits phishing, and by that I mean phishing with a “P-H,” not the kind that Minnesota is famous for. We are referring here to mass e-mail communications falsely claiming to be from the IRS that can lead to identity theft and have victimized too many Americans.

The bill also requires the IRS to notify taxpayers when there is an unauthorized use of the taxpayer’s identity. This will help taxpayers take steps to clear their names quickly if and when their identity is stolen.

Another commonsense provision of this bill allows the IRS to return funds directly to a taxpayer’s retirement account if the IRS improperly levied fines from that account.

One provision, Mr. Speaker, that received considerable attention in the committee deals with refund anticipation loans. I mentioned in the committee that while I certainly understand the motivation behind the provision and the belief that the IRS should not be a facilitator for predatory loans, I am concerned because the bill does not define “predatory”; but I trust, Mr. Speaker, that will be clarified in the conference.

I also hope we are not inadvertently making this problem worse by denying lenders information on “debt indicators” so that the provision increases the risk that a lender will not be reimbursed by the taxpayer’s refund. This could cause lenders to increase fees and interest rates even further, making taxpayers pay even more for early access to their refunds. While I am not opposed to the provision, this should be addressed in the conference.

I strongly support another provision in the bill which would encourage the IRS to do more to ensure that taxpayers entitled to receive earned income credit refunds actually receive them.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the earned income credit is one of our most effective antipoverty tools for working families. This provision certainly deserves our strong support.

Mr. Speaker, I am also very pleased that the committee adopted my amendment to prevent tax fraud by prison inmates. This amendment is based on legislation that Chairman LEWIS and I introduced in the last Congress in response to a hearing we held in 2005. This hearing revealed massive tax fraud going on within the walls of our Nation’s prisons. In fact, the IRS testified that 15 percent of all tax fraud in the United States is committed by prison inmates while in prison. Tax fraud in any form is obviously unacceptable and illegal; but it is particularly outrageous and egregious when it is committed by prison inmates who are supposed to be paying their debt to society, not bilking taxpayers.

For example, we heard testimony, Mr. Speaker, from one inmate who had swindled taxpayers to the tune of \$3.5 million in false tax return claims, and this was not an isolated incident.

While the IRS is able to detect some inmate tax fraud, far too much of it falls through the cracks. And, unfortunately, the IRS is prohibited by current law from sharing information with prison officials that would allow those officials to punish and stop this fraud.

My amendment, and I appreciate the chairman’s support of this amendment, my amendment would allow the IRS to disclose information to Federal prison officials to help them stop the tax fraud that is occurring right under their noses within the walls of Federal prisons. I hope in time this commonsense provision can also be extended to include State prisons.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly fitting that in a bill entitled the Taxpayer Protection Act we protect honest taxpayers from such blatant, outrageous fraud that is being committed by some prison inmates.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to protect taxpayers and support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, my colleague, the ranking member, for all of his help and support in bringing this legislation before us today.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to give Members 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the bill, H.R. 1677.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY), a member of the committee.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my friend, the chairman of the Oversight Subcommittee, the former chairman, now ranking member of the Oversight Subcommittee, for bringing this bipartisan bill to the floor.

There are a couple of features I wish to speak to: one, we prohibit use of misleading Internet names. I want to show you why I think that is important.

This is Departmentofthetreasury.com. You pull it up and it looks like an official Web page of the Federal Government. However, the second page on this same domain name shows Departmentofthetreasury.com is for sale. Basically, departmentofthetreasury.gov is the protected government name, and dot-com is a private name that preys upon the public believing they are communicating with the Federal Government, and they are not.

Now, I think we ought to take some exception to the marketing “Departmentofthetreasury.com is for sale.” That is a public name. It is owned by the American people. You can’t sell something you don’t own,

and that is a name appropriately reserved reflecting the Department of Treasury of this country, and nobody should be allowed to make a plug nickel on it.

Here is some body of information showing just how lucrative it might be for those who want to prey upon the public using Federal names. There is a domain site called IRS.com, and inconceivably to me, they rang the bell as some prized business concern in the American Stock Exchange this morning. Well, I think a business that preys upon the public with misleading domain names is no business you want to celebrate in ringing the bell of a great stock exchange.

In fact, public reports, as reported in the New York Times today, show that their revenues jumped from \$17.5 in 2005 to \$25.6 million after IRS.com paid \$12.9 million for that domain name. I have pulled up IRS.com. Some would say there is clear disclosure; this is not a public site. IRS.com has IRS. It has tax information, and in little tiny, flyspeck language it has the disclosure. It is deliberately built to deceive, and in fact one survey showed that 40 percent of those accessing the site thought it was a Federal site. And even after seeing it, one-third thought it was a Federal site. But they use this site to market information to taxpayers.

Just to conclude, the business plan of these enterprises to get people to the site, they then have other services offered on the site. The domain holder, IRS.com, is paid for each link accessed by a member of the public. Some of the things sold on that site represent very low value: refund anticipation loans or expensive tax preparation services. This is a fraud on the public, and we ought to put an end to it.

I also appreciate what we are doing, turning up the heat on these refund anticipation loans, or RALs. To me, they represent an exceedingly poor value to the American public. In fact, such a poor value that I can’t believe people are accessing them if they knew the facts and knew the costs. The commissioner has identified some of the practices as predatory lending in testimony to the committee. I like giving the Treasury Department authority to deal with people engaged in predatory lending practices. I urge passage of the bill.

□ 1345

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARNEY).

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. LEWIS for his leadership on this very important bill that we are discussing today.

I rise today in support of the Taxpayer Protection Act of 2007. I have spent the last 2 weeks in northeast and central Pennsylvania hearing from families in my district about matters

that concern them, and one thing was consistent. Our middle-class families deserve a tax cut and tax protection.

It is time to start protecting our taxpayers, Mr. Speaker. This bipartisan legislation will do just that. This legislation requires the IRS to notify taxpayers if there has been an unauthorized use of their identity. This is a serious issue, and the IRS must be actively contacting those individuals who may have fallen victim to identity theft.

This bill protects those who would receive a tax break, also. It requires the IRS to notify those who would be eligible for a tax break. For example, it requires the IRS to conduct additional earned income tax credit outreach, including notifying those who are eligible about how to apply for it.

The Taxpayer Protection Act supports small, family-owned businesses and allows for spouses of the family-owned business to pay Social Security and Medicare taxes as a sole proprietorship rather than as a partnership. This will save our small businesses money, promoting investment and growth in our communities.

I came to Congress to stand up for working families, both in my State, Pennsylvania, and this country. This bipartisan bill protects taxpayers, protects families and protects individuals; and I am proud to support it today.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to mention our condolences for those at Virginia Tech University. I think today everybody in this country is a Hokie.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee and ranking member of the Trade Subcommittee.

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, in 2001 President Bush and Congress worked to enact the most important tax relief since Ronald Reagan in the 1980s.

For individuals and families, we reduced marginal tax rates on personal income, doubled the child tax credit, reduced the unfair marriage tax penalty, phased out the onerous death tax, and significantly lessened the impact of the alternative minimum tax. We also provided essential tax relief on investment income.

Far from taxpayer protection, as this bill's title suggests, we are now hearing proposals from the other side that would do away with the tax relief of the last 6 years. Contrary to the naysayers, tax relief has played a critical role in revitalizing our Nation's economy.

Over 7.5 million new jobs have been created since 2003. The national unemployment rate has fallen to a very low 4.4 percent. Economic growth has been steady and strong. Our investment markets are no longer bursting; they are booming.

American families and small businesses did not just sit on the \$1.1 trillion that we returned to them. They put much of it back into our economy through investment and consumption.

The result: Tax revenues are up 35 percent and deficits are much lower than CBO anticipated.

Mr. Speaker, as we observe tax day, to truly protect taxpayers, Congress should talk about ways to make the tax relief we have permanent. Regrettably, the majority party and its budget anticipate the opposite.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY).

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Taxpayer Protection Act of 2007.

I would like to commend Chairman RANGEL and Ranking Member MCCRERY for bringing this bill to the floor and for working to simplify our tax policies.

Today's Tax Code has become so complex that it takes more than 25 hours to complete an itemized tax return. That is about 10 hours longer than in 1988.

Small business owners will also benefit significantly from this legislation by streamlining the process that married couples use to file returns.

Our reliance on technology and the openness of the Internet is greater than ever, and we should improve security to defend American taxpayers from identity theft.

I am pleased that provisions in the Taxpayer Protection Act increase online security for individuals and allow them to have better recourse in the event of a crime.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1677.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), my colleague on the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, thank you for giving me the time.

I also just want to express briefly the support of my constituents in Queens and The Bronx in New York. Their hearts and prayers are today in Virginia with the students and faculty and parents of Virginia Tech students.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Taxpayer Protection Act, a bill that will work to protect and empower taxpayers.

I want to specifically recognize and thank Chairman RANGEL not only for crafting a solid, bipartisan bill, but also for continuing the comity that has, this year, become the hallmark of our committee.

I would also like to express my gratitude to you, as well as to Oversight Subcommittee Chairman LEWIS and Ranking Member RAMSTAD for including important new provisions dealing with the earned income tax credit. The EITC has been a great benefit to my constituents, with almost 114,000 of them claiming this credit, bringing home to Queens and The Bronx \$270 million. While impressive, I still have almost 23,000 constituents in my dis-

trict who are eligible, but do not seek this credit, thereby missing out on an estimated \$54 million in revenue, money these people need for everyday living and money that can be turned back into our communities.

During both the oversight hearing on EITC and, later, the full committee hearing with IRS Commissioner Everson, I highlighted the need for the IRS to work with those who qualify for the EITC to make the process of restating past returns easier. This bill does that.

Additionally, during private and, later, under committee questioning, I asked Commissioner Everson about ways to outreach EITC to more people, including those who may not file returns.

Again, the sponsors heard the concerns of many of us on this committee and crafted a bill today that also mandates the IRS undertake this outing by using IRS' existing resources and data to dig deeper and find these eligible people.

The people who qualify and receive the earned income tax credit, the people I am talking about, are the working poor, again poor people who work, and they need our help. This bill provides them an important helping hand. I thank the sponsors for putting working people first in this legislation.

I also want to thank many of the not-for-profit groups that are helping our constituents access EITC. Just yesterday, I met with the leadership in New York City of ACORN, and they are starting a program to help our mutual constituents reach out so that they can make access of the EITC, the earned income tax credit.

I once again thank the sponsors of this legislation. I welcome this new direction in Congress and in America.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. SHULER).

Mr. SHULER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I would like to offer my thoughts and prayers to the family of those who died yesterday at Virginia Tech and all those affected by this senseless tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation, H.R. 1677, the Taxpayer Protection Act of 2007.

As we mark the deadline for Federal income taxes today, this bill takes important steps to simplify the tax process for family-owned small businesses, which are the backbone of our country and our economy.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will allow both spouses in a family-owned business to pay Social Security and Medicare taxes as a sole proprietorship, not as a partnership.

Mr. Speaker, when a husband and wife owns a business together, they are really collecting only one paycheck. They should only have to pay taxes once.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE), a champion of the taxpayer.

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I appreciate the gentleman for yielding, and I appreciate the leadership on both sides of the aisle for this issue.

I am heartened by the stated enthusiasm of the members of the majority party for the Taxpayer Protection Act. I am remarkably encouraged.

Today being tax day, it is appropriate that we speak about this issue, and it is mostly good work. I would commend the individuals who worked on this. It is mostly good work, but I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that real protection requires real reform, and the real solution to the challenges that we face as Americans, all of us in our tax system, is that we need fundamental reform.

This is an appropriate bill and kind of tinkers with the margins of our tax system, and I think those modifications are, as I mentioned, appropriate and a step in the right direction; but our current system is extremely regressive and extremely unfair.

So, to talk about the earned income tax credit, it's an appropriate thing to notify people who don't know that they are eligible for that. However, there are embedded taxes in everything that we purchase that make our system right now much more regressive than it ought be.

There is legislation available that would, in fact, promote fundamental reform. It would capture all of the underground economy that is fully a third of our current economy, nearly \$1 trillion. It would reward those kinds of things that we say that we want, like hard work and success and entrepreneurship and vision and all those wonderful American ideals.

That bill is H.R. 25. It is the fair tax, the national retail sales tax. It would bring about true fundamental reform and would bring about true protection for the American taxpayer.

So I commend the individuals who brought forward H.R. 1677, and I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this is a small step in the right direction. However, real reform requires real change. Fundamental reform to our tax system is what is needed, and I am hopeful that in relatively short order we will be able to embrace each other with real fundamental reform to our entire tax system on the floor of this House.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I appreciate my colleague from Georgia, the distinguished chairman of the Oversight Committee, for permitting me to speak on this bill, and I commend his hard work.

I find no small amount of irony hearing one of our friends from the other side of the aisle talk about how it might be time now for tax reform. The other side of the aisle was in charge for 12 years, and it is interesting that in the last 6 years, when they controlled the White House and Congress and had three major tax bills before us, the words in the Tax Code increased 1.5 million; 1.5 million extra words, special-interest provisions, while ignoring opportunities to simplify the code and to deal meaningfully with the tax tsunami that is coming at us, the alternative minimum tax.

□ 1400

I appreciate the hard work that the subcommittee has done, dealing with provisions like this that have no argument against them. These are things that are long overdue. I am glad we are moving forward. I commend the subcommittee Chair, and our Chair, Mr. RANGEL, for looking at other provisions that would level the playing field, that would deal with simplification, deal with fairness, deal with some of the problems that lower-income citizens have in terms of trying to cope with the complexity, and being able to equip the Internal Revenue Service to make sure that we deal with hundreds of billions of dollars that is uncollected revenue that shifts the burden on the vast majority of Americans who are hard working, who report their income, who pay their taxes fairly and on time.

It isn't the fault of the worker who has got the W-2 that we have this vast amount of uncollected income. We have the complexity. I appreciate what this bill represents, a true effort at bipartisan cooperation to establish a foundation. We can move forward to have an Internal Revenue Code that is fair and effective for all.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, may I just inquire as to how many speakers the other side may have.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. That was my last speaker, Mr. Ranking Member.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, before yielding back, I too want to express my deepest sympathy to the entire Virginia Tech community. Like every other Member of this body, my thoughts and prayers are with all those affected by the tragic and senseless loss of lives.

Having no further speakers, I urge a strong "yes" vote for this taxpayer protection.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I too, before I close this debate on this bill, join with my colleagues and others to mourn for the victims of this unspeakable, unbelievable, senseless act of violence at Virginia Tech. We mourn, we pray for the victims and for their families.

I also want to thank my colleague, my friend, the ranking member, Mr. RAMSTAD, for all of his help in bringing this piece of legislation, as I stated before, before us today.

Madam Speaker, I fully support H.R. 1677, the Taxpayer Protection Act of 2007. We must do more for Americans. We must protect taxpayers from being victims of fraudulent tax schemes, misleading Web sites and predatory refund loans.

H.R. 1677 does this. It provides higher penalties for deceptive Web sites and mass e-mails. It requires the IRS to notify you if your identity is stolen in a tax scam. It reduces predatory refund loans.

H.R. 1677 expands IRS outreach programs to millions of taxpayers eligible for the earned income tax credit who have not claimed it. This credit lifts millions of working Americans out of poverty each year.

Madam Speaker, this is a good bill. This is an important bill. This is a necessary bill. On this tax day we must do more for taxpayers. I urge my colleagues, all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote "yes" for H.R. 1677.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1677, the "Taxpayer Protection Act of 2007."

I would like to focus my remarks on Section 8 of this bill, which clarifies the intent of the Congress that the existing legal prohibitions on the misuse of Department of the Treasury names and symbols also extend to misuse over the Internet. I support this provision, which addresses a very real problem that currently exists with potentially misleading commercial websites that taxpayers may mistakenly believe to be affiliated with the IRS.

In February, the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, which I chair, became aware of three commercial websites operating under domain names which may confuse the public into believing them to be official IRS websites: IRS.com, IRS.net and IRS.org. In response to this situation, I wrote to the Federal Trade Commission Chairman Majoras, Secretary of the Treasury Paulson, and Internal Revenue Service Commissioner Everson to express my concerns that consumers who visited these sites might provide the operators with personally identifiable information and tax return information, enabling the operators to either market or sell this information to others, or to sell and market all manner of products and services to these taxpayers.

A consumer survey and study presented to the IRS and FTC in early January of this year by the Computer and Communications Industry Association suggested that a significant proportion of consumers misinterpreted these three non-governmental Websites as being sites hosted by the IRS. The survey showed, for example, that before viewing the website IRS.com, 47 percent of those surveyed believed the site represented the Internet address of the Internal Revenue Service. Even after viewing the site, 1/3 of those surveyed still believed the site was the IRS website.

Now, the IRS.com website bears a remarkable resemblance to the official IRS.gov site. Both websites have the same color blue banner at the very top, a grey search bar right below, and a white background with various links and search features covering the bulk of the page. Back in February, the IRS.com site even had an actual image of the U.S. Treasury headquarters building on the top of the

page. At the time, there was only a fine-print disclaimer at the bottom of these sites stating that that it was a non-governmental site. This disclaimer was so far down on the webpage that few consumers were likely to view it.

I continue to be concerned about the potential for unfair or deceptive trade practices associated with these commercial websites, and I believe that we need to do more to ensure that the public does not continue to be exposed to these potentially misleading or confusing websites. There is no relationship between a citizen and our government more sensitive, nor information more private, than that involving individual taxes and the annual voluntary compliance obligation. The federal government has a duty to protect taxpayers from predatory behaviors as they seek to meet their obligation to pay taxes.

I am hopeful that, by clarifying the intent of the Congress that the existing legal prohibitions on misuse of Treasury Department and IRS names and symbols are and should be applied to commercial activity on the Internet, this bill will better protect the public from this kind of operation in the future.

I urge adoption of the bill.

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1677, the Taxpayer Protection Act of 2007. Too often, middle-class taxpayers find themselves confused and frustrated by the complexity of the tax code. Over 60 percent of taxpayers now use a paid preparer to file their tax return, costing them hundreds or thousands of dollars that they could have used for college, health care, or retirement.

This legislation provides overdue relief for taxpayers that will protect them from fraud, require the IRS to do a better job of communicating which tax credits a taxpayer can qualify for, and hold tax cheats accountable for their actions. Today is Tax Day, and this legislation sends a message to taxpayers that help is on the way.

Hearings held by Chairman JOHN LEWIS provided ample evidence that taxpayers are too often exposed to identify theft or unaware of potential benefits. The Taxpayer Protection Act will require the IRS to notify taxpayers involved in tax fraud investigations that there may have been an unauthorized use of their identities, will provide filers with a longer period of time to seek restitution from the IRS for a wrongful penalty, punish predatory lenders, and require the IRS to promote the Earned Income Tax Credit so that more Americans can take care of a tax benefit they have earned but have not been notified.

Madam Speaker, Tax Day can be a difficult day for many Americans. Let us do our part to make common-sense reforms that put the government back on the side of the average taxpayer.

I thank Mr. RANGEL, the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, for his leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 1677, the Taxpayer Protection Act of 2007.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1677, the Taxpayer Protection Act.

I would note that its consideration today is particularly timely as millions of hardworking Americans file their tax returns. Those workers and families deserve to know that their government is taking every step to protect the

sensitive data contained in those returns and to enhance taxpayer rights.

Identity theft is a large and growing problem in our society, and unfortunately, a lack of vigilance on the part of the IRS has contributed to that problem. One criminal who testified before the Senate Finance Committee last week detailed how he stole \$1.1 million from the Treasury by using stolen identities to claim fraudulent refunds. While this individual is rightly serving time in prison, we must act to prevent such crimes in the future.

This legislation contains a number of common sense provisions to accomplish just that, including a requirement that the IRS notify a taxpayer if it discovers that there may have been an unauthorized use of the taxpayer's identity during the course of a tax fraud investigation and the authority for the IRS to notify taxpayers on the Internet about unclaimed tax refunds. It also increases penalties on misleading websites that use government names and symbols to engage in the fraudulent practice known as "phishing."

I am also pleased that it enhances Earned Income Tax Credit outreach so that every taxpayer who is eligible for this credit realizes its benefits.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1677, the "Taxpayer Protection Act of 2007."

I would like to focus my remarks on Section 8 of this bill, which clarifies the intent of the Congress that the existing legal prohibitions on the misuse of Department of Treasury names and symbols extend to misuse over the Internet. I support this provision, which addresses a very real problem that currently exists with potentially misleading commercial Web sites that taxpayers may mistakenly believe to be affiliated with the IRS.

In February, the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, which I chair, became aware of three commercial Web sites operating under domain names which may confuse the public into believing them to be official IRS Web sites: IRS.com, IRS.net, and IRS.org. In response to this situation, I wrote to the Federal Trade Commission Chairman Majoras, Secretary of the Treasury Paulson, and Internal Revenue Service Commissioner Everson to express my concerns that consumers who visited these sites might provide the operators with personally identifiable information and tax return information, enabling the operators to either market or sell this information to others, or to sell and market all manner of products and services to these taxpayers. Since the taxpayers who provide personal information to these sites might be doing so under the misimpression that they were dealing with an official government Web site subject to applicable federal privacy protections, I felt there was a serious potential for consumer confusion, deception, and abuse.

In fact, a consumer survey and study presented to the IRS and FTC in early January of this year by the Computer and Communications Industry Association suggested that a significant proportion of consumers misinterpreted these three nongovernmental Web sites as being sites hosted by the IRS. The survey showed, for example, that before viewing the Web site IRS.com, 47 percent of those surveyed believed the site represented the

Internet address of the Internal Revenue Service. Even after viewing the site, one third of those surveyed still believed the site was the IRS Web site.

Now, the IRS.com Web site bears a remarkable resemblance to the official IRS.gov site. Both Web sites have the same color blue banner at the very top, a grey search bar right below, and a white background with various links and search features covering the bulk of the page. Back in February, the IRS.com site even had an actual image of the U.S. Treasury headquarters building on the top of the page. At the time, there was only a fine-print disclaimer at the bottom of this site stating that it was a non-governmental site. This disclaimer was so far down on the Web page that few consumers were likely to view it.

I asked the FTC, the Treasury, and the IRS to look into the issues raised by this Web site, as well as the IRS.org and IRS.net sites. The IRS and the Treasury Department have never formally responded to my inquiry. However, the IRS has issued a press statement warning taxpayers about these potentially misleading sites. The FTC did respond to my letter, but in that response merely noted that in response to the concerns I had raised, the operator had "made a number of changes to distinguish it from the official IRS Web site, and to better highlight the disclaimers included on the Web site."

I continue to be concerned about the potential for unfair or deceptive trade practices associated with these commercial Web sites, and I believe that we need to do more to ensure that the public does not continue to be exposed to these potentially misleading or confusing Web sites. There is no relationship between a citizen and our government more sensitive, nor information more private, than that involving individual taxes and the annual voluntary compliance obligation. The federal government has a duty to protect taxpayers from predatory behaviors as they seek to meet their obligation to pay taxes. I am hopeful that by clarifying the intent of the Congress that the existing legal prohibitions on misuse of Treasury Department and IRS names and symbols is and should be applied to commercial activity on the Internet, that this bill will better protect the public from this kind of operation in the future.

I urge adoption of the bill.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1677, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF WORLD WATER DAY

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 196) supporting the goals and ideals of World Water Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 196

Whereas the global celebration of World Water Day is an initiative that grew out of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro;

Whereas the United Nations General Assembly, via resolution, designated March 22 of each year as World Water Day;

Whereas although water is the most widely occurring substance on earth, only 2.53 percent of all water is freshwater and the remainder is salt water;

Whereas freshwater resources are further impaired by various forms of industrial, chemical, human, and agricultural pollution;

Whereas climate change will increasingly pose a challenge for ensuring the availability of sufficient water supplies at the appropriate times;

Whereas approximately one in six people in the world lack access to safe drinking water and approximately two in every five people lack access to basic sanitation services;

Whereas water-related diseases are among the most common causes of illness and death, afflicting primarily the poor and very poor in developing countries;

Whereas up to five million people die each year from preventable water and sanitation related diseases, including one out of every five children in the poorest countries;

Whereas every \$1 invested in safe drinking water and sanitation yields an economic return of between \$3 and \$34, depending on the region;

Whereas increasing access to safe drinking water and sanitation advances efforts towards other United States development objectives including fighting poverty and hunger, promoting primary education and gender equality, reducing child mortality, promoting environmental stability, improving the lives of slum dwellers, and strengthening national security;

Whereas the participants in the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, including the United States, agreed to the Plan of Implementation which included an agreement to work to reduce by one-half from the baseline year 1990 "the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water," and "the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation" by 2015; and

Whereas Congress passed and the President signed into law the "Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005" (Public Law 109-121) which was intended to "elevate the role of water and sanitation policy in the development of U.S. foreign policy and improve the effectiveness of U.S. official programs": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of World Water Day;

(2) recognizes the importance of increasing access to safe drinking water and sanitation, as well as the conservation and sustainable management of water resources, to human health and quality of life across the globe;

(3) urges an increased effort and the investment of greater resources by the Department of State, the United States Agency for Inter-

national Development, and all relevant Federal departments and agencies towards providing sustainable and equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation for the poor and very poor; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe World Water Day with appropriate recognition, ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate the importance of water to humanity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I yield myself such time as I might consume.

I would first like to commend my distinguished colleague and a former member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, EARL BLUMENAUER of Oregon, for introducing this important resolution.

Nearly 5 years ago, representatives of governments around the globe, including the United States, stood together and agreed to reduce by one-half the number of people who lack access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by the year 2015. We now stand at the midpoint of that target, and we are no closer to reaching it than we were at the outset.

Today over 900 million people lack access to safe water, and over 1.3 billion people do not have access to basic sanitation. Climate change is rapidly depleting the world's already badly stretched water resources.

Each year more than 3 billion of our fellow human beings suffer from preventable water-related diseases. As a result of these diseases, 5 million people die. Most of these victims are children under the age of 5. Clearly, more must be done to address this humanitarian catastrophe.

Our legislation, H. Res. 196, demonstrates the commitment of the Congress to achieve the goals and ideals of World Water Day to increase the availability of clean water.

Collectively, we have the means to address this global crisis. What we need is political will for action. Congress swiftly acted with the passage of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act in 2005, a critically important piece of legislation spearheaded by the distinguished gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) with the support of my former colleague, Chairman Henry Hyde, and myself.

This resolution is another step in improving our commitment to bringing

clean water and basic sanitation to the poorest of the poor. H. Res. 196 urges our own government to utilize every resource at our disposal to improve access to clean water and sanitation for those most in need. It recognizes the importance of conservation and sustainable management of water resources to both human health and the quality of life.

We must do all we can to provide clean water and basic sanitation for all people across the globe.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support this resolution and urge all of my colleagues to do so.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of House Resolution 196, which expresses the support of this House for the goals and ideals associated with World Water Day.

The lack of access to safe drinking water and the lack of adequate sanitation systems continue to be major problems for poor people around the world despite our strong efforts over many decades to help address those challenges. The lack of clean water and sanitation systems in many parts of the world lead to the spread of disease and to the deaths that might otherwise have been avoided and undermines the efforts we take to assist poor people around the world as they seek a better life.

Madam Speaker, I just got back last week from a heart-wrenching trip to Darfur, and we saw firsthand how important a resource water is to so many people. We saw, by visiting the clinics, how many people are afflicted with the diseases that are borne because of the water that is not pure, that is not sanitized and that is, in fact, full of bacteria. I understand how important it is to support the goals and ideals of this resolution before us commemorating World Water Day.

In addition to sanitation and access to clean water, the conservation of water resources is, itself, an increasing challenge around the world. Conservation of drinking water will, in fact, remain even a greater challenge in the near future as mankind's population continues to expand and the demand for fresh, clean water increases.

In calling for the appropriate Departments and agencies of the United States Government to increase our efforts to support access to clean water, availability of sanitation systems and conservation of water, this resolution properly cites the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 enacted in the last Congress, which called for a greater focus on the objectives that are associated with World Water Day.

This resolution rightfully seeks to highlight this global problem encouraging all of us to observe World Water Day every year on March 22. I support the intent of this resolution and its adoption by this House.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of our time.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 7 minutes to the author of this resolution, my good friend from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the chairman's courtesy. I appreciate his leadership in working with me on this bill.

Madam Speaker, as we stagger under the implications of what we have just witnessed at Virginia Tech, I think part of what we ought to do is to rededicate ourselves to simple steps that will help make the world a better place. I can think of no better or direct way for us to act today than what this legislation means for us.

I would begin by thanking the gentlewoman from Texas, Ms. JOHNSON, who can't be here right now because she is actually chairing a committee dealing with water pollution as we speak, as Chair of the Water Resources Subcommittee. She has been really a terrific champion. I see here today my friend from Tennessee, the former Chair of the subcommittee, who likewise has been focusing on the central need for us to be respectful of water supply.

As the old joke goes, God gives us water for free, but he doesn't give us the pipes, the distribution system and purification.

Across the world, as my good friends from the Foreign Affairs Committee have just enumerated, every day millions and millions of poor people are paying the price for nature's failure to provide water exactly where they live, and a failure of stewardship on the part of governments and individuals to take care of the water that they have.

□ 1415

They are paying the price for pollution from inadequate or nonexistent sanitation, and far too many poor people are paying a huge amount of their scarce income because they can't otherwise get water. They are paying in time and in money. There are some poor people that are slowly going blind because of arsenic poisoning in their water system in Bangladesh.

I used to think that the pictures in the National Geographic articles with the water jug on the head was sort of exotic, but now I recognize this as the face of poverty. Indeed it is a travesty as young women particularly spend 1, 2, or 3 hours with that jug of water balanced on their head to meet the needs of their family. That is time that they are not spending in school, that is time that they are not spending economically to support that family. As has been mentioned, every 15 seconds a child dies from lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and each is an unnecessary death because we know exactly what to do to stop it. Indeed, there are people from churches and synagogues and Boy Scout troops and Kiwanis Clubs that are acting on their own to help provide water around the world.

Lack of access to drinking water and sanitation is the number one preventable killer in the world. And I won't repeat the statistics, mind numbing as they are, of over 2 billion people without access to sanitation, and the fact that half the people who are sick today around the globe are sick needlessly from waterborne diseases.

As my friend from Florida said, this is tied to other health problems, HIV/AIDS, and poverty reduction. The tragedy is compounded because we are not doing enough to stop it. By recognizing the goals and ideals of World Water Day, we commit again on this floor to spread the word about this grave issue and build the momentum to address it.

As the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee pointed out, in 2002 the world did take a stand. I was privileged to be at that conference in Johannesburg, where the United States and 185 other countries agreed to that ambitious goal. The frustration is that this goal can be met, if done correctly, for less than the cost of a takeout pizza a year for an American family.

In 2005, the Congress passed and the President signed into law the Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act, which I thought was important because not only were we for the first time taking a stand, but the way that we did it, with the leadership of Mr. LANTOS and Mr. Hyde; and on the Senate side we had the minority leader and the majority leader coming together in broad bipartisan legislation. We were for the first time providing a plan to implement the commitment that the United States and 185 other countries made.

I am saddened as we come to the floor today, however, that the Bush administration has failed to implement this legislation. Instead, as I read the budget, the President has proposed major cuts to the already inadequate commitment from the United States to water and sanitation.

The centerpiece of this bill was to create a strategy for meeting our international commitments, to bring together some 15 agencies and departments, to have a plan. Sadly, the deadline has passed, and as yet, we don't have yet that comprehensive plan. We continue to use gimmicks and numbers games to claim that the administration is meeting Congress' requirements, but they are not. This resolution ought to be a point of emphasis that Congress demands a greater effort, not lesser, from the administration, and indeed from ourselves, as we come forward with the budgets this year. We should insist that the United States stand by its word and actually do something about this crisis. We are saying that we have to partner with poor people wherever they are, not in a few allied countries in the Middle East, but especially in sub-Saharan Africa, in South Asia, and around the world.

I would hope that with the help of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the distinguished leadership on the floor here that when the State Department

comes back to Congress this June with its second report on the implementation of the bipartisan "Water for the Poor Act," I would hope that it will match our legislation in scope, ambition, and focus. If not, let us return to the drawing board to find ways to help the State Department meet its obligation under the Act.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I am now pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN), who is the former chairman of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment, and representing a district that surrounds Knoxville and includes Knoxville, who passed a resolution supporting the ideals of the issue before us.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I thank, first of all, the gentlelady from Florida, the new ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, for yielding me this time and for her kind words and her strong support of this legislation. I also commend Chairman LANTOS for bringing this resolution to the floor. But I especially want to commend my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for his work in bringing this matter to the floor today and also calling attention to what is a very, very serious problem.

I had the privilege of chairing the Aviation Subcommittee for 6 years, and that subcommittee seemed to generate a lot of attention and publicity. Then I chaired for 6 years the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, and unfortunately I think people did not pay as much attention to that subcommittee; and I thought it was just as important, perhaps more important, than the Aviation Subcommittee. And yet I said many times there probably is nothing that the people in this country take for granted as much as they do our clean water and wastewater infrastructure in this Nation.

Madam Speaker, much work needs to be done in this country in regard to our water to keep it to the standards that the people of this country want. And so the day after tomorrow we will hopefully pass a long overdue bill, the Water Resources Development Act, a bill that we passed two or three times here in the House, that has been held up in the Senate, but that is very, very important for our water infrastructure in this Nation.

You have heard some of the statistics already. My statistics vary just a little bit. I was given the information that 1.2 billion don't have access to clean water; Chairman LANTOS said a lower figure, I think Mr. BLUMENAUER said a higher figure, but it is an astounding number of people, whatever the exact number is, that don't have access to a good, clean water source.

Water-related diseases, as Chairman LANTOS said, kill over 5 million people each year. Six million are blind today because of trachoma, an eye infection

spread through poor hygiene caused by dirty water and unsanitary conditions. I could give all kinds of statistics.

As the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) said, I was proud that in my hometown of Knoxville recently, the city council, at the urging of our great Mayor Bill Haslam, passed a proclamation in support of World Water Day. This was done without my knowledge, and so I am pleased that other people are helping to call attention to what is one of the most serious problems that this world faces today.

And so I think that it is very appropriate that the Congress take up a resolution at this time, and I think that this will help lead to progress in this area, much, much needed progress; and I urge support for this resolution.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to my good friend from Ohio, the distinguished chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Domestic Policy, Mr. KUCINICH.

Mr. KUCINICH. I thank my friend, Mr. LANTOS.

I rise as a proud cosponsor of this bill emphasizing the importance of water. Despite the availability of advanced and inexpensive water treatment technologies and despite an aggregate level of wealth that should preclude injustice, one in six people in the world still lack access to safe drinking water. Global warming is expected to worsen the situation.

At the same time, privatization of our scarce water supplies is also proliferating. It drives up the price of a life-giving resource under the guise of making it cheaper. In its most egregious form, bottled water companies overpump a valuable water supply, restricting access to only those who can afford to pay more for water than for gas.

I represent an area of Cleveland that, like many nearby cities, relies on Lake Erie for drinking water. During negotiations by Great Lakes States over the conditions under which water could be withdrawn from Lake Erie and the surrounding Great Lakes, the bottled water industry slipped in their own language; it allowed exclusive, unlimited access to Great Lakes water by their industry. By weakening the agreement in this way, it also paved the way for any corporation to have full access to the lakes, even at the expense of the public water supply. This is happening at a time when both water quality and quantity are expected to decline as a result of global warming.

In Nottingham and Barrington, two small New Hampshire towns, a company called USA Springs is attempting to pump 310,000 gallons a day in an area populated with homes that get their water from small, private, household wells. The community is concerned about loss of their water supply, loss of water quality, degradation of nearby wetlands, but USA Springs is using their substantial resources to overwhelm the community. The result is

that this company, USA Springs, is now dangerously close to winning this battle it started in 2001. Similar battles are being fought in communities all over the country.

The basic building blocks of life, like water, must be accessible by people before corporations and must be managed as a public trust, not reduced to a commodity.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to my friend and neighbor from California, Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, chairwoman of the Education and Labor Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of the World Water Day resolution, H.R. 196, and I am proud to be a cosponsor of Congressman BLUMENAUER's resolution.

The district I represent includes Marin and Sonoma Counties just north of San Francisco. My district is very ecologically diverse. In fact, we are putting new life into our wetlands, we are expanding our wetlands. We have wastewater treatment plants that make it possible for us to send our wastewater and use our wastewater to water our grapes, and we have one of the best grape growing counties in the country.

In fact, in my very own backyard, my drip system that waters my yard is controlled by satellite because my town of Petaluma is experimenting. They picked 100 houses and asked us, would we let them use our drip systems as an experimental project; and it will indeed save me money and save water, I am sure. Along with that, many of our commercial and recreation activities in my district are focused around water.

So even with programs like this throughout our country, throughout the world, we are squandering. We still squander this precious resource called water.

World Water Day raises the profile of the issue. It means that we must keep on working, we must keep on paying attention to safe and sustainable water supplies, and we must make safe and sustainable water available without regard to any economic or any political boundaries.

Recently, there has been an entirely renewed attention to global warming, and with that, we are paying more attention to our water resources and what we need to do to keep a safe and liveable world, not just for Americans, not just for Petalumans, but for everyone.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. 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. LANTOS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 196.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1430

CONDEMNING RECENT VIOLENT ACTIONS OF GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE AGAINST PEACEFUL OPPOSITION PARTY ACTIVISTS AND MEMBERS OF CIVIL SOCIETY

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 100) condemning the recent violent actions of the Government of Zimbabwe against peaceful opposition party activists and members of civil society, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 100

Whereas in 2005 the Government of Zimbabwe launched Operation Murambatsvina ("Operation Throw Out the Trash") against citizens in major cities and suburbs throughout Zimbabwe, depriving over 700,000 people of their homes, businesses, and livelihoods;

Whereas on March 11, 2007, opposition party activists and members of civil society attempted to hold a peaceful prayer meeting to protest the economic and political crisis engulfing Zimbabwe, where inflation is running over 3,000 percent and formal sector unemployment stands at 80 percent and in response to President Robert Mugabe's announcement that he intends to seek reelection in 2008;

Whereas opposition activist Gift Tandare died on March 11, 2007, as a result of being shot by police while attempting to attend the prayer meeting and Itai Manyeruke died on March 12, 2007, as a result of police beatings and was found in a morgue by his family on March 20, 2007;

Whereas under the direction of President Robert Mugabe and the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) government, police officers, security forces, and youth militia brutally assaulted the peaceful demonstrators and arrested opposition leaders and hundreds of civilians;

Whereas Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) leader Morgan Tsvangarai was brutally assaulted and suffered a fractured skull, lacerations, and major bruising; MDC member Sekai Holland, a 64-year old grandmother, suffered ruthless attacks at Highfield Police Station, which resulted in the breaking of her leg, knee, arm, and three ribs; fellow activist Grace Kwinje, age 33, also was brutally beaten, while part of one ear was ripped off; and Nelson Chamisa was badly injured by suspected state agents at Harare airport on March 18, 2007, when trying to board a plane for a meeting of Africa Caribbean Pacific (APC) lawmakers in Brussels, Belgium;

Whereas Zimbabwe's foreign minister warned Western diplomats that the Government of Zimbabwe would expel them if they

gave support to the opposition, and said Western diplomats had gone too far by offering food and water to jailed opposition activists;

Whereas victims of physical assault by the Government of Zimbabwe have been denied emergency medical transfer to hospitals in neighboring South Africa, where their wounds can be properly treated;

Whereas those incarcerated by the Government of Zimbabwe were denied access to legal representatives and lawyers appearing at the jails to meet with detained clients were themselves threatened and intimidated;

Whereas at the time of Zimbabwe's independence, President Robert Mugabe was hailed as a liberator and Zimbabwe showed bright prospects for democracy, economic development, domestic reconciliation, and prosperity;

Whereas President Robert Mugabe and his ZANU-PF government continue to turn away from the promises of liberation and use state power to deny the people of Zimbabwe the freedom and prosperity they fought for and deserve;

Whereas the staggering suffering brought about by the misrule of Zimbabwe has created a large-scale humanitarian crisis in which 3,500 people die each week from a combination of disease, hunger, neglect, and despair;

Whereas the Chairman of the African Union, President Alpha Oumar Konare, expressed "great concern" about Zimbabwe's crisis and called for the need for the scrupulous respect for human rights and democratic principles in Zimbabwe;

Whereas the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Council of Non-governmental Organizations stated that "We believe that the crisis has reached a point where Zimbabweans need to be strongly persuaded and directly assisted to find an urgent solution to the crisis that affects the entire region.";

Whereas Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa has likened Zimbabwe to a "sinking Titanic" and has urged southern Africa to take a new approach to Zimbabwe, stating that "quiet diplomacy has failed to help solve the political chaos and economic meltdown in Zimbabwe";

Whereas European Union and African, Caribbean, and Pacific lawmakers strongly condemned the latest attack on an opposition official in Zimbabwe and urged the government in Harare to cooperate with the political opposition to restore the rule of law; and

Whereas United States Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Christopher Dell, warned that opposition to President Robert Mugabe had reached a tipping point because the people no longer feared the regime and believed they had nothing left to lose: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) it is the sense of Congress that—

(A) the state-sponsored violence taking place in Zimbabwe represents a serious violation of fundamental human rights and the rule of law and should be condemned by all responsible governments, civic organizations, religious leaders, and international bodies; and

(B) the Government of Zimbabwe has not lived up to its commitments as a signatory to the Constitutive Act of the African Union and African Charter of Human and Peoples Rights which enshrine commitment to human rights and good governance as foundational principles of African states; and

(2) Congress—

(A) condemns the Government of Zimbabwe's violent suppression of political and human rights through its police force, security forces, and youth militia that delib-

erately inflict gross physical harm, intimidation, and abuse on those legitimately protesting the failing policies of the government;

(B) holds those individual police, security force members, and militia involved in abuse and torture responsible for the acts that they have committed;

(C) condemns government harassment and intimidation of lawyers attempting to carry out their professional obligations to their clients and repeated failure by police to comply promptly with court decisions;

(D) condemns the harassment of foreign officials, journalists, human rights workers, and others, including threatening their expulsion from the country if they continue to provide food and water to victims detained in prison and in police custody while in the hospital;

(E) commends United States Ambassador Christopher Dell and other United States Government officials and foreign officials for their support to political detainees and victims of torture and abuse while in police custody or in medical care centers and encourages them to continue providing such support;

(F) calls on the Government of Zimbabwe to cease immediately its violent campaign against fundamental human rights, to respect the courts and members of the legal profession, and to restore the rule of law while adhering to the principles embodied in an accountable democracy, including freedom of association and freedom of expression;

(G) calls on the Government of Zimbabwe to cease illegitimate interference in travel abroad by its citizens, especially for humanitarian purposes; and

(H) calls on the leaders of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union to consult urgently with all Zimbabwe stakeholders to intervene with the Government of Zimbabwe while applying appropriate pressures to resolve the economic and political crisis.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, first I want to thank my good friend from Florida, Ranking Member ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Chairman DONALD PAYNE and Ranking Member CHRIS SMITH, and all the other cosponsors of this resolution for joining me in condemning the egregious violence perpetrated against innocent civilians by the Government of Zimbabwe.

For the past 6 years, the Government of Zimbabwe has been on a path of failed policies and distorted vision. As the economy of the country spiraled downward, the Central Bank has been unresponsive and reckless.

Zimbabwe was once known as Southern Africa's bread basket. But after years of disastrous misrule, the people there now find themselves eating field mice to stave off hunger. Zimbabwean officials have the temerity to declare to the world that they eat field mice because they are a delicacy.

On March 11, many segments of Zimbabwe's society joined together to hold a prayer breakfast to focus attention on the country's desperate situation. The government reacted swiftly, violently cracking down on the gathering. In this incident, six opposition activists were shot, and over 50 had to be hospitalized, including key opposition leaders, many of whom did not get proper treatment for their severe injuries.

This latest incident underscores a disturbing pattern of recent years. The Zimbabwean Government pledges peace, then commits human rights violations against its own people, and it precipitates humanitarian crisis after humanitarian crisis. In response to legitimate protests, the government has retaliated with draconian legislation and harsh security enforcement. It transformed Zimbabwe's poor children into violent militia members, not unlike child soldiers in other ravaged African countries.

In 2005, the Zimbabwean Government launched its infamous Operation Throw Out the Trash against citizens in major cities, driving some 700,000 innocent people from their homes, businesses, and livelihoods.

So I ask Mugabe, the dictator of this country, what kind of human being called himself a "leader," yet is willing to commit atrocities against the very people he is supposed to lead?

In spite of Zimbabwe's embittered rhetoric toward the United States, our Congress passed, 6 years ago, the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act, offering significant economic and political aid to Zimbabwe if it would reverse its anti-democratic and anti-people ways.

Zimbabwe had invaded a neighboring country, grossly mismanaged its economy, flaunted the rule of law and democratic practices. Using the diplomatic tools at our disposal, our government imposed travel and economic sanctions against individuals who were responsible for the grossest violations.

The United States remains open to change in Zimbabwe, hopeful about prospects and ready to reward its arrival. We clearly provided an opportunity for Zimbabwe to reverse course and to reap generous economic benefits from the American people.

Unfortunately, the Zimbabwean leaders are bent on a bitter and disastrous course that no sane or rational appeal from its own citizens or the community of nations has been able to reverse.

Today Zimbabwe, once one of the most promising countries of Africa, is a dismal shadow of its former self. It faces an unfathomable inflation rate of

3,000 percent, the highest on the planet, and a shocking 80 percent of the people of the country are unemployed.

Our resolution condemns the economic and political madness that is gripping Zimbabwe and urges the government to return to sanity, end the state-sponsored violence, and address the needs of its people.

I, again, want to thank all of those who cosponsored my resolution and urge all of my colleagues to vote in support of H. Con. Res. 100.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am very pleased to be an original cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 100, authored by the esteemed Chair of our Foreign Affairs Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS). And this resolution, Madam Speaker, condemns the Government of Zimbabwe for its latest assault against political freedom and human rights in that country.

Once hailed by some as a liberator, President Mugabe of Zimbabwe has been exposed as a tyrant and a thug.

Under his authoritarian rule, Zimbabwe boasts the highest rate of inflation in the world, currently standing at an estimated 3,000 percent. Formal sector unemployment stands at 80 percent. Literacy rates are declining, and life expectancy has plummeted to 38 years. Thirty-eight years is the life expectancy in that country.

Large scale commercial farming has been effectively destroyed by a disastrous land reform program which ultimately displaced poor black farmers in favor of political cronies, and acute food shortages which have since left Zimbabweans dependent on international food aid.

The very same party that emerged from a hard-fought struggle for majority rule, shouting slogans of equality and justice, has now taken to arresting, to beating and to intimidating anyone who dares to challenge its policies.

It is clear that, absent meaningful corrective measures, Mugabe's legacy will be defined by his responsibility for the ruinous policies and draconian laws that have brought untold suffering to his people and the near collapse of Zimbabwe as a nation.

Rather than address the underlying inequities that have driven Zimbabwe to economic and political ruin, Mugabe prefers to engage in soapbox demagoguery and espouse conspiracy theories of Western imperialism.

He interferes with the work of non-governmental organizations that are attempting to aid Zimbabweans in need. He harasses, he threatens foreign diplomats, and he even revokes the visas of congressional staffers from our Foreign Affairs Committee attempting to travel to the region to get a clear understanding of what is happening in Zimbabwe.

Mugabe thumbs his nose at Western nations that condemn his assault on basic human rights, particularly those who appear committed to helping Zimbabwe realize its potential through true democratic reform.

Zimbabwe's neighbors and the African Union should take proactive measures to help resolve this crisis, including by pressing the Mugabe regime to immediately halt its brutal crackdown, to release political prisoners, and to engage in meaningful dialogue with the opposition and with civil society.

The President of Zambia already has stepped up to the plate in this regard, and South Africa would be well advised to follow suit.

I thank the gentleman from California again, our chairman of our Foreign Affairs Committee, for introducing this very important and timely resolution. And I urge the full support of our House.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield 5 minutes to my good friend from New Jersey, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, Mr. PAYNE.

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H. Con. Res. 100, and commend Mr. LANTOS and the ranking member for this H. Con. Res. 100, condemning the violence and the violent action taken against the peaceful opposition party activists and members of civil society in Zimbabwe just a few months ago, last month in March.

Zimbabwe has faced a number of political and economic challenges over the past 7 years. Every time I begin to believe that the situation in Zimbabwe has calmed down, something happens which reminds me of how volatile the situation really is.

The March 11 crackdown on people who were gathering at a prayer meeting was a disturbing display of violence. Two people were killed. The leader of the Movement for Democratic Change, Morgan Tsvangari, and other members of the MDC were tortured while in police custody.

Two women were beaten so severely they needed specialized medical care that was only available in South Africa. One of them, Sekai Holland, had her leg broken in three places, her knee broken and her arm and three ribs broken. I cannot understand what possessed security forces to beat a 64-year-old woman so brutally.

And according to the people in Zimbabwe, abductions and killings continue. However, there are encouraging developments. What is most encouraging is that the regional leaders in Southern Africa have spoken out publicly. As recently mentioned, the President of Zambia has likened Zimbabwe to the Titanic, a sinking ship. Officials at the South African De-

partment of Foreign Affairs expressed concern about the situation as well.

The leaders of Southern Africa's Development Community held a meeting of extraordinary heads of state in Tanzania in the wake of violence and asked South African President Thabo Mbeki to help resolve the situation.

This is an important step, and we should support SADC's effort. It is imperative that Congress do all we can to ensure that human rights and the rule of law are respected in Zimbabwe across the political spectrum.

As Mr. LANTOS mentioned, Zimbabwe had great promise. When the struggle to end white rule of Ian Smith was led by Mr. Nkhomo and Mr. Mugabe, the ZANU and ZAPO leaders, they finally were able to break the stranglehold of Ian Smith's government. And education was the order of the day, and the Zimbabweans went ahead to build a country.

But something happened in the meantime, and the move from multipartyism to single-party system, and Mr. Mugabe taking all of the power, that was a move in the wrong direction. And so we have seen multipartyism come back again. But this brutal behavior of the security forces must end.

In conclusion, I think that we should take a look at the Lancaster House Accords because this was an agreement between Zimbabwe and Great Britain where there would be willing seller-willing buyer purchase of the land that was in the hands of the very small minority of the white Rhodesians.

□ 1445

And there has to be a program of some land distribution. However, the way that Mr. Mugabe has been doing it, as Mr. LANTOS mentioned, in the past there was an attempt to assist Zimbabwe to see if we could help in that process, but we were denied.

So I just ask my colleagues if they would support this resolution, and, hopefully, Mr. Mugabe and the people of Zimbabwe will finally see the light.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the former Chair of the Africa Subcommittee, now the ranking member, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague for yielding.

I rise in very strong support of H. Con. Res. 100. I want to thank Chairman LANTOS for sponsoring it. I think it sends a very clear and nonambiguous message to all parties, including the barbaric Mugabe regime.

Madam Speaker, 2 years ago almost to this date, April 21, I chaired a hearing of the House Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations entitled "Zimbabwe: Prospects for Democracy after the March, 2005, Elections." At that time, I noted that "Robert Mugabe was a hero to his people and to

his fellow Africans for successfully standing up to racism and oppression. More than two decades later, however, he has so tarnished his image that it must now resemble the fictional portrait of Dorian Gray, showing an increasingly repugnant picture of a hero who has gone astray."

During the Mugabe reign, approximately 2.4 million people have been literally thrown out of their homes, and their homes have been bulldozed. There have been a number of killings and politically motivated kidnappings and torture. The government has relied on repressive laws to suppress freedom of speech, press, assembly, movement, association, and academic freedom. The Zimbabwean people have suffered greatly as a result of the government's extremely misguided economic policies, and many have died from preventable diseases. The U.S. Department of State concluded in its Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2006 that Zimbabwe and its government have "engaged in pervasive and systematic abuse of human rights."

Unfortunately, the situation has only worsened in 2007. The world community was shocked by the photos of beaten members of the political opposition who gathered on March 11 for a peaceful prayer meeting. Mugabe has continued to crack down on any political opposition and even threatened foreign diplomats who offered food and water to jailed opposition leaders.

It is essential that the entire international community raise its voice in support of those seeking democratic reforms in Zimbabwe. Among other measures, this resolution calls upon the Southern African Development Community, or SADC, and the African Union to consult urgently with all Zimbabwe stakeholders to intervene with the Government of Zimbabwe while applying appropriate pressures to resolve the economic and political crisis.

I must express my deep disappointment that SADC has failed to take decisive action with regard to Zimbabwe. Following consultations in Zimbabwe earlier this month, the executive director of SADC stated, "What's good for Zimbabwe is good for the region. What's bad for Zimbabwe is bad for the region. I think it's time we did less talk and do the work." On that point, I could not agree more.

Unfortunately, rather than getting to work and pressing Mugabe to undertake meaningful reforms and halt his latest assault on human beings, on political and human rights, this statement was followed by a plea of support for the Mugabe regime by the International Monetary Fund.

Is the complete retraction of political and human rights and the beating to death of innocent civilians not bad for Zimbabwe? Are Mugabe's disastrous economic policies, which have resulted in inflation rates of up to 3,000 percent, unemployment rates of 80 percent, and the flight of thousands of economic and

political refugees from Zimbabwe into other SADC countries not bad for the region? And what does the continued coddling of Mugabe say about the SADC members' commitment to a "new vision" of responsible governance under the New Economic Partnership for Africa Development, which was championed by South Africa?

Madam Speaker, the Mugabe government has used every means of suppression, every tool that they could muster, to crush those who disagree with that regime.

I urge the passage of this resolution in order to send an urgent message to SADC and to the rest of the international community to do everything necessary to resolve this crisis currently crippling Zimbabwe and provide any and all assistance that the Zimbabwean people so desperately need to achieve democratic reform, peace, and economic prosperity.

Again, I thank the author, Mr. LANTOS, and the ranking member for bringing to the floor this timely and extremely important piece of legislation.

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

Mr. LANTOS. Madam 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 California (Mr. LANTOS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 100, 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.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS GOVERNANCE MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1681) to amend the Congressional Charter of The American National Red Cross to modernize its governance structure, to enhance the ability of the board of governors of The American National Red Cross to support the critical mission of The American National Red Cross in the 21st century, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1681

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 American National Red Cross Governance Modernization Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Substantive changes to the Congressional Charter of The American National Red Cross have not been made since 1947.

(2) In February 2006, the board of governors of The American National Red Cross (the "Board of Governors") commissioned an independent review and analysis of the Board of Governors' role, composition, size, relationship with management, governance relationship with chartered units of The American National Red Cross, and whistleblower and audit functions.

(3) In an October 2006 report of the Board of Governors, entitled "American Red Cross Governance for the 21st Century" (the "Governance Report"), the Board of Governors recommended changes to the Congressional Charter, bylaws, and other governing documents of The American National Red Cross to modernize and enhance the effectiveness of the Board of Governors and governance structure of The American National Red Cross.

(4) It is in the national interest to create a more efficient governance structure of The American National Red Cross and to enhance the Board of Governors' ability to support the critical mission of The American National Red Cross in the 21st century.

(5) It is in the national interest to clarify the role of the Board of Governors as a governance and strategic oversight board and for The American National Red Cross to amend its bylaws, consistent with the recommendations described in the Governance Report, to clarify the role of the Board of Governors and to outline the areas of its responsibility, including—

(A) reviewing and approving the mission statement for The American National Red Cross;

(B) approving and overseeing the corporation's strategic plan and maintaining strategic oversight of operational matters;

(C) selecting, evaluating, and determining the level of compensation of the corporation's chief executive officer;

(D) evaluating the performance and establishing the compensation of the senior leadership team and providing for management succession;

(E) overseeing the financial reporting and audit process, internal controls, and legal compliance;

(F) holding management accountable for performance;

(G) providing oversight of the financial stability of the corporation;

(H) ensuring the inclusiveness and diversity of the corporation;

(I) ensuring the chapters of the corporation are geographically and regionally diverse;

(J) providing oversight of the protection of the brand of the corporation; and

(K) assisting with fundraising on behalf of the corporation.

(6)(A) The selection of members of the Board of Governors is a critical component of effective governance for The American National Red Cross, and, as such, it is in the national interest that The American National Red Cross amend its bylaws to provide a method of selection consistent with that described in the Governance Report.

(B) The new method of selection should replace the current process by which—

(i) 30 chartered unit-elected members of the Board of Governors are selected by a non-Board committee which includes 2 members of the Board of Governors and other individuals elected by the chartered units themselves;

(ii) 12 at-large members of the Board of Governors are nominated by a Board committee and elected by the Board of Governors; and

(iii) 8 members of the Board of Governors are appointed by the President of the United States.

(C) The new method of selection described in the Governance Report reflects the single category of members of the Board of Governors that will result from the implementation of this Act:

(i) All Board members (except for the chairman of the Board of Governors) would be nominated by a single committee of the Board of Governors taking into account the criteria outlined in the Governance Report to assure the expertise, skills, and experience of a governing board.

(ii) The nominated members would be considered for approval by the full Board of Governors and then submitted to The American National Red Cross annual meeting of delegates for election, in keeping with the standard corporate practice whereby shareholders of a corporation elect members of a board of directors at its annual meeting.

(7) The United States Supreme Court held The American National Red Cross to be an instrumentality of the United States, and it is in the national interest that the Congressional Charter confirm that status and that any changes to the Congressional Charter do not affect the rights and obligations of The American National Red Cross to carry out its purposes.

(8) Given the role of The American National Red Cross in carrying out its services, programs, and activities, and meeting its various obligations, the effectiveness of The American National Red Cross will be promoted by the creation of an organizational ombudsman who—

(A) will be a neutral or impartial dispute resolution practitioner whose major function will be to provide confidential and informal assistance to the many internal and external stakeholders of The American National Red Cross;

(B) will report to the chief executive officer and the audit committee of the Board of Governors; and

(C) will have access to anyone and any documents in The American National Red Cross.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) charitable organizations are an indispensable part of American society, but these organizations can only fulfill their important roles by maintaining the trust of the American public;

(2) trust is fostered by effective governance and transparency, which are the principal goals of the recommendations of the Board of Governors in the Governance Report and this Act;

(3) Federal and State action play an important role in ensuring effective governance and transparency by setting standards, rooting out violations, and informing the public;

(4) while The American National Red Cross is and will remain a Federally chartered instrumentality of the United States, and it has the rights and obligations consistent with that status, The American National Red Cross nevertheless should maintain appropriate communications with State regulators of charitable organizations and should cooperate with them as appropriate in specific matters as they arise from time to time; and

(5) while The American National Red Cross is and will remain a Federally chartered instrumentality of the United States, and it has the rights and obligations consistent with that status, The American National Red Cross nevertheless should maintain appropriate communications and collabora-

tions with local, community, and faith-based non-profit organizations, including those organizations that work within minority communities.

SEC. 3. ORGANIZATION.

Section 300101 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “a Federally chartered instrumentality of the United States and” before “a body corporate and politic”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting at the end the following new sentence: “The corporation may conduct its business and affairs, and otherwise hold itself out, as the ‘American Red Cross’ in any jurisdiction.”.

SEC. 4. PURPOSES.

Section 300102 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (3);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (4) and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following paragraph:

“(5) to conduct other activities consistent with the foregoing purposes.”.

SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP AND CHAPTERS.

Section 300103 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “, or as otherwise provided,” before “in the bylaws”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) by striking “board of governors” and inserting “corporation”; and

(B) by inserting “policies and” before “regulations related”; and

(3) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) by inserting “policies and” before “regulations shall require”; and

(B) by striking “national convention” and inserting “annual meeting”.

SEC. 6. BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

Section 300104 of title 36, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 300104. Board of governors

“(a) BOARD OF GOVERNORS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The board of governors is the governing body of the corporation with all powers of governing and directing, and of overseeing the management of the business and affairs of, the corporation.

“(2) NUMBER.—The board of governors shall fix by resolution, from time to time, the number of members constituting the entire board of governors, provided that—

“(A) as of March 31, 2009, and thereafter, there shall be no fewer than 12 and no more than 25 members; and

“(B) as of March 31, 2012, and thereafter, there shall be no fewer than 12 and no more than 20 members constituting the entire board.

Procedures to implement the preceding sentence shall be provided in the bylaws.

“(3) APPOINTMENT.—The governors shall be appointed or elected in the following manner:

“(A) CHAIRMAN.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The board of governors, in accordance with procedures provided in the bylaws, shall recommend to the President an individual to serve as chairman of the board of governors. If such recommendation is approved by the President, the President shall appoint such individual to serve as chairman of the board of governors.

“(ii) VACANCIES.—Vacancies in the office of the chairman, including vacancies resulting from the resignation, death, or removal by the President of the chairman, shall be filled in the same manner described in clause (i).

“(iii) DUTIES.—The chairman shall be a member of the board of governors and, when present, shall preside at meetings of the board of governors and shall have such other

duties and responsibilities as may be provided in the bylaws or a resolution of the board of governors.

“(B) OTHER MEMBERS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Members of the board of governors other than the chairman shall be elected at the annual meeting of the corporation in accordance with such procedures as may be provided in the bylaws.

“(ii) VACANCIES.—Vacancies in any such elected board position and in any newly created board position may be filled by a vote of the remaining members of the board of governors in accordance with such procedures as may be provided in the bylaws.

“(b) TERMS OF OFFICE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term of office of each member of the board of governors shall be 3 years, except that—

“(A) the board of governors may provide under the bylaws that the terms of office of members of the board of governors elected to the board of governors before March 31, 2012, may be less than 3 years in order to implement the provisions of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(2); and

“(B) any member of the board of governors elected by the board to fill a vacancy in a board position arising before the expiration of its term may, as determined by the board, serve for the remainder of that term or until the next annual meeting of the corporation.

“(2) STAGGERED TERMS.—The terms of office of members of the board of governors (other than the chairman) shall be staggered such that, by March 31, 2012, and thereafter, 1/3 of the entire board (or as near to 1/3 as practicable) shall be elected at each successive annual meeting of the corporation with the term of office of each member of the board of governors elected at an annual meeting expiring at the third annual meeting following the annual meeting at which such member was elected.

“(3) TERM LIMITS.—No person may serve as a member of the board of governors for more than such number of terms of office or years as may be provided in the bylaws.

“(c) COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS.—The board—

“(1) may appoint, from its own members, an executive committee to exercise such powers of the board when the board is not in session as may be provided in the bylaws;

“(2) may appoint such other committees or advisory councils with such powers as may be provided in the bylaws or a resolution of the board of governors;

“(3) shall appoint such officers of the corporation, including a chief executive officer, with such duties, responsibilities, and terms of office as may be provided in the bylaws or a resolution of the board of governors; and

“(4) may remove members of the board of governors (other than the chairman), officers, and employees under such procedures as may be provided in the bylaws or a resolution of the board of governors.

“(d) ADVISORY COUNCIL.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be an advisory council to the board of governors.

“(2) MEMBERSHIP; APPOINTMENT BY PRESIDENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The advisory council shall be composed of no fewer than 8 and no more than 10 members, each of whom shall be appointed by the President from principal officers of the executive departments and senior officers of the Armed Forces whose positions and interests qualify them to contribute to carrying out the programs and purposes of the corporation.

“(B) MEMBERS FROM THE ARMED FORCES.—At least 1, but not more than 3, of the members of the advisory council shall be selected from the Armed Forces.

“(3) DUTIES.—The advisory council shall advise, report directly to, and meet, at least

1 time per year with the board of governors, and shall have such name, functions and be subject to such procedures as may be provided in the bylaws.

“(e) ACTION WITHOUT MEETING.—Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the board of governors or of any committee thereof may be taken without a meeting if all members of the board or committee, as the case may be, consent thereto in writing, or by electronic transmission and the writing or writings or electronic transmission or transmissions are filed with the minutes of proceedings of the board or committee. Such filing shall be in paper form if the minutes are maintained in paper form and shall be in electronic form if the minutes are maintained in electronic form.

“(f) VOTING BY PROXY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Voting by proxy is not allowed at any meeting of the board, at the annual meeting, or at any meeting of a chapter.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—The board may allow the election of governors by proxy during any emergency.

“(g) BYLAWS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The board of governors may—

“(A) at any time adopt bylaws; and

“(B) at any time adopt bylaws to be effective only in an emergency.

“(2) EMERGENCY BYLAWS.—Any bylaws adopted pursuant to paragraph (1)(B) may provide special procedures necessary for managing the corporation during the emergency. All provisions of the regular bylaws consistent with the emergency bylaws remain effective during the emergency.

“(h) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) the term ‘entire board’ means the total number of members of the board of governors that the corporation would have if there were no vacancies; and

“(2) the term ‘emergency’ shall have such meaning as may be provided in the bylaws.”.

SEC. 7. POWERS.

Subsection (a)(1) of section 300105 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking “bylaws” and inserting “policies”.

SEC. 8. ANNUAL MEETING.

Section 300107 of title 36, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 300107. Annual meeting

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The annual meeting of the corporation is the annual meeting of delegates of the chapters.

“(b) TIME OF MEETING.—The annual meeting shall be held as determined by the board of governors.

“(c) PLACE OF MEETING.—The board of governors is authorized to determine that the annual meeting shall not be held at any place, but may instead be held solely by means of remote communication subject to such procedures as are provided in the bylaws.

“(d) VOTING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In matters requiring a vote at the annual meeting, each chapter is entitled to at least 1 vote, and voting on all matters may be conducted by mail, telephone, telegram, cablegram, electronic mail, or any other means of electronic or telephone transmission, provided that the person voting shall state, or submit information from which it can be determined, that the method of voting chosen was authorized by such person.

“(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF NUMBER OF VOTES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The board of governors shall determine on an equitable basis the number of votes that each chapter is entitled to cast, taking into consideration the size of the membership of the chapters, the popu-

lations served by the chapters, and such other factors as may be determined by the board.

“(B) PERIODIC REVIEW.—The board of governors shall review the allocation of votes at least every 5 years.”.

SEC. 9. ENDOWMENT FUND.

Section 300109 of title 36, United States Code is amended—

(1) by striking “nine” from the first sentence thereof; and

(2) by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: “The corporation shall prescribe policies and regulations on terms and tenure of office, accountability, and expenses of the board of trustees.”.

SEC. 10. ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDIT.

Subsection (a) of section 300110 of title 36, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(a) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—As soon as practicable after the end of the corporation’s fiscal year, which may be changed from time to time by the board of governors, the corporation shall submit a report to the Secretary of Defense on the activities of the corporation during such fiscal year, including a complete, itemized report of all receipts and expenditures.”.

SEC. 11. COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES AND OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3001 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by redesignating section 300111 as section 300113 and by inserting after section 300110 the following new sections:

“§ 300111. Authority of the Comptroller General of the United States

“The Comptroller General of the United States is authorized to review the corporation’s involvement in any Federal program or activity the Government carries out under law.

“§ 300112. Office of the Ombudsman

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The corporation shall establish an Office of the Ombudsman with such duties and responsibilities as may be provided in the bylaws or a resolution of the board of governors.

“(b) REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office of the Ombudsman shall submit annually to the appropriate Congressional committees a report concerning any trends and systemic matters that the Office of the Ombudsman has identified as confronting the corporation.

“(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the appropriate Congressional committees are the following committees of Congress:

“(A) SENATE COMMITTEES.—The appropriate Congressional committees of the Senate are—

“(i) the Committee on Finance;

“(ii) the Committee on Foreign Relations;

“(iii) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions;

“(iv) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; and

“(v) the Committee on the Judiciary.

“(B) HOUSE COMMITTEES.—The appropriate Congressional committees of the House of Representatives are—

“(i) the Committee on Energy and Commerce;

“(ii) the Committee on Foreign Affairs;

“(iii) the Committee on Homeland Security;

“(iv) the Committee on the Judiciary; and

“(v) the Committee on Ways and Means.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 3001 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 300111 and inserting the following:

“300111. Authority of the Comptroller General of the United States.

“300112. Office of the Ombudsman.

“300113. Reservation of right to amend or repeal.”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in strong support of this legislation. Wherever disaster strikes, the American Red Cross is on the scene to lend a helping hand in any immediate aftermath. In times of crisis, its staff of 35,000 and over 1 million Red Cross volunteers take on the daunting task of translating the compassion of the American people into shelter, clothing, medical help, and food. Be it a fire that puts a family out of its home or a tornado that tears through an entire community, the Red Cross responds immediately, answering the call of an astonishing 75,000 incidents last year alone.

The relief work of the Red Cross is not limited to our borders. The Red Cross responds to tsunamis and earthquakes and other natural disasters across the globe, providing much-needed assistance to victims. Earlier this month, the Red Cross quickly mobilized to provide the Solomon Islands with safe drinking water, medical care, and emergency shelter after that country was hit with a tsunami.

But the American Red Cross, Madam Speaker, like so many disaster relief organizations, has come under heightened scrutiny after 9/11 and the gulf coast hurricanes of 2005. Particularly, the disaster that New Orleans and the gulf coast suffered and the response to it crystallized the need for reform of this venerable organization, which had not changed its governance structure in over half a century. The leadership of the American Red Cross undertook a 6-month, top-to-bottom comprehensive governance and performance audit. After over 100 interviews of past and present Red Cross officers, volunteer chapter leaders, donors, and many others, the verdict was in: Red Cross governance required a major overhaul.

Last October, Madam Speaker, the Red Cross board of governors unanimously approved a series of changes to improve the governance and the accountability of the organization. But such changes cannot be implemented

without amending the Red Cross charter, and for that to occur, congressional action is needed. That is the reason for our legislation.

Last month the other body acted with urgency by passing the American National Red Cross Organization Act. This House aims to act with similar urgency as we consider this bill just 3 weeks after it was introduced by my good friend, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN of Florida, and myself.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1681 amends the Red Cross charter in a number of significant ways. First, the board of governors will be reduced to 25 members. Where previously some board members were selected by local chapters, some elected by the board, others appointed by the President, our legislation requires governors to be elected solely by delegates to the Red Cross' annual meeting. The responsibilities for day-to-day operations will be delegated exclusively to the Red Cross management rather than to the board. Our legislation requires the Red Cross to establish an office of ombudsman, who will report to Congress, to raise the profile of the whistleblower process for employees and volunteers and to make improvements to it.

Madam Speaker, while these changes would not directly affect the organization's disaster response, it will help promote the kind of leadership needed to make Red Cross management and operations run smoothly and effectively for the balance of this century.

□ 1500

I would like to express my appreciation to my friend and distinguished colleague, the ranking member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for cosponsoring this legislation; and I want to thank her for her commitment to ensuring that the American Red Cross remains accountable to the American people.

I strongly support this legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, as always, it is a delight and a joy to work with our chairman, TOM LANTOS of California. And I join him as an original co-sponsor of The American Red Cross Governance Modernization Act of 2007.

The American Red Cross, as Mr. LANTOS has pointed out, is an institution with a unique status. It has been assigned the responsibility by Congress of fulfilling the obligations of the United States under the Geneva Convention for carrying out peacetime and disaster relief functions. This obligation has not been a small undertaking. The Red Cross has been helping victims of war and natural disasters since its founding in 1881.

As a Member of Congress from Florida's 18th District, I am well aware of

the great job, the amazing efforts of Red Cross as an organization made up of volunteers, and in the way that they have responded to numerous hurricanes in my State and tropical storms. And so on behalf of the residents of my district and my State, thank you to the Red Cross and its many volunteers.

And it is precisely because of this, Madam Speaker, I applaud the Red Cross for the hard work that it has done to review its internal governance structures and proposed changes to its charter that will make it an even stronger organization so they can help more people that will reform the organization and take it into its next century of service.

I am pleased that the Red Cross was willing to accept additional significant proposed changes that will provide even more accountability and transparency in the manner in which it will report its findings regarding audits and investigations to the general public.

In the future, Madam Speaker, anyone will be able to log on to the Red Cross Web site and view the results of its finding for audits and investigations that are conducted by the ombudsman's office. This act alone will provide even further assurances necessary for the American public to feel confident that the Red Cross handles donations with the utmost care.

I urge my colleagues to unanimously support H.R. 1681. And I thank the chairman for his leadership on this issue.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. 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. LANTOS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1681, 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.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS HIGHLIGHTED THROUGH NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 293) supporting the goals and ideals highlighted through National Volunteer Week.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 293

Whereas National Volunteer Week will be observed during the week of April 15 through 21, 2007;

Whereas the National Volunteer Week theme, "Inspire By Example", truly reflects the power volunteers have to inspire the people they help and to inspire others to serve;

Whereas about 61.2 million people volunteered through or for an organization at least once between September 2005 and September 2006, according to a recent survey by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the proportion of people who volunteered was 26.7 percent, more than a quarter of the total United States population;

Whereas the estimated dollar value of volunteer time was \$18.04 in 2005, according to the latest information provided by Independent Sector, a nonpartisan leadership forum, and the coalition estimates the value of volunteer time for 2005 to be \$280 billion;

Whereas volunteers have contributed to the enhancement and improvement of communities across the United States, especially with respect to the aftermath of the hurricanes on the Gulf Coast; and

Whereas National Volunteer Week will continue to build awareness of the role that volunteers play in local, national, and international communities, and their commitment and dedication to improving lives, strengthening communities, and fostering civic engagement through service and volunteering: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals highlighted through National Volunteer Week;

(2) acknowledges the diligent efforts of our major federally funded community service and volunteer programs;

(3) recognizes with gratitude the contributions of the millions of dedicated and caring individuals who have chosen to serve others through volunteerism; and

(4) encourages all American people, of any age and background, to seek out opportunities to serve through volunteerism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. SHEA-PORTER) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Hampshire.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to House Resolution 293 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. House Resolution 293 is a bipartisan bill recognizing the important role of volunteers in local, national, and international communities and their dedication to improving lives, strengthening communities, and fostering civic engagement through service and volunteering.

April 15-21, 2007 is recognized as National Volunteer Week. The theme is Inspire by Example, which reflects the power volunteers have to inspire the people they help and to inspire others to serve.

Inspire by Example has been the theme throughout our history. We have 61 million volunteers out of a population of 300 million who volunteer some time each day to serve others.

From the very beginning of our time, we have been committed to serving each other. Benjamin Franklin started a volunteer fire department in a library and took care of those in the community, as have others.

From the beginning, through war, through disaster and through famine, we have seen the greatest step forward to serve our country. Who could forget the service of the Greatest Generation who came forward in so many ways as others went to war and we saw our own population step up to fulfill the roles in our community and to each other?

What do these volunteers do each day of the year? They teach others to read. They care for others who are ill. They work on the forefront for disaster. Right now, in my own State of New Hampshire, which has once again been hit by flood waters, we have volunteers who are out there serving our community. They serve to take care of babies and young mothers. They serve to take care of alcoholics and drug addicts and the most vulnerable in our communities, and they continue their service right through hospice and in senior settings. So we have to thank our volunteers and also recognize what motivates them and to encourage them. That is what this resolution does, to speak to them and to urge them to continue their service.

While we have had the greatest numbers at all in the past year, 61.2 million volunteers, we have also had a slight drop. We have to make sure it is possible for volunteers to continue their full-time lives of service in their own jobs and then also in their communities.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 293, which supports the goals and ideals highlighted through National Volunteer Week.

I would like to thank my colleague from New Hampshire (Ms. SHEA-PORTER) for introducing this legislation and bringing it to the floor here today.

As we have heard, National Volunteer Week has been celebrated since 1974, when President Nixon signed an executive order establishing this annual celebration of volunteerism.

As we now celebrate another National Volunteer Week, we are reminded that community service takes place through efforts both large and small throughout our great country. This year's Volunteer Week theme is Inspire by Example, and countless individuals of all backgrounds and ages inspire others every day through their efforts to address the common concerns of our neighborhoods, communities, Nation, and world. And I know personally that it was the example of my parents, Babs and Dutch Platts, volunteering in our community as a Sunday school teacher, a Little League coach,

running the school candy sales; their example of volunteerism for me and my four siblings helped to inspire my interest in public service and pursuit of this very position I now hold.

Our country has seen the inspiring example of our citizens' willingness to serve others in the wake of the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and rebuilding efforts along the gulf coast, and in response to countless other tragedies, large and small, that touch lives every day.

Community service isn't just about responding to disaster. It is also about lifting a hand to help a neighbor, teaching a child to read, restoring a neglected park, and numerous other acts of good will that reaffirm our common humanity. As cochair of the National Service Caucus here in the House with Representatives CHRIS SHAYS, DORIS MATSUI and DAVID PRICE, I am particularly interested in seeing the spirit of volunteerism celebrated and extended to as many Americans as possible.

As this resolution says, more than a quarter of this country's population volunteered in some capacity from September of 2005 to September of 2006 at an estimated value or benefit to our country of \$280 billion. I certainly hope these numbers continue to grow.

I also want to express my thanks to the thousands of organizations and their leaders across the country that capture the spirit of our volunteers and bring that spirit to bear in a concentrated way to relieve suffering, provide opportunities to the needy, to clean up our communities, and bring hope to millions. These organizations and the public and private partners that support them provide needed infrastructure to support the energy of our community service providers.

As this resolution states, National Volunteer Week will continue to raise awareness of the role that volunteers play in local, national and international communities, and their commitment to improving lives, strengthening communities and fostering civic engagement.

Again, I thank my colleague, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and urge my colleagues to support National Volunteer Week and to support House Resolution 293.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. I now yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky, JOHN YARMUTH.

Mr. YARMUTH. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, in a week when our hearts are heavy with the weight of yesterday's tragedy at Virginia Tech and the anniversary of the shooting at Columbine High School, it is important that we also remember America's tremendous capacity for selfless acts of goodness.

I refer to a spirit that sets aside superficial desires in favor of the needs of our fellow human beings, a spirit that shows our Nation at its best, the spirit honored during this National Volunteer Week.

Last year, as has been said, more than a quarter of Americans dedicated their time to bettering their communities, inspiring by example and improving lives.

I am fortunate to represent a community in which passionate leadership and dedicated citizens have enacted community service projects on every scale throughout Louisville. Just during our recent recess, I think a picture has been painted of what people are willing to give to others. On one morning I joined more than 3,000 volunteers of all ages as we embarked on a project to clean up across the communities in furthering the Operation Brightside movement. In visiting schools, we saw parents and grandparents volunteering their time to help kids. In hospital after hospital we saw people of all ages helping our sick. And also in one of the most moving experiences during my recess, two first grade classes at Coleridge-Taylor Elementary had decided to help the troops in Iraq. They went out and collected 200 pounds of candy to send overseas. These were sixth graders who saw the need to give of their time and energy to help others. It was truly an inspirational moment.

The great thing about volunteering is it is a way that you demonstrate your citizenship. We talk a lot about patriotism and citizenship in this body, but nothing demonstrates citizenship more than your willingness to spend your dear time to help others.

I hope this week does not stand alone in honoring our generous citizens and organizations. And I urge every citizen to join them in discovering the rewards that volunteering has to offer.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 293.

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Connecticut, co-chair of the National Service Caucus (Mr. SHAYS).

Mr. SHAYS. I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 293, supporting the goals and ideals of National Volunteer Week.

This week, we celebrate the millions of volunteers from around the country who give their time and energy to their communities.

National Volunteer Week's theme, "Inspire by Example," says it all. Volunteers set an example of selfless service in giving in support of our country's most vulnerable residents, the homeless, hungry, elderly, at-risk youth, and disabled. Their work not only supports their communities, but encourages others to do the same.

More than 61 million people volunteered between September 2005 and September 2006. The estimated value of volunteer time given in 2005 is \$280 billion.

This underscores the value of national service. Our Federal national service programs give Americans of all ages the opportunity to serve in areas of need around the country, recruiting

and managing volunteers. They help ensure the volunteer's time is used effectively to provide the maximum benefit to the organization and the people it serves.

I still remember how I felt as a 14-year-old watching the 1960 Presidential election between Vice President Richard Nixon and Senator John Kennedy. I felt energized listening to Senator Kennedy when he spoke of the Peace Corps and making the world a better and safer place. I wanted to be part of his vision. I wanted to give to the world community. Years later that dream was fulfilled when my wife, Betsi, and I served 2 years in the Peace Corps. The same powerful emotions, the same sense of energy and eagerness we felt in the 1960s is alive today and expressed by those who give back to their communities.

Today is a day to recognize the millions of Americans who volunteer and express our sincere gratitude for their service.

I thank my colleague CAROL SHEA-PORTER, for introducing this resolution.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. I now yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES).

□ 1515

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, before I say anything else, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies and prayers to the families and friends of the victims of yesterday's tragedy, and to the entire Virginia Tech community.

I rise today in support of H. Res. 293 which recognizes the diligent efforts of federally funded and volunteer programs, and generally observes the role of volunteers in the life of our country. When somebody volunteers to perform a service, it is not only a service for other people, it is a service for them as well.

Now more than ever, Americans need a restored sense of greatness and purpose. On the release of the Corporation for National and Community Service's report on volunteering in America, CEO David Eisner's remarks poignantly address the importance of community and national service. He said, "Service and volunteering aren't just nice things to do, but are necessary parts of how our Nation deals with its challenges."

In the wake of tragedies such as Hurricane Katrina, hundreds of thousands of lives have been changed for the better because of the dedication and hard work of volunteers all across the country. But it is not enough. We can do much more. According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, while there has been a significant increase in the number of volunteers nationwide, one in three Americans dropped out of volunteering between 2005 and 2006. Volunteer programs need more than just willing and able volunteers, they need national support.

By reinvigorating national and community service programs, and honoring

our volunteers, we feed our democratic spirit and cultivate citizenship. Being engaged in democracy through service, we bolster the best of what citizenship is about. The result will be more vibrant communities and a stronger America, cultivated through experiences that all people share regardless of their background. No young American should be deprived of these opportunities due to a lack of commitment from Washington.

I ask for your support of H. Res. 293.

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I urge passage of H. Res. 293, and thank Ms. SHEA-PORTER for her introduction of this resolution, and hope that all of our fellow Americans will experience and celebrate the spirit of volunteerism throughout our country.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 293 honoring volunteer service and thank Representative SHEA-PORTER for introducing this bill. As Chairwoman of the Healthy Families and Communities Subcommittee, I wanted to highlight this extremely important issue which is why the first hearing the HFC Subcommittee held was on national service. This is a bipartisan issue, and I am looking forward to working with Ranking Member PLATTS to move ahead on reauthorizing the service bill.

National service has a distinguished and strong history in our Nation. Our roots in service extend back to the first pioneers, when colonists had to ban together to overcome the challenges of surviving and adjusting to a new land.

Evidence shows that service and volunteering lowers dropout rates among teens, lowers crime rates in communities with high rates of volunteerism, lowers costs associated with the aging population and improves the health and lowers the rates of depression among the elderly. Volunteering is a cost effective way of meeting our Nation's social needs both from the standpoint of the volunteers and the people who benefit from the services.

In my home state of New York, more than 76,000 people of all ages and backgrounds are helping to meet local needs and strengthen communities. There are 239 national service programs in New York alone. In my district we have more than 1,300 service volunteers, and we have almost 3,000 students age K-12 that participate in the Learn and Serve programs.

I truly believe that expanding national service, particularly to disadvantaged youth, is an effective way to combat things like youth gangs and violence, and the evidence bears that out. And it is critical that we begin teaching about participation and service at an early age.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Congresswoman SHEA-PORTER for her hard work to in introducing this resolution. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 293, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Hampshire

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 293.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

TREATING CERTAIN COMMUNITIES AS METROPOLITAN CITIES FOR PURPOSES OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1515) to amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to treat certain communities as metropolitan cities for purposes of the community development block grant program.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1515

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

SECTION 1. METROPOLITAN CITIES.

Paragraph (4) of section 102(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "Notwithstanding any other provision of this paragraph, with respect to any fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this sentence, the cities of Alton and Granite City, Illinois, shall be considered metropolitan cities for purposes of this title."

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this is a bipartisan bill that passed our committee unanimously. It addresses a series of glitches which have resulted in the communities of Alton and Granite City, Illinois, losing their status as entitlement communities under the community development block grant program.

These are both cities that have done a very good job of using these funds. There is no reason why they should not continue to be allowed to enjoy this. The events which led to this having happened are complicated, and even more relevant, quite boring, so it does not seem to me that the House would much care about them.

The relevant point is that there is a unanimous view on the part of our committee, and this has been urged on us by the gentlemen from Illinois, Mr. SHIMKUS and Mr. COSTELLO, that we

should restore Alton and Granite City to their rightful places as entitlement cities, and I hope the House will do that.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution that would restore the entitlement status to Alton and Granite City for consideration in the community development block grant program.

I want to thank my colleague and friend, Congressman COSTELLO, who will be following me, for his leadership on this. This is a snafu that happens in government, and we are glad to come together, united, to attempt to fix this.

The bottom line geographical issues are that I am from Collinsville, Illinois, in Madison County. I represent half that county. Granite City and Alton are actually in Madison County. Congressman COSTELLO represents those communities ably and well. So we come together to try to fix this.

I want to thank the chairman of the committee, who heard our concerns and moved this expeditiously, along with the ranking member, Mr. BACHUS, and my good friend, JUDY BIGGERT, who helped in the process.

We look forward to a time when Alton and Granite City can get involved in the process and make applications through the CDBG for the needed infrastructure developments that are available through that Federal program.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the prime author of this bill, who is a very vigorous advocate for one of the communities he represents, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO).

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Financial Services Committee not only for yielding time to me, but for handling this bill in a very quick fashion and getting it to the floor today.

I think everything that needs to be said about this legislation has been said by the chairman and my colleague from Collinsville, Illinois.

I urge passage of this legislation.

H.R. 1515 would allow the cities of Alton and Granite City in Illinois to maintain principal city designation for entitlement purposes under the Community Development Block Grant program.

Alton and Granite City have been a part of the Madison County CDBG program since its inception in 1975 for purposes of receiving grants as entitlement communities under the CDBG program.

In 1999, Alton and Granite City deferred their entitlement status so Madison County would not lose entitlement status as a county.

This agreement proved to be satisfactory until the OMB changed definitions. OMB no longer recognizes the "central city" status. The new "principal city" designation requires a

minimum population of 50,000, which neither community meets.

As a result, both communities lost entitlement status for purposes of the CDBG program, while all other "central city" communities were grandfathered into the program.

HUD has determined that Alton & Grantie City are the only communities to have lost CDBG entitlement status in the Nation as a result of the recent OMB changes in how counties are defined.

As a result, Granite City and Alton are no longer part of an entitlement community.

At no time did the cities or the county believe that, by deferring their status in previous years, they would be jeopardizing future funding.

Madam Speaker, I again thank Chairman BARNEY FRANK, Ranking Member BACHUS, and Congressman SHIMKUS, for working together in a bipartisan manner to address this unique situation.

Other information:

Both communities are older industrial cities that have suffered from job losses and have higher than local, State and national unemployment levels. Both have had large employers, including steel mills in both cities, close. Both have an older housing stock and lower income residents. Additionally, both have a disproportionate share of public housing, in comparison to the balance of the region.

Alton population: 30,500; Granite City population: 31,301.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. 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 Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1515.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1804

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MEEKS of New York) at 6 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.

PRIVILEGED REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1257, SHAREHOLDER VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION ACT

Mr. ARCURI, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report

(Rept. No. 110-96) on the resolution (H. Res. 301) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1257) to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to provide shareholders with an advisory vote on executive compensation, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PRIVILEGED REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1361, RELIEF FOR ENTREPRENEURS: COORDINATION OF OBJECTIVES AND VALUES FOR EFFECTIVE RECOVERY ACT OF 2007

Mr. ARCURI, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-97) on the resolution (H. Res. 302) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1361) to improve the disaster relief programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

- H.R. 1677, by the yeas and nays;
 - H. Res. 196, by the yeas and nays;
 - H. Con. Res. 100, by the yeas and nays;
 - H. Res. 273, by the yeas and nays;
 - H. Con. Res. 76, by the yeas and nays.
- Proceedings on H. Res. 293 will resume tomorrow.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

TAXPAYER PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1677, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1677, as amended.

This will be a 15-minute note.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 407, nays 7, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 214]
YEAS—407

Abercrombie	Altmire	Baker
Ackerman	Andrews	Baldwin
Aderholt	Arcuri	Barrett (SC)
Akin	Baca	Barrow
Alexander	Bachus	Bartlett (MD)
Allen	Baird	Barton (TX)

Bean	Engel	Levin	Rogers (KY)	Shuler	Udall (NM)	Barrett (SC)	Etheridge	Lofgren, Zoe
Becerra	English (PA)	Lewis (CA)	Rohrabacher	Shuster	Upton	Barrow	Everett	Lowey
Berkley	Eshoo	Lewis (GA)	Ros-Lehtinen	Simpson	Van Hollen	Bartlett (MD)	Fallin	Lucas
Berman	Etheridge	Lewis (KY)	Roskam	Sires	Velázquez	Barton (TX)	Farr	Lungren, Daniel
Berry	Everett	Linder	Ross	Skelton	Visclosky	Bean	Feeney	E.
Biggart	Fallin	Lipinski	Rothman	Slaughter	Walberg	Becerra	Filner	Lynch
Bilbray	Farr	LoBiondo	Roybal-Allard	Smith (NE)	Walden (OR)	Berkley	Forbes	Mack
Bilirakis	Feeney	Loebsack	Royce	Smith (NJ)	Walz (MN)	Berman	Fortenberry	Mahoney (FL)
Bishop (GA)	Filner	Lofgren, Zoe	Ruppersberger	Smith (TX)	Wamp	Berry	Fossella	Maloney (NY)
Bishop (NY)	Forbes	Lowey	Ryan (OH)	Smith (WA)	Wasserman	Biggart	Fox	Manzullo
Bishop (UT)	Fortenberry	Lucas	Ryan (WI)	Snyder	Schultz	Bilbray	Frank (MA)	Marchant
Blumenauer	Fossella	Lungren, Daniel	Salazar	Solis	Waters	Bilirakis	Frelinghuysen	Markey
Blunt	Fox	E.	Sali	Souder	Watson	Bishop (GA)	Gallely	Marshall
Boehner	Frank (MA)	Lynch	Sánchez, Linda	Space	Watt	Bishop (NY)	Garrett (NJ)	Matheson
Bonner	Franks (AZ)	Mack	T.	Spratt	Waxman	Blackburn	Gerlach	Matsui
Bono	Frelinghuysen	Mahoney (FL)	Sanchez, Loretta	Stark	Weiner	Blumenauer	Giffords	McCarthy (CA)
Boozman	Gallely	Maloney (NY)	Sarbanes	Stearns	Welch (VT)	Blunt	Gilchrest	McCarthy (NY)
Boren	Garrett (NJ)	Manzullo	Saxton	Stupak	Weldon (FL)	Boehner	Gillibrand	McCaul (TX)
Boswell	Gerlach	Marchant	Schakowsky	Sullivan	Weller	Bonner	Gillmor	McCotter
Boucher	Giffords	Markey	Schiff	Sutton	Wexler	Bono	Gingrey	McCreery
Boustany	Gilchrest	Marshall	Schmidt	Tanner	Whitfield	Boozman	Gohmert	McDermott
Boyd (FL)	Gillibrand	Matheson	Schwartz	Tauscher	Wicker	Boren	Gonzalez	McGovern
Boyd (KS)	Gillmor	Matsui	Scott (GA)	Taylor	Wilson (NM)	Boswell	Goodlatte	McHenry
Brady (TX)	Gingrey	McCarthy (CA)	Scott (VA)	Terry	Wilson (OH)	Boucher	Gordon	McHugh
Braley (IA)	Gohmert	McCarthy (NY)	Sensenbrenner	Thompson (CA)	Wilson (SC)	Boustany	Granger	McIntyre
Brown (SC)	Gonzalez	McCaul (TX)	Serrano	Thompson (MS)	Wolf	Boyd (FL)	Graves	McKeon
Brown, Corrine	Goode	McCotter	Sessions	Thornberry	Woolsey	Boyd (KS)	Green, Al	McMorris
Brown-Waite,	Goodlatte	McCreery	Sestak	Tiaht	Wu	Brady (TX)	Green, Gene	Rodgers
Ginny	Gordon	McDermott	Tiberi	Tierney	Wynn	Braley (IA)	Grijalva	McNerney
Buchanan	Granger	McGovern	Shea-Porter	Turner	Yarmuth	Brown (SC)	Gutierrez	McNulty
Burgess	Graves	McHugh	Sherman	Turner	Young (AK)	Buchanan	Hall (NY)	Meehan
Burton (IN)	Green, Al	McIntyre	Shimkus	Udall (CO)	Young (FL)	Burgess	Hall (TX)	Meek (FL)
Butterfield	Green, Gene	McKeon				Butterfield	Hare	Meeks (NY)
Buyer	Grijalva	McMorris				Calvert	Harman	Melancon
Calvert	Gutierrez	Rodgers				Camp (MI)	Hastert	Mica
Camp (MI)	Hall (NY)	McNerney	Bachmann	McHenry	Westmoreland	Campbell (CA)	Hastings (FL)	Michaud
Campbell (CA)	Hall (TX)	McNulty	Blackburn	Paul		Cantor	Hastings (WA)	Miller (FL)
Cannon	Hare	Meehan	Flake	Tancredo		Capito	Hayes	Miller (MI)
Cantor	Harman	Meek (FL)				Capps	Heller	Miller (NC)
Capito	Hastert	Meeks (NY)				Capuano	Hensarling	Miller, Gary
Capps	Hastings (FL)	Melancon	Brady (PA)	Hill	Millender-	Cardoza	Herseth Sandlin	Miller, George
Capuano	Hastings (WA)	Mica	Carnahan	Hunter	McDonald	Carney	Hinchev	Mitchell
Cardoza	Hayes	Michaud	Carson	Jindal	Neal (MA)	Castle	Hinojosa	Mollohan
Carney	Heller	Miller (FL)	Carter	Kirk	Poe	Castor	Hirono	Moore (KS)
Castle	Hensarling	Miller (MI)	Fattah	Lampson	Rogers (MI)	Chabot	Hobson	Moore (WI)
Castor	Herger	Miller (NC)	Ferguson	Rush	Rush	Chandler	Hodes	Moran (KS)
Chabot	Herseth Sandlin	Miller, Gary	Higgins	McCollum (MN)	Walsh (NY)	Clarke	Holden	Moran (VA)
Chandler	Hinchev	Miller, George				Clay	Holt	Murphy (CT)
Clarke	Hinojosa	Mitchell				Cleaver	Honda	Murphy, Patrick
Clay	Hirono	Mollohan				Clyburn	Hookey	Murphy, Tim
Cleaver	Hobson	Moore (KS)				Coble	Hoyer	Murtha
Clyburn	Hodes	Moore (WI)				Cohen	Hulshof	Musgrave
Coble	Hoekstra	Moran (KS)				Cole (OK)	Inglis (SC)	Myrick
Cohen	Holden	Moran (VA)				Cole (OK)	Inslee	Nadler
Cole (OK)	Holt	Murphy (CT)				Conyers	Israel	Napolitano
Conaway	Honda	Murphy, Patrick				Cooper	Issa	Neugebauer
Conyers	Hookey	Murphy, Tim				Costa	Jackson (IL)	Nunes
Cooper	Hoyer	Murtha				Costello	Jackson-Lee	Oberstar
Costa	Hulshof	Musgrave				Courtney	(TX)	Obey
Costello	Inglis (SC)	Myrick				Cramer	Jefferson	Olver
Courtney	Inslee	Nadler				Crenshaw	Johnson (GA)	Ortiz
Cramer	Israel	Napolitano				Crowley	Johnson (IL)	Pallone
Crenshaw	Issa	Neugebauer				Cubin	Johnson, E. B.	Pascarell
Crowley	Jackson (IL)	Nunes				Cuellar	Jones (NC)	Pastor
Cubin	Jackson-Lee	Oberstar				Culberson	Jones (OH)	Payne
Cuellar	(TX)	Obey				Cummings	Jordan	Pearce
Culberson	Jefferson	Olver				Davis (AL)	Kagen	Pence
Cummings	Johnson (GA)	Ortiz				Davis (CA)	Kanjorski	Perlmutter
Davis (AL)	Johnson (IL)	Pallone				Davis (IL)	Kaptur	Peterson (MN)
Davis (CA)	Johnson, E. B.	Pascarell				Davis (KY)	Keller	Peterson (PA)
Davis (IL)	Johnson, Sam	Pastor				Davis, David	Kennedy	Petri
Davis (KY)	Jones (NC)	Payne				Davis, Jo Ann	Kildee	Pickering
Davis, David	Jones (OH)	Pearce				Davis, Lincoln	Kilpatrick	Pitts
Davis, Jo Ann	Jordan	Pence				Davis, Tom	Kind	Platts
Davis, Lincoln	Kagen	Perlmutter				DeFazio	King (IA)	Pomeroy
Davis, Tom	Kanjorski	Peterson (MN)				DeGette	King (NY)	Porter
Deal (GA)	Kaptur	Peterson (PA)				Delahunt	Kingston	Price (GA)
DeFazio	Keller	Petri				DeLauro	Kirk	Price (NC)
DeGette	Kennedy	Pickering				Dent	Klein (FL)	Pryce (OH)
Delahunt	Kildee	Pitts				Diaz-Balart, L.	Kline (MN)	Putnam
DeLauro	Kilpatrick	Platts				Diaz-Balart, M.	Knollenberg	Radanovich
Dent	Kind	Pomeroy				Dicks	Kucinich	Rahall
Diaz-Balart, L.	King (IA)	Porter				Dingell	Kuhl (NY)	Ramstad
Diaz-Balart, M.	King (NY)	Price (GA)				Doggett	LaHood	Rangel
Dicks	Kingston	Price (NC)				Donnelly	Langevin	Regula
Dingell	Klein (FL)	Pryce (OH)				Doolittle	Lantos	Rehberg
Doggett	Kline (MN)	Putnam				Doyle	Larsen (WA)	Reichert
Donnelly	Knollenberg	Radanovich				Drake	Larson (CT)	Renzi
Doolittle	Kucinich	Rahall				Dreier	Latham	Reyes
Doyle	Kuhl (NY)	Ramstad				Duncan	LaTourette	Reynolds
Drake	LaHood	Rangel				Edwards	Lee	Rodriguez
Dreier	Lamborn	Regula				Ehlers	Levin	Rogers (AL)
Duncan	Langevin	Rehberg				Ellison	Lewis (CA)	Rogers (KY)
Edwards	Lantos	Reichert				Ellsworth	Lewis (GA)	Rogers (MI)
Ehlers	Larsen (WA)	Renzi				Emanuel	Lewis (KY)	Rohrabacher
Ellison	Larson (CT)	Reyes				Emerson	Linder	Ros-Lehtinen
Ellsworth	Latham	Reynolds				Engel	Lipinski	Roskam
Emanuel	LaTourette	Rodriguez				English (PA)	LoBiondo	Ross
Emerson	Lee	Rogers (AL)				Eshoo	Loeb sack	Rothman

NAYS—7

NOT VOTING—19

□ 1831

Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California and Ms. SLAUGHTER changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF WORLD WATER DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 196, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 196.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 393, nays 22, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 215]

YEAS—393

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander

Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca

Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin

Roybal-Allard Slaughter Upton
 Royce Smith (NE) Van Hollen
 Ruppertsberger Smith (NJ) Velázquez
 Ryan (OH) Smith (TX) Vislosky
 Ryan (WI) Smith (WA) Walden (OR)
 Salazar Snyder Walz (MN)
 Sánchez, Linda Solis
 T. Souder
 Sanchez, Loretta Space
 Sarbanes Spratt
 Saxton Stark
 Schakowsky Stearns
 Schiff Stupak
 Schmidt Sullivan
 Schwartz Sutton
 Scott (GA) Tancredo
 Scott (VA) Tanner
 Serrano Tauscher
 Sessions Taylor
 Sestak Terry
 Shays Thompson (CA)
 Shea-Porter Thompson (MS)
 Sherman Tiahrt
 Shimkus Tiberi
 Shuler Tierney
 Shuster Towns
 Simpson Turner
 Sires Udall (CO)
 Skelton Udall (NM)

NAYS—22

Bishop (UT) Goode Sensenbrenner
 Burton (IN) Herger Shadegg
 Buyer Hoekstra Thornberry
 Carter Johnson, Sam Walberg
 Conaway Lamborn Weldon (FL)
 Deal (GA) Paul Westmoreland
 Flake Poe
 Franks (AZ) Sali

NOT VOTING—18

Brady (PA) Ferguson Millender-
 Brown-Waite, Higgins McDonald
 Ginny Hill Neal (MA)
 Cannon Hunter Rush
 Carnahan Jindal Walsh (NY)
 Carson Lampson Waters
 Fattah McCollum (MN)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised they have 2 minutes to record their votes.

□ 1841

Mr. CONAWAY changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING RECENT VIOLENT ACTIONS OF GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE AGAINST PEACEFUL OPPOSITION PARTY ACTIVISTS AND MEMBERS OF CIVIL SOCIETY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 100, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 100, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 0, answered “present” 4, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 216]
 YEAS—414
 Abercrombie Davis, Tom Jordan
 Ackerman Deal (GA) Kagen
 Aderholt DeFazio Kanjorski
 Akin DeGette Kaptur
 Alexander Delahunt Keller
 Allen DeLauro Kennedy
 Altmire Dent Kildee
 Andrews Diaz-Balart, L. Kind
 Arcuri Diaz-Balart, M. King (IA)
 Baca Dicks King (NY)
 Bachmann Dingell Kingston
 Bachus Doggett Kirk
 Baird Donnelly Klein (FL)
 Baker Doolittle Kline (MN)
 Baldwin Doyle Knollenberg
 Barrett (SC) Drake Kucinich
 Barrow Dreier Kuhl (NY)
 Bartlett (MD) Duncan LaHood
 Barton (TX) Edwards Lamborn
 Bean Ehlers Langevin
 Becerra Ellison Lantos
 Berkley Ellsworth Larsen (WA)
 Berry Emanuel Larson (CT)
 Emerson Emerson Latham
 Engel LaTourette
 English (PA) Lee
 Eshoo Levin Lewis (CA)
 Etheridge Everett Lewis (GA)
 Bishop (NY) Fallon Lewis (KY)
 Bishop (UT) Farr Linder
 Blackburn Feeney Lipinski
 Blumenauer Filner LoBiondo
 Blunt Flake Loeb
 Boehner Forbes Lofgren, Zoe
 Bonner Fortenberry Lowey
 Bono Fossella Lucas
 Boozman Poxx Lungren, Daniel
 Boren Boswell Frank (MA)
 Boswell Boucher Franks (AZ)
 Boucher Frelinghuysen Mack
 Boustany Gallegly Mahoney (FL)
 Boyd (FL) Gallegly Garrett (NJ) Maloney (NY)
 Boyda (KS) Gerlach Manzullo
 Brady (TX) Giffords Marchant
 Braley (IA) Gilchrest Markey
 Brown (SC) Gillibrand Marshall
 Brown-Waite, Gillmor Matheson
 Ginny Buchanan Matsui
 Burgess Gohmert McCarthy (CA)
 Burton (IN) Gonzalez McCaul (TX)
 Butterfield Goode McCollum (MN)
 Buyer Goodlatte McCotter
 Calvert Gordon McCrery
 Camp (MI) Granger McDermott
 Campbell (CA) Graves McGovern
 Cannon Green, Al McHenry
 Cantor Green, Gene McHugh
 Capito Grijalva McIntyre
 Capps Gutierrez McKeon
 Capuano Hall (NY) McMorris
 Cardoza Hall (TX) Rodgers
 Carnahan Hare McNeerney
 Carney Harman McNulty
 Carter Hastert Meehan
 Castle Hastings (FL) Meek (FL)
 Castor Hastings (WA) Meeks (NY)
 Chabot Hayes Melancon
 Chandler Heller Mica
 Clarke Hensarling Michaud
 Clay Herger Miller (FL)
 Cleaver Herseth Sandlin Miller (MI)
 Clyburn Hinchey Miller (NC)
 Coble Hinojosa Miller, Gary
 Cohen Hirono Miller, George
 Cole (OK) Hobson Mitchell
 Conaway Hodes Mollohan
 Conyers Hoekstra Moore (KS)
 Cooper Holden Moore (WI)
 Costa Holt Moran (KS)
 Costello Honda Moran (VA)
 Courtney Hooley Murphy (CT)
 Cramer Hoyer Murphy, Patrick
 Crenshaw Hulshof Murphy, Tim
 Crowley Inglis (SC) Murtha
 Cubin Inslee Musgrave
 Cuellar Israel Myrick
 Culberson Issa Nadler
 Cummings Jackson (IL) Napolitano
 Davis (AL) Jackson-Lee Neugebauer
 Davis (CA) (TX) Nunes
 Davis (IL) Jefferson Oberstar
 Davis (KY) Johnson (GA) Obey
 Davis, David Johnson (IL) Olver
 Davis, Jo Ann Jones (NC) Ortiz
 Davis, Lincoln Jones (OH) Pallone

Pascrell Sánchez, Linda Thompson (CA)
 Pastor T. Thompson (MS)
 Payne Sanchez, Loretta Thornberry
 Pearce Sarbanes Tiahrt
 Pence Saxton Tiberi
 Perlmutter Schakowsky Tierney
 Peterson (MN) Schiff Towns
 Peterson (PA) Schmidt Turner
 Petri Schwartz Udall (CO)
 Pickering Scott (GA) Udall (NM)
 Pitts Scott (VA) Upton
 Platts Sensenbrenner Van Hollen
 Poe Serrano Velázquez
 Pomeroy Sessions Vislosky
 Porter Sestak Walberg
 Price (GA) Shadegg Walden (OR)
 Price (NC) Shays Walz (MN)
 Pryce (OH) Shea-Porter Wamp
 Putnam Sherman Wasserman
 Radanovich Shimkus Schultz
 Rahall Shuler Waters
 Ramstad Shuster Watson
 Rangel Simpson Watt
 Regula Sires Waxman
 Rehberg Skelton Weiner
 Reichert Slaughter Welch (VT)
 Renzi Smith (NE) Weldon (FL)
 Reyes Smith (NJ) Weller
 Reynolds Smith (TX) Westmoreland
 Rodriguez Smith (WA) Wexler
 Rogers (AL) Snyder Whitfield
 Rogers (KY) Solis Wicker
 Rogers (MI) Souder Wilson (NM)
 Rohrabacher Space
 Ros-Lehtinen Spratt Wilson (OH)
 Roskam Stark Wilson000000 (SC)
 Ross Stearns Wolf
 Rothman Stupak Woolsey
 Roybal-Allard Sullivan Wu
 Royce Sutton Wynn
 Ruppertsberger Tancredo Yarmuth
 Ryan (OH) Tanner Young (AK)
 Ryan (WI) Tauscher Young (FL)
 Salazar Taylor
 Sali Terry

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—4

Brown, Corrine Kilpatrick
 Johnson, E. B. Paul

NOT VOTING—15

Brady (PA) Hunter Millender-
 Carson Jindal McDonald
 Fattah Johnson, Sam Neal (MA)
 Ferguson Lampson Rush
 Higgins McCarthy (NY) Walsh (NY)
 Hill

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised they have 2 minutes to record their votes.

□ 1852

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 273, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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. 273.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 2, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 217]

YEAS—414

Abercrombie Davis, Lincoln
Ackerman Davis, Tom
Aderholt Deal (GA)
Akin DeFazio
Alexander DeGette
Allen Delahunt
Altmire DeLauro
Andrews Dent
Arcuri Diaz-Balart, L.
Baca Diaz-Balart, M.
Bachmann Dicks
Bachus Dingell
Baird Doggett
Baker Donnelly
Baldwin Doolittle
Barrett (SC) Doyle
Barrow Drake
Bartlett (MD) Dreier
Barton (TX) Duncan
Bean Ehlers
Becerra Ellison
Berkley Ellsworth
Berman Emanuel
Berry Emerson
Biggart Engel
Billray English (PA)
Bilirakis Eshoo
Bishop (GA) Etheridge
Bishop (NY) Everett
Bishop (UT) Fallin
Blackburn Farr
Blumenauer Feeney
Blunt Filner
Boehner Forbes
Bonner Fortenberry
Bono Fossella
Boozman Foxx
Boren Frank (MA)
Boswell Franks (AZ)
Boucher Frelinghuysen
Boustany Gallegly
Boyd (FL) Garrett (NJ)
Boyd (KS) Gerlach
Brady (TX) Giffords
Braley (IA) Gilchrest
Brown (SC) Gillibrand
Brown, Corrine Gillmor
Brown-Waite, Ginny Gingrey
Buchanan Gohmert
Burgess Gonzalez
Burton (IN) Goode
Butterfield Goodlatte
Buyer Gordon
Calvert Granger
Camp (MI) Graves
Campbell (CA) Green, Al
Cannon Green, Gene
Cantor Grijalva
Capito Gutierrez
Capps Hall (NY)
Capuano Hall (TX)
Cardoza Hare
Carnahan Harman
Carney Hastert
Carter Hastings (FL)
Castle Hastings (WA)
Castor Hayes
Chabot Heller
Chandler Hensarling
Clarke Herger
Clay Herseth Sandlin
Cleave Hinchey
Clyburn Hinojosa
Coble Hirono
Cohen Hobson
Cole (OK) Hodes
Conaway Hoekstra
Conyers Holden
Cooper Holt
Costa Honda
Costello Hooley
Courtney Hoyer
Cramer Hulshof
Crenshaw Inglis (SC)
Crowley Inslee
Cubin Israel
Cuellar Issa
Culberson Jackson (IL)
Cummings Jackson-Lee (TX)
Davis (AL) Jefferson
Davis (CA) Johnson (GA)
Davis (IL) Johnson (IL)
Davis (KY) Johnson, E. B.
Davis, David Jones (NC)
Davis, Jo Ann Jones (OH)

Pascrell Sali
Pastor Sanchez, Linda
Payne T.
Pearce Sanchez, Loretta
Pence Sarbanes
Perlmutter Saxton
Peterson (MN) Schakowsky
Peterson (PA) Schiff
Petri Schmidt
Pickering Schwartz
Pitts Scott (GA)
Platts Scott (VA)
Poe Sensenbrenner
Pomeroy Serrano
Porter Sessions
Price (GA) Sestak
Price (NC) Shadegg
Pryce (OH) Shays
Putnam Shea-Porter
Radanovich Sherman
Rahall Shimkus
Ramstad Shuler
Rangel Shuster
Regula Simpson
Rehberg Sires
Reichert Skelton
Renzi Slaughter
Reyes Smith (NE)
Reynolds Smith (NJ)
Rodriguez Smith (TX)
Lee Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY) Snyder
Rogers (MI) Solis
Rohrabacher Souder
Ros-Lehtinen Space
Roskam Spratt
Ross Stark
Rothman Stearns
Roybal-Allard Stupak
Royce Sullivan
Ruppersberger Sutton
Ryan (OH) Tancredo
Ryan (WI) Tanner
Salazar Tauscher

NAYS—2

Flake Paul
Brady (PA) Hill
Carson Hunter
Edwards Jindal
Fattah Johnson, Sam
Ferguson Lampson
Higgins McCarthy (NY)

NOT VOTING—17

McCrery
Millender-McDonald
Neal (MA)
Rush
Walsh (NY)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1900

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WELCOMING BACK THE HONORABLE JO ANN DAVIS OF VIRGINIA

(Mr. WAMP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I know this is unusual, but God is good, and I just wanted her colleagues to welcome back to the floor of this House the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS).

Mr. Speaker, we'll keep praying, and I yield back.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL GEOPHYSICAL YEAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 76, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WILSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 76.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 406, nays 0, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 218]

YEAS—406

Abercrombie Capito Emanuel
Ackerman Capps Emerson
Aderholt Capuano Engel
Akin Cardoza English (PA)
Alexander Carnahan Eshoo
Allen Carney Etheridge
Altmire Carter Everett
Andrews Castle Fallin
Arcuri Castor Farr
Baca Chabot Feeney
Bachmann Chandler Filner
Bachus Clarke Flake
Baird Clay Forbes
Baker Cleaver Fortenberry
Baldwin Clyburn Fossella
Barrett (SC) Coble Foxx
Barrow Cohen Frank (MA)
Bartlett (MD) Cole (OK) Franks (AZ)
Barton (TX) Conaway Frelinghuysen
Bean Conyers Gallegly
Becerra Cooper Garrett (NJ)
Berkley Costa Gerlach
Berman Courtney Giffords
Berry Cramer Gilchrest
Biggart Crenshaw Gillibrand
Billray Crowley Gillmor
Bilirakis Cubin Gingrey
Bishop (GA) Cuellar Gohmert
Bishop (NY) Culberson Gonzalez
Bishop (UT) Cummings Goode
Blackburn Davis (AL) Goodlatte
Blumenauer Davis (CA) Gordon
Blunt Davis (IL) Granger
Boehner Davis (KY) Graves
Bonner Davis, David Green, Al
Bono Davis, Jo Ann Green, Gene
Boozman Davis, Lincoln Grijalva
Boren Davis, Tom Gutierrez
Boswell Deal (GA) Hall (NY)
Boucher DeFazio Hall (TX)
Boustany DeGette Hare
Boyd (FL) Delahunt Harman
Boyd (KS) DeLauro Hastert
Brady (TX) Dent Hastings (FL)
Braley (IA) Diaz-Balart, L. Hastings (WA)
Brown (SC) Diaz-Balart, M. Hayes
Brown, Corrine Dicks Heller
Brown-Waite, Dingell Hensarling
Ginny Doggett Herger
Buchanan Donnelly Herseth Sandlin
Burgess Doolittle Hinchey
Burton (IN) Doyle Hinojosa
Butterfield Drake Hirono
Buyer Dreier Hobson
Calvert Duncan Hodes
Camp (MI) Ehlers Hoekstra
Campbell (CA) Ellison Holden
Cannon Ellsworth Holt

Honda	Melancon	Scott (GA)
Hooley	Mica	Scott (VA)
Hoyer	Michaud	Sensenbrenner
Hulshof	Miller (FL)	Serrano
Inglis (SC)	Miller (MI)	Sessions
Insole	Miller (NC)	Sestak
Israel	Miller, Gary	Shadegg
Issa	Miller, George	Shays
Jackson (IL)	Mitchell	Shea-Porter
Jackson-Lee	Mollohan	Sherman
(TX)	Moore (KS)	Shimkus
Jefferson	Moore (WI)	Shuler
Johnson (GA)	Moran (KS)	Shuster
Johnson (IL)	Moran (VA)	Simpson
Johnson, E. B.	Murphy, Patrick	Sires
Jones (NC)	Murphy, Tim	Skelton
Jones (OH)	Musgrave	Slaughter
Jordan	Myrick	Smith (NE)
Kagen	Nadler	Smith (NJ)
Kanjorski	Napolitano	Smith (TX)
Kaptur	Neugebauer	Smith (WA)
Keller	Nunes	Snyder
Kennedy	Oberstar	Solis
Kildee	Olver	Souder
Kilpatrick	Ortiz	Space
Kind	Pallone	Spratt
King (IA)	Pascrell	Stark
King (NY)	Pastor	Stearns
Kingston	Paul	Stupak
Kirk	Payne	Sullivan
Klein (FL)	Pearce	Sutton
Kline (MN)	Pence	Tancredo
Knollenberg	Perlmutter	Tanner
Kucinich	Peterson (MN)	Tauscher
Kuhl (NY)	Peterson (PA)	Taylor
LaHood	Petri	Terry
Lamborn	Pickering	Thompson (CA)
Langevin	Pitts	Thompson (MS)
Lantos	Platts	Thornberry
Larsen (WA)	Poe	Tiahrt
Latham	Pomeroy	Tiberi
Lee	Porter	Tierney
Levin	Price (GA)	Towns
Lewis (CA)	Price (NC)	Turner
Lewis (GA)	Pryce (OH)	Udall (CO)
Lewis (KY)	Putnam	Udall (NM)
Linder	Rahall	Upton
Lipinski	Ramstad	Van Hollen
LoBiondo	Rangel	Velázquez
Loeback	Regula	Visclosky
Lofgren, Zoe	Rehberg	Walberg
Lowey	Reichert	Walden (OR)
Lucas	Renzi	Walz (MN)
Lungren, Daniel E.	Reynolds	Wamp
Mack	Rodriguez	Wasserman
Mahoney (FL)	Rogers (AL)	Schultz
Manzullo	Rogers (KY)	Waters
Marchant	Rogers (MI)	Watson
Markey	Rohrabacher	Watt
Marshall	Ros-Lehtinen	Waxman
Matheson	Roskam	Weiner
Matsui	Ross	Welch (VT)
McCarthy (CA)	Rothman	Weldon (FL)
McCauley (TX)	Roybal-Allard	Weller
McCollum (MN)	Royce	Westmoreland
McCotter	Ruppersberger	Wexler
McDermott	Ryan (OH)	Whitfield
McGovern	Ryan (WI)	Wicker
McHenry	Salazar	Wilson (NM)
McHugh	Sali	Wilson (OH)
McIntyre	Sánchez, Linda T.	Wilson (SC)
McKeon	Sanchez, Loretta	Wolf
McMorris	Sarbanes	Woolsey
Rodgers	Saxton	Wu
McNerney	Schakowsky	Wynn
McNulty	Schiff	Yarmuth
Meehan	Schmidt	Young (AK)
Meek (FL)	Schwartz	Young (FL)
Meeks (NY)		

□ 1908

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 218, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 304) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 304

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.—Ms. Baldwin (to rank immediately after Mr. Sherman).

Mr. BECERRA (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE DUKE CASE: POLITICAL PANDERING?

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, District Attorney Mike Nifong of North Carolina quickly prosecuted Duke University lacrosse players for an alleged sexual assault against a minority female. He sensationalized and fueled racial unrest, all to promote his reelection campaign. He made outlandish allegations, calling the players hooligans.

Forget the presumption of innocence or due process. Forget the facts.

Nifong is yet another example of a prosecutor gone wild, wild about publicity and win-at-all-costs mentality. Now the cases have been dismissed for lack of evidence.

The damage is to the innocent players who cannot get their reputations back. The damage is to the bona fide sexual assault victims who may be reluctant to prosecute. The damage is to Duke University who acted too hastily by suspending the players due to media hysteria. The damage is to those who are actual victims of crime based on race.

DAs who violate their oath to seek justice and then flaunt their power by

relentlessly prosecuting people in spite of the facts, all to grab a headline, should be held personally liable in our courts and be accountable for their actions by removal from office and permanent suspension from the practice of law. There must be consequences for abuse of power.

And that's just the way it is.

WHAT IS THE ADMINISTRATION DOING TO COMBAT THE RISING PRICE OF GASOLINE

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, every day my constituents and people all around America go to a gasoline station to put gasoline in their cars and see that the prices are rising and rising and rising to a point of ridiculousness. I want to know what is the administration doing to combat this problem.

When the price of a barrel of oil goes up, gasoline prices go up, but when the cost of a barrel of oil goes down, gasoline prices still go up.

Americans remember the gasoline prices started dropping conveniently just before the last election in 2006. Is it a coincidence? I don't know, but certainly I do know that nothing is happening, and every single day Americans are feeling the pinch at the pump.

I call on the administration to take action. Enough is enough. I don't know if it's collusion. I don't know what it is. I just know it's wrong, and prices should be dropping when the cost of a barrel of oil goes down, not getting higher.

HONORING TEACHER EMILY JENNETTE

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Emily Jennette, a teacher at Sawyer Road Elementary School in Marietta, Georgia, who was recently recognized as our State's Teacher of the Year.

This award could not have gone to a more deserving candidate. Ms. Jennette is an exceptional educator, praised by her fellow teachers for her innovative teaching techniques, a commitment to learning and an outstanding ability to engage her students.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank both Ms. Jennette and another Cobb County teacher who was a top 10 finalist, Ms. Jennifer Dawson of Lost Mountain Middle School. Educators are among our communities' most valuable assets. Their gifts impact students in the classroom, and their lessons follow our children throughout life.

Georgia is fortunate to have teachers like Emily Jennette educating our children, and I know she will make our State proud at the National Teacher of the Year competition.

NOT VOTING—27

Brady (PA)	Jindal	Millender-
Cantor	Johnson, Sam	McDonald
Carson	Lampson	Murphy (CT)
Costello	Larson (CT)	Murtha
Edwards	LaTourette	Neal (MA)
Fattah	Lynch	Obey
Ferguson	Maloney (NY)	Radanovich
Higgins	McCarthy (NY)	Rush
Hill	McCrery	Walsh (NY)
Hunter		

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes to record their vote.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in congratulating Ms. Jennette and all the teachers who help mold our children's lives every day.

A THREE-POINT PLAN FOR RESCUING THE NATION FROM VIOLENCE

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, in the aftermath of the tragedy at Blacksburg, Virginia, it is becoming painfully obvious that the easy availability of handguns constitutes a growing national crisis of public health and safety, one that calls for a powerful, wide-ranging response from this Congress.

I am urging Members to support H.R. 676, the Conyers-Kucinich bill, which establishes a universal, not-for-profit health care system, which provides full and comprehensive mental health care.

Second, support H.R. 808, a bill establishing a Department of Peace and Nonviolence, which directly addresses the issues of domestic violence, gang violence, and violence in the schools which is reflected in our current homicide rates.

And third, the 33 deaths at Blacksburg constitute a national tragedy. So, too, does the fact that an average of 32 people each and every day in the United States perish in handgun-related incidents. Accordingly, I am drafting a bill to ban the purchase, sale, transfer or possession of handguns by civilians. A gun buy-back provision will be provided in the bill.

It's time for us to rescue this Nation from the violence which is engulfing it, and I have just articulated a three-point plan to do so.

□ 1915

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ELLSWORTH). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

BUILD A BETTER NATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker and Members, I stand here today as chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus to say thank you to America, thank you to the president and CEO of NBC News network, as well as the president and CEO of CBS News network. I had an opportunity to meet with them last week. They did the right thing.

Our country is in peril. We need to bring our country together. Thank you

very much for the senior staffs of both of those organizations and for the people of America for standing up and speaking out.

We are in trying times at the moment, and there is much we must do to bring our country together and make our families stronger. Kudos, most gracious love, to the women of the Rutgers' basketball team, 10 young women, all honor students, child prodigies, dedicated and working to make life better for themselves and for America, to get to Rutgers, to stay there, to achieve academic excellence, and, yes, then to excel. Also, kudos to the University of Tennessee women's basketball team, the NCAA women's basketball champions.

This is the 35th anniversary year of title IX. Title IX is the legislation 35 years ago that was enacted that would make an equal playing field for women in sports and athletics. We will celebrate title IX and have been all year. I have spoken to President McCormick, and the Congressional Black Caucus, the Speaker of the House and others will be welcoming the Rutgers and Tennessee teams as well as the president and coaching staffs to our city of Washington, DC, very soon. We will hold a 2-hour summit and hear from the National Organization For Women, a psychiatrist from Rutgers University, some renowned women and others who speak to the values of America.

Today we had the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission in our Appropriations Committee. He came for his budget today. We talked about how do we make America better; how do we shut down some of the smut and other things that are negatively impacting our children. We are a better Nation than that. He has agreed to work with us and together, through this Congress, the FCC will be stronger. We must strengthen some of the things that they must do.

The 1934 law is archaic. The courts have interpreted that law very narrowly. This is far bigger than a person. This is about the strength and success of our families, of our children.

On behalf of the men and women who serve in this United States Congress, and specifically the men and women of the Congressional Black Caucus, let us rise up and build a better Nation for our sisters, our girls, our women, and, yes, our men and boys.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

OPEN BORDER CHAOS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, recent memos that have been released finally by the Justice Department regarding certain situations in the Federal Government, specifically in the U.S. Attorney's office, have revealed numerous things. No wonder the Justice Department fought releasing these e-mails and memos.

We now understand that the prosecution of Federal drug cases along the Texas-Mexico border has dropped dramatically. All the way from Texas to California, prosecutions of drug cases have dropped. In some places up to 25 percent of drug cases are not prosecuted that were prosecuted just a year ago. What is happening is the Federal Government is not able to prosecute drug smugglers, and they are asking the States to prosecute those cases.

Many States—especially those countries on the border with Texas and Mexico, same was true in Arizona and Mexico, New Mexico and California and Mexico—don't have the resources to prosecute all those drug cases.

So what is happening is many cases are dropping through the cracks, all because the Federal Government has dropped 25 percent of prosecution of drug smugglers into the United States because they say they are overwhelmed with cases.

How many cases are we talking about? What types of drug cases? Well, in some cases they are prosecuting cases of only 500 pounds or more of marijuana. Five hundred pounds, that is just a number. But we can relate it to money, and 500 pounds of marijuana is worth about \$400,000. A drug smuggler smuggling in \$400,000 worth of dope or less, in some cases is getting a pass by the Federal Government because they say they are too overwhelmed with the illegal entry into the United States by drug smugglers.

If the States don't prosecute those cases, as many States are not able to do, what is happening is those drug smugglers are getting a get-out-of-jail-free card.

Drug smugglers are not stupid. They can weigh their marijuana. So all they got to do, before they bring that dope into the United States, is make sure they have less than 500 pounds, because if they are caught by our border agents, the Federal Government won't prosecute them because the Federal Government says we have too many cases.

This is absurd; this is nonsense. This is chaos. Law enforcement is mad about this, and rightfully so. One former DEA official in the El Paso sector made the comment that if the Feds decline to prosecute, and the State lacks the resources to prosecute these drug smugglers, they just go free. You have people violating the drug laws who now get away with it in the United States, all because the Federal Government doesn't do its job. The job is bigger than prosecuting drug smugglers. The job is protect the borders, and our Federal Government doesn't do that.

They claim that they are not prosecuting drug cases because they are prosecuting folks that illegally enter the United States. But maybe that is not true either. These same memos now reveal that in the State of Texas an illegal coming into the United States has to be captured six times before they are actually prosecuted criminally for being in the United States.

What happens is if they are caught the first six times, they are just taken home. Of course, they come right back to the United States. They are not being prosecuted. In Arizona, sometimes it is up to 11 times illegals enter the United States before they are criminally prosecuted for being here illegally.

So what is the Federal Government doing? Well, we do know they are spending a lot of their time prosecuting border protectors. They are spending a lot of taxpayer money to make deals, back-room deals with drug smugglers so that they can prosecute the likes of border agents Ramos and Compean, deputy sheriffs like Gilmer Hernandez, individuals who are enforcing the law.

The Federal Government's duty is to protect the dignity of this Nation. It needs to protect the border from everybody coming into the United States illegally, no matter the reason, but especially those people who are criminals, especially those drug smugglers who bring drugs into the United States and make a profit off of that human weakness, and now giving them a pass, because they are not bringing in enough dope? This is absurd. Not prosecuting illegals until the sixth or eleventh time because we don't supposedly have the resources is absurd, and it is all because we don't protect the dignity of the United States.

Border control in this country doesn't seem to even exist. Third World nations protect their borders better than the United States, and the United States protects the borders of other nations like Korea. Why don't we protect our own border?

While all of this is going on down there on the lawless border of the United States and Mexico, now we hear about a new reform package, a comprehensive immigration plan that is supposed to have little border security, supposed to have a lot of amnesty and supposed to have a whole lot more guest workers in the United States. That is not going to work.

What we need is the National Guard on the border. We need to protect the borders, the dignity of the United States.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WYNN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE FARM LABOR RECRUITMENT SYSTEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, on April 9, 2007, 29-year-old Toledoan, Santiago Raphael Cruz, was found bound, gagged and beaten to death in Monterrey, Mexico, in the office of his employer, the Toledo-based Farm Labor Organizing Committee, or FLOC.

Mr. Cruz moved from Toledo, Ohio, to Mexico 3 months ago to legally arrange for Mexican guest laborers to work for a North Carolina pickle plant with which FLOC has a contract. FLOC's efforts assured guest workers were treated humanely, that their papers were legal, and that the notorious crime-ridden labor recruitment system that characterizes farm labor on this continent would cease to exist.

FLOC, which is part of the AFL-CIO, is a farm labor union and social movement based in our district led by Baldemar Velasquez. FLOC is perhaps most recently known for achieving a fair labor contract for guest workers in the United States with H2A visas in North Carolina. Mr. Velasquez led that campaign, as well as one to organize pickle workers in Ohio in the 1980s, and has been recognized as a MacArthur Foundation fellow.

In Mexico, FLOC offered a safe, legal alternative to the exploitative promises of coyotes and those who charge exorbitant fees to smuggle Mexicans across the border. The union had been burglarized, and the workers harassed for their efforts to protect Mexicans wishing to work in our country.

I learned, as I learned more about Mr. Cruz's brutal murder, I asked myself whether this horrendous crime could have been encouraged by FLOC's noble efforts to stop the illegal trafficking and continental labor caused by NAFTA. I have called upon the governments of the United States and Mexico to fully investigate and bring the perpetrators of this horrendous crime to justice. These coyotes prey upon desperate Mexican workers whose lands were taken from them by the Mexican Government under NAFTA. NAFTA set up conditions in North America for cruel exploitation of millions of landless peasants and workers in Mexico.

Mr. Velasquez and FLOC worked endlessly to give people not only legal rights but hope for an end to the harsh treatment handed to them by the governments of the United States and of Mexico. The current and often illegal labor recruitment system is rife with corruption. It exploits landless peasants through a corrupt bounty system imposed by unsavory labor recruiters.

Many times I have said NAFTA fuels illegal immigration by creating an exodus of massive proportion of people from the Mexican countryside who need something to eat after their livelihoods are taken from them. The manner in which these people are being ex-

ploited is a continental sacrilege. The problem with NAFTA and NAFTA-style trade agreements is they fail to take people into account.

NAFTA and NAFTA-style agreements serve the interests primarily of the money classes. They reduce risks for Wall Street investors while raising the risk that workers in our heartland will lose their jobs and health care. They are manna for hedge funds, but a threat to the economic security of blue collar workers.

□ 1930

They leave people out of the question. Whether it is campesinos in Mexico trying to provide food for their families and eke out an existence taken from them by their own government in cahoots with ours through NAFTA, or auto workers in the Midwest pursuing the American dream of a house, a car, and a better life for their children, they are the forgotten people in our global economy.

As Mr. Velasquez noted, Mr. Cruz had a good heart and was working for the people. Mr. Cruz gave his life in service to the forgotten people. We honor his commitment and we extend our sympathies to his family, to his friends, and to the entire FLOC community of which our community is so very proud.

His horrific death reminds us how brutal and unforgiving the NAFTA-induced labor system has become across our continent. It is time to renegotiate NAFTA. It is time not to extend it further. It is time to require continental labor standards that uphold the dignity of human life, not extinguish it.

Mr. Speaker, I submit extraneous material for printing in the RECORD, and I thank my colleague from Washington for allowing me to speak.

[From the toledoblade.com, April 12, 2007]

U.S. DEMANDS PROBE OF SLAYING

(By Clyde Hughes)

The U.S. General Consulate Office in Mexico is pressing for a complete investigation in the beating death of a Toledo union worker found dead early Monday at the union's office in Monterrey, U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D., Toledo) said yesterday.

Law enforcement officials from the state of Nuevo Leon are investigating the death of Santiago Rafael Cruz, 29, a Mexican native who has lived in Toledo since 1998 and had worked for the Farm Labor Organizing Committee as manager of its Monterrey office for three months, said Baldemar Velasquez, longtime president of the union.

Mr. Velasquez said he believed Mr. Cruz's death is directly related to FLOC's efforts to organize workers in the Monterrey area.

He said the union's education efforts made workers there less susceptible to people who would charge workers large sums of money to enter the United States illegally.

FLOC's program there recruits Mexican residents interested in going to the United States as part of a guest-worker program through a contract the union has with a North Carolina pickle company, union officials said.

Mr. Cruz was bound, gagged, and beaten, Miss Kaptur said yesterday.

She said she talked with Edward Heartney, consul for politics and economic affairs with the U.S. consulate general in Monterrey,

who assured her he'd press the Mexican government for a thorough investigation and offer the assistance of the FBI.

Miss Kaptur said she also could call for a special investigation, which is allowed through the North American Free Trade Agreement, which would engage the labor departments of both the United States and Mexico.

She said the investigation provision in NAFTA, though, does not provide for sanctions.

"Right now, they need to do the basic policing work," Miss Kaptur said. "Our government is engaged and I wanted [Mr. Heartney's] assurance on that. You see how NAFTA is contributing to this endless stream of people who are so vulnerable to exploitation.

"There are no worker protections under NAFTA. When [FLOC] does try to take the illegality out of what's going on there, this sort of horrendous tragedy occurs. It will be taken note of on a national level here."

Mr. Velasquez said his union workers have been harassed there before for organizing workers and helping them obtain legal documents to work in the United States.

He said he believes that people running illegal operations to move Mexicans into the United States see FLOC as a threat.

"We're actually fighting the corruption that's prevalent in this area," Mr. Velasquez said via phone call from Monterrey. "There's been 10 policemen killed here in the last year. We've educated the workers not to be taken advantage of and some people here don't like that, but we have to carry on the work."

Mr. Velasquez said Mr. Cruz's body will be returned to Puebla, Mexico, where the majority of his family is located, for a funeral. He said arrangements for the funeral have not been made yet.

He said Mr. Cruz's work with FLOC, which dates to his arrival to Toledo in 1998, made a difference in the union.

"He had a heart for the people," Mr. Velasquez said. "He spent his extra time consulting people, teaching them how not to get cheated and ripped off by phony promises by people who said they could get papers for undocumented folks, and he would explain any proposals out there for immigration reform.

"Basically, he wouldn't allow people to be duped by other people wanting to take advantage of people's ignorance. He was very effective at that."

Mr. Velasquez and Miss Kaptur said the murder investigation is still in the early stages and both said they plan on following the results closely.

WE JUST MARCHED IN (SO WE CAN JUST MARCH OUT)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, all the reasons given to justify a preemptive strike against Iraq were wrong. Congress and the American people were misled.

Support for the war came from various special interests that had agitated for an invasion of Iraq since 1998. The Iraq Liberation Act passed by Congress and signed into law by President Clinton stated that getting rid of Saddam Hussein was official U.S. policy. This policy was carried out in 2003.

Congress failed miserably in meeting its crucial obligations as the branch of

government charged with deciding whether to declare war. It wrongly and unconstitutionally transferred this power to the President, and the President did not hesitate to use it.

Although it is clear there was no cause for war, we just marched in. Our leaders deceived themselves and the public with assurances that the war was righteous and would be over quickly. Their justifications were false, and they failed to grasp even basic facts about the chaotic, political, and religious history of the region.

Congress bears the greater blame for this fiasco. It reneged on its responsibility to declare or not declare war. It transferred this decision-making power to the executive branch and gave open sanction to anything the President did. In fact, the Founders diligently tried to prevent the executive from possessing this power, granting it to Congress alone in article I, section 8, of the Constitution.

Today, just about everyone acknowledges the war has gone badly, and 70 percent of the American people want it to end. Our national defense is weakened, the financial costs continue to drain us, our allies have deserted us, and our enemies are multiplying, not to mention the tragic toll of death and injuries suffered by American forces.

Iraq is a mess, and we urgently need a new direction. But our leaders offer only hand-wringing and platitudes. They have no clear-cut ideas to end the suffering and war. Even the most ardent war hawks cannot begin to define victory in Iraq.

As an Air Force officer, serving from 1963 to 1968, I heard the same agonizing pleas from the American people. These pleas were met with the same excuses about why we could not change a deeply flawed policy and rethink the war in Vietnam. That bloody conflict, also undeclared and unconstitutional, seems to have taught us little despite the horrific costs.

Once again, though everyone now accepts that the original justifications for invading Iraq were not legitimate, we are given excuses for not leaving. We flaunt our power by building permanent military bases and an enormous billion-dollar embassy, yet claim we have no plans to stay in Iraq permanently. Assurances that our presence in Iraq has nothing to do with oil are not believed in the Middle East. The argument for staying to prevent civil war and bring stability to the region logically falls on deaf ears.

If the justifications for war were wrong, if the war is going badly, if we can't afford the costs, both human and economic, if civil war and chaos have resulted from our occupation, if the reasons for staying are not more credible than the reasons for going, then why the dilemma? The American people have spoken and continue to speak out against the war, so why not end it?

How do we end it? Why not exactly the way we went in? We marched in and we can march out.

More good things may come of it than anyone can imagine. Consider our relationship with Vietnam, now our friendly trading partner. Certainly we are doing better with her than when we tried to impose our will by force.

It is time to march out of Iraq and come home.

SITUATION IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, before I begin I would like to just have a moment of silence for the fallen students of Virginia Tech and our colleagues, who were with them today, the people of Virginia, and the people of the United States of America.

Thank you.

As I begin this 5 minutes, I believe it will be the challenge of this body to find a way to confront the issue of violence through physical acts and violence through words. Many of us will propose new gun legislation, some of us will look to outreach, but we will also seek understanding. That understanding I think leads me to join with the Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus as I acknowledge the outstanding women of the Rutgers University basketball team, to thank them for their dignity, their diplomacy, and their excellence; and to speak, just a very short brief word, of my agreement with the final action on Imus and his unfortunate and destructive words.

Many of the first amendment advocates, of which I happen to be one, are up in arms. Many have said the punishment was too harsh. But I use the age-old teaching tool for those of us in constitutional law classes around the Nation. And though the first amendment is pure, the right to association, the freedom of religion is pure, but it is qualified by the Supreme Court that indicates that we cannot call "fire" in a crowded theater. And so it is obvious that unfortunately what Imus did with these words, these women athletes, these academically excellent students is that they cried "fire." And fire cannot be allowed to burn, and the fire had to be extinguished, and Imus and his ugly words had to be taken off of the public airwaves, wishing him well for hopefully a reformation and a rebirth so that young people all around America can, one, not be subjected to the violence of words, and they cannot be subjected to the brutality, the violence of guns.

Let me move, Mr. Speaker, quickly to an additional cause for my standing here today. And that is to salute my colleague, Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, who tonight will give her 200th statement in opposition to the war in Iraq. I join her today, sadly, because again young people, valiant, patriotic young people are on the front lines of Iraq. They have not protested, they have not said, I will not go, but they

look to their leadership, policymakers to have the courage of conviction.

My friend from Texas is right, this is an unending and unsuccessful political action; 3,309 are dead, the violence over the weekend has been unspeakable. The cleric, al-Sadr, has taken out his ministers from the government. That means the coalition government is on the brink of collapse. Why? Because the prime minister is stubborn and will not sit down with his cabinet and parliament and ask in a respectful and collaborative way for the United States to be thanked for its valiant work of its military and asked that we stand down so that Iraq can stand up.

What a tragedy: ego over common-sense. What a tragedy: the continued loss of life over big egos.

And so I say to the administration, we will not give you an unending mandate to continue the terrible loss of life of our troops, and the reason we will not do that is because we declare a military success.

I wear on my lapel the flag of the POWs, the celebration and commemoration of men and women still lost at war, still missing in action, some now who have come home, soldiers that are lost. There is a military success, a legislative initiative of H.R. 930 that I have declaring a military success, the discovery of no weapons of mass destruction, disposing of Saddam Hussein, and many other valiant efforts of our military. And then we must now move to diplomacy.

It is time now to recognize lives and patriotism rise stronger than egos and bluster and the sadness of the debacle in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Progressive and the Out of Iraq Caucuses, I rise to speak about the current situation regarding the Iraq War. But before I do, let me express my condolences to the families and friends and neighbors and loved ones who suffered such horrific losses yesterday. I speak of Virginia Tech University, one of the Nation's great land grant colleges, where we witnessed the most senseless acts of violence on a scale unprecedented in our history.

Neither the mind nor the heart can contemplate a cause that could lead a human being to inflict such injury and destruction on fellow human beings. The loss of life and innocence at Virginia Tech is a tragedy over which all Americans mourn and the thoughts and prayers of people of goodwill everywhere go out to the victims and their families. In the face of such overwhelming grief, I hope they can take comfort in the certain knowledge that unearned suffering is redemptive.

The war in Iraq has also caused a lot of unearned suffering in Iraq and here at home. This is the same war, Madam Speaker, whose proponents misrepresented to the Nation would last no more than 6 months and likely less than 6 weeks. This same war in Iraq, we were led to believe by the Administration, would cost less than \$50 billion and would be paid out of the ample revenues from Iraq's oil fields. The war in Iraq, the American people were promised, should have ended years ago with Americans troops greeted as liberators by jubilant Iraqis throwing rose petals at their feet.

As I and my colleagues in the Progressive Caucus and the Out of Iraq Caucus forecast at the time, the starry-eyed, rosy scenarios laid out by the President, Vice-President, and Defense Secretary Rumsfeld would come to pass in fantasy land, but not in the cold, hard world of reality which they refused to live in.

To date, the war in Iraq has lasted longer than America's involvement in World War II, the greatest conflict in all of human history. But there is a difference. The Second World War ended in complete and total victory for the United States and its allies. But then again, in that conflict America was led by FDR, a great Commander-in-Chief, who had a plan to win the war and secure the peace, listened to his generals, and sent troops in sufficient numbers and sufficiently trained and equipped to do the job.

As a result of the colossal miscalculation in deciding to invade Iraq, the loss of public trust resulting from the misrepresentation of the reasons for launching that invasion, and the breath-taking incompetence in mismanaging the occupation of Iraq, the Armed Forces and the people of the United States have suffered incalculable damage.

The war in Iraq has claimed the lives of 3,309 brave servicemen and women (64 in the first 16 days of this month). More than 24,600 Americans have been wounded, many suffering the most horrific injuries. American taxpayers have paid nearly \$400 billion to sustain this misadventure.

The depth, breadth, and scope of the President's misguided, mismanaged, and misrepresented war in Iraq is utterly without precedent in American history. It is a tragedy in a league all its own. But it was not unforeseeable or unavoidable.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1591, the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act the House passed last month provides real benchmarks and consequences if the Iraqi Government fails to live up to its commitments. First, it requires the President to certify and report to Congress on July 1, 2007 that real progress is underway on key benchmarks for the Iraqi government. If the President cannot so certify, redeployment of U.S. troops must begin immediately and be completed within 180 days. If the President fails to certify that Iraq has met the benchmarks on October 1, 2007, a redeployment of U.S. troops would begin immediately at that time and must be completed within 180 days. In any case, at the latest, a redeployment of U.S. troops from Iraq must begin by March 1, 2008, and must be completed by August 31, 2008.

I have to say, Mr. Speaker, the Iraqi Government is not off to a good start. The Green Zone surrounding Baghdad remains insecure. Earlier this week, a suicide bomber managed to penetrate the security perimeter of the Iraqi Parliament and detonated a bomb that killed at least three members of the Iraqi parliament and wounded scores of others. Additionally, the market represented by Senator McCAIN as an example of the improved security situation in Iraq was turned into a killing field within days after Senator McCAIN's visit.

And yesterday we learned that radical Shiite Muslim cleric Muqtada al-Sadr has reasserted his political power by yanking his loyalists from the Cabinet, a move aimed at showing his supporters he retains his credentials as an opposition leader and which increases the pressure on Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to loos-

en his embrace of the U.S. occupation, which many Iraqis blame for violence in the country.

These developments, Mr. Speaker, illustrate the wisdom of requiring benchmarks the Iraqi Government must meet to justify continued American blood and treasure in Iraq. Moreover, because those benchmarks are established pursuant to President Bush's policies, it is passing strange indeed that he would threaten to veto the bill since it necessarily means he would be vetoing his own benchmarks for the performance of the Iraqi government. He would be vetoing his own readiness standards for U.S. troops. The President demands this Congress send him an Iraq war bill with "no strings." But the only "strings" attached, Mr. Speaker, are the benchmarks and standards imposed by the President himself.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the enormous financial cost, the human cost to the men and women of the United States Armed Forces has also been high but they have willingly paid it. Operation Iraqi Freedom has exacerbated the Veterans Administration health care facility maintenance backlog; placed an undue strain on the delivery of medical treatment and rehabilitative services for current and new veterans; and exacted a heavy toll on the equipment, training and readiness requirements, and the families of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces.

The emergency supplemental acknowledged the sacrifices made by, and the debt of gratitude, we and the Iraqi people owe to Armed Forces of the United States. But more than that, it makes a substantial down payment on that debt by providing substantial increases in funding for our troops.

The supplemental includes a total appropriation of \$2.8 billion for Defense Health Care, which is \$1.7 billion above the President's request. The additional funding supports new initiatives to enhance medical services for active duty forces and mobilized personnel, and their family members. Included in this new funding is \$450 million for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder/Counseling; \$450 million for Traumatic Brain Injury care and research; \$730 million to prevent health care fee increases for our troops; \$20 million to address the problems at Walter Reed; and \$14.8 million for burn care.

Unlike the Republican leadership of the 109th Congress and the Bush Administration, the new Democratic majority is committed to America's veterans. What's more, we back up that commitment by investing in their well-being. For example, the supplemental bill we passed included \$1.7 billion above the President's request for initiatives to address the health care needs of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and the backlog in maintaining VA health care facilities, including \$550 million to address the backlog in maintaining VA health care facilities so as to prevent the VA from experiencing a situation similar to that found at Walter Reed Medical Center.

We provided an additional \$250 million for administration to ensure there are sufficient personnel to support the growing number of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and to maintain a high level of services for all veterans; \$229 million for treating the growing number of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans; \$100 million for contract mental health care, which will allow the VA to contract with private mental health care providers to ensure that Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are seen in the most timely and least disruptive fashion, including members of

the Guard and Reserve; and \$62 million to speed up the processing of claims of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, when American troops are sent into harm's way, America has an obligation to do all it can to minimize the risk of harm to the troops. That is why it was so important that we included additional funding above the President's request to support our troops. We provided \$2.5 billion more to address the current readiness crisis of our state-side troops, including ensuring that they are better equipped and trained. We included \$1.4 billion more for military housing allowances and \$311 million more for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles for troops in Iraq. And there is included in the supplemental \$222 million more for infrared countermeasures for Air Force aircraft to address the growing threat against U.S. air operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Equally important, Mr. Speaker, the supplemental contains language directing the President to adhere to current military guidelines for unit readiness, deployments, and time between deployments.

In the supplemental we passed, the Defense Department is required to abide by its current Unit Readiness policy, requiring the chief of the military department concerned to determine that a unit is "fully mission capable" before it is deployed to Iraq. The President may waive this provision by submitting a report to Congress detailing why the unit's deployment is in the interests of national security despite the assessment that the unit is not fully mission capable.

The Defense Department is also required to abide by its current policy and avoid extending the deployment of units in Iraq in excess of 365 days for the Army and 210 days for the Marines. The provision may be waived by the President only by submitting a report to Congress detailing the particular reason or reasons why the unit's extended deployment is in the interests of national security.

Mr. Speaker, to reduce the incidence of combat fatigue and enhance readiness, it is important that our troops have sufficient "time out of the combat zone and training between deployments. That is why we require the Defense Department to abide by its current policy and avoid sending units back into Iraq before troops get the required time away from the war theater. The President may waive this provision by submitting a report to Congress detailing why the unit's early redeployment to Iraq is in the interests of national security.

Mr. Speaker, the American people spoke loudly and clearly last November when they tossed out the Rubber-Stamp Republican Congress. They voted for a New Direction in Iraq and for change in America. They voted to disentangle American troops from the carnage, chaos, and civil war in Iraq. They voted for accountability and oversight, which we Democrats have begun to deliver on; already the new majority has held more than 100 congressional hearings related to the Iraq War, investigating everything from the rampant waste, fraud, and abuse of Iraq reconstruction funding to troop readiness to the Iraq Study Group Report to the shameful mistreatment of wounded soldiers recuperating at Walter Reed Medical Center.

And we will not stop, Mr. Speaker, until we are clearly on a glide path to the day when our troops come home and where we can

"care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphan." And even then our work will not be done. For we must still be about the business of repairing the damage to America's international reputation and prestige. But this Democratic majority, led by the Progressive Caucus and the Out of Iraq Caucus, has ushered in a new era of oversight, accountability, and transparency to defense and reconstruction contracting and procurement.

THE LOGAN ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I have high regard for everybody in this whole body, but when someone does something wrong, it is imperative that it be brought to light, and brought to light in a public forum.

About a week ago, the Speaker of the House, along with others, took a trip that the State Department and the White House disapproved of, to visit Syria. Syria is a terrorist state, has been on the terrorist state list for a long, long time. They have been working with Iran, they have been a transit point for weapons that went into Lebanon, weapons that killed a lot of people. They support Hezbollah and Hamas, two terrorist organizations. They work closely with Iran which has been involved in terrorism and is also on the terrorist list. And for the Speaker and others to go over there and talk with Assad, in my opinion and in the opinion of the law, the Logan Act, that it was not only the wrong thing to do and sent the wrong message, but it was a violation of an act of Congress.

I want to read to you the language in the Logan Act. It says, "Any citizen of the United States, wherever he or she may be, who, without authority of the United States, directly or indirectly commences or carries on any correspondence or intercourse with any foreign government or any officer or agent thereof, in relation to any disputes or controversies with the United States, or to defeat the measures of United States, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 3 years or both."

Now, I am not under any illusions that there is going to be any censorship of the Speaker or any prosecution of the Speaker, but I think the American people ought to know that she weakened the position of the United States in the Middle East, and she broke the law; and she should be held accountable for that. And tonight I hope the American people get this message and send a message to the Speaker.

She has talked recently, as I understand it, and she is thinking about going to Iran and talking to Ahmadinejad. He is one of the terrorist leaders of the world. And if she were to go over there while he is building nu-

clear weapons and the whole world is trying to get him to stop, it would be a sure sign of weakness on the part of the United States, and it would send such a signal that they would be more aggressive than they have been in the past.

In 1938 and 1939, Winston Churchill was looked upon as a warmonger because he warned about Hitler, and yet Lord Chamberlain went to Munich, Germany, and he signed a peace agreement on Hitler's terms, gave Hitler the Sudetenland, came back, and said, "Peace in our time," because he went and talked with Hitler and he thought he could convince him not to be aggressive. That was the green light for World War II and 62 million people died.

Talking to these terrorists without getting them to discuss and want to change and move away from their policies of mass destruction is wrong. Iran is trying to build nuclear weapons and they will already have one; they are trying to build a delivery system for intercontinental, intermediate range, and short-range missiles.

We must not send a signal of weakness. I think the Speaker did the wrong thing. I believe she violated the Logan Act because she didn't have the approval of both the White House and the Defense Department, and I hope that she won't do this again. And I certainly hope she won't go to Iran.

□ 1945

COMMEMORATING THE RUTGERS UNIVERSITY SCARLET KNIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I came here tonight to talk about the Rutgers Women's basketball team, which I am so proud of, and I will. But I have to respond to the previous speaker.

I am very proud of the fact that Speaker PELOSI went to Syria. It is very important for us to have a dialogue with Syria. The fact of the matter is that the Iraq Study Group recommended that we have a dialogue with both Syria and Iran, and certainly we need a new direction with regard to the war in Iraq. And an effort to reach out and have dialogue is a good thing.

And there is such hypocrisy on the part of the other side of the aisle. I mean, the President and the White House criticized the Speaker. But a week before, a couple of days before, there were Republican Members of Congress that went to Syria. So this is just total hypocrisy.

It was a good thing that she went to Syria. It is the very type of dialogue that we need.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I came here this evening to honor the Rutgers University Scarlet Knights women's basketball team and applaud their character and integrity. These remarkable young

women are a class act, and I am proud to represent them and Rutgers University here in Congress.

After outrageous comments were made about the team by Don Imus on his CBS radio and MSNBC show, the team showed great courage in choosing to meet with him so he could see firsthand how wrong his sexist and racist comments were. During this emotionally and mentally exhausting ordeal, these remarkable young women were graceful and poised as they became media headlines for controversy.

And I strongly denounce Don Imus' divisive comments. They were disgusting, and they have no place in our everyday language, let alone on a nationally televised radio and television program. His comments not only affected these players, but resonated with women and African Americans across the Nation.

These were innocent student athletes living out their basketball dreams. They did not deserve to be his target. And MSNBC's decision to pull his television broadcast and CBS' firing of him displayed great moral character, and I support their choices.

His comments, Imus' comments, deprived these women of fully enjoying their accomplishments of being crowned Big East champions, going to the Final Four, and making history as the first athletic team from Rutgers to play for a national championship. All-Met Division I Player of the Year Kia Vaughn said it best when she said, "Our moment was stolen from us."

I want to talk about this team, Mr. Speaker. Rutgers had a Cinderella season that saw them come back from some devastating early season losses, including a 40-point loss to Duke. Under head coach C. Vivian Stringer, the Scarlet Knights finished their amazing season with a 27-9 record. The team fought improbable odds to reach the pinnacle NCAA title game, and maintained enormous composure when nasty comments overshadowed their record-breaking season.

I am immensely proud of this extraordinary team. Last week the Nation had an opportunity see a group of outstanding student athletes who were striving to reach lifetime goals, both on and off the basketball court. By excelling in academics, music and community service, they are great role models for student athletes across the Nation.

The Scarlet Knights women basketball players are excellent representatives of Rutgers University and the State of New Jersey, and they should be honored for their hard work, dedication, and heart.

Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a resolution commending the Scarlet Knights women's basketball team for their record-breaking season and their outstanding achievement off the basketball court. I am hopeful Congress will recognize these fine women by passing this resolution tomorrow.

HONORING BROWNIE SCOUT TROOP 114

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the patriotic efforts of Brownie Scout Troop 114 of Liberty Grove Baptist Church. This group of 18 young women has demonstrated a tangible commitment to supporting our troops stationed in Iraq. Last month they collected donations to send nearly 250 boxes of Girl Scout cookies to the brave men and women from their community who are serving in Iraq.

They pounded the pavement to sell cookies and find like-minded people who were willing to join them in sending cookies to a local North Carolina National Guard unit stationed near Tikrit, Iraq. I applaud the thoughtful and committed patriotism of these girls who invested their time to selflessly raise money and then send a token of appreciation to our Nation's troops.

The troops that are receiving the famous Girl Scout cookies are members of the headquarters 105th Engineer Group from Winston-Salem. For these men and women, there is no small act of kindness. No, this is much more than that. For our troops on the front line of the war on terror, to receive a package of cookies from a local Brownie Scout troop is like receiving a breath of fresh air from home. Whether or not these young women knew it, they were communicating to our soldiers that there are people who still care for our troops' welfare. They communicated that the youngest generation still values sacrifice and service to country.

I come to the floor today to celebrate this concentrated act of patriotic kindness and to honor the young ladies who have taken ownership of our Nation's great tradition of offering support to our troops serving abroad. Their example highlights what our great Nation is capable of producing in its youth.

We cannot emphasize enough how proud we are that these Scouts made this effort to brighten the days of hundreds of soldiers in Iraq. What may seem like a small token of gratitude will live on in the memory of the many troops who, in the coming weeks, will enjoy a box of Girl Scout cookies in the deserts of Iraq. I have no doubt that these men and women will look back with great fondness as they remember the day when the mail call brought them an unexpected box of sweets and a reminder that their community and their country stands behind them in this difficult time.

The members of the Brownie troop who sent this gift of baked goods are Alexandra Dillard, Reva Combs, Laken Harrold, Allison Livengood, Allie Barker, Lauren Johnson, Daniella Meeza, Kristina Meeza, Acacia Key, Charlotte York, Cheyenne Byrd, Alexis Baldwin, Erin McGee, Angela Nardini, Karlie

Cranfill, Caitlyn Minton and Hope Brown.

It is my hope that their example is reproduced by many others, and that the soldiers who receive the fruit of their labors feel honored and respected by this act of young-hearted kindness.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CHILDREN: UNCOUNTED IRAQ CASUALTIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I had intended to rise this evening to focus my attention on the suicide bombing last week in Baghdad that killed and wounded several members of the Parliament, including Osama al-Nujafii. He was a member of the Iraq Parliament who participated in a historic live teleconference I hosted last month linking several of my House colleagues with several Iraq Parliamentarians. I wish him and the others wounded in the attack a speedy recovery.

That attack occurred inside the Green Zone, and it confirms that no one is safe in Iraq, no matter how many checkpoints or blast walls or press releases out of the White House. It confirms that the President's military escalation has only escalated the violence and the casualties. It confirms that the President has no control whatsoever on the events on the ground. And it confirms that the American people are right to demand that the President work with the Democratic Congress and establish a firm timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

For now, most Americans are grimly aware of the weekend of bombings and killings across Iraq. But the situation is even worse. The Iraq war will live long after the U.S. forces leave the country.

As a child psychiatrist, I was shocked to learn of a new study looking at the effects this war is having on Iraqi children. I submit the story from USA Today for the RECORD. It is the first comprehensive look at the impact the war is having on innocent Iraqi children. The Ministry of Health surveyed 2,500 primary school kids in Baghdad, and 70 percent of those young kids displayed symptoms of trauma-related stress. As the USA Today reported, many Iraqi children have been physically wounded, and many are psychologically scarred. They are the uncounted casualties of the Iraq war. Thousands of innocent Iraqi children

are uncounted casualties. But for all these innocent Iraqi children, this war will rage on for them for years to come. They will face a life of anguish, and, in fact, will be the ones who, in the future, are the future violent ones we worry about.

For all these innocent Iraqi children, this war will rage on for years to come. In some cases, these children will face a lifetime of anguish and suffering, and not one of these children is being counted as a casualty.

These children routinely walk through carnage on their way to school, when they go at all.

These children are routinely exposed to random violence and killings that burn images in their minds that will scar them for life.

As a child psychiatrist, I can only echo the conclusions of one Iraqi doctor who was interviewed by USA Today.

"Some of these children are time bombs," said Said al-Hashimi, a psychiatrist who teaches at an Iraqi Medical School.

In this excerpt from USA Today, al-Hashimi said he is concerned Iraqi children could become the next generation of fighters and fuel violence for years to come.

Because of what they are living through as youngsters, "they may think it's better to martyr themselves for religion or country," al-Hashimi said.

The only hope for these uncounted casualties is treatment.

But, as the USA Today story points out, there is only one government run psychiatric hospital in Baghdad—a city of 6 million people, or put more accurately, a city of 6 million casualties.

And then there are the uncounted casualties of Iraqi children in Basra, Rumadi, Najaf, Karbala, Mosul, Kirkuk, Fallujah, Baqubah, and all the other places Iraqi children live.

Until the war ends, there is virtually no chance that thousands of innocent Iraqi children will be treated for their war wounds.

We can only estimate how many thousands of Iraqi children need urgent psychological attention. We know they are not going to get it until this war ends.

There is a timetable for doing just that, and the President should stop listening to his discredited Vice President and start listening to reason and reality.

Now, in the face of that, our Speaker has led this Congress to set a time line that the President says, I will ignore. The President said, I will ignore the people, I will ignore the vote of 2006. No matter what the Speaker does, I am going to attack her.

So the Speaker took the Iraq Study Group's book that said we ought to talk to the people in Syria. For those of you who don't know, Syria is right up next to Iraq. And it is on the border. And there are Presidential accusations that people are coming in from Syria into Iraq, creating trouble and killing our troops. This is on its way to being the most deadly month in 5 years.

Now, for the Speaker to take her time and carefully plan and go over and talk to the leadership of Syria about attacks being made on Americans is, in my view, it is part of her legislative responsibility to the people, not only of her district, but the entire

country. And for someone to come out here and accuse her of a violation of the Logan Act. Now this is a 200-year-old act that no one has ever been prosecuted under because there are real questions as to whether it prevents Members of the Congress from using their first amendment rights to talk out on behalf of the people that they represent.

In 1980, the State Department maintained that a visit to Cuba by Senators John Sparkman and George McGovern was not inconsistent with the Logan Act. Nothing in the act, they said, "would appear to restrict Members of Congress from engaging in discussions in pursuance of their legislative duties under the Constitution."

In 1976 the State Department was asked to weigh in as to whether former President Nixon violated the Logan Act by visiting China. The Department stated that Mr. Nixon's trip was taken entirely in his capacity as a private citizen and that the Department "was unaware of any basis for believing Mr. Nixon acted with intent prohibited" by the act. The Department has noted that no one has ever been prosecuted under this act.

This kind of attack on the Speaker will be answered in full again and again. Make no mistake about that.

The article previously referred to follows:

[From USA TODAY]

70% OF IRAQI SCHOOLCHILDREN SHOW SYMPTOMS OF TRAUMA

(By James Palmer)

BAGHDAD—About 70% of primary school students in a Baghdad neighborhood suffer symptoms of trauma-related stress such as bed-wetting or stuttering, according to a survey by the Iraqi Ministry of Health.

The survey of about 2,500 youngsters is the most comprehensive look at how the war is affecting Iraqi children, said Iraq's national mental health adviser and author of the study, Mohammed Al-Aboudi.

"The fighting is happening in the streets in front of our houses and schools," al-Aboudi said. "This is very difficult for the children to adapt to."

The study is to be released next month. Al-Aboudi discussed the findings with USA TODAY.

Many Iraqi children have to pass dead bodies on the street as they walk to school in the morning, according to a separate report last week by the International Red Cross. Others have seen relatives killed or have been injured in mortar or bomb attacks.

"Some of these children are suffering one trauma after another, and it's severely damaging their development," said Said Al-Hashimi, a psychiatrist who teaches at Mustansiriya Medical School and runs a private clinic in west Baghdad. "We're not certain what will become of the next generation, even if there is peace one day," Al-Hashimi said.

The study was conducted last October in the Sha'ab district of northern Baghdad. The low- to middle-income neighborhood is inhabited by a mix of Shiites and Sunni Arabs. Al-Aboudi said he believes the sample was broadly representative of conditions throughout the capital.

In the study, schoolteachers were asked to determine whether randomly selected students showed any of 10 symptoms identified

by the World Health Organization as signs of trauma. Other symptoms included voluntary muteness, declining performance in school or an increase in aggressive behavior.

The teachers received training from Iraqi psychologists on how to identify and help students cope with trauma-related stress, al-Aboudi said.

The study "shows the impact of the violence and insecurity on the children and on children's mental health," said Naeema Al-Gasseer, the Iraqi representative of the WHO. "They have fear every day."

The Iraqi government is aware of the problem but largely unequipped to address it, said Ali al-Dabbagh, a government spokesman. "Until we have proper security in Baghdad, there's not much we can do to help these children," Al-Dabbagh said in Washington.

IRAQIS FEAR WAR'S LONG-TERM COST TO KIDS

(By James Palmer)

BAGHDAD—Ahmed Al-Khaffaji, 6, refused to leave his house for nearly a year after shrapnel from a mortar shell ripped through his left arm, rendering it useless.

Hussain Haider was only 5 when he stopped speaking after watching his father slowly bleed to death on the living room floor of the family's Sadr City home.

Iraqi psychiatrists worry about the long-term consequences of a generation that has been constantly exposed to explosions, gun-fights, kidnappings and sectarian murders. "Some of these children are time bombs," said Said al-Hashimi, a psychiatrist who teaches at Mustansiriya Medical School.

Mental health professionals such as al-Hashimi say that there is a chronic shortage of trained psychiatrists and that schools are the front line for treating traumatized children.

Ahmed's skin was badly scarred, and he suffered burns on both legs when a mortar round slammed into his family's south Baghdad home on Jan. 1, 2006.

His mother, Safia Hussain Ali, said that for nearly a year afterward, her son feared leaving the house and often refused to eat.

Today, Ahmed attends school, but his behavior occasionally regresses, and he retreats from reality.

"Sometimes he refuses to eat and just wants to watch TV or play video games," Ali said.

Haider al-Malaki, 40, a psychiatrist at the government-run Ibn Rushd Hospital, said he has treated children as young as 6 with post-traumatic stress disorder. He said he has also seen children with sleeping and eating disorders that can be traced to the violence.

MORE AGGRESSION

"They have all experienced some kind of psychological trauma, whether they witnessed a murder or survived a kidnapping attempt," al-Malaki said. "When they witness violence, they're more likely to display aggressive and reckless behavior" later.

Al-Hashimi said he is concerned Iraqi children could become the next generation of fighters and fuel violence for years to come. Because of what they are living through as youngsters, "they may think it's better to martyr themselves for religion or country," al-Hashimi said.

Al-Hashimi set up a workshop this year to help teachers and school officials deal with students suffering from war-related trauma. He urges educators to get kids to release their emotions through activities such as academic competitions and soccer games.

"Schools in hot areas are still functioning," Al-Hashimi said, referring to volatile Baghdad neighborhoods. "Unfortunately, many people don't know how to handle the children in this situation."

Attacks on or near schools have forced Iraqi teachers and other school staff to try to protect their students.

"Children are very perceptive of teachers' moods and actions," said Hadoon Waleed, a psychology professor at Baghdad University. "It's very important that teachers are trained to handle their students during stressful situations."

Fawad Al-Kaisi, 59, headmaster at the Al-Hurriyah primary school in south Baghdad, said his staff has learned through experience.

"When explosions go off in the area, the students become very nervous," Al-Kaisi said. "We try our best to create a positive environment to make them feel safe."

Like others among Iraq's professional elite, psychiatrists are scarce, in part because they have been targets of kidnapers and assassins.

Al-Malaki, the psychiatrist at Ibn Rushd, survived two bullet wounds in his right arm from an assassination attempt in his clinic last year. He is among the few psychiatrists who have remained in Iraq and continued to work.

The Iraqi Society of Psychiatrists estimates at least 140 of the country's 200 psychiatrists were killed or have fled the country in the past four years.

LITTLE HELP AVAILABLE

A shortage of psychiatric facilities further limits the availability of mental health care. Ibn Rushd is the only government-funded psychiatric hospital in Baghdad, a city of 6 million people.

For Hussain Haider, now 7, and other children, the need is urgent. He stopped speaking for months after his father was killed in a crossfire between fighters of the Mahdi Army, a Shiite militia group, and U.S. forces April 6, 2004.

Hussain's mother, Thuraya Jabbar, said his grades have fallen, and he is awakened frequently by nightmares.

"He starts crying whenever we start speaking about his father," she said.

DENOUNCING THE REPREENSIBLE COMMENTS OF DON IMUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first let me take a moment to offer my condolences to the families of the victims of the terrible and senseless violence at Virginia Tech. As they struggle to cope with their tremendous loss, we must give proper respect to their lives and the lives of the thousands of innocent people that are cut short every year in this country by gun violence. And let us honor their memories by committing ourselves to bringing an end to gun violence.

Before I begin, I want to commend my colleague, Congresswoman WOOLSEY, because today is the 200th time she has come to this floor to speak out against this unnecessary war in Iraq. I commend your tenacity, Congresswoman WOOLSEY, and I thank you for your leadership and your commitment to ending the occupation of Iraq and to bringing our troops home. I am proud to serve with you in this body as your colleague and as co-chair of the Progressive Caucus, and I want to say to you that your voice has become the voice of America. Thank you, Congresswoman WOOLSEY.

Let me also thank the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman KILPATRICK, and members of the CBC for their leadership in addressing and denouncing the latest reprehensible comments by Don Imus.

First, I want to congratulate the Rutgers women's basketball team. We are so proud of you. Your record of achievement as women, as students, as athletes speaks for itself and no one can take away your accomplishments.

As we all know, on April 4, the morning talk show host Don Imus, who has, for years, mind you, for years, made disparaging remarks towards people of color and others, referred to the very distinguished women of the Rutgers basketball team with such disgusting words that I don't even want to repeat them.

Not only did his comments belittle the ethnicity of these women of valor, but he apparently felt entitled to denigrate these women as women. We are here today to say that there is no place for that kind of sexism and racism in our public discourse.

□ 2000

So while we acknowledge MSNBC and CBS did the right thing by firing Imus, we need to ask the question, what took so long? CBS's initial response, which was to suspend Imus 2 weeks with pay, suggested that they thought that a token punishment would appease the public outcry and demonstrated a complete disregard and insensitivity to both the women of the Rutgers basketball team and the millions of Americans who were outraged by the comments.

The fact is, this incident is just one of many Imus should have been fired for a long time ago. For example, he should have been fired 14 years ago when he referred to Gwen Ifill, who was then the White House correspondent for the New York Times, and he said, "Isn't the Times wonderful? It lets the cleaning lady cover the White House." The point is this was not an isolated incident.

If you look back at what he said with regard to New York Times sports reporter Bill Rhoden, he said he was a "quota hire." When you look at what he said about the tennis player, Amelie Mauresmo, he called her "a big old . . ." And I don't even want to say what he said there, but go back and check the record. He even admitted that he picked one of his producers to do the "N jokes."

You know, this is unbelievable. The point is, and I want to make this clear, this is not an isolated incident. And while I, for one, am glad that his show has been cancelled, I believe that we should be concerned with the fact that it took him so long to be taken off the air.

It is also important to understand that this is just not about Imus. There is a tendency in this country to treat racism as an issue of personal ill will so that people can say to themselves "I

don't hate black people" and ignore all of the ways that the status quo in our society today reinforces racial inequality as well as sexism. Institutional racism and sexism don't need any personal ill will in order to continue. They rely on indifference, and people like Imus promote that indifference.

The grim reality is that women still earn 75 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts. The fact is that in the United States a woman is raped every 6 minutes, and women of color are especially vulnerable to sexual violence. The fact is that, in spite of all the progress we have made in America, an African American woman is still less likely to make it to college than a white woman.

What is dangerous about people like Imus, and he is only one of many, is that their racist and their sexist commentary serves to celebrate and uphold the status quo, to make it okay to be indifferent to the racism and sexism that still surrounds us. That is unacceptable.

Finally, let me just say to Imus's sponsors: Let me congratulate you again, you did the right thing. But before you get too complacent, let me remind you, Procter & Gamble and American Express and all the rest, that the makeup of your corporate board rooms reflects the indifference to institutional racism and sexism in this country, and we are looking to you to do more than stop sponsoring bigots. We are looking to you to help young women, young black women like the women on the Rutgers basketball team, to overcome the hurdles that face them and to find the opportunities that are too often denied them.

So let me thank again Congresswoman KILPATRICK for her leadership in the Congressional Black Caucus. Also let me say thank you again, Congresswoman WOOLSEY, for your leadership.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ELLSWORTH). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

REMARKS ON DON IMUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by expressing condolences to all of those who were directly affected by the gun violence that has just taken the lives of so many young people with so much promise. Again, I think it is an indication of a tremendous need to better regulate the acquisition and ownership of guns in our country, and I join with all of those who call for increased regulation.

Mr. Speaker, America's radios, televisions, newspapers, and Internet sites

have been consumed for the past several days over remarks by radio personality Don Imus.

Two weeks ago Imus referred to the women of the Rutgers University women's basketball team in language which can only be described as racist, sexist, and viciously offensive. Faced with an uproar of disgust and protest in response to those remarks, Imus apologized on one hand and on the other denied any racism and insisted that his words carried no malice.

Imus has a history of similar remarks and demands for him to be fired escalated by the hour and day. Under pressure from the public and advertisers, MSNBC agreed to drop the Imus show, and then, of course, CBS came to the same decision. I commend them for coming to the realization that this kind of rhetoric has no place on the public airways. I hope this outcome will be viewed as a victory for free speech and corporate responsibility.

I consider myself an apostle of the first amendment. Free speech is fundamental to our very notions of what and who we are as a people and as a Nation. Nevertheless, I believe that the outcry and protest over the Imus remarks and the demands for his dismissal are not only justified, but are totally consistent with the first amendment.

Nothing has eaten away at the soul of America, nothing has divided our Nation, and nothing has more persistently infected our democracy than the monstrous evil of racism.

Racism dehumanized and continues to dehumanize African Americans and others. Racism continues to ravage the lives of Black America from health to housing and from income to imprisonment. It has taken almost 150 years of struggle and sacrifice, but we no longer accept the racist practices and we no longer excuse racist speech.

No one is demanding that the government muzzle Mr. Imus. However, it is logical and just that large, extremely profitable media companies whose existence and whose profits are based on freedom of speech, would want to ensure that they are not profiting from the abuse of African American women, from the poisoning of relations between Americans, or from discrimination or oppression of any sector of our society.

Last week it was an outcry against Mr. Imus for his remarks. Today and tomorrow it must be against the rappers, hip-hop artists, and comedians who use vile language as a part of their public acts.

My mother used to take washing powder or soap and wash out our mouths if we were to use language that was unacceptable to her. Now, I know that we can't do this with some of our entertainers, but we certainly can sanitize and let them know that we are not appreciative of their language.

I join with those who commend the chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus, CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK, for her leadership. And I also commend

Reverend Jesse Jackson and the Reverend Al Sharpton for the tremendous roles that they played in raising this issue.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WATERS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE RUTGERS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I was only going to speak about our Rutgers women, but I do want to also add my voice to the condolences for the Virginia Tech students. Out of the number of students who were killed, four students came from my State of New Jersey. So our hearts are heavy for all of the families, but especially for our four New Jersey students.

I also want to add my congratulations to Congresswoman WOOLSEY for being the persistent voice against the war. Day in and day out she has brought this to our attention, and I think much of what we see today in the movement against the war can directly be attributed to her tenacity.

I want to also commend Speaker PELOSI for the groundbreaking trip she took to Syria. I think that the dignity and the knowledge and the respect that were shown to her will begin to break the ground, and I hope that she continues to do that.

Mr. Speaker, as a Representative from New Jersey, I am pleased to rise here in the United States House of Representatives to praise the young women of the Rutgers basketball team, the Scarlet Knights, and their inspirational coach, C. Vivian Stringer. They are true champions not only for their academic and athletic achievements, but for the dignity, for the strength, for the class they have shown during this ordeal.

These 10 women overcame disappointing early losses in the season to advance, amazingly, to the Final Four. Around the Nation fans watched as the Scarlet Knights of Rutgers, who had lost four of their first seven games, defeated Duke's Blue Devils in an exciting 53-52 upset victory. This was after a lopsided 59-35 victory over LSU.

When the ugly incident with Don Imus cast a shadow over their success, these young women showed what they were made of. In standing up for themselves and their school and for New Jersey, they also took a stand on behalf of all young women who insist on being treated with respect and refuse to be insulted and stereotyped.

Don Imus and those of his ilk vastly underestimated New Jersey's strong

and proud Scarlet Knights. He underestimated the pride we feel in New Jersey about our remarkable women on that team. As a matter of fact, during the founding of the Nation, New Jersey had a theme: "Don't tread on us." Don Imus may have had a microphone, but he was no match for these young women and their coach, who so eloquently spoke up for what is right and fair. I am so proud that through their actions they were able to persuade two major networks, MSNBC and CBS, as well as numerous advertisers, that the days of using public airways to ridicule and debase anyone they choose are over.

Let me add that it is time that the FCC start doing its job by halting the use of racial and gender slurs over the public airways. As long there is weak enforcement, there will continue to be hate language used by the so-called "shock jocks." In Rwanda it was the radio that urged people to kill and to go. It is hate radio that can create problems, serious problems, as we have seen, like I said, in Rwanda.

History has shown us that words matter, and once society accepts ugly language, ugly incidents will follow. We see the indecent exposure at the Super Bowl, where a tremendous amount of attention was paid. However, we let a Don Imus go on year in, year out, year in, year out, and many others. Something is wrong with that picture.

I call on the networks to examine their record of hiring minorities for top on-the-air and executive positions so that African Americans are fairly represented in the media. One reason that the networks made the decision to discontinue the Don Imus show was that the network employees let the management know how disturbed and embarrassed and offended they were by these demeaning commentaries and that they were a part of that institution, and that was the overriding factor. However, it was Rosa Parks, who 50 years ago decided that she would not sit at the back of the bus, and the people from Montgomery walked for a year, 2 years, and broke the back of the bus company. It was once again the economics that had a play in this 50 years later that people said that if you continue to advertise on that station, we will not use your product. So I am proud of the American people.

Finally, let me say that once again I am proud of these young women, one from my district in Newark, New Jersey, from the high school Shabazz that I taught at.

□ 2015

200TH SPECIAL ORDER ON THE WAR IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the 200th time to express my

disgust and dismay with our Nation's policy in Iraq. And I want to thank Bart Aceocella, who has helped me with my many, many words calling on the President of the United States to bring our troops home.

Forty-nine months after this failed Iraq policy was launched, we are still being told, Be patient. Progress is just around the corner. All of our sacrifices will somehow be worth it. But all that amounts to nothing more than desperate spin. And the American people aren't buying it; neither, apparently, are some top military brass. The administration can't find someone to take the job of war czar, a job that would coordinate the military campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan. One of the recruits for the job, retired Marine General Jack Sheehan, told The Washington Post last week that he would rather spare himself the ulcer, saying of the Bush administration, "The very fundamental issue is they don't know where the hell they're going."

How can the administration possibly say that Iraq is on the road to freedom and stability when a bomb goes off inside the Green Zone and kills members of the elected Parliament? If it's not safe inside the fortress of the Green Zone, just imagine what it is like in the streets of Baghdad.

How can the administration say progress is being made when the Associated Press reports that dozens of Iraqi police officers were demonstrating outside their Baghdad station chanting, "No, no to America. Get out, occupiers." And now American soldiers can look forward to a few more months of trying valiantly, but in vain, to carry out this misguided mission, as the Pentagon has announced that soldiers' 1-year tours will be extended to 15 months.

I ask my colleagues who gave the President the authority to invade Iraq 4½ years ago if they weren't surprised that they voted for an occupation with no apparent end in sight. They absolutely didn't intend for our troops to be caught in the middle of a civil war that our very presence as occupiers has inspired. Four and a half years later, over 3,300 Americans who will never make it home to their families, and all at the cost of more than \$375 billion to stop Saddam Hussein from using weapons of mass destruction that he didn't have.

This week, Americans sent their 2006 tax returns to the IRS, trusting that our government will send that money back to us in the form of services, benefits, stability and security. So what do we tell them? What do we tell the American people about the staggering costs they are being asked to assume for the occupation of Iraq? Can anyone possibly argue that we have somehow gotten a return on this reckless investment?

The National Priorities Project has broken down the Iraq financial burden, assuming a total of \$456 billion once the latest supplemental is signed by

the President. Here is what it boils down to: \$4,100 for every American household; \$1,500 for every man, woman and child; \$275 million a day; \$11 million every hour. Look what we could do with that kind of money: \$928 million, 3 days in Iraq is enough to build 100 schools or 5,400 affordable housing units, or provide health care for 144,000 children for the length of the Iraq war.

And if national security is what you want to redirect the money toward, we could have used Iraq appropriations for more secure posts, for energy independence initiatives, for nuclear non-proliferation programs, for debt relief in the underprivileged areas of the world. We could have invested in real national security.

Mr. Speaker, we have sacrificed more than enough in lives, in treasure, in national stature and credibility for a mistaken ideological pipe dream.

It is time for our leaders to hear the frustration of the American people, frustration with this shameful, wasteful, futile policy. It is time to end this occupation. It is time to bring our troops home.

THE RUTGERS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, the women's basketball team of Rutgers University had a great season going to the finals. And as one of two Members of Congress who represents Rutgers University here in Congress, I would like to pay tribute to them, not just for their athletic ability.

After the season was over, they were the subject of hateful, crude and insulting comments; and they responded with restraint, with eloquence and dignity. They were classy. These athletes and Coach Stringer distinguished themselves after the season even more than they did during their extraordinary season. And they serve as a reminder of what college athletics is all about, or should be. We hold up college athletics not for the entertainment of alumni and fans, but because we believe athletic participation builds character. These women of the Rutgers basketball team showed that they have character.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will

appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KUCINICH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DEMOCRATIC BLUE DOG COALITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise on behalf of the 43 Member strong fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition. We are a group of fiscally conservative Democrats that are committed to restoring common sense and fiscal discipline to our Nation's government.

As you walk the Halls of Congress, Mr. Speaker, it is easy to know when you are walking by the office of a fellow Blue Dog Member because you will see this poster that says "The Blue Dog Coalition." It says, "Today, the U.S. national debt is, 8,887,793,986,597.86." And for every man, woman and child in America, their share of the national debt is \$29,465. It is what we refer to as the "debt tax." And that is one tax that cannot be cut, that cannot go away until this Nation gets its fiscal house in order. The Federal deficit continues to climb.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard now to think back and realize, but from 1998 through 2001, this country had a balanced budget; and yet under the Republican leadership for the previous 6 years, we have seen them rubber-stamp the President's budget year after year after year, giving us the largest deficit after the largest deficit after the largest deficit, record deficits. And as a result of that, we have seen the national debt grow to where it is today, approaching \$9 trillion.

Why does this matter? It matters because the total national debt from 1789 to 2000 was \$5.67 trillion, but by 2010, the total national debt will have increased to \$10.88 trillion. This is a doubling of the 211-year debt in just 10 years. Interest payments on this debt are one of the fastest growing parts of the Federal budget. And the debt tax is one that cannot be repealed. Deficits reduce economic growth. They burden our children and grandchildren with liabilities. They increase our reliance on foreign lenders who own some 40 percent of our debt.

This chart here, Mr. Speaker, graphically depicts why the American people should be concerned about the fact that our country is nearly \$9 trillion in debt. You see, our Nation spends a half a billion dollars a day, give or take a

few dollars, simply paying interest on the debt, and that is money that could be going for education, health care, veterans benefits, to properly equip our men and women in uniform and ensure that they've got the best body armor possible.

And this really graphically depicts it, as you can see. The red bar is the amount of money our Federal Government spends simply paying interest on the national debt. The light blue bar demonstrates how much money we spend educating our children. The green box indicates how much we spend on our veterans. And the purple box indicates how much we spend on homeland security. Again, you can see overwhelmingly our tax money is going to pay interest on the national debt.

It is time to get our fiscal house in order. It is time to restore common sense to our Federal Government. And once we do, we can begin to spend less of your hard earned tax money, Mr. Speaker, on paying interest on the national debt, and we can spend a lot more on educating our children, taking care of America's veterans, keeping our homeland secure, and the list of America's priorities goes on and on.

One of the co-chairs for the fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition is Allen Boyd from Florida. He is our administrative co-chair. I am delighted that he has joined me this evening for this lively discussion about restoring common sense and fiscal discipline to our national government. And part of the way we do that, we believe, is through accountability.

Throughout the evening we are going to be talking about the budget, we are going to be talking about the debt and the deficit, we are going to be talking about accountability, not only at home, but also in Iraq, and making sure that the hardworking people of this country are getting the most for their tax dollar. I don't think that is asking too much. And I think it is very appropriate that on tax day we rise on the floor of the House to demand accountability for how the American taxpayer's money is being spent.

With that, I yield to the gentleman from Florida, Mr. BOYD, the co-chair for administration for the Blue Dog Coalition.

Mr. BOYD of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and counterpart, Mike Ross from Arkansas, my fellow Member of the 43 Member strong fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition. It is a group that I have been a member of all the years of my service, 10 years of my service here in the United States House of Representatives, and it is a group that I am quite proud of their work on behalf of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, like yourself, being raised in Indiana and Mr. ROSS in Arkansas, I was raised in a little community in north Florida on a farm by parents who taught me very early that it was important that we, as a family, live within our means. We established

our priorities as a family, the things that we had to have, needed. We knew what our sources of income were, and we worked hard as a family to meet those priorities. But Mr. Speaker, you know, we were taught as young people, as children, if you don't have the money, then you don't buy things which you can't afford to pay for. Those were lessons that we learned very well at an early age, taught by our parents, that we carried on to our businesses. And let's face it, if you spend more money every year in a business than you take in, you're out of business pretty soon; your banker pulls the plug on you.

□ 2030

We learned that lesson. Our local governments and State governments understand that, as well as our county governments. But something has happened in Washington in the last 6 years. In 8 tough years during the 1990s of making tough decisions relative to our priorities and spending and getting under control the deficit spending, 6 years ago, 6-plus years ago, we went on a rampage here in Washington that sent spending through the roof, far outstripping the revenues raised to pay for that spending. As a result, we had to go into the capital markets and borrow that money to pay for normal operations of our United States Government.

We have the most powerful government in the world. We have the most powerful Nation. We have the richest Nation. Our economic model is a wonderful, wonderful economic model. But we have forgotten the lessons that we all learned as children taught to us by our parents that we ought to be fiscally responsible and we ought to be accountable for how we spend our dollars.

This is really what my friend, Mr. ROSS, who is leading this special order tonight, the point that he wants to make. That is that when we take dollars from the American public in the form of taxes, and today is the day, April 17, which happens to be—since yesterday was a holiday someplace, today is the day that our taxes are due. When we take taxes from the American people, the American people expect us to spend that money wisely and they expect us to account for them and they don't expect us to waste those dollars.

That is why some of the things that I have been seeing over the last several years in the way that some of our Federal executive agencies have spent the money and been unable to account for, and I tell you, honestly, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Defense probably is the biggest offender as it relates to accountability. Many of the dollars that we have appropriated over the years for the Iraq war, for instance, the Department of Defense cannot pass an audit or account for in how they were spent.

I think you see one of the things that is happening in the last several months since the election is that Congress is

beginning to ask the tough questions of the administration as it relates to how the tax dollars that are taken from the American people by the United States Government, how they are spent. Are we spending them wisely and are we accounting for them? Do we have contractors running amuck in Iraq, and are we getting our money's worth?

I think this is an important time to be thinking about accountability and good stewardship of our American tax dollars. Today is the day. Midnight tonight is the time when that filing is due. You know, the people at home that I live around, they don't mind paying taxes as long as they know as a government we are setting our priorities and we are doing a good job of stewardship and accounting for the dollars that are being spent. I think that is what this is all about tonight, accountability; and I want to thank my friend, Mr. ROSS, for leading this discussion.

And, Mr. Speaker, it is great to see you in that chair as a fellow member of the Blue Dog Coalition.

Mr. ROSS. I thank the gentleman from Florida for his insight and discussing fiscal discipline and the budget and demanding that this Congress reflects the values and the priorities of the American people.

The U.S. is becoming increasingly dependent on foreign lenders. Foreign lenders currently hold a total of \$2.199 trillion of our public debt. Compare this to only \$623 billion in foreign holdings back in 1993. There is a chart here that pretty much shows us where we have been and where we are going. The amount of foreign-held debt more than doubled under the Bush administration. Starting in 2001, you can see how many billions of dollars we were borrowing from foreign central banks and foreign investors, and you can see how it has gradually increased all of the way through 2006.

Putting it another way, this President has borrowed more money in the past 6 years from foreign central banks and foreign investors than the previous 42 Presidents combined. You want to talk about a national security risk, I believe that alone is a national security risk.

We are already 60 percent dependent on foreign oil. We know that. We see it every time we fill up at the pumps. And, Mr. Speaker, if we are not careful, we are also going to become too dependent on foreign countries to fund our government.

I always enjoy David Letterman's top 10 list. I have a top 10 list. My top 10 list tonight lists the foreign countries that we have borrowed money from to help fund tax cuts in this country for people earning over \$400,000 a year. That's right, year after year, for the past 6 years, we have continued to pass tax cuts, not for working families, but for folks earning over \$400,000 a year. We didn't have a surplus, so where did the money come from? It came from our Nation borrowing to the tune of about a billion dollars a day.

And before we borrow a billion a day, we spend half a billion every day paying interest on the debt we have already got, money that could go to our veterans, to homeland security, to education, to health care. Some 10 million children in this country today are without health care. Instead, it is going to pay interest on our national debt. Where did the money come from? A lot comes from the Social Security trust fund.

The first bill I filed as a Member of Congress was a bill to tell the politicians in Washington to keep their hands off the Social Security trust fund. Republican leadership for 6 years refused to give me a hearing or a vote on that bill. Now we know why: Because they were borrowing money from the Social Security trust fund with absolutely no provision made on how the money is going to be paid back or when it is going to be paid back or where the revenues are going to come from to pay it back.

When you go to the bank to get a loan, the banker wants to know how you are going to pay it back, when you are going to pay it back, and how much you are going to pay back on a monthly schedule, and so forth and so on.

But the top 10 list, these are the countries that the United States of America has borrowed money from to fund our government in these days of reckless deficit spending:

Japan, \$637.4 billion.

China, \$346.5 billion.

The United Kingdom, \$223.5 billion.

OPEC, yes, OPEC, our Nation, the United States of America, has borrowed \$97.1 billion from OPEC.

Korea, \$67.7 billion.

Taiwan, \$63.2 billion.

The Caribbean banking centers, \$63.6 billion.

Hong Kong, \$51 billion.

Germany, \$52.1 billion.

And rounding out the top 10 countries that the United States of America has borrowed money from to fund our government, Mexico, \$38.2 billion.

It is time to restore fiscal discipline and accountability to our government. And a new member of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition who is helping us do that in this new Democratic majority, we are demanding answers to tough questions, we are demanding commonsense be restored in our government. We are demanding that this new leadership governs from the middle, which is where we are as Blue Dogs and where we believe the majority of Americans are, and the new Blue Dog member who is helping us do that is the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WILSON), and I yield to him at this time.

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, this is a taxing time for America. As a member of the fiscally conservative Democrat Blue Dog Coalition, I welcome these opportunities to come to the floor and talk about fiscal responsibility and what we need to draw our attention to in this Nation's most pressing problem.

Mr. Speaker, it is a skyrocketing national debt. As Congressman ROSS has pointed out and indicated in numerous

ways, it has just gotten out of hand. We are paying so much money of our tax dollars to pay the interest on the debt to foreign countries that we are borrowing from that it is really changing the face of America.

Tonight, Mr. Speaker, the timing is especially good because April 17 is the tax filing deadline for this year. As Americans, we race to the mailboxes with our taxes to meet the deadline, and it is important to note how our national debt affects each and every U.S. taxpayer. The average U.S. household devotes almost \$2,000 a year in taxes to pay interest on our national debt, \$2,000 a year just to pay the interest. That is about twice the amount they pay in taxes to help fund the Department of Education, veterans' health care, and homeland security programs.

Under this administration's budget, the picture only gets worse for American taxpayers. By 2014, the GAO says that more than two-thirds of revenues will be required just to pay the interest on our debt. Under this projection, net interest would become the largest Federal spending program, larger than Social Security, larger than our defense budget, and larger than Medicare and Medicaid combined. This defies commonsense and is not in line with our national priorities.

An approach that faces this troubling reality is long overdue, and in the first 100 days of this Congress, we have proved that we are up to the challenge. We passed bills, Mr. Speaker, that benefit small businesses, and above all, we passed a responsible budget. It funds our top priorities, like strengthening our military and our homeland security. This is commonsense and this is what the Blue Dogs stand for. We want to make a difference by requiring and demanding fiscal responsibility.

This also does something very important. It restores fiscal discipline and returns us to surplus by 2012.

Mr. Speaker, as American taxpayers, we send our hard-earned money to the IRS. They should know where it is going. Today, too much of it is going towards paying interest on our national debt. With fiscal responsibility and cost accountability in place, this Congress can change what is going on and bring real relief to America's working families.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for his work within the fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition in trying to restore commonsense and fiscal discipline to our national government, trying to give us a budget that will return us to the days of record surpluses instead of record deficits. Hopefully, as a result of the budget passed on this floor just in the last week, we will see this number start back down once again, because it is important; it is important that we put an end to deficit spending.

One of the ways we do that is through accountability. Let me just say that if we are going to ask the American people to get up and go to work and pay taxes, we as a Congress should be held accountable and the various Federal agencies should be held

accountable to ensure they are getting the most value for their tax dollars, that we truly are doing things that will honor their work and ensure that we leave this country just a little bit better than we found it for our children and our grandchildren.

□ 2045

One of the leaders in the Blue Dog Coalition, in fact, one of the founders of the Blue Dog Coalition that has done a lot in the area of accountability is the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER), and at this time, I will yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER). Thank you for joining me this evening.

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, well, thank you very much.

I wanted to come tonight and join with my colleague, Mr. ROSS. I heard what you have been saying and I wish this was not true, but all one has to do is go to the Web site of the U.S. Treasury and see for one's self how much money has been borrowed in the last 60 months from foreign sources, and I heard you address that point earlier.

I want to talk about a bill that we introduced last Congress that the Blue Dogs endorsed and that we hope to introduce in the next few days in this Congress; and hopefully we can pass it this time.

It has to do with the subject of, the theme of tonight's Special Order with regard to accountability. And this is not a Democrat or Republican bill. A lot of times these Special Orders are utilized by people who want to come and blast the Democrats, if they are Republicans, or Democrats who want to blast the Republicans on the other side, and that is not what this floor is for. Politics should end here. We all represent people in this country in a public office and, therefore, all of us represent not political parties in our jobs here but citizens of this country.

This accountability bill that I want to talk about for just a few minutes, if I may, has to do with demanding that those whom we appropriate money to, any administration, Democrat, Republican, does not matter, actually manage the money so that we at least know where it goes. We may disagree as to how it is spent, but we at least, as public officials, ought to have the responsibility for ourselves and those whom we represent to understand and appreciate what it is going for.

We have here in Washington, the Congress has, an organization called the GAO, General Accountability Office. The GAO is charged with the responsibility, as a nonpolitical branch of the government, to audit, among other things, other responsibilities, audit the various Federal agencies to see what they are doing with the money that we remove from people's pockets involuntarily. And I heard you mention tax day earlier. Today is tax day. We remove the money involuntarily from the taxpayers, the citizens of this country, and then we appropriate to an administration, any administration.

Well, the GAO does audits as part of their responsibility, and they have reported to us that 18 of 24 Federal agencies could not produce an acceptable

audit in fiscal year 2005, which is the latest figures that we have.

Now, there is no private enterprise in America that could withstand that kind of either sloppy bookkeeping on the one hand, to be charitable about it, sloppy bookkeeping, or out-and-out negligence, incompetence, fraud, whatever one wishes to call it. Eighteen of 24 could not do that.

So last year, we, the Blue Dogs, designed a bill that said when that happens, when the Inspector General of any department or the GAO identifies any element or any agency of the Federal Government that cannot tell us what they did with the money that we removed from people involuntarily in the form of taxation and appropriated to them, this bill would provide that within 60 days Congress must, by law, hold a hearing to determine why it is they cannot account for the money that was appropriated to them or, in the alternative, if they cannot account for it, then it is simple: They do not get it.

That makes eminent sense to me as a businessperson at home in Tennessee. I cannot imagine going to the comptroller or the treasurer of our business and saying, here is an expenditure of X amount of dollars, what did you do with it, and they would respond, I do not know, I cannot tell you what happened to that. That would not be acceptable in any private enterprise in this country, and it should not be acceptable here in the public domain because it is all of our moneys that we are talking about, 18 of 24.

The other aspect of this bill is, in government talk, when the GAO identifies a high-risk program, what they mean is the program is being mismanaged, number one; or two, it is not doing what Congress intended it to do when the law was passed. Pretty simple. It is either the program is not working or they cannot tell us what they did with the money. In either event, Congress ought to hold a public hearing so the people of this country know that this program is either not working or that it is being so badly mismanaged, by again any administration, that we need to stop the spending.

I hope as we move through this Congress that we will be able to actually enhance and improve on it; not only that, but actually pass it into law. It needs to be done. It has everything to do with the trust that the American people have placed in us when they voted for us to come here to this arena to transact their business on their behalf.

One of the things I like so much about the Blue Dogs is that we have this quaint belief that the voting card that all of us possess as Members of Congress belongs not to either party leadership but to the people who hired us. That is, I believe, what the Founding Fathers had in mind when they created the People's House.

And so, therefore, when we have all this talk about partisan politics here,

it really has nothing to do with the philosophy of the Blue Dogs in that we believe we ought to work for the people that hired us, and that is the people in our respective districts who have every right to expect that when we come here. We will not only be guardians of the country in terms of funding what is necessary for national defense, and we are very strong on that, as you know, but we also will try as best we can individually and collectively as a body to see that the moneys that are being spent are being spent in the best possible way.

I gave a talk at home over the Easter recess, and I told them, I said there are two things that are being witnessed here by this unbelievable not only spending spree, but borrowing spree that has gone on around here for the last 60 months. We have transferred so much of our Nation's treasure to interest, for which we get nothing, that we are degrading basically the tax base to the point where I am afraid in the future our country will not be able to make the two investments that I believe are necessary for our Nation's security.

One is in the area of infrastructure. One only need go to any country on the planet where there is no infrastructure, no highways, roads, bridges, water, sewer, all of the things that private enterprise in this country can build around to create the economic opportunity, the jobs, to create the commerce that will result in further tax receipts for more investment, whether it be for water and sewer and highways, airports, bridges, roads, tunnels, anything like that, to see that the government must make those investments so that private enterprise can prosper.

Nobody is prospering in these countries. We call them Third World countries, but they are nonetheless countries where there is no infrastructure. Nobody is doing any good because there is nothing to build around to create the economic activity, the commerce that must go on to make things happen. And so we are degrading our tax base by this interest that we are now paying, for which we get nothing.

The second thing is human capital. From my reading of history, there is no country in the history of civilization and mankind, or humankind, that has been able to maintain itself as a strong and free country with an unhealthy, uneducated population. We are beginning to see the budget being cut in areas where, number one, we have to have public education because all of us, as American citizens, are charged with the responsibility not only for ourselves and our families, but we are charged with making decisions for our cities, counties, State and country. Without public education for the literally millions of kids who may not get that in their homes, because of various economic factors and otherwise, we have to educate our citizens. Thomas Jefferson said it as well as anybody.

The other thing is health care. We are going to be taking up SCHIP, it is called, which is basically children's health insurance. We cannot afford in this country, in my view, to leave it better than when we found it with unhealthy, uneducated children, and so what we are trying to do is stop this ever-increasing encroachment on the tax base of interest so that we are rendered unable as citizens to do the things necessary to keep our country competitive in an increasingly globalized world. This is not just a hope. It is a necessity, in my view, that we be able to do that.

So, as we talk about fiscal responsibility, we talk about this unbelievable borrowing that is taking place, what we are really talking about is balancing the budget, not for the sake of balancing the budget, but for the sake of stopping an ever-increasing encroachment on the tax base for which we get nothing.

Last year, this country sent overseas \$145 billion thereabouts. That is almost seven times as much as the so-called foreign aid bill. I do not particularly like the way we do that, but at least one can make some strategic decisions about money that is being appropriated in the foreign aid bill in terms of whether or not it will advance the interests of the United States in a given part of the world. Interest checks, on the other hand, just go to whoever bought our debt. That is a huge difference, and it is one I hope that people will relate to, understand, appreciate and hold dear when they make the decisions that they make with regard to who ought to be running our United States Congress.

Again, this bill basically does not address who controls the Congress or who controls the White House. It simply says that all of us who come here as public servants ought to have that kind of responsibility to oversee and to look after the moneys that are removed from people's pockets involuntarily in the form of taxation and appropriated to any administration.

□ 2100

I think, and I am glad that the Blue Dogs share that philosophy and share that opinion, because oftentimes, all you hear coming from these microphones is, well, the Republicans are worse than the Democrats, the Democrats are worse than the Republicans, and they did it to us, so we will do it to them. That is not getting us anywhere.

We have much more serious matters to discuss, and we ought to be talking about it in this Special Order. Tonight is one opportunity. I want to thank you again for allowing me this time to talk about these, I think, critical matters that affect us all. There is no Democrat or Republican; we are all Americans.

As Americans, we are not doing what we ought to do to do the things that I heard ALLEN BOYD talk about awhile

ago about what our parents taught us: one, live within your means; two, pay your debts; three, invest in the future. Unfortunately, we haven't been doing any of those, and it's going to catch up with us at some point if we don't reverse it.

We are trying, we need help doing it, but we are going to keep plugging away at it.

I am very proud of this Special Order that you put together. I am actually really proud of the work that the Blue Dogs are doing.

Mr. ROSS. I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for his insight and his leadership on the accountability bill to restore accountability to our national government.

Did the gentleman, I just want to make sure I understood the gentleman correctly, did the gentleman indicate that 18 of 24 major Federal agencies can't produce a clean audit of its books?

Mr. TANNER. That is according to the GAO. There were six that were compliant with the Federal management, financial management law. Commerce, Labor, the EPA, the National Science Foundation, the Office of Personnel Management, and the Social Security Administration.

The ones who were not were Agriculture, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, Interior, State, Transportation, Treasury, Veterans Affairs, Agency for International Development, General Services Administration, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Small Business Administration.

There may be valid reasons why they could not tell us what they did, but we ought to have a hearing and find out what those reasons are. If they need help to correct it, and legislation to do so, then we at least would know that; and we could begin to work on that to try to correct this problem.

But to ignore it is, in my judgment, an act of irresponsibility by the Congress and by the administration.

Mr. ROSS. I thank the gentleman for his work on accountability within our government, Mr. TANNER from Tennessee, one of the founders of the fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition. Thank you for your leadership. Thank you for joining us on the floor this evening to talk about restoring common sense, accountability, and fiscal discipline to our national government.

Madam Speaker, as you walk the Halls of Congress, again, it's easy to know when you are walking by the office of a fellow Blue Dog member, because you will see this poster reminding the American people, reminding the Members of the Congress that today the U.S. national debt is \$8,887,793,986,597 and some change. For every man, woman and child in America, their share, your share, of the national debt is \$29,465.

Also, if you have any questions, comments on our Special Order this evening, I would encourage you to e-mail us at BlueDog@mail.house.gov. That is BlueDog@mail.house.gov.

This is a Special Order being hosted by the fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition talking about issues that we believe are important to the future of this country.

I am delighted to be joined this evening by a new member of the Blue Dog Coalition from the State of Indiana (Mr. ELLSWORTH).

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I had not intended to address the House, the people's House tonight. But as I sat in the chair you sit in just a few minutes ago, I looked out and listened to the other Members and reflected on why I was sent here just 90 days ago, or a little longer, and thought that it was my duty to come down and talk.

As I heard Mr. BOYD from Florida address the group and talk about the way he was raised in Florida, it was very similar to the way Mr. ROSS was raised in Arkansas and the way I was raised in Indiana. It reminds me of a story that I told a few times and PAYGO comes to mind.

I can remember when I was very young, probably in the 10-year-old range, having my eye on a Sting-Ray bicycle at Sears and Roebuck in Evansville, Indiana, at the Washington Square Mall. Those back home will know what I am talking about. It was a purple Sting-Ray, metal flake seat. I think they called it a banana seat, if I remember it correctly. It had a sissy bar on the back and high-rise handlebars.

For anybody in that age group, you will remember what I am talking about. I can vividly remember that the price tag was \$55 for that bicycle. I remember going home and asking my parents if I could have that bicycle. They said, sure, when you save the \$55, knock yourself out, you can go down and do that.

I cut grass, and I delivered papers with my brother, and I had odd jobs until I saved the \$55 and was able to go down to Sears and purchase that bike. That's the way you did it back then. You saved your money. You paid as you went. That's the way you purchased things.

That lesson stayed with me to this day. I am proud to display that poster outside my hall, outside my office in the Cannon Building.

But it's also a stark reminder, when we are talking about trillions of dollars of debt, that every Member of this country, every man, woman and child, that their part of the national debt is \$29,465, is a stark reminder of the work we have to do.

When I was asking people to hire me for this job, I can remember a couple of things they told me they wanted before they would send me here that they wanted me to guarantee them, that I would be honest, and I would be fair, and I would be fiscally conservative.

When I started looking at the Congress, and groups to associate yourself with, it became very easy when I found out about the Blue Dog Coalition, the fiscally conservative group of Members, 43 strong now, that said we have got to bring this place back to order. I can remember a gentleman in Evansville, Scott Saxe, a gentleman I used to work out with at the Fitness Zone in Evansville. He said, you know, I am a Republican, but this has gotten ridiculous, the way our country spends. He says, we have got to stop this insanity.

That is why I applied for this job, so I could come be a part of that. People come in my office every day, and good people. I call them do-gooders, because they are good people doing good things. They are looking for that Federal help that we can give them.

But we can't give it unless we have that money; we save it in the areas we can save. It's tough, because you know these people are out helping folks every day. You want to give, because that's the way America is. We give to people that are doing good, but it's tough, because we have got to make tough decisions.

But in the 3 months that I have been here, now going on 4, I see examples every day of ways that we can cut the waste, fraud and abuse, the things that we are doing that the American people, when they hear about it in the Eighth District of Indiana, they get really upset, and they should, and that is why I am here.

Just a few examples: when we send contractors, no matter how you feel about the war in the Middle East, but when we send our contractors over on our dime, and they sit 9 months and never lift a finger on the contracts they are hired for, that is money wasted that we could give, put to something else, education, to help people help people.

When we have pallets of money that are lost, pallets, skid loads of \$100 bills that are lost, and we can't find them? That is not why they sent me to Congress. That is not what they expect us to do, to lose millions of dollars on pallets in the Middle East.

No-bid contracts, we have all heard about those. Companies would be getting Federal contracts that aren't paying their Federal taxes. I don't think people mind paying taxes. They will talk about it. But when they drive on I-70 through Terre Haute, or I-64 through the northern part of Vanderburgh County or I-164, they appreciate those roads.

When the FBI or Federal law enforcement agency does something good for them or the Border Patrol keeps their borders safe, they don't mind paying taxes for that. But when they are getting ripped off or losing money and are doing no-bid contracts, and we have companies being awarded Federal contracts and not paying their Federal taxes, is just plain wrong. It's not why they sent me here. It's not why they sent any of us here, and they want us to stop.

Single-source contracts, let's take, for example, our military plants, and there are two companies that make the engines, but we award to one single source. It's wrong. Competition is healthy; we need to do it. It's why I am proud to join the Blue Dog Coalition. This Congress, both sides of the aisle, needs to work together to bring some sense, some common sense and fiscal accountability back to these Halls so that we can go back to our districts, proud, Republicans and Democrats alike, saying we are spending your money wisely, we are spending it honestly and fiscally and conservatively.

Mr. ROSS. I thank the gentleman from Indiana, a new member of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition for joining me this evening and being a part of this discussion on how we restore common sense, fiscal discipline, and accountability to our government.

Mr. TANNER said it very well earlier in the evening when he said the American people are sick and tired of all the partisan bickering that goes on at our Nation's Capitol. I can tell you those of us in the Blue Dog Coalition, we don't care if it is our idea or the Republican idea. We are looking for commonsense ideas, ideas that promote accountability, ideas that make sense for the people back home.

Now, there are others that will come to this floor and talk about the Democrats being bad on this or so forth and so on, and there are Democrats that will talk about the Republicans being bad on this or so forth and so on, but the American people are sick of that. The American people get it. They recognize that we are all Americans first and we are in this together.

Talking about accountability, this is a bipartisan issue that I would like to raise in the closing minutes of this Special Order. The United States is spending about \$9 billion a month in Iraq, which translates to about \$275 million a day or \$12 million an hour. However, even with all of this spending, many believe that the U.S. Army is not providing our troops with the most technologically advanced and effective body armor available.

If you ask 100 different people what they think about this post-war Iraq policy, you get about 100 different answers. But I can tell you that there is one thing that all of us, Democrat and Republican, should remain united on, and that is funding and supporting and properly equipping our men and women in uniform. This war has affected all of us. My brother-in-law is in the United States Air Force. He is in the Middle East region this evening.

Let me tell you that 2 weeks ago, one of my constituents, Mr. John Grant of Hot Springs, Arkansas, brought this issue to my attention. Mr. Grant has become an expert on the types of body armor that are currently available in the market due to the fact that his youngest son serves in the Army National Guard's 39th Infantry Brigade. Arkansas' 39th was recently informed

that they could be deployed to Iraq by the end of the year. It will be their second deployment. I was there in Baghdad visiting them August 11, 2004, on their previous deployment, soldiers from my hometown, soldiers from throughout my district, people that I used to teach in Sunday school and people that, well, I have duck hunted with.

□ 2115

And they will be returning again, perhaps by the end of the year, and I believe that we owe it to this soldier, his family, and all soldiers and their families, to ensure that our troops are given the finest armor and equipment available.

This issue specifically involves the U.S. Army's recent testing and comparison of Pinnacle Armor's so-called Dragon Skin body armor and the Interceptor Body Armor, often referred to as IBA, currently in use by the Armed Forces. Because of equipment shortages in 2005, some troops purchased equipment at their own expense, including body armor, and Congress enacted legislation to reimburse these soldiers. However, months later, the Army issued a "safety of use message," which instructed all commanders to ensure that only IBA brand is used by soldiers, prohibiting the use of any other body armor.

The Army's "safety of use message" also dispelled recent reports that Dragon Skin was superior to the IBA, citing that Dragon Skin has failed various tests and therefore does not meet the Army's requirements for soldier body armor protection.

Military support organizations, such as Soldiers for the Truth, of which Mr. Grant is a member, along with Dragon Skin manufacturer Pinnacle Armor, argue that Dragon Skin did not fail any test. They have stated that the testing was biased, and they continue to stand behind their assertions that Dragon Skin is superior to the IBA.

They point out that Dragon Skin has also been approved and is used by the U.S. Air Force, the CIA, the NSA, the U.S. Department of Energy officials in Iraq, the U.S. Secret Service Presidential Protection detail, some Special Forces units, and various police departments and SWAT teams around the Nation. However, our troops cannot purchase or use this body armor. I have even been informed that, as a result of this message, if a soldier purchases and uses any armor other than the IBA, this action will be construed as though the soldier has disobeyed a direct order and could, could, jeopardize his or her family receiving service group life insurance if killed in combat.

It is not certain whether this is true, but if it is, I completely disagree with this policy and believe that our combat soldiers should not be denied the use of the latest and most effective body armor if it will result in the preservation of their lives.

Therefore, for the protection of our troops, I am calling for a full investiga-

tion into whether the U.S. Army is using the most effective body armor for our troops' protection. We need an unbiased external investigation to determine whether the IBA is the most effective armor available. And if additional testing reveals that Dragon Skin body armor or any other brand is the superior product, then it should be provided to our troops.

I am extremely grateful to Mr. Grant for bringing this issue to my attention, as there is no greater obligation we have to our troops, who risk their lives on a daily basis, than to supply them with the most advanced technology and resources available.

I believe that we must demand that the most stringent test possible be conducted to resolve whether our troops are being given access to the absolute best body armor available. What might have been good in 2003 might very well be outdated today. My only goal is to protect our troops in harm's way by ensuring that they receive the most advanced body armor on the market today as they carry out their mission.

May God bless our country, may God bless and keep our soldiers safe.

THE OFFICIAL TRUTH SQUAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CASTOR). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, thank you so very much.

Before I begin, I do want to just say that our hearts, our thoughts, and our prayers are with all at Virginia Tech and in Blacksburg, Virginia, today. As you know, Madam Speaker, an unspeakable horror visited their campus, and it is absolutely impossible for any of us to know what those who were directly connected to it are going through. We were so incredibly heartened by their convocation today as we watched it, and we noted that Hokie spirit is effervescent and incredibly supportive. We are all with the Hokie Nation today. We wish them the best and know that they are comforted by each other and by God's amazing grace.

Madam Speaker, it is a great privilege for me to come to the floor again this evening. I want to thank the leadership for the opportunity to share some comments and to discuss an issue that our friends just finished talking about a little bit.

This is a remarkable day every year. Madam Speaker, as you know, today is once again the day when Americans reach deep into their pockets and they pay Uncle Sam. Many Americans may be filling out their tax forms right now, or they have just finished slogging through the maze of the Tax Code jargon and crunching numbers and filling out form after form after form. And today, Americans all across this Nation will once again trust Washington with their money, because today is tax

day. It is usually April 15; by a couple different factors it became April 17 this year. But nonetheless, Madam Speaker, it is tax day.

And I would suggest, Madam Speaker, that Americans are fed up with the status quo of today, and I and many of my colleagues believe that Americans deserve a different tomorrow. They deserve a tomorrow where they won't be taxed from the day they are born until the day that they die and at every single point in between.

Americans deserve a tomorrow where saving and investing are virtues, not vices. Americans deserve a tomorrow where taxation brings efficient and responsible representation, and they deserve a tomorrow where, when the American people do their part, they understand that paying their fair share is enough. And they deserve a tomorrow where the government respects their hard work and appreciates their sacrifice. Only then, Madam Speaker, will tomorrow be any different than today.

We are going to talk and discuss this evening the issue of taxes, the tax structure that we have in our Nation that supports so many, many things. We are going to talk about its fairness or lack of fairness. We are going to talk about the amount of money that is received and whether or not there are any options.

We are going to talk about positive solutions. And as we do so, we like, when we come to the floor, to talk about facts. I want to talk about facts. And I will remind my colleagues of one of our favorite quotes. One of my favorite quotes comes from Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan who said that "Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but they are not entitled to their own facts." And so it is, Madam Speaker, that as we come and talk about facts as they relate to taxes, it is important that we use correct figures, that we use accurate figures.

One of the figures that I ran across when looking at the tax issue and realizing how large our government has grown and how many taxes the Washington government takes, in 2005 the Federal Government took in about \$2.4 trillion. That is an awful lot of money, Madam Speaker, and it is sometimes hard to kind of get your arms around what that actually means. Well, in a relatively short period of time, less than 50 years, what that means, based upon accounting for inflation and accounting for growth, is that that amount of money is larger than the entire U.S. economy was in 1959. So in less than one person's lifetime we have grown the amount of tax revenue, and this is in constant dollars, real dollars, we have grown the amount of tax revenue larger than our entire government was and the economy was in 1959. So it is truly remarkable.

And what that brings about, Madam Speaker, is that we ought to be, as representatives of the people, asking questions. Is that appropriate? Is that an

appropriate policy for our Nation? Should we be modifying things? Should we be changing things? Should we be potentially more fair to the American people? What should we be doing?

And so we will be joined tonight by a number of colleagues. One of my good friends and fellow colleagues from Georgia is Congressman PHIL GINGREY. Congressman GINGREY is a fellow physician, represents a district right outside of the city of Atlanta. I served with him in the State senate, and it is a privilege to serve with him here in the United States Congress. He is one of the true fiscal conservatives, an individual who understands and appreciates the importance of tax revenue, yes, but also the importance of fairness on the part of our Federal Government.

So I am pleased to welcome my good friend from Georgia, Congressman GINGREY.

Mr. GINGREY. Congressman PRICE, I thank you so much for letting me join with you and the Truth Squad in talking about the real truth in regard to what burdens are on the American people, particularly on this day, tax day, April 17. And it reminds me that there is another date coming up pretty soon, and I think that is on April 22, and that is called tax freedom day. And that day gets later and later in the calendar year each and every year. That is how long a person has to work to pay their tax burden, not only to the Federal Government but to local and State and the entire tax burden. Almost a third of the year, Madam Speaker, people have to work to pay the tax burden.

So we in the Republican Party feel very strongly that we need to cut taxes, simplify taxes, lower taxes. And we can do that, and we have done that. We did it in 2001, we did it in 2003. And while we heard from our friends on the other side of the aisle in the previous hour, the so-called Blue Dog Coalition, in regard to the costs to the revenue stream of the tax cuts, saying that we only cut taxes for people making more than \$400,000 a year, when in fact, Madam Speaker, everybody who pays taxes got a tax cut under the tax cut provisions that this President and the former majority, the Republican Party, enacted for the American people.

And while, when you crunch the numbers, that was estimated to cost \$1.3 trillion, or \$130 billion each and every year over a 10-year period of time, because supposedly you would be taking in less revenue, in fact it stimulated the economy; and over a 2½ year period of time, the amount of revenue that came into the Federal Government actually increased by \$250 billion.

So our good friends, the Blue Dogs, play a little bit loose with the truth in regard to their calculus. And really it is not calculus, Madam Speaker, it is simple math. The gentlemen that spoke, the four or five of them in the previous hours, our friends, the Blue Dogs, they would make great red dogs. They come from States that the so-called Blue Dog Democrats are tradi-

tionally conservative, they are fiscally conservative. They are conservative on social issues.

And we had the gentleman from Arkansas, we had a Member from Tennessee, we had a Member from Indiana, we had a Member from Ohio. It doesn't surprise me that they would be sounding like Republicans, because many of them represent Republican-leaning, typically traditional districts. And when we earn back our majority, Madam Speaker, I think that the Blue Dogs that we are hearing from, the five by tonight, there are a total of 43, many of them would make great red dogs; and I look forward to the day that they join us.

But, Madam Speaker, in the meantime, I think that I need to talk to them about their math a little bit. They spent some time talking about the debt and the fact that all of this money that we have had to borrow, this \$3.8 trillion worth of debt, comes from foreign countries. The gentleman from Arkansas listed, I think, the top nine. And they want to imply that all of the debt is money that we have had to borrow from rogue nations, if you will. But they are not rogue nations.

□ 2130

But the point I want to make, Madam Speaker, is that only about 25 percent of that debt is held by any foreign nation, whether we are talking about Germany or France or Spain or Portugal or, yes, China or India. Seventy-five percent of that debt is held by my mom and my dad and our Blue Dog grandparents and corporate America and the United States citizens. Americans borrow or lend that money to the United States Government because they have faith in the full credit of this great country. So this implication that only rogue nations are willing to borrow money or lend money to this country is totally ludicrous.

And if the gentleman from Georgia, my good friend and colleague, Dr. PRICE, will indulge me for a few minutes, I want to also point out another very, very misleading figure. They take that debt, that \$3.8 trillion worth of debt that has accumulated over a number of years.

Don't forget, Madam Speaker, and my good friends on the other side of the aisle, they controlled this place for 40 years. And that \$3.8 trillion worth of debt didn't just occur overnight.

But they take 300 million people, man, woman and child, the population of this great country, and they divide it into \$3.8 trillion, and they come up with \$27,000 worth of debt for every man, woman and child in this country.

Well, Madam Speaker, what is the gross domestic product, the wealth of this country? I think 2006, maybe would be the last figure that I have, it was about \$13 trillion. So you divide that same number into the gross domestic product, you could say that the share of the wealth of this country of every man, woman and child is \$44,000.

So, like I say, they are playing a little loose with the numbers, and they go on and talk about this budget resolution that they have got and how they are going to balance the budget and have no deficit over a 5-year period of time and actually have a little bit of money in the bank in 2012.

How do they do that, Madam Speaker? They do it by letting the tax cuts of the Republican majority and our President expire. The decrease in the marginal rate for every person that is paying taxes, the increase, the doubling of the child tax credit, the elimination, and once again, reinserting the marriage tax penalty, and that is total, when you add up every one of those tax cuts that we enacted that they intend to let expire in 2010 and 2011, it is a total, I think, and my colleague from Georgia and my other colleagues that are here tonight will agree, almost \$400 billion. And I think that is the largest tax increase on the people of this country in the history of this country.

So here, again, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for bringing out the truth once again, as he does so well in the Truth Squad's discussions. And I thank him for letting me weigh in a little bit tonight. And with that I will yield back to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I thank my good friend and colleague from Georgia for your comments, for your perspective, and for the truth and the facts that you bring to the table, and you mentioned a number of them. I would just like to highlight two of them because they are incredibly important, Madam Speaker, for the American people to appreciate. The first is that Tax Freedom Day. We talk about tax day, but Tax Freedom Day has yet to arrive. Depending on what State you are in, I think the earliest State, Tax Freedom Day is April 22, which is next week. But what that means, Madam Speaker, is that every single American who has been working since the first of the year, on average, every single one, is continuing to work from January 1 until now, through at least April 22 to pay the taxes that they owe. They haven't even started to work for themselves or their family. Madam Speaker, that is a tax system that is broken and flawed.

The other fact that you brought out, my good friend from Georgia, Congressman GINGREY brought out, was that the proposal that was passed on this floor just a little over two weeks ago by our friends on the other side of the aisle, many of whom call themselves Blue Dogs. We are checking to make certain, Madam Speaker. We think they are probably lap dogs because of the bills that they have been supporting. And one of them was this budget that was passed that will result in a \$400 billion tax increase for the American people, the largest tax increase in the history of the Nation. That is a fact.

I want to mention a couple of other facts and then call on a couple of other

good friends who have joined me this evening. Oftentimes, Madam Speaker, you hear people say, well, the wealthy in this Nation don't pay any taxes, or they get a remarkable tax benefit, that they are given favored treatment. You hear that oftentimes by our friends on the other side.

This chart, Madam Speaker, really points out the truth. These are actual numbers and actual facts. And that is that the top 1 percent of wage earners in this Nation, the top 1 percent, pay 36.9 percent of the taxes. That is, the top 1 percent pay 36.9 percent of the taxes. If you take the top 10 percent of wage earners in this Nation, the taxes that they pay, the total revenue that they pay in terms of taxes for this Nation, 68.2 percent. And the top half, the top 50 percent pay 96.7 percent of the tax revenue that comes into this Nation. Madam Speaker, that is a fact. It is important to appreciate that because our good friends on the other side of the aisle so often want to play class warfare. They want to pit one side against the other. And what this shows very, very clearly is that individuals all across this Nation are paying their fair share and then some.

I have been joined by many good friends who will comment about various aspects of our tax system and tax policy, as well as the budget that has been proposed. And right now I would like to ask a good friend from Texas to join me, and look forward to his comments, Congressman KEVIN BRADY from Texas, who has a wonderful business background and appreciates the importance of appropriate government policy and making certain that we allow all Americans, all Americans, the greatest opportunity in this wonderful Nation. Congressman BRADY, thanks so much for joining us.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Well, thank you. And I appreciate joining the two gentlemen from Georgia who continue to look out every day for the family's pocket books, rather than Washington's pocket books, which I fear is too deep. And the point I always try to make, I am in my 11th year in Congress, serve on the Ways and Means Committee, have worked on all of President Bush's tax relief. And I am convinced that Washington has all the money it needs. It just doesn't have all the money it wants. And there is a big difference between the two.

And tonight, as you and I talk, millions of Americans are scrambling at the last minute to file their taxes, rummaging through cabinets and drawers and bank statements, anxious to try to comply with the complicated Tax Code. And they are willing to pay their fair share. But our code is so complex that they worry.

Paying taxes is bad enough. But the time wasted in figuring them is almost worse. You shouldn't need an accountant to do your taxes, and you shouldn't live in fear of just making an honest mistake. For our sanity's sake, and I think for our children's sake, we really

need to sunset this awful Tax Code and replace it with something far more simple, like a flat tax or my preference, a retail sales tax. And I love the retail sales tax because, can you imagine, can you imagine never having to fill out a tax return again in your lifetime? Never. Can you imagine the IRS being completely, totally out of your life forever?

And as we talk about how complex this code is, let's not forget we need to keep our taxes low. Tax Freedom Day for Texas families is this Thursday. And that is the first day since New Year's that Texans will start working for themselves and not for the government. For the rest of the country, on average, you have still got two more weeks, April 30. In fact, most families in America will get to the fifth month of the year. Can you imagine? The fifth month of the year before they stop working for the government and start working for their dreams, for their families, for what they want to accomplish in life. And I think most of us would feel better if we felt that Washington wasn't wasting so much of our hard-earned money.

My families are worried that the new Democrat budget allows President Bush's tax relief to expire, which would increase taxes on families in Texas \$2,700 a year; \$2,700 more for each, a typical Texas family.

I talked over the April work period with Kirk and Sandy Noyes of the Woodlands; visited with Marty and Ty Drake in their home in Livingston; Buck and Ava Anderson of Cleveland in their living room; sat down in the kitchen with Ed and Connie Heiman of Magnolia; Elmer and Pauline Hensley of Lumberton; Pat and Ashley Canfield of Huntsville. We talked about what that \$2,700 would mean to their families, and they talked about the medical bills for their young children because co-pays and deductibles add up so quickly. They talked about car insurance, how expensive that is. Marty Drake is a police officer. He said, You know, I will work overtime, all of my high school football games, use all that money just to pay that extra bill.

One woman, who is it? Connie Heiman in Magnolia, she works at a doctor's office just so she can pay the health care. And she said, We don't have any extra money. And her husband runs the flooring store in Magnolia. He said, I can't work longer. I work 6½ days a week as it is.

And my belief is that we are, despite what Washington thinks, we are an overtaxed Nation. And all you need to do is look at your own day to understand it. We wake up in the morning, get in the shower, we pay a water tax. We grab a cup of coffee, pay a sales tax. Drive down to work, pay a fuel tax. At work we pay, not just payroll tax but income tax as well. Get home at night, flip on the switch, walk in the door, turn on the lights, pay the electricity tax, pick up the phone, pay a telephone tax, turn on the TV, pay cable tax, kiss

our wife goodnight, pay a marriage penalty tax and we do that every day of our life. And when we die, we pay a death tax. We are an overtaxed Nation.

And in my belief, we need to continue, not just for our economy, but for our families, we need to continue President Bush's tax relief because our families can't take this extra hit. The marriage penalty will come back to life. That is wrong. In fact, Ways and Means, and I will finish with this, because we have other Members who need to visit as well. But we did the tax relief not for grins and giggles, but for two important reasons. One was fairness. The marriage penalty is unfair. The death tax is unfair. The State and local sales tax structure, it was unfair for other States to have an advantage. And another reason is to spur this economy. After 9/11, we took three big hits: 9/11, the recession and the wonderful Enrons and WorldComs of the world. Our economy took huge hits. We targeted tax relief, and we have had 40 straight months of job growth, created 7.5 million new jobs. We are going to risk that? We are going to risk this strong economy raising taxes on families and small businesses? It doesn't make sense. My belief is Washington needs to tighten its belt before we ask our families and small businesses to tighten theirs.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I thank the gentleman from Texas for his wonderful summary of the remarkable taxes that each and every one of us are exposed to on a daily basis, everything we do. And that is why I say that the American people deserve more than that. They deserve a government that is more fair than that, especially in the area of taxation. The \$2,700 for each individual in Texas is about what they would pay, if the policies of the other side go through, about what they would pay in the State of Georgia as well. And the folks have a lot of ability to figure out what they ought to do with that money and a greater priority that they ought to do with that money, as opposed to what the government ought to do with that money. So as most people understand and appreciate, they know how to spend their money better than the Federal Government.

And somebody mentioned earlier today that the Federal Government, whenever they do anything on behalf of the American people, it costs three times as much as it would in the private sector. So that even gets to the point more about what the facts of the situation are and why they believe what we are doing, why they would draw anyone to the appropriate conclusion that we are taxed too much as a Nation.

I have got a few other folks who have joined me, and I appreciate it so much. And I am joined by my good friend from North Carolina, Congressman MCHENRY, who also is an individual who has served in the State legislature and knows well the importance of fiscal responsibility and the importance

of making certain that we don't overtax our Americans all across this Nation. I welcome you. I look forward to your comments.

Mr. MCHENRY. I thank my good friend from Georgia, Dr. PRICE. Thank you for your leadership and for being here on the floor and being so active. Your constituents should be proud of you. And I thank them for electing you.

Madam Speaker, here on Tax Day, in 2007, I hearken back to the words that Ronald Reagan said. He said, our Federal Tax Code is, in short, utterly impossible, utterly unjust, and completely counterproductive. It reeks with injustice and is fundamentally un-American and has earned a rebellion, and it is time we rebelled.

□ 2145

That is a quote from Ronald Reagan in 1983.

Well, I think it is high time we rebel. Today is one day in every American's life where they realize how complex and how horrible our Federal Tax Code is. The Tax Code stands at an astonishing 16,485 pages in length, and there are 1,638 different tax forms on the IRS's Web site. That is outstandingly horrible for the American people.

In 2006, the average taxpayer spent 37.8 hours crunching numbers to complete even the most basic tax form, Form 1040. That is nearly an entire work week spent in filing taxes. Even worse, small businesses spend about 80 hours in preparing their tax returns. That is a 2-week vacation for the average working American family.

And, in total, the American people in a recent poll think the Tax Code is obscene. Eighty percent think the Tax Code is too complicated while only 3 percent believe the Tax Code is just fine the way it is. I concur with that 80 percent, Madam Speaker.

Although just empowered a few months, the new Democratic majority in the House with our new Speaker, they have proposed the largest tax increase in American history. The largest tax increase in American history. They propose a \$2,066,675,000,000 tax increase. What does that mean for the average American? Well, the average American, a family of four making \$50,000 a year, will see a tax hike of roughly \$2,092 this year. What is worse is that my constituents back home in North Carolina will see an average tax increase of \$2,671 per year. That is money they could be spending on education. That is money they could be spending on their kids. That is money they could be spending in their community. Instead, the Democrats want that money to come here to fund the bloated bureaucracy in Washington, D.C.

Now, you understand the Republicans have cut taxes over the last decade, and that is very positive. Actually, as the Republican majority for 12 years, we proposed a tax cut every year. Every single year we proposed that. Now, Democrat President Bill Clinton

didn't support it, but once we got George Bush in office in 2001, he proposed a massive tax cut.

What has that done? Well, the Democrats say that it is not enough money coming into government. Well, they are wrong. They are absolutely wrong. The Democrats are wrong when they say government doesn't have enough money.

Just this last year, government income amounted to over \$2.4 trillion. Now, let's put this in historical context. That is the largest income to any government in the history of the planet. Now, let's think this thing through. \$2.4 trillion, is that enough to fund our Federal bureaucracy? According to the Democrats, the answer is "no." They want more. They want the American people to give more to the Federal Government.

Let's put that \$2.4 trillion in context. Well, there are only two countries on Earth that have economies larger than our Federal Government. Aside from ours, Germany and Japan are the only countries on Earth that have economies larger than our Federal income. Now, the scary part is that Germany only barely beats the Federal Government with its roughly similar size economy.

There is a lot of talk about how the Chinese economy is booming and it is on the rise. Well, it is true and it is a big threat to our jobs here in the United States, and it is a big economic concern for us as a nation. But the Chinese economy, though booming, is only \$1.9 trillion, and that means it is a half trillion dollars smaller than our Federal income. The total gross domestic product of China is smaller than the income to our Federal Government.

So, Madam Speaker, if we look at a recent poll by Pew Research, people were asked what they thought was the best way to reduce the Federal deficit, and in that poll the result was pretty simple. Only 9 percent said that tax increases were the best way. A combined 69 percent said they would rather see government reduce spending. Now, not only do I agree with the 80 percent of the American people that say the Tax Code is too complex, that it is obscene; I also agree with that 69 percent that say the way to reduce government is to reduce spending. That is pretty simple. It is common sense to the American people.

Madam Speaker, I urge this Democrat majority to rethink their tax increase strategy, because it is going to raise taxes on every American who pays taxes. And, furthermore, those that are in the low income of our economy are actually going to see their taxes increase as well because they are going to roll back all the Bush tax cuts over the last 7 years. I think that is the wrong thing for the American people. It is the wrong thing for my constituents of western North Carolina. And I think that that is something that is going to harm our economy, the strength of our growing economy. So I

think the Democrats should rethink their tax increase strategy and do what is right for the American people. Reform the Tax Code. Cut taxes at the very least, but reform the Tax Code so we can actually inject more capital into the marketplace and allow people to keep more of what they earn because it is good for their families and good for our economy, and I think it is generally good for America.

With that, I thank you, Congressman PRICE, for hosting this important hour, especially on such an important day to the American people when they have to go file those tax returns. We know how frustrated they get because we have to file those same tax returns, and it is important that we remind our constituents that we are subject to the same laws that they are, and that is a very good thing and a great motivation for tax reform.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from North Carolina and I appreciate his perspective. And I think he said a couple of important things. One was that he pointed out that the average American spends almost 40 hours preparing his or her taxes. That is one whole week's worth of work. That is 2 percent of the productive time of each and every American spent just on the unproductive activity of preparing their tax returns. If that doesn't scream for reform, Madam Speaker, I am not sure what does.

I am pleased to be joined by another good friend, a new Member of Congress, a freshman Member from Tennessee, Congressman DAVID DAVIS, who I know has run a business and understands the importance of the economy's being vibrant, of the appropriate level of taxes not just for businesses but for individuals.

And I appreciate your joining us tonight and look forward to your comments.

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding.

Congressman PRICE, you do such a great job. Thank you for your leadership. Thank you for your willingness to spread the truth.

I welcome the opportunity to speak to Americans on tax day. I know some of us, as we draw near to midnight here, a lot of people still working on those forms, trying to get them down to the post office. It reminds me of what Ronald Reagan said back in the early 1980s. Ronald Reagan said, "We don't have a trillion dollar debt because we haven't taxed enough. We have a trillion dollar debt because we spend too much." That seems like commonsense to me, and I think the people that are listening to us tonight understand that. They understand they have to sit around the kitchen table and decide how much money is coming in and how much money goes out.

Small business owners have to do the same thing. They sit around sometimes at a little break room table and decide,

am I going to hire that next person or am I going to have to lay somebody off? Am I going to be able to afford another machine to be more productive so I can grow the business and be good for the economy? We understand that as Americans.

Today, tax day, families across America are feeling the cost of the Federal Government. I know we feel it. I know the American people are feeling it. It is one of the reasons I decided to run for Congress. I did own a small business, and I have actually owned a couple. I grew up in a small community in a little county called Unicoi County in East Tennessee, up in the mountains near North Carolina. And I worked my way through college. I actually worked two jobs, went to school full time, and was fortunate enough from that to start some businesses. And I sold one of those businesses.

And one of the reasons I decided to run for Congress was because the government took too much of my money. And I really looked at it as being my money because I earned it. My wife and I started the business. We took the risk. We put our home up. If that business hadn't succeeded, the bank could have come and taken our home. And when I sold the business, I should have been able to keep the proceeds and take care of my two children. It shouldn't have gone to the government. And I decided that I needed to get involved.

According to the Congressional Research Service, President Bush's program of comprehensive tax relief was well timed to respond to a weak economy. Do you remember back in the early 2000s we had just been hit by terrorist extremists, and we had natural disasters. So those tax relief packages that he put in place have actually worked. Tax relief enacted in 2001 granted immediate tax rebates, reduced marginal tax rates, and lowered the marriage tax penalty. The tax relief of 2003 accelerated much of the 2001 growth which would ultimately strengthen our economy.

We are residing and living in a strong economy. The Republican tax cut relief has seen nearly 4 straight years, 21 straight quarters, of economic growth, while adding 7.5 million new jobs. Seven point five million new jobs, that excites me. And we were able to do that because people are allowed to keep their money at home.

You see, government really doesn't create jobs. Government takes money. But if you leave that money back in local communities, that money is put to work and it does good things.

The Congressional Budget Office confirmed that the tax cuts of 2003 have helped boost the Federal revenues by 68 percent. Commonsense again. If you allow people to keep their tax dollars at home, the economy grows. And this should be understood by both sides of the aisle. This actually works for Democrats and Republicans. It worked for President Kennedy, it worked for

President Reagan, and it has worked for President Bush. This is bipartisan. We all ought to understand that keeping taxes low, keeping spending low, the economy will grow and the coffers of government will grow. I think that is a good thing.

We should all work to make the successful tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 permanent. If they are not made permanent, which I am convinced that this new "hold on to your wallet Congress" has in mind, we are going to have a problem in our economy. For example, 84 million women will see their taxes increased by \$1,970. Now, we all say here for the low and middle income, but if you are a woman, with this new tax increase of \$400 billion, your average tax is going to go up \$1,970.

We are going to see 48 million married couples' taxes increased by \$2,726. It seems inherently unfair to me. Forty-two million families will see their taxes go up by \$2,084. And I thought we were here for the low and middle income. These are the people that are paying taxes.

Twenty-six million small business owners will see a devastating tax increase of \$3,637. The small business owner that runs the little store down the street or creates five jobs on the corner, who probably employs some of your friends in your local community, they are going to see their taxes go up over \$3,600. And where are they going to get that \$3,600 to send up to Washington? They are going to get it from you, the American people. They are going to either increase the cost of goods and we are going to see inflation, or they are going to decide they can't hire that last employee or maybe they have to let that last employee go.

Five million low-income individuals and couples will no longer be exempt from Federal income taxes.

□ 2200

This is going to hurt the very people that we say we are trying to help.

Again, we should work in a bipartisan manner, Republicans and Democrats, to make sure that the tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 are made permanent. I am very concerned if we don't do that, that we are going to see our economic growth go into a slide, and we are going to have a problem that we are going to have to deal with.

Just two weeks ago, Washington Democrats passed a fiscal blueprint that raises taxes on Americans in one fell swoop. As part of this ill-gotten budget, taxpayers in Tennessee, my home State, will not be allowed to deduct their sales tax from their Federal income tax, which is only fair because we don't have an income tax. It makes us equal with all the other States. Taxes on small businesses in east Tennessee will go up. The child tax credit will decrease from \$1,000 to \$500. The marriage penalty is coming back. Residents of the First District of Tennessee's average expense in taxes is going up over \$2,000. The definition of a

small business will decrease from \$400,000 to \$200,000. Dividends will no longer be taxed at the personal gains rate, thereby increasing double taxation of dividends by as much as 62 percent. People all across America voted for change, but they are not getting the change they voted for.

We have a choice between bigger economy or bigger government, and the majority party has made it their choice to have a bigger government. And if anyone tells you that Americans aren't paying their fair share for a civilized society, they must remember that Americans pay more in their taxes than they do for housing, clothing and heating combined. And also remember that Americans this year will have to work until the last week of April in order to pay their taxes. That is over 114 days just to cover their tax bills. So on tax day, today, when we feel it the most, everyone needs to remember, we need to hold the line on spending, reduce earmarks, and pass line item veto, and crack down on worthless pork barrel spending and be good stewards of the taxpayers' money. And again I remind you, Ronald Reagan said, "We don't have a trillion dollar debt because we haven't taxed enough; we have a trillion dollar debt because we spend too much."

And with that, I yield back.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I thank my friend from Tennessee for his eloquent comments and for really bringing perspective to the issue.

It really befuddles me as to how our friends on the other side of the aisle can say that they need to raise taxes to raise revenue, because if you look at this chart, Madam Speaker, what you appreciate is that as revenues were going down in the early part of this decade, what the solution was, as it is always a solution, is to lower taxes and you allow people to keep more of their hard-earned money. You put more money back in the pockets of American people and what happens? The economy flourishes, and lo and behold we have a record \$2.4 trillion of revenue to the Federal Government because of decreased taxes.

I am so proud to be joined by my good friends tonight to talk about this issue. And we are pleased to welcome once again Congresswoman MARSHA BLACKBURN from Tennessee, an individual who also knows and appreciates the importance of fiscal responsibility and the importance that allowing individuals to keep more of their hard-earned money means to their own freedom and their own liberty. I welcome you and look forward to your comments this evening.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I thank the gentleman from Georgia.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to be on the floor tonight and talk a little bit about what the hold-on-to-your-wallet Congress is doing to Americans as we come to this tax day. You know, we circle April 15 on the calendar every year. I tell you,

everybody knows that. They look forward to that day with dread. And I have said so many times I think the only thing good that happens that day is my nephew, Chip Wedgeworth, has a birthday every year on April 15. So that is the highlight of our April 15.

I think the reason that Americans look at April 15 with that sense of dread is because they know, our constituents know, that we are overtaxed. They know that the government is overspent. It is plain and simple to them. They know that the government does not have a revenue problem, they've got a spending problem. And they never take the time to go through the disciplines that are necessary to reduce what the Federal Government spends. Those are things that American men and women who are working know. They know that government is overspent; they know that they are overtaxed. They know that the government doesn't have a revenue problem, that it has a spending problem. And Americans do mark this date on the calendar. They resent what it stands for.

I thank the gentleman from Georgia for what he is doing on this issue.

Madam Speaker, it is so nice to be on this floor and be joined by my colleagues who are real people, who live real lives, as the gentleman from Tennessee was talking about his business; people that understand what it takes to start a business, to run a business, to maintain a business. They are not part of the liberal elite. They are part of real people, this wonderful American middle class that makes this Nation run.

You know, I think another thing that kind of gets to people as they are sitting there trying to get those taxes in the mail tonight and figure these forms out, these thousands upon thousands upon thousands of pages of the tax form, you know, I had one of my constituents in a town hall meeting say he couldn't read the Tax Code, it was bigger than the King James version of the Bible and he has never been able to get through the Bible, and so he definitely couldn't get through the Tax Code. That is how big and unwieldy this thing has become.

But they look at this and they know that what we've got is a bureaucracy that is out of control. It is unresponsive; it is out of control. And the liberal elites who have created this bureaucracy think they are smarter than everybody else. They think that they know what should be happening for and to the rest of the country. And you know, I am right in there with them, don't like that very much.

I think that our constituents all know, too, that just as we are talking about, they know that they are overtaxed and government is overspent. They know that government is never going to get enough of their money.

And my colleague from Tennessee mentioned sales tax deductibility. Madam Speaker, I think it is just real-

ly so very sad that this Congress chose to let those tax deductions expire, which in effect will enact the largest tax increase in history on the American people, all to put more into the coffers of a government so that the liberal elites get their hands on it and they spend it. There again, the people know that they are overtaxed and they know government is overspent.

As we talk about what is before us today, I think that it is important. I was looking at one of the gentleman's posters that he has down there about mandatory spending growth. Isn't it amazing that we see this mandatory spending growth? The budget that our colleagues across the aisle, the Democrats, have chosen to pass makes our tax reductions temporary, makes tax relief for all of our families temporary, and makes spending permanent.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I would gladly yield.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I brought along a number of charts. And we are not getting to a lot of them, but some of them we will.

This chart is an important one because this shows the mandatory spending growth, something I like to coin actually "automatic spending growth" because it is not mandatory. The Federal Government has determined that that is where we are going to spend money. And it automatically increases. These are the automatic programs, which are basically Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid; and unless they see reforms, what we will have seen from 1995 to 2017 is an increase from 48.7 percent to 62.2 percent of our economy.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. If the gentleman will yield?

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I would be happy to yield.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I think what we see here is so important, and what you've just said speaks to the issue. Because a budget should reflect not the priorities of the government, but the priorities of the people. And what we have seen in the budget that our friends across the aisle brought that eliminated the tax reductions, that increased the taxes, that adds to that, knowing that people are overtaxed, knowing that government is overspent, is the fact that all of these automatic increases, mandatory spending growth, not addressing entitlement reforms that are needed, but allowing that to be put on autopilot, and increase and increase and making that spending permanent while you make the tax reductions temporary.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I will yield.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. This chart really points that out, "Ignoring Entitlement Reform," which is exactly what occurred 2½ weeks ago when our friends passed our budget.

When the Republicans were in charge, with the Balanced Budget Act

we passed in 1987 we saved nearly \$130 billion. With the Deficit Reduction Act just a few short years ago in 2005, about \$40 billion. With the budget that was adopted 2½ weeks ago, none, zero. No entitlement reform. No automatic spending reform. And consequently, what you know and what I know is that we are on track to spend that 62.2 percent in a few very short years.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. The gentleman is exactly right. That is why we have to look at that budget document on this tax day and say, they laid the marker down. They showed us what their priorities are. Their priorities are a bigger government and higher taxes on the American people.

I would invite all of them to join us, join us in reducing taxes. Join us in making these tax reductions permanent. Join us in making sales tax deductibility permanent. Join us in being certain that middle-class Americans get first right of refusal on their paycheck, that it is not the Federal Government that gets first right of refusal on that paycheck. Before those deductions are taken out, let's be certain that the American people have the opportunity to sit down at that kitchen table and decide how they are going to spend those hard-earned dollars, because it is their work.

You know, American families, individuals in my district in Tennessee, we talked a lot about taxes as we went through this district work period. I had one of my constituents stand up in one of our meetings and he said, MARSHA, I've got sweat equity in my paycheck; I've got a lot of sweat equity in my paycheck when I get it. And it just galls me every time I see a little bit more of that paycheck going to Washington, D.C. for programs that don't work. He talked about the spinach farmers and the fisheries and the peanut storage people and Katrina relief and all these things that were the waste; and the additions and the additions and the pork barrel spending that got put into the bill that would have funded our military.

On this tax day, as people are going to the mailboxes tonight, they know that they are not undertaxed, they are overtaxed. They know that government is not underspent, it is overspent. And they know that the Democrats laid down a marker. They made a choice when they did this budget. That budget choice was, do you want to stand with the American families and let them have first right of refusal on that paycheck, or do you want to give first right of refusal to the bureaucrats and the liberal elites in Washington, D.C.? And they made their choice.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I thank the gentlewoman for her perspective and for her passion for appropriate policies here out of Washington on behalf of the American people.

And you've heard a lot about what our friends on the other side of the aisle have proposed. And it is important to the look at the numbers,

Madam Speaker, the numbers on what has been proposed by our good friends on the other side of the aisle when the clock strikes midnight on December 21, 2010.

They have proposed and they have enacted a budget that will result in increasing the ordinary income rates from 35 percent to 39.6 percent; increasing capital gains from 15 percent to 20 percent; increasing dividends from 15 percent to 39.6 percent; increasing estate taxes from zero percent to 55 percent; decreasing the child tax credit from \$1,000 to \$500; and, amazingly, increasing the lowest tax bracket from 10 percent to 15 percent. A remarkable \$400 billion in new taxes, a remarkable display of, frankly, lack of appreciation and lack of respect for the American worker.

Now what is the solution? A lot of things can be done. What we would propose and have proposed is something that respects American values and I believe results in increasing American vision, and that is a taxpayer bill of rights, a Federal taxpayer bill of rights. Many folks will recognize the sound of that because there are some States around this Nation that have indeed enacted a taxpayer bill of rights. The problem at the State level, however, is that all they can address is State revenue, State money.

□ 2215

But, Madam Speaker, because of the actions of our friends on the other side of the aisle and because they want to dig deeper, we believe strongly that a taxpayer bill of rights is appropriate for the Federal Government. We believe that taxpayers have a right to a Federal Government that does not grow beyond their ability to pay for it. That means that the Federal Government ought not grow more than the population grows or more than the cost of living increases, and that can be put into law and that is what part of the taxpayer bill of rights does.

We also believe that Americans have a right to receive back every single dollar that they entrust to the American people for their retirement. That is the Social Security issue, Madam Speaker. Right now the Federal Government, right now Washington spends money that the American people send to Washington to cover for their Social Security compensation, and what does Washington do, oftentimes it spends it on other programs. That is not right and it is not fair. I hear about it when I am back home, and I suspect you do as well.

We believe taxpayers have a right to a balanced budget without raising taxes. You can balance the budget in one of two ways. You can raise taxes to try to increase revenue, which doesn't actually work, but you can have it work on paper. You can increase taxes and say, well, we will balance the budget that way, which is what our friends on the other side of the aisle have done. They say we will increase taxes

\$400 billion, and that is the way we will balance the budget.

Madam Speaker, there is another way you can balance the budget, and that is by decreasing spending, and that is what we would propose through a taxpayer bill of rights.

Fourth, we would propose fundamental and fair tax reform. My good friend from Texas mentioned earlier the proposal for a flat tax. That is one way to do it. I support the fair tax, the national retail sales tax, something that would do away with the IRS, do away with that organization that so many Americans dread and results in so much pain and heartache on the part of the American people.

Finally, a taxpayer bill of rights that would require a supermajority for any increase in taxes for our Nation, something that was in effect until the very first day of this Congress when this new majority said, "no," we ought not have a supermajority to increase taxes, we ought to let a simple majority do it which results in a huge opportunity for an increase in taxation and has resulted in, by this new majority, policies which will significantly increase taxes.

So, Madam Speaker, what we have done tonight is outlined the problem, outlined the history, talked about what kinds of solutions can be proposed and what we would propose in the way of an appropriate Federal taxpayer bill of rights.

I would like to close with a quote from Thomas Jefferson who had a perspective on taxation. He said: "To take from one because it is thought his own industry has acquired too much, in order to spare others who have not exercised equal industry and skill is to violate arbitrarily the first principle of association, the guarantee to everyone the free exercise of his industry and the fruits acquired by it." That was Thomas Jefferson, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, each and every one of us is remarkably privileged to serve in this House of Representatives. It is an honor to represent my constituents, as I know each Member feels it is an honor to represent theirs. We live in a wondrous and glorious nation, the longest surviving democracy in the history of the world, a nation that has resulted in, because of its actions, more freedom and more prosperity for more individuals than any nation in the history of mankind.

It is commonsense and responsibility on behalf of the Members who represent all of the constituents across this Nation that have resulted in those policies. I, as I know my colleagues who have been here this evening, look forward to working with Members on both sides of the aisle to bring about that accountability and responsibility, and to bring about the kind of credit and honor to our constituents that they so richly deserve by their labor.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to making certain that we hold each other accountable to establish the

kinds of policies that are appropriate and the kinds of policies that will result in the greatest amount of prosperity and freedom for future generations of Americans.

REMEMBERING VICTIMS AT VIRGINIA TECH UNIVERSITY AND HONORING HISPANIC WORLD WAR II VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CASITOR). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ) is recognized for half the remaining time until midnight.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, tonight we will be highlighting the courage and honor of our Hispanic World War II veterans.

But before we begin tonight, I would like to take this moment to honor the victims of the unbelievable tragedy at Virginia Tech University. We have only just begun to hear the incredible stories of the heroism and tragedy, and begun to learn the names and faces of those who died and those whose survived, but whose lives will forever be changed.

Today we have also seen how remarkable and how resilient they are. To the Virginia Tech University community, the students, the staff, the family members and the loved ones who are suffering today, please know that you are in our prayers and thoughts tonight.

I ask for a brief moment of silence.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. 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 subject of my Special Order tonight.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening, joined by my colleagues, to honor and pay respect and tribute to the contributions of the Latino and Hispanic soldiers who served so valiantly during World War II.

World War II was a major turning point for the United States Latinos, changing the world views of an entire generation. Approximately half a million Hispanics served in the Armed Forces during World War II. Unfortunately, many Latino soldiers who returned home found the same discrimination they had left behind, a system that held Latinos to a lower status.

Latinos and Latinas who worked in military installations and in other jobs previously denied them also questioned the status quo.

Understanding the importance of getting an education to better adapt after their tour of duty, many veterans used the GI bill to earn college degrees. In the years following World War II, those

men and women made astonishing civil rights advancements for their people through school desegregation, in voting rights, and in basic civil rights.

Powerful organizations grew out of this era, including the American GI Forum founded by Dr. Hector Garcia of Corpus Christi in 1948 to advocate for veterans' rights.

Another organization that came out of the World War II generation of Latinos was the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund in 1968. This came about after Mexican American World War II veterans, including people such as Pete Tijerina; Gregory Luna, a Senator from Texas; Ed Idar and Albert Armendariz, among others, found that their clients, mostly low-income Mexican Americans, were being denied justice in the legal system.

For Puerto Ricans, World War II brought new questions in which the United States came to appreciate Puerto Rico's military importance in the Caribbean. The United States maintained that it needed to keep its sovereign power over the islands for reasons of national security, and World War II strengthened that position. However, over 53,000 Puerto Ricans served within the United States military with dignity. Soldiers from the island, serving in the 65th Infantry Regiment, participated in combat in the European theater in Germany and central Europe.

World War II was also the first conflict in which women other than nurses were allowed to serve in the United States Armed Forces. However, when the United States entered World War II, Puerto Rican nurses volunteered for service, but were not accepted into the Army or the Navy Nurse Corps, and it was not until 1944 that the Army Nurse Corps decided to activate and recruit Puerto Rican nurses so the Army hospitals would not have to deal with language barriers.

Sadly, Madam Speaker, the stories of these men and women have been virtually untold either in the mass media or in the scholarly writings, and that is why my colleagues and I are here this evening to begin sharing the stories of the Hispanic and Latino World War II veterans, so all Americans can learn about and appreciate their contributions.

Within our own body of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus I am proud to honor, to recognize the service of four of our own who have served the military with dignity: Chairman SILVESTRE REYES, Chairman SOLOMON ORTIZ, the Honorable JOHN SALAZAR, and the honorable chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, JOE BACA.

Chairman JOE BACA, who represents the 43rd District of California, was drafted in 1966 and served in the Army as a paratrooper with both the 101st and the 82nd Airborne Divisions from 1966 through 1968.

I want to take this opportunity to yield to our chairman, and I thank him for being here tonight.

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank our Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus on Veterans Affairs for addressing this important issue of those men and women who served during World War II, and that is our chairman, Ciro Rodriguez. It is important that people realize the contributions of many of our Hispanics who served during that period of time, that we are visible and that we were not invisible during that period of time and that we made many contributions to this country during that period of time.

So I rise today in honor of the over 500,000 Hispanics who bravely served our country during World War II with honor and with integrity and were proud to wear the uniform. And for those of us who wore that uniform, men and women who were willing to ultimately sacrifice for this country, it is an honor for us and our family members when we put on that uniform and fight for this country.

Madam Speaker, 65,000 Puerto Ricans also served during that period of time. Thirteen Medals of Honor were given out, 11 were Mexican American, two were Puerto Ricans. So when you can look at the contributions of these individuals and many others, as a veteran, I am proud of our heritage and our long history of continuing to fight for this country.

More Hispanics fought for this country's freedom and security during World War II, and I state that is an important fact to understand, and it is important that it be included in part of our history of the contributions that Hispanics have made. More Hispanics than any other minority group have served this country with distinction.

Just one example is Company E of the 141st Regiment of the 36th Texas Infantry Division. This company was made up entirely of Hispanics, bilingual individuals who were willing to serve for this country. After 361 days of combat in Italy and France, the 141st Infantry Regiment sustained 1,126 casualties, 5,000 wounded and more than 500 missing in action.

In recognizing their extended service and valor, the members of the 141st were awarded three Medals of Honor, 31 Distinguished Service Crosses, 12 Legions of Merit, 492 Silver Stars, 11 Soldier's Medals, and 1,685 Bronze Stars. We were, and are, visible and participated and gave our lives during World War II. And that is an important fact for many of our children and others to know the contributions of many of our men and women who served us, who sacrificed for this country.

Hispanic women also made a huge contribution to the American war effort. Madam Speaker, 200 Puertoriquenas served during the Women's Army Corps, which was one of the first service opportunities for women in American history.

□ 2230

Bilingual Hispanic women also worked in important positions within

the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in areas like communications and interpretation. They also worked as specialized bilingual nurses and logistics specialists all over the world, providing the United States military the services vital to the war effort and to this country.

Hispanic veterans have made huge contributions to American society after serving our country in this war.

Dr. Hector P. Garcia of Corpus Christi founded the American GI Forum in 1948 to advocate on behalf of veterans rights, and as our chairman indicated, many veterans who came back home, who served this country, were trying to buy homes and trying to receive the same benefits that many other individuals were given in this country but yet were denied those same rights, whether to buy a home, obtain an education, have the same rights as others. I know because I experienced the same thing when I returned back after serving this country and was trying to rent a home, and they would not rent to me, and of course, they rented to my wife. In doing so, the GI Forum became an important civil rights organization for Mexican Americans.

Another organization that came out of the World War II generation of Latinos was the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, or MALDEF, in 1968. Mexican American World War II veterans, such as Pete Tijerina, Ed Idar and Albert Armendariz, came together to advocate for low-income Mexican Americans who needed fair treatment within the American legal system.

As a Hispanic, a veteran and as chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I cannot tell you how humbled I am by the sacrifice of these brave men and women who came before me, who ultimately gave the sacrifice, who believed in this country and continue to believe in this country and will continue to fight for this country because we know it is an honor to serve for the United States and its principles and what it stands for.

I am particularly honored to know of a dear friend of mine who served during World War II, David Guerra Galvan, who recently passed away on March 23 when I went back to the district. He was born in my district and was a resident of Rialto, my hometown, for 50 years.

David served his country in the Army during World War II as a paratrooper and in the 101st Airborne Division. During his European tour, David was also transferred to the 82nd Airborne Division as part of a detachment for the personal protection of General Dwight Eisenhower. After his military service, David continued to serve his country as a data communications operator at Norton Air Force Base. He retired after 40 years of outstanding service to the Armed Forces in 1990.

David was a dear friend of mine, and he is a perfect example of the hundreds of thousands of veterans that we are

honoring today who have served our country and will continue to serve our country.

David Galvan was a Hispanic, he was an American and a proud American, and he loved this country. He spent his entire life serving our Nation and his community and his family; as well as my brother Abilio Baca who served in the Armed Forces in the Army during the Korean conflict; as well as my brother-in-law, Ted Dominguez, who served during World War II.

I feel honored to have followed in David's footsteps by serving in the 101st and 82nd Airborne during my military service, and I thank him and I thank all of the many men and women who served during World War II. They are our heroes. They are our role models. They have paved the way for generations of proud Hispanics. They are the ones who ultimately paid the sacrifices so that we can enjoy the freedoms that we have here today because they were willing to step up to the plate. They stepped up to the plate and were willing to die for this country. That is why we have the freedoms that we have today, and we must not forget the legacy of what they have left for us. They have opened the door. They paved the way. They provided that for us. Let us remember those veterans who have served this country.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity also to congratulate Congressman BACA not only as chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus but for his service to his country, and he continues to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. I thank Congressman BACA.

Let me take this opportunity also to just share with you that also I mentioned earlier Chairman Sylvestre Reyes, who also served in the military, now chairman of the Intelligence Committee, who represents the 16th District of Texas. He is a Vietnam combat veteran, and he was stationed in Marble Mountain in DaNang, and he served as a helicopter crew chief within the 282nd Combat Assault Helicopter Company from March 1967 to April 1968. I know that he was unable to be here tonight, but I know that he also cherishes and recognizes those individuals who served our country.

Let me take this opportunity to recognize a friend from San Antonio, Texas, which represents a community that has multitude and is known as Military U.S.A., San Antonio, because of the support that we have for our military with Lackland Air Force Base, Randolph Air Force Base, Fort Sam Houston, Brooks that used to be here, and the military support and all the families there, Congressman Charlie Gonzalez.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I want to express my thanks of course to my colleague Ciro Rodriguez, my neighbor and fellow San Antonian for his great service in this Congress and, of course, as past chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

I first would like to digress from the remarks that I have had here prepared to highlight the life of a great man. The individual that I will be highlighting taught me as a very young man and as a young lawyer that if you have something to say, say it; if you believe in something stand up and state it.

While we were awaiting our call to have our Special Order, some of my colleagues from the other side of the aisle were representing certain figures and facts, demonstrating that the practices of the Democratic party and Democratic leaders simply resulted in deficit spending, not having a balanced budget, runaway spending and so on. The only problem with those facts and those figures is that the Republicans have been in the majority since 1995. It was only last year in 2006 that we were able to take back the majority. So, if there was too much spending, if there was irresponsibility in the way of fiscal policy, they had the majority.

Let us talk about the expiration of certain tax programs that were passed back in 2005. Was it truly necessary to say they would expire in 2005? Now, I understand that we do things in 5-year increments often enough, but they had the majority. Make them permanent; they never did. Extend them; they never did. You wonder why.

It is complaining that this bus is being driven in an erratic manner and the wrong destination. The problem is you were driving it. They controlled Congress and nothing was done.

The last time we had a balanced budget was under the Clinton administration, and it was because of President Clinton's leadership that we were able to balance the budget because of good, solid economic policy and tax policies that really were fair to all Americans.

I leave you with a couple of thoughts here. First of all, what we are proposing in the first few months of being in the majority is to maintain and make sure that we still have the child tax credit that would not expire, that we make sure that the marriage penalty relief would not expire. Why? Because that truly is just. That truly is fair.

What is not fair is what I am going to read to you now that appeared back in 2005. Back on the 8th day of December 2005, the Republican tax reconciliation bill, the Tax Policy Center, run jointly by the Brookings Institution and the Urban Institute has concluded that the bottom 80 percent of households would receive 15.5 percent of the House tax cuts. The top 20 percent would receive 84.2 percent of the benefit. Households earning more than \$1 million would get 40 percent of the tax cut relief, or an average reduction of nearly \$51,000. If you believe that is fair tax policy, something is truly, truly wrong, and we are going to correct that as we assume the majority.

Now, who taught me that? I will go now into my remarks because we are

here to honor and to spotlight the service of Hispanics and especially in World War II.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure today to participate in this Special Order honoring Hispanic veterans of the Second World War. As we have already heard, the contributions made by Hispanic Americans to the war effort against the Axis Powers were significant. A half million Hispanics served, and I fear that their contributions are often forgotten.

It is important that all Americans, including Hispanics, enjoy recognition and our historical dialogues commensurate with the contributions they made to our Nation. When we fail to be inclusive, our histories are incomplete. They are only half-truths. We owe it to past and future generations to make our histories whole. When history is complete, it is also fair and it is just.

Today, I am honored to make a small contribution to our country's World War II dialogue on behalf of the war's Hispanic veterans in hopes that their stories come to occupy a place in history proportionate to their service and to their sacrifice.

Like their African American brothers-in-arms, Hispanic Americans served the United States in World War II with honor and distinction, despite the fact that they had yet to enjoy the full fruits of the liberty they defended.

Back in the 1940s, in the late 1940s also, most of the services offered to the American public by our national, State and local governments were segregated between whites and minorities, including Hispanics. But despite the fact that the services to which they were entitled were often withheld or inferior, Hispanics did not withhold their service to the American people. They fought for our country even as schools they attended, jobs they worked, wages they earned, and living conditions they tolerated reflected systematic inequality that denied them full rights of citizenship. Despite the inequality endured by Hispanic veterans before and after World War II, their stories of courage and heroism during that troubling time are the equal of any that can be told.

I regret that I have time to share with you the story of but one of the hundreds of thousands of Hispanic veterans who so courageously defended the liberty of humankind during those darkest hours.

The Honorable Mike Machado enjoyed a lengthy career of public service to the United States, to the State of Texas and to the residence of his beloved home city of San Antonio. He was born in San Antonio on September 4, 1923, and attended Sydney Lanier High School where he excelled as a student athlete.

Like so many young men of his generation, Mike Machado entered service to his country during the earliest days of his adulthood by enlisting in the United States Army Air Corps at 17. He became a nose gunner on a B-24, battling the Germans over the skies of

Nazi-occupied Europe. By the summer of 1944, he had flown over 40 missions.

On June 13, 1944, Mike Machado's B-24 was heavily damaged over Munich. Despite the desperate nature of their situation, the crew stayed with their aircraft rather than parachute into enemy hands.

□ 2245

Mike Machado and his comrades crossed the border into northern Italy before they were forced to make a crash landing. Upon impact, fire engulfed the B-24. Mike Machado carried two of his fellow airmen to safety that day, saving them from the flames. In the process, he received severe burns to his upper body and arms that would limit the use of his hands for the rest of his life.

My personal observation that I would like to make is that even I practiced before Judge Machado. It was obvious that this is someone who had suffered horrific, disfiguring and incapacitating injuries.

The French Underground provided sanctuary for Mike over the following months, hiding him from Nazi forces and eventually securing his return to the United States Army. His strength and his resilience, combined with the rudimentary medical care provided by his French companions, allowed him to survive his injuries from the fire and the flack.

After his return to the United States Army, he began a 36-month long recuperation at Beaumont General Hospital in El Paso. The ordeal included 23 skin graft operations that only partially repaired the injuries incurred during his heroic rescue efforts. Mike Machado's story of heroism does not end with his discharge from the Army. His injuries did not deter him from his pursuit of an education, in law, especially, and a career of public service, as a city attorney and as a judge at the municipal and State district court levels.

Judge Machado used the GI Bill to enroll at Saint Mary's University and graduated from Saint Mary's University Law School in 1952. He soon became a prosecutor. In 1957, he was appointed as a municipal court judge where he served for 20 years. In 1977, he became a judge for the newly created 227th State district court. That same year he was honored by Pope Paul VI with a knighthood in the Pontifical Order of Saint Gregory the Great. He served as a district judge for 21 years until the time of his death.

When he died on July 29, 1998, Judge Machado had amassed over a half century of public service to our country, as an airman, and as an assistant DA, and a municipal and district court judge. He was just shy of his 75th birthday and would have been retired from the bench, as Texas law requires, on September 4 of that year.

While Texas law mandated his retirement from the judicial branch, it could not squelch Judge Machado's desire to serve the public, knowing that mandatory retirement was fast approaching.

What did he do? Well, prior to the brain aneurysm that took his life, he had announced at the age of 74 his candidacy for district attorney in Bexar County on the Democratic ticket. Judge Machado was highly regarded in the community, as evidenced by the over 1,000 mourners that attended his funeral.

As a judge, he performed marriage ceremonies for thousands of San Antonio couples. He welcomed the public into his chambers with open arms, often quite literally. What I mean by that, it was a big giant bear hug that he would give you, and he made himself available to individuals in need of help.

Believe it or not, even ex-convicts that he had sentenced would seek his advice at times. He was a man of the people and a man who befriended everyone. I am honored to have had the opportunity to share with you the story of Judge Mike Machado, a courageous man and a servant of his country.

My colleague, Congressman RODRIGUEZ, who organized this opportunity to recount the bravery of Hispanic veterans of World War II, should be commended for his efforts today and in the past, because this is not the first time that Congressman RODRIGUEZ has risen to the defense of the Hispanic warrior in recognizing and remembering these servicemen, including Judge Mike Machado.

As I indicated earlier, we did not offer these comments tonight solely to highlight the virtues of specific individuals. We realized as Judge Machado's son has said of his dad, "My father and many more of his generation would be embarrassed at the prospect of receiving special attention for doing what they consider to be a privilege, that is, serving this great country." When we honor individuals like Judge Mike Machado, we honor a symbol really of something much more. We honor them because their courage symbolizes the courage and sacrifice to which the Hispanic community and the Nation at large aspire.

We honor the service of Hispanic veterans of World War II specifically today in order to solidify their place in World War II history and ensure that their patriotic virtues receive the appreciation they deserve, that Judge Machado and hundreds of thousands of his fellow World War II veterans, Hispanic and non-Hispanic alike, look back on their valiant service to our country as a privilege and an honor, and should be an inspiration to all Americans.

Let our recognition of their sacrifices motivate us to a greater appreciation of the contributions made during World War II by Americans, regardless of their racial or ethnic backgrounds. None of their brave soldiers will ever be forgotten.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Congressman CHARLIE GONZALEZ, I want to personally thank you tonight for bringing the story of Judge Machado, a great leader

in San Antonio. I also want to thank you for your comments as you regressed and talked a little bit in terms of the deficit. You have talked in eloquence, and I couldn't help but remember your dad, Henry B. Gonzalez, as he spoke in this House about the important issues that confront us.

I know that previous groups had talked about the deficit, knowing full well that this particular administration went into office with a surplus, one of the largest surpluses in recorded history. Now we find ourselves without that surplus and find ourselves in an \$8.9 trillion debt.

That being said, let me also take this opportunity to mention a little bit about some of our own veterans here on the House, Chairman SOLOMON ORTIZ, who sits on the Armed Services Committee, represents the 27th District of Texas.

As a result of his father's death at the age of 16, Chairman ORTIZ dropped out of school to find a job to assist his mother in paying the family bills. Shortly thereafter, Chairman ORTIZ joined the Army, because, as he put it, it was the one place that would give him free room and board and let me send my check back home to my mother.

It was in the Army that Mr. ORTIZ, SOLOMON, ever conscious of the needs for an education, got his GED. He received his basic training at Fort Hood, Texas, and was sent overseas to France for his tour of duty. He later found himself reassigned to the 61st Military Police Company, Criminal Investigation Office, a move that would color much of his future professional life. He remained as an investigator for the duration of his tour of duty, receiving his advanced military police training at Fort Gordon, Georgia.

Congressman JOHN SALAZAR, who represents the Third District of Colorado, graduated from Centauri High School in La Jara, Colorado. In 1973 he joined the Army. After serving in Heidelberg, Germany, SALAZAR received an honorable military discharge in 1976. Congressman SALAZAR is proud to be a veteran and proud to be both the son and father of men who have served. The Salazar family is honored to have served our country. Congressman SALAZAR tells a story of his father, a veteran of World War II, requesting to be buried in his uniform.

Today's generation of Hispanics and Latino American soldiers look to the brave men and women, veterans, who fought before them, as true inspiration. In the State of Texas alone, there are 197,173 World War II veterans who have fought so bravely and honorably to defend our beloved country. According to the 2000 census, the VA reported and recognized Texas as having 14,871,550 civilian population over the age of 18 and a total veteran civilian population of over 1.7 million.

Within the 23rd Congressional District, which is the district that I represent, a district that is one of the

largest in the country that stretches from San Antonio to El Paso through Eagle Pass and the border, has some 700 miles of the border with Mexico. I represent the VA reports in their county estimates and projections of living veterans report, that as of September 30, 2006, there are currently 53,012 living veterans within the 23rd Congressional District.

Therefore, my colleagues, I stand today, this evening, in honor of the extraordinary service these men and women should be recognized for what they do. In so recognizing their efforts, we also need to recognize them in terms of what we provide them with.

Before I do that, let me take this opportunity to also tell a story of my father-in-law. Daniel Sanchez Pena was born on January 11, 1919, as the youngest son of Manuel Pena and Catarina Sanchez Pena in Las Colonias of Karnes County, Texas. He grew up in his parents' ranchito doing all the types of farm chores that kids do in a farm. He only went to the second grade in school. He learned to play the guitar at 14 and played at community and farmhouse dances around the community. He would use his skills while in the Army to entertain himself and his fellow soldiers.

To this day, he still enjoys, at 87, playing the guitar there at home. Daniel Sanchez Pena was registered on the 16th day of October, 1940. He reported to the Local Board No. 1 in Karnes County, Texas, at the courthouse, on March 25, 1942. This was part of the 35th precinct of what is referred to as the Robstown, Texas, ward. At the age of 23, in June of 1942, he was at the headquarters of the Armed Forces Replacement Training Center in Fort Knox, Kentucky, Company A, for training. Being a farm boy, he was an expert shooter and got excellent points for marksmanship. He still talks about the beautiful mountains in Kentucky that he recalls and the green valleys.

After training, he was sent to New York to board the ship and go overseas. This was a real adventure to Daniel. Daniel had never traveled far from his home, much less across the Atlantic Ocean. He still talks about the amazement of seeing the dolphins and the whales and other large fish that he saw. He recalls how seasick they were and how at night, how he looked on that floating city of lights. Coming from a small town, that seemed like a large city.

He served in the U.S. Army for 3 years. He was a rifleman in the infantry. He remembers crawling in the sand, freezing in the snow, climbing the steep mountains and the high mountains in Italy and forever marching, dodging bullets and digging fox holes. He saw his friends from Karnes County, a young man at that point that he talks about, and always remembers him, who was killed in front of him. To this day, he still remembers that specific incident when that occurred.

He recalls the many tragedies of the war for both soldiers and civilians. He remembers having to hold his plate of food so that they would not be stolen by the starving civilians and children who appeared around the camps when they went through both Africa and into Italy. He often wondered why he got out alive.

Truly, he experienced every emotion known to man, from profound sorrow to wondrous awe. Only in the last 2 to 3 years has he started to talk about these experiences. As he talks about his experiences, he remembers parts of the comments and the language, the Italian language that he picked up and some of the words. He returned from service in 1945, receiving the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with four bronze service stars, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Honorable Service Lapel Button for World War II.

He married Dora Mansanalez in September of 1947, another young lady who lived at another farm adjoining their farm. His father had seven children, three girls and four boys. Two of the boys, Roberto and Guillermo, my brother-in-laws, served in the Army. Carolina, his daughter, is my wife.

□ 2300

And so I mention Daniel Pena because he is typical of a lot of the veterans, a lot of Hispanic veterans who have served our country, who never spoke of the war until now as he reaches 87 years of age he begins to talk about those incidents.

Let me also take this opportunity, Madam Speaker, as featured by Gebe Martinez, a longtime journalist in Washington. I would like to share with you a story which she featured of a soldier from my own 23rd District of Texas, Nick Arzola.

Nick Arzola was defined as a skinny kid from Del Rio, Texas; service in World War II was the pride of his life. He never forgot the precise time he left New York for the war, 5 p.m. on October 7, 1943. Arzola went through the choppy seas, pitched in his ship so violently that he was sick for the entire 18 days' voyage to Scotland.

On land, he went from cooking on a gas stove on the battlefield to moving grenades and bombs at a munitions depot. Arzola was a proud American from Del Rio, even if he was considered the only Mexican with a bunch of Yankees, as he used to say. He was good natured despite the stereotype. His war buddies first thought he looked Filipino. Then, they called him Pancho Villa and they called him Casanova, according to the tales.

When he returned to Texas after the war, he traveled a road that would later be named for Cleto Rodriguez, the first Hispanic to receive the Medal of Honor for his bravery in the battle in Manila.

Nick opened a barbershop in Del Rio and painted signs freehand, including billboards for rising Texas politicians

such as Lloyd Bentsen. A veteran, he never missed an election and rounded up voters to take part in freedom as he campaigned.

Until he died in 2005, he was part of the uniformed honor guard at the funeral of Del Rio's war veterans, one where to this day you have a large number of veterans there in Del Rio that continue to volunteer as their veterans pass away and do the honors of burying them.

Nick Arzola's story may not seem unlike that of other veterans, but this is a representation of part of America's history that has too often been forgotten. His story, like the stories many colleagues have shared, have not been told. Nick never missed an election and rounded up votes as he worked and will continue to do so.

So I want to take this opportunity to also mention, as I have a few minutes left, we talked the last few weeks about the situation that we find ourselves with as PBS has a 14-hour program on World War II that will be released in September. There has been a great deal of concern about the lack of Hispanic participation in that particular program. We have had meetings with Ken Burns and others and have been pleased that we have been able to make some inroads. There is still a lot of work to be done.

I do want to mention that I am also concerned that within our own population we don't know the history of the role that Mexican Americans and Hispanics have played, not only in World War II but throughout all the wars.

I want to mention a group of Mexicans, these are truly Mexicans from Mexico that played a very significant role in World War II in defense of the United States and that was referred to as Escuadron 201, the Aztec Eagles, as they were called. The 201 Escuadron was a group of 300 Mexicans that were trained in the United States and fought on behalf of the United States, with some 38 Mexican pilots that were trained in this country.

On December 8, 1941, the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Mexico severed its ties with Germany, Italy, and Japan. And in May 1942, the Nazis also sank a Mexican tanker, and Mexico declared war against the Axis powers. During that time, Mexico participated in the war, and one group was the Escuadron 201. This group of 300 individuals that were Mexicans were trained in this country. The 201 successfully participated in the Allied efforts to bomb Luzon and Formosa, known as Taiwan now, to attempt to push the Japanese out of the island.

Assigned to the 58th Fighter Group of the United States Fifth Air Force, the Aztec Eagles, as they were called, were also used in ground support efforts after the aerial threat from Japan weakened. During those ground assignments, the men of the squadron saw firsthand the fearlessness and war mentality of the Japanese soldiers. Japanese soldiers were often captured after

trying to come into the U.S. military campsites for food, as they recalled during the stories. Several of these soldiers such as Captain Reynaldo Gallardo and others continue to remember their efforts.

I want to mention, on Veterans Day Carlos Faustinos, a former member of the Escuadron 201, always is proud of flying not only Old Glory but the Mexican flag, because he, as a Mexican, fought on behalf of the United States against the Japanese. He was also known for being able to down six Japanese Zeros, which basically makes him an ace, and was able to get credit and receive La Cruz de Honor, the Cross of Honor, which is equivalent to the U.S. Medal of Honor award in this country.

Very few Americans know of the 201 Escuadron. Very few of them know of the Aztec Eagles, these Mexicans who fought with the U.S. troops as troopers and fought over the sea in the Pacific. They continue to engage and continue to meet, and I know the G.I. Forum has recently honored their efforts, but much more needs to be done.

Let me take this opportunity in closing to indicate that as we honor our troops, it is not just sufficient for us to honor them with our words. We have to honor them with our acts. And that is why I am extremely proud to announce that this legislation has put more money for our veterans service than any other in history. I am glad that the budget for 2008 has \$6.6 billion, and I know that the House of Representatives will be voting on that. That \$6.6 billion is the resources that are essentially needed at this present time to help.

And for 2007, I am also proud to say that we were able to take that particular piece of legislation that should have been passed last year, that was passed by this Congress, the concurrent resolution, and that we added to that bill after we struck all the line items that were placed on that bill the previous year by the previous Congress, we struck every single line item, and we added \$3.6 billion for the VA.

So I am pleased not only that we did that, but I am also pleased to announce that the supplemental that the President will hopefully eventually sign has an additional \$1.7 billion for our troops for health care. That is the way to honor our troops not only with our words but with our deeds.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I am honored to join my colleagues in honoring the tremendous contributions of World War II Veterans.

During World War II Americans responded to a call of service that resulted in a generation of leaders that has since never been seen. As our country faced the war, all citizens stood united and ready to contribute. Without exception, Hispanic Americans were also there to seize the call their country had laid before them. Not only did Hispanic Americans serve our country during a time of war, their leadership after service resulted in huge civil rights advancements for the Hispanic community.

It is with great privilege that I take the opportunity to especially recognize the noble service and high sacrifices of the approximately 500,000 Hispanic Americans who served in the Armed Forces during World War II. One of whom was my brother-in-law, Manuel Musquiz—a bombardier.

During World War II Hispanic participation was at a higher percentage than any other minority. Of these, at least 65,000 were Puerto Rican and the majority of the Hispanics were Mexican-Americans. Thirteen Medals of Honor were awarded to Latinos in World War II, eleven to Mexican Americans, and two to Puerto Ricans. When Hispanic soldiers returned home they utilized the GI Bill to advance their education.

Unfortunately, many Latino soldiers who served during WWII also received a rude awakening as they returned home. They faced the same discrimination they had left when they heeded the call to serve. Latino soldiers returned home to exert their rights, through numerous civil rights efforts, to create greater opportunities through activism. Powerful organizations grew out of this era, including the G.I. Forum and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF). A wealth of gratitude is entitled to these national heroes and their families who not only fought for democracy but fought for equality.

I would also like to recognize my fellow colleagues of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus who also have served our country: Representatives ORTIZ, REYES, BACA, and SALAZAR.

We pause to remember the noble service and high sacrifices of those who have worn our nation's uniform. We must not allow our children to forget about those who have served and the millions of living military veterans in the United States, those residing in California, and Hispanic veterans in the U.S. Our thoughts and prayers are also with tomorrow's veterans—our servicemen and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan and across the world.

Let us remember the service of all our veterans, the ones that wars—and peace—cannot be won without. And let us renew our national promise to fulfill our sacred obligations to our veterans and families who have sacrificed so much so that we can live free.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I first want to express my deepest condolences to all of the families who lost loved ones in yesterday's tragedy at Virginia Tech University. This horrific event has affected Americans all over this country and we all mourn for those who were lost and pray for the swift recovery of those who were injured.

Tonight I join my colleagues from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus in paying tribute to the thousands of Hispanic veterans who have fought and died defending this country. My Congressional district has lost many young men in this most recent conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan.

They are but the latest in a long line of patriots from South Texas who have given their lives in the defense of America.

Tonight I want to pay tribute to a young man from my district who received this Nation's highest award, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Alfredo Cantu Gonzalez, known to his friends and family as "Freddy", was born in 1946 in Edinburg, Texas in the Rio Grande Valley. His mother was a waitress, who had to raise her son alone.

Freddy worked in the cotton fields as a teenager to help his mother. He attended Edinburg High School, where he was an outstanding football star.

After graduation, he enlisted in the Marine Corps. After his initial training, he was sent to Vietnam in 1966 where he served as a rifleman and squad leader. He was quickly promoted from private to lance corporal to corporal.

He returned to the States in 1967 where he was given the task of training recruits in guerrilla warfare. Freddy told his mother and friends he did not want to return to Vietnam and would not re-enlist.

A few months after his return from Vietnam, he learned that an entire Marine platoon had been killed, including a group of men who had served under him during his first tour of duty. He was saddened by their loss and immediately volunteered for a second tour of duty.

On July 1, 1967 he was promoted to sergeant and shipped back to Vietnam.

On January 31, 1968, Sergeant Freddy Gonzalez and his men were assigned the task of protecting a truck convoy that was bringing relief to a major Vietnamese town. The truck convoy was attacked by the Viet Cong with mortars and machine gun fire.

Although Sergeant Gonzalez was wounded, he ran through heavy fire to rescue a wounded Marine who fell off the tank.

On February 3, Sergeant Gonzalez was wounded again but refused medical treatment until all of the other wounded Marines were treated.

The next day, on February 4, Sergeant Gonzalez and his Marine platoon were pinned down by the Viet Cong, who were firing at the Americans with rockets and automatic weapons from a church.

Sergeant Gonzalez, utilizing a number of light anti-tank assault weapons, fearlessly moved from position to position, firing numerous rounds at the heavily fortified enemy emplacements, almost single-handedly neutralizing the enemy.

All appeared quiet and Sergeant Gonzalez approached to make sure that the church was secure when the hidden lone enemy survivor killed him. At the age of 21, Sergeant Freddy Gonzalez had given the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

In 1969, his mother, Dolia Gonzalez, was escorted to the White House to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor awarded to her son posthumously because of his tremendous heroism in saving the men in his platoon.

He was also awarded numerous other medals including the Purple Heart, the Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with 2 bronze stars and the Vietnam Gallantry Cross with palm.

Long after his death, his courage, his patriotism and his sacrifice are still remembered. In the Rio Grande Valley there are schools, roads and parks named after him.

In 1996, the Navy commissioned the USS *Gonzalez*, a guided-missile destroyer and the first modern destroyer named for a Mexican American. Freddie was one of 13 Hispanics who were awarded the Medal of Honor for their service in Vietnam.

Hispanics have a proud tradition of patriotism and have always been willing to answer America's call to duty, often when they were not even citizens. Freddy Gonzalez' story is

just one of the many thousands of stories that make up the heritage of our Hispanic veterans.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in thanking all of these brave men and women, as well as their families and loved ones, for their service.

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, Hispanic veterans represent our love of this nation . . . they represent the best of our community . . . and their service is a frequent path to greater opportunities for them and their families.

I am a veteran, inspired by another veteran who inspired so many of us: Dr. Hector P. Garcia who created the GI Forum, a powerful platform that represents Hispanic veterans who labor on the battlefield for our nation. Dr. Hector Garcia was a personal hero to me.

He served the nation on the battlefield . . . and he served us again by making people understand that a soldier is a soldier—that race makes no difference among Americans, particularly when they wear the uniform of the United States. If he were here today, he would have a great deal to say to PBS about the omission of Hispanics when putting together a special on WWII.

WWII was the moment in time when Hispanics found their place in U.S. society and found our voice in demanding equality among troops . . . and elsewhere in the American family. And it was Dr. Hector's audacious vision that began a decades-long march in advancing civil rights, voting rights and school desegregation for Hispanics in Texas and around the nation.

Here's how it all began . . . the family of Felix Longoria—a brave and fallen U.S. soldier from WWII—wanted his body buried at Three Rivers Cemetery in Three Rivers, Texas. Yet segregation's profound and evil roots ran deep in the heart of Texas then, reaching all the way into cemeteries, and Longoria's burial was refused; he was not white and could not be buried alongside those with whom he had fought in the war.

Dr. Hector laid bare the raw racism inherent in the U.S. after this nation fought a global war to protect democracy and our way of life, when even cemeteries were segregated. The fight to bury this war hero was successful and that effort begat the GI Forum, the very first Hispanic civil rights organization in this nation.

I was so pleased that—after the Hispanic Caucus engaged PBS in a serious conversation about the lack of inclusion of the story of Hispanics in the story of WWII—PBS understood the enormity of that decision. They will now include the extraordinary exploits of Hispanic warriors in the story of the last declared war our nation fought.

Yet, it was not only WWII in which Hispanic Americans were heroes in securing freedom; there were many examples of Hispanic war heroes throughout our history. Today we should also honor our forefathers who played a large part in making—and then keeping—the United States free and democratic; for as long as there has been a United States, Hispanics have played major roles in building our country and defending it.

From the American Revolution that freed the United States from England—to today's operation against al Qaeda—Hispanics proudly and bravely served the United States. When the Colonies on the East Coast of what is now the United States rebelled against England, Hispanics played a pivotal role.

As Governor of the Louisiana Territory, General Bernardo de Gálvez sent money, gunpowder, rifles and other supplies to General George Washington to aid in the revolution. He later served gallantly in the War for Independence by capturing both Mobile and Pensacola—at a pivotal point in the war.

Captain Jorge Farragut came to the United States to seek his fortune by fighting the British—first in the Revolution, then in the War of 1812—as part of the U.S. Navy.

Hispanics also raised special collections and taxes to aid the fight for independence. After the Revolution was won, Mexican pesos aided in the construction of St. Peter's Church in New York City to celebrate the end of the war. As in the Revolution, Hispanics served proudly in each war and conflict in which the United States participated.

In the course of that service, 38 Hispanics have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, our country's highest award for military bravery and service.

In the Civil War, David Glasgow Farragut, son of Jorge Farragut, won fame as a Union hero by blockading Southern ports, destroying Rebel ships anchored in New Orleans, and by capturing Mobile for the Union.

His contributions prompted Congress to create the title of Rear Admiral to reward him as the first man to ever hold that rank. Farragut was commissioned Vice Admiral in 1864, then Admiral in 1866.

Federico Fernández Cavada, a Lieutenant Colonel for the Union Army, fought bravely at Gettysburg. Rafael Chácon also served with the Union Army, and attained the rank of Major.

Santos Benavides—originally from Laredo—fought for the Confederacy. His rank of Colonel was the highest of any Mexican-American Army officer in the Civil War.

Major Manuel Antonio Chavez forced the Confederate Army to retreat down the Rio Grande, preventing the rebels from carrying out their plans to seize the gold mines of New Mexico and California.

Lieutenant Colonel José Francisco Chaves of the Union Army assisted in recapturing Albuquerque and Santa Fe.

One of the most interesting soldiers in the Confederacy was Loretta Janet Velázquez, who fought disguised as a man. Upon discovery and discharge, she continued her service as a Confederate spy.

In 1973, Lieutenant Colonel Mercedes Cubria retired from the Army—she was the first Hispanic woman to achieve that rank. Hispanics served bravely for the cause of freedom and democracy in World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

Around 500,000 Hispanics served the United States during World War II, and it is on the shoulders of these great men that the rest of us could see the future.

In the years to come, when the military service of Hispanics is viewed through the prism of history, there are certainly a number of young Hispanics whose service to this nation in this new war will distinguish themselves among great U.S. warriors in the 21st Century.

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I join my colleague Representatives DEVIN NUNES in honoring the life of Mr. Louis Flores Ruiz from Dinuba, California, who passed away peacefully at his home on Sunday, April 1, 2007. Mr. Ruiz was loyal, compassionate and worked hard to make the American Dream a reality in his life.

Mr. Louis Flores Ruiz was born on October 30, 1918 in Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico. At the age of five, he and his family immigrated to the United States and after successfully serving his country by joining the U.S. Army, he was granted United States Citizenship on December 17, 1944. During his time in the Army, he served as a Military Police escorting prisoners-of-war and civilians in combat areas as well as investigating theft. His stellar service to our country made Mr. Ruiz a recipient of the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, one Bronze Service Star, an Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Stars, and a Good Conduct Medal.

Upon his return from his service, Mr. Ruiz first worked as a grocery store owner, then as an insurance salesman. After that, he joined his brothers and brother-in-law in Tulare, California and co-founded a large tortilla factory where they pioneered the automation of tortilla production. An entrepreneur and innovator at heart, Mr. Ruiz went on to co-found what has become the largest frozen food Mexican manufacturing firm in the United States, the second largest Hispanic-owned manufacturing firm in the United States, and the largest manufacturing plant in the state of California. Ruiz Foods has also helped establish programs of charitable giving within the community to many organizations that enhance the quality of life for the people of the Central Valley.

In 1983 Mr. Ruiz had the distinctive honor of meeting with President Ronald Reagan and Vice President George Bush in the Rose Garden of the White House, as he accepted the U.S. Small Business Administration's Small Business Person's of the Year Award. In 2003, Mr. Ruiz had the pleasure of hosting President George W. Bush at Ruiz Foods in Dinuba, CA. Other major highlights in Mr. Ruiz's life include, placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery at the request of President Reagan and being named the 14th person to the Tortilla Industry Association Hall of Fame—a distinction reserved for those who have made positive contributions to the tortilla industry through technical or significant innovations in products, equipment or ingredients while attaining business success.

Mr. Ruiz is survived by JoAnn, his wife; their daughter and son-in law, Shannon and Eric Weller; brother and sister-in-law, Carlos and Olga Ruiz; brother and sister-in-law, Edward Sr. and Dolores Ruiz; brother and sister-in-law, Oscar and Alice Ruiz, sister, Margaret Tarasas; and daughter-in-law, Luisa Ruiz; the mother of his four children, Rose; and their daughter and son-in-law, Rose Margaret and Paul Doherty; son and daughter-in-law, Fred and Mitzie Ruiz; daughter and son-in-law, Anna and Dennis January; and daughter Carrie Ruiz. Louis was also blessed with numerous nieces, nephews, godchildren, grandchildren, great grandchildren, a wonderful care provider and many dear friends.

Although the passing of Mr. Louis Flores Ruiz brings sadness to his family, friends, and community, we believe his legacy of hard work and kindness will forever live on, through those whose lives he so graciously lived.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me to be here at this time.

STEM CELL RESEARCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CAS-TOR). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for the time remaining until midnight.

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I am very happy to be before my colleagues on the House floor this evening to talk about a hugely important issue that we will be dealing with once again this week in all probability.

As you know, Madam Speaker and my colleagues, I am talking about the issue of stem cell research. Last week the Senate was in session, and once again the bill that passed on the House floor in the 109th Congress, the Castle-DeGette bill, which would require Federal funding, taxpayer funding for embryonic stem cell research that was obtained by the destruction of the so-called "throwaway embryos" from infertility assisted reproductive technology clinics that couples say they did not want, that these were extras. Well, that bill that passed last year on this House floor passed the Senate last week, and, Madam Speaker, we will be seeing that bill very soon once again.

So, I want to be present tonight to talk about this very, very important issue with my colleagues and anyone that has an opportunity within ear distance of what we are speaking about tonight to help bring an understanding to this issue and to try to convince my colleagues that we can do this; that is, we can do stem cell research as we have been doing over the last several years.

Since President Bush's first term in office way back in 2001, we have been spending Federal tax dollars on stem cell research. But what the President said in August of 2001 was that he would not allow Federal tax dollars, your tax dollars, my tax dollars, those of my family, my parents, my constituents, to be used to fund stem cell research that resulted in the destruction of a human life.

What President Bush did say back then was that embryonic stem cell research that was ongoing, that was a result of cell lines developed from human embryos that had already been destroyed could continue; and Federal tax dollars could be used through the NIH to give grants to these researchers as they applied to use these existing cell lines, which indeed did come from the destruction of human life, as I believe life begins at conception, in these embryos that were taken from fertility clinics.

In fact, Madam Speaker, I want to emphasize that point because it is so important that our colleagues understand that, especially new Members on both sides of the aisle that weren't here for the debate last year, that got the impression maybe they and their constituents felt that this administration and the former leadership of this Congress in the 109th was spending nothing, was refusing to fund stem cell

research whether it was adult or embryonic.

But the facts are really brought home by this first slide, Madam Speaker, that I want to present. And this is basically what it says: Our government invested in lifesaving research. The Federal Government has spent \$161 million since 2003 on human embryonic stem cell research. As I pointed out, Madam Speaker, the President was willing to allow that funding to continue on those embryonic stem cell lines that had already been created. And there was some 60 of those stem cell lines where researchers could get a grant from the Federal Government and begin that important research on these stem cells.

Before that, no administration, no President, at no time in the 40 years that the Democrats controlled the Congress, certainly not during President Clinton's 8 years, was one dime of Federal tax dollars spent on embryonic stem cell research. Some was spent on adult stem cell research. But when it was suggested by scientists that maybe the embryonic stem cells had more potential to develop into a lot of different tissues and ultimately organs that could possibly help people with diseases, and we have all seen those television spots with celebrities in some cases, Michael J. Fox, who is suffering severely from Parkinson's disease.

□ 2315

The life of Christopher Reeves, we all know about the tragic injury and the quadriplegic state that he suffered in for many years before his tragic death last year.

When you see those things, you know, you think, well, we are not doing anything. But the truth is, and it is very important for us to understand this, that under President Bush, indeed, since 2003, some \$608 million has been spent on stem cell research. And a lot of that, as I point out, because of those previous embryonic stem cell lines, a lot of it has been on embryonic stem cell research, and he is the only President that allowed that.

Now, we have great Members in both bodies and on both sides of the aisle. And I have a tremendous amount of respect, Madam Speaker, for the two Members in this body, in this House, that felt that because maybe these embryonic stem cell lines that were previously created that were being used for research would exhaust themselves, that we would use up all those stem cells. We certainly haven't, at this moment. I think there is still 20 of those stem cell lines in existence. Some were found to be contaminated. Originally, I think, back in 2001, we estimated that there were 60 of those lines, and now we are down to 20. So I can understand the concern that maybe we would exhaust that supply.

So Congressman CASTLE, a Republican Member, Congresswoman DEGETTE, a Democratic Member, along with the Senate colleagues, Senator

REID, Senator KENNEDY, Senator SPENCER, in a bipartisan way, felt the same thing. So these two bills came before the respective bodies in the 109th Congress. We did pass the Castle-DeGette bill, but the Senate failed to deal with that, until finally it was decided that they would go ahead and pass a companion bill, and then my colleagues, of course, know that the President, as he had said all along that he would veto that bill, and he did.

But what I want to make sure that the new Members understand is that people like myself, who are pro-life Members of this body, we support stem cell research, with only one exception. We don't support research that requires killing of a human life. And last year, I, along with Congressman Roscoe Bartlett, the gentleman from Maryland, a Ph.D. physiologist who knows more about this subject, I guess, than anybody in this body, and we worked together to develop an alternative bill that would allow us, we the Federal Government, to fund research programs that would use embryonic-like cells to get to the same point without destroying human life. And some of the things that were suggested in the Bartlett-Gingrey bill that we voted on, in this House, in the 109th Congress, were to obtain an embryonic cell from a stem cell from an embryo without destroying that embryo, to be able to, essentially, biopsy with a fine needle and obtain those embryonic cells without killing or even harming in any way that little embryo which had the potential, of course, for human life. We didn't want to destroy that life.

And this was part of the Roscoe Bartlett-Gingrey bill. And we felt that this was sort of a win/win situation, Madam Speaker and my colleagues, because we would be able to get to the same point without any collateral damage. And of course the collateral damage that I am talking about is the destruction of a human life.

And I want to go through a few of the posters that we have, and I want to point out, Madam Speaker, that a lot of our colleagues who are in support of destroying those human embryos, kind of indiscriminately, so that we can obtain the embryonic cells that hopefully can lead to cure of some of these diseases that I mentioned, would say in their argument, look, 75, 80 percent of the American people are in favor of this. How could we deny that overwhelming show of support when you ask the American people do they want us to do this, and therefore, we think we should, and we are going to pass this bill, over the President's objection.

Well, Madam Speaker, as we all know, in regard to a response, it really sort of depends on how you ask the question. If you ask the question, and maybe a person sitting at home gets a telephone call of a pollster, and they have been watching television, and they have just seen a clip of Michael J.

Fox and the ravages of Parkinson's disease, or Christopher Reeves, as he sits there with the breathing machine, struggling to talk to the American people about his struggles, and then they get that call, and it is a pollster and they say, would you be in favor of using embryonic stem cells in research to help cure these diseases? And of course that individual may also just happen to have a family member who is in the nursing home suffering from something like Alzheimer's is an example.

And sure, I mean, Madam Speaker, if I were one of those individuals that got that call, I would say, absolutely. Absolutely. So I am surprised the number was only 75 percent. I would think it would be 95 percent, if you phrase the question in that way.

Now, on the other hand, if you said, and you prefaced that with, would you be in favor of your tax dollars going to fund this research on embryonic stem cells that might help cure one of these devastating diseases, then no doubt that number would go down a little bit. I don't know how much, but no doubt. When you start saying, well, now, it is your money. It is not somebody else's money, in the abstract. It is your money. Now, do you want to spend your money, the numbers would not be as high.

But in this, the point I am getting to, Madam Speaker, in this next slide, if you ask the question this way, and this is the only fair way to ask this scientific question, say to the individual, stem cells are the basic cells from which all of a person's tissues and organs develop. Congress is considering the question of Federal funding for experiments using stem cells from human embryos. The live embryos would be destroyed in their first week of development to obtain these cells. Do you support or oppose using your Federal tax dollars for such experiments? That is the question that should be asked. And when it was asked, in a poll conducted by the International Communications Research in May of 2006, this is what the survey said. Those who support that, 38 percent. Those who oppose it, 47.8 percent. So, Madam Speaker, that really is the crux of what we are talking about in regard to, do the American people support research using embryonic stem cells that result in the wanton, indiscriminate destruction of a human embryo, the so-called extra, and I will get into that point later in the discussion, extra, throw-away, nobody wants them, little babies.

And if you believe as I do that life begins at conception, these embryos are several days to a week, maybe even 10 days old, long past the moment of conception.

We are blessed tonight, my colleagues, to have one of our colleagues join me in this discussion. And she just happens to represent a wonderful district in North Carolina that includes the Wake Forest Baptist University

and Medical Center. And I want her to share with us some of the research that is going on there at Wake Forest and the Wake Forest School of Medicine.

I had an opportunity, Madam Speaker, as I was returning to Washington yesterday, to stop at Wake Forest and to visit with Dr. Anthony Atala, who is the president of the Institute for Regenerative Medicine at Wake Forest University, and to spend about 3 hours with Dr. Atala, to have an opportunity to meet with Dr. Hatch, the president of Wake Forest University, and Dr. Richard Dean who is the dean of the medical school. And with the 150, they weren't all there, but quite a few were, Ph.D. and M.D. scientists that are working there at that great university, and some of the things that they are doing to give us an opportunity to obtain pluripotent, almost embryonic-like stem cells that will help us do this kind of research that our colleagues want us to continue, and the President wants to fund, with no collateral damage.

So at this point I want to yield to my colleague, VIRGINIA FOXX from North Carolina, to tell us a little bit more about that program and take as much time as she wants. And we will continue our dialogue. And I yield now to my good friend, VIRGINIA FOXX.

Ms. FOXX. Thank you, Dr. GINGREY, Congressman GINGREY. I appreciate your starting off this hour this evening on this important issue. I also appreciate your having gone to Wake Forest to visit the Institute for Regenerative Medicine. Some of the most important research that is happening in the area of stem cell research is occurring at the Institute for Regenerative Medicine at Wake Forest University. And I am very proud to represent them here in the Congress.

I am going to talk a little bit about what they are doing, but I want to reiterate some of the things that you have been saying. I got out my file today on this and looked back at my notes, and it was almost 2 years ago that I stood on this floor one evening, a little earlier than this, and spoke for about 40 minutes about the issue of stem cell research. And I have told this story many, many times to people, because many may wonder why we are here speaking sometimes to very few of our colleagues who are here in the Chamber. But I tell this story because it was about 9 o'clock at night, and as I said, I spoke for about 40 minutes. And when I got back to my office, the staffer said to me, you just had a call from a gentleman from Maryland who had never watched C-SPAN before, was channel surfing and saw this woman standing on the floor of the House and wondered how in the world did she get to be on the floor of the House when he thought only Members of Congress could speak on the floor of the House. And I didn't look like I was a Member of Congress, so he stopped the channel surfing and watched and listened to me talk about the issue of stem cell research and

called my office and said that he was so grateful for that because he had not understood the issue like I had explained it.

□ 2330

And he wanted to just call and thank me for that. And that has been one of the things that has kept me going and doing these Special Orders at night, thinking that even if we only reach a few people who are watching, it is important to do that, and it is particularly important on this issue.

And I think how you described, Dr. GINGREY, the way the survey question should be asked, explaining to people exactly what is going to happen as a result of the research, is very, very important because we all know you get about whatever results you want to from a survey depending on how you ask the question. But I think describing what stem cell research is, is extremely important, and talking about what is being done. You have presented some facts and figures there already, and I want to do it again. I just think that every time we talk about it, we need to talk about it.

People who are pro-life support stem cell research. I support stem cell research. You do. Every other person here who considers himself or herself a pro-lifer supports stem cell research. But what we want is research that does not require the killing of human life. That is what is important to us. We also know, as you have pointed out, that a lot of money is being spent on embryonic stem cell research. A lot of Federal dollars are being spent on that. And I think, frankly, that we are paying more than our fair share for research that many people find to be morally repugnant.

You gave some statistics. Mine are not long-term statistics. I have the 2006 numbers.

In 2006 NIH spent \$38 million on embryonic stem cell research, compared to \$200 million on human nonembryonic stem cell research, adult and cord blood research. That is very important research. That is the research that has given us some results in terms of curing disease. We have gotten no positive results from embryonic stem cell research, and that is the point I think that needs to be made over and over again.

And one of the reasons I am very excited about the research that Dr. Atala and his team are doing is because they are doing research that doesn't require the destruction of human life. Dr. Atala, who came to Wake Forest from Harvard and brought a large team, as you said, with him, is a tissue engineering specialist, and he has found that amniotic fluid stem cells have those pluripotent properties that you pointed out earlier and grow as fast as embryonic stem cells. And I know that he talked to you about the research, particularly in growing bladders, that has occurred there and the tremendously positive response that he has gotten.

Mr. GINGREY. Reclaiming my time, on that point for just a second, Dr. Atala's research in regard to amniotic fluid cells, which that study was published just this January of 2007 in the journal *Nature Biotechnology*, was an amazing accomplishment in what Dr. Atala says. And I know this, as an OBGYN physician from the great State of Georgia in my prior life where I practiced for 26 years, delivering 5,200 babies. What Dr. Atala is doing, you can obtain this amniotic fluid from a pregnant mom, pregnant woman, in the process of trying to make sure that she is not carrying a baby that has a genetic defect. A lot of times this is done if a woman is a little older. She is not old at age 35 but is considered a little older for childbearing and the increased risk of genetic defects. So a lot of women do have this amniocentesis done. And if not an amniocentesis, a biopsy actually can be taken of a part of the placenta through the cervix as early as 9 weeks of the pregnancy or obtain the amniotic fluid with a very fine needle as early as 10 or 11 weeks of the pregnancy.

So I just wanted to point that out to my colleague that we are just talking about a few weeks more mature in getting those cells, which are almost embryonic because they are so early.

Ms. FOXX. Right. Well, thank you again for pointing out more of the scientific evidence that we have. And I think it is very important that a person with your background as an OBGYN physician can understand this issue so well and explain it. I think that all the physicians on our side of the aisle are very strong pro-lifers and are working very hard to get the information out about this issue.

As you point out, those stem cells, those coming from the umbilical cord and those coming from the placenta and the amniotic fluid, have shown tremendous results.

The other thing that the media does not point out and that people who are proposing that we go to embryonic stem cell research with government funding, they don't point out the fact that over 70 diseases have been treated by adult stem cells and zero treatments have come out of embryonic stem cell research, even though embryonic stem cell research just passed the 25-year mark. For over 25 years, scientists have been looking into using embryonic stem cells, and we have really gotten nothing but negative results from that, and we have gotten tremendously positive results from adult stem cell research.

So that is why it is so important that we always distinguish between adult stem cell research and embryonic stem cell research. We must do that when we talk about it. Again, it is like what you have said, pointing out the questionnaires and the surveys, making sure that people get asked the right question and that we describe the issue very, very well. We need very much to educate the American public on this

issue so that they won't think that the President is being very arbitrary when he vetoes the bill and that we are not being arbitrary when we uphold that veto, which I hope that we will do. And we need to explain to people the ethical questions that we are dealing with.

As I pointed out in my comments a couple of years ago, and I want to say it again, never in this country have we sanctioned research that would harm other human beings. There was the research done in the 1930s that was wrong. We have condemned it. Since that time we have had very, very strong and ethical programs to protect adults from diseases that would cause them harm and from diseases that would cause them death. And yet people don't see the same problem when they are dealing with embryos, and we have to do that. We must do that. We are crossing an ethical Rubicon when we sanction using embryos for research or creating embryos for this research. I think that it is really going over the line, and we must tell people that, and we must have them understand the long-term implications of that for our society and for the human race. We don't believe in doing that in this country.

□ 2340

I think that we have to be very careful again that we explain we can get better results from doing things ethically than we are going to get from doing things unethically, and we don't start down a slippery slope of treating human beings in the wrong way.

I want to thank you again for coming tonight and starting this discussion on this very, very important issue. I hope there is at least one gentleman out there or one person out there, whether they are in Maryland or some other State, who is watching this for the first time and understanding the issue and the distinction that we are making between doing ethical research on adult stem cells and what most of us consider is unethical research on embryos, which will destroy them; and that we can continue to use funds to support programs like Dr. Tony Atala's research at Wake Forest University and other places where they are seeing excellent results. And if we take that money away, we may be denying the kinds of cures that many people say they want to get; but by ignoring the adult stem cell research victories, we may be slowing up the great results that we could get. And I yield back to you.

Mr. GINGREY. I thank the gentelady from North Carolina who I said represents Wake Forest University and Dr. Atala and his team there.

And her closing comments, Madam Speaker, segue really into my next slide in this poster that I've got. What Ms. FOXX said is we have to not go down that slippery slope. We have to consider the collateral damage of what we do. We have to be very, very careful that we are not playing God. And I say

that with all honest, sincerity, that we have an opportunity to do ethical stem cell research; and by that I simply mean balancing life and science.

Ms. FOXX talked about a number of the techniques. She talked about obtaining stem cells from umbilical cord blood. She talked about obtaining adult stem cells from bone marrow or from blood. And she talked about the many successes utilizing research with adult stem cell research. And the cures, I think she mentioned 70 different diseases, including Type I diabetes. There was just a study from Brazil where 13 of 15 Type I juvenile, we call it, it is not always in children, but a lot of children get juvenile diabetes, the severe kind of diabetes that almost always requires insulin therapy, and even with good control, leads to devastating complications, such as blindness, kidney failure, the need for a kidney transplant. Thirteen out of 15 of these Type I diabetics in Brazil who were treated with adult stem cells were found to be months later developing insulin on their own. These stem cells went to the pancreas and became the so-called islet cells, and now 13 out of 15 of those patients are not having to use insulin at all to control their diabetes.

So some of the ethical ways. And then of course we talked about Dr. Atala, who happens also to be chairman of the Department of Urology and operates every day on what you might call routine things, but at the same time is spending a lot of his effort running the Institute for Regenerative Medicine, where they are studying ways to obtain, through amniotic fluid, cells that are neither completely embryonic nor completely adult, but they have qualities that are very similar to both, in being similar to embryonic cells, those that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle mostly, although some Republicans supported the Castle-DeGette as well, the need to use these cells. Well, if you can get the amniotic cells, they can double every 36 hours just like the embryonic cells that we are talking about in destroying a human embryo. But also, similar to an adult cell, they do not form tumors. And that is one of the huge problems that the research on embryonic cells has resulted in.

How do you solve that problem? Well, with Dr. Atala's research, we wouldn't have that problem. These cells would double every 36 hours, and they don't form tumors. The best of both worlds.

I see my colleague from Texas has joined us. He is a fellow insomniac, although it is a little earlier out in Texas and maybe his constituents are still up, certainly some are in California; but it is great to have him with me tonight.

At this point I would like to yield to the gentleman from east Texas and let him join in on this very, very important topic.

Mr. GOHMERT. Well, I appreciate my good friend from Georgia, the good doctor, yielding.

And I, like our friend Ms. FOXX, appreciate so much the time you spent in explaining this, Dr. GINGREY.

You know, when you and I discussed this, and if we could exchange in a colloquy here for a moment, but you and I discussed this back at the time when we were having a vote on this matter.

I came to the floor very excited because this amniotic fluid stem cell information was just exciting because it didn't grow tumors. It wouldn't require throwing away embryos. That was exciting news. And I just felt in my heart, you know, we just get this information to the floor and let those folks, most of them on the other side of the aisle, but all the people who are saying we have got to dispose of embryos, we have got to kill these unborn children in order to get the stem cells that are embryonic stem cells. Here is this great research, the great information that shows these are better than embryonic, these amniotic stem cells. And that is exciting. Nobody has to die to provide stem cells for anybody else to live. We got to the floor, and my heart was broken. They didn't care. They didn't care.

Mr. GINGREY. If the gentleman would yield, and I really so much appreciate him pointing that out.

I think what the gentleman is saying is, no tumor formation, no collateral damage, no destruction of life, lives that could be adopted and become a "snowflake" baby, we have a slide later on to show. But I wanted to mention to my colleague, and I like his comments on this. In addition to the work that Dr. Atala is doing at Wake Forest, and I didn't know this, this is the last year, I say to the gentleman from Texas, but in my great State of Georgia, at the University of Georgia, a Ph.D. researcher, Dr. Steve Stice, has a project whereby embryonic stem cells from embryos can be obtained if it is an embryo that once it is rethawed and there is maybe an attempt to place that in a mother's womb, but if you look at it under the microscope, he can tell if that embryo has the potential for further generation. It is not dead, but you might equate it to, say, a person who has no brainwave activity, the other extreme of life, and has no chance of recovery. Well, Dr. Stice, his research would be to obtain those embryonic stem cells from those embryos so you wouldn't be destroying human life.

And I yield back to my colleague because I wanted to make him aware of that. Our Senator, our junior Senator, who is so prescient and has a way of solving problems when you've got a divide like this, Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON, along with Senator NORM COLEMAN from Minnesota, introduced a bill in the Senate last week and it passed overwhelmingly. I think it got 75 votes. And I hope that we will have an opportunity to vote on that bill in this House if, Madam Speaker, Ms. PELOSI, will allow that to come to voice for a vote; because I can't see why any Member, Republican or Demo-

crat, pro-life, pro-choice, would not want to support that, where it is a win-win situation. I yield back.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you. I appreciate the gentleman from Georgia yielding.

And I know we both share that hope that springs eternal in the human breast, that this is beginning to soak in. In fact, you know, you wonder who is listening, who is paying attention. Are other people getting it? I was talking to seven friends that are here from Smith County with Sky Ranch, a Christian camp, and every one of them get it. They understand.

□ 2350

They know the value of human life, and they are passing that on. And those with whom they deal, they are getting it. So the message is getting out here. And I really believe with the optimism that my dear friend from Georgia has and that we have, that there are so many good people in this body, and I was so pleased to learn that when I got here, that I believe in the end they will get it. They will understand we don't have to make that terribly difficult, unethical decision to end some life in order to take something from that one because we have made the philosophical decision that we think that this person means more to us than this other person, so we take this organ, we take those stem cells and kill them to allow this one to live, and we shouldn't have to go there. And the amniotic fluid stem cells I think provide that kind of excitement.

I thank the gentleman from Georgia and appreciate your interest and care and love for life, all life, even life on both sides of the aisle and for what you are doing here.

Mr. GINGREY. Judge Gohmert, I thank you for your kind remarks; and of course you are here not to praise me but to praise God and life and the sanctity of life at the extremes, the embryo and the senior citizens as well.

My colleagues, Madam Speaker, I cannot over-emphasize the point as I look at this and reference you to this next slide. No lives, no lives are thrown away.

We have heard, all of our colleagues have heard people speak on this floor and say there are 400,000 of these extra throw-away embryos available for this research, and they are going to be and I have even heard people say, thrown down the toilet, that they are garbage. I have heard the expression, and I know this is appalling, Madam Speaker, but to hear the expression that it is nothing but medical waste and they are going to be thrown away anyway, I know that gives many of us and you and me and many of my colleagues chill bumps to think about that.

But the point is of these 400,000, those are not all extra and scheduled for the trash can and available for the harvesting of embryonic stem cells. The fact is in April 2002, there were a total of 396,000 embryos that had been placed

in storage, frozen for possible later use. Of those, and that is what this slide points out, 88 percent of these frozen embryos, in fact close to 350,000, are being held for future family building by the donors. They have not completed their family. Maybe they have not gotten pregnant yet. They have not conceived. So 88 percent are going to remain preserved in a frozen state so that hopefully these infertile couples will hopefully at some point in the future become parents.

And only 2.8 percent, about 8,700 of the frozen embryos, are designated for destruction. Couples a lot of times are asked the question: Well, would you like to give this baby up for destruction so that we can get these embryonic stem cells, or would you rather just throw them away? Well, half of the people that own those embryos would say for whatever reason, maybe the same reason that folks sometimes say no, I don't want an autopsy on my loved one; or no, I don't want to donate an organ when I am in a massive automobile accident and I am brain dead. A lot of people will say, look, I don't want my embryo, my child, to be put in a blender for the sake of obtaining those embryonic stem cells. I would rather it be thrown away.

So this business of 400,000 available, it is nothing near that amount. It is very important for people and our colleagues to understand and to put that in perspective.

Madam Speaker, I know our time is running short. We are rapidly approaching the time that this body will be adjourning for the day, a busy day. And I have one poster in particular that I want my colleagues to take a close look at. This is the one that I am presenting now with these precious children.

These were frozen embryos. These were part of the so-called medical waste that was going to be thrown away; or, indeed, put in a blender and churned up, destroying these little lives. Thank God the ones on this poster were adopted by infertile couples, with the permission from the couples who owned those embryos. These are what we refer to as the snowflake babies.

Last year when we were debating this issue, many of them, the parents went out of their way to take time off work, to buy an airline ticket and fly up here with these toddlers, some months old, and some a few years old. And I saw at the White House, as President Bush vetoed this bill last year, he was holding a set of snowflake baby twins. Indeed, throw away medical waste. I think not.

These little children on this poster look a lot like my six grandchildren. I have three precious granddaughters and three precious grandsons, and I think how precious life is.

We need to think about this very, very closely. I want to ask my colleagues this question, just like the survey, the polling done and you ask the question in the right way: some of us

are pro-life. Some of us are pro-choice. Some of us are Democrats, some of us are Republicans. But if we have an opportunity to obtain embryonic stem cells, maybe they do have more potential than the adult stem cells. I don't know. I do know they have this problem with tumor formation. But if the argument is our hands have been tied, although we have funded embryonic stem cell research on those existing cell lines, but if the opportunity is there and we considered that tonight and talked about Dr. Atala's work on obtaining nearly embryonic, nearly totipotential cells, we also can do things like biopsy an embryo, that is called pregenetic diagnosis, and we do that all the time now.

If an embryo is from a family that has a congenital defect like hemophilia or muscular dystrophy, you can biopsy that embryo to make sure that condition does not exist. If you can do that without harming the embryo, and it has been done thousands of times, we ought to be able to do the same technique and get embryonic stem cells. It takes some research.

If we can continue to fund scientists like Dr. Stice at the University of Georgia in regard to using those essentially brain dead embryos that don't have any potential for further life and get those embryonic stem cells, we don't have to get into this argument, Madam Speaker, between the pro-life and pro-choice community.

Isn't that, my colleagues, the way to go? I hope there is an opportunity this year in the 110th Congress to vote on that bill and give the President something that he can sign and get back to us and make it law.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HIGGINS (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and the balance of the week.

Mr. HILL (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of official business in the district.

Mr. WALSH of New York (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of family reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. KILPATRICK, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WYNN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAYNE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KUCINICH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOLT, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, April 18.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, April 23 and 24.

(The following Member (at her own request) to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at midnight), the House adjourned until today, Wednesday, April 18, 2007, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1076. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism that was declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1077. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the semiannual report detailing payments made to Cuba as a result of the provision of telecommunications services pursuant to Department of the Treasury specific licenses, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6032; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1078. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1079. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1080. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report entitled "Supporting Democracy and Human Rights: The U.S. Record 2006-2007," pursuant to Public Law 107-228, section 665; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1081. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense articles and services to the Government of Russia (Transmittal No. DDTC 036-07); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1082. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense articles and services to the Government of Vietnam (Transmittal No. DDTC 016-07); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1083. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense articles and services to the Government of Japan (Transmittal No. DDTC 037-07); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1084. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense articles and services to the Governments of Russia, Ukraine, and Norway (Transmittal No. DDTC 035-07); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1085. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report mandated in the Participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization Act, 2004 (Pub. L. 108-235), Section 1(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1086. A letter from the Deputy CHCO/Director, OHCM, Department of Energy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1087. A letter from the Deputy CHCO/Director, OHCM, Department of Energy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1088. A letter from the Deputy CHCO/Director, OHCM, Department of Energy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1089. A letter from the Deputy CHCO/Director, OHCM, Department of Energy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1090. A letter from the Deputy CHCO/Director, HCM, Department of Energy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1091. A letter from the Deputy CHCO/Director, HCM, Department of Energy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1092. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's determination and findings of the site at Yucca Mountain for the development of a geologic repository for spent nuclear fuel and high level radioactive waste, pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 253(c)(7); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1093. A letter from the Director, Office of Civil Rights and Diversity, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's annual report for Fiscal Year 2006, Fiscal Year 2005, and Fiscal Years 1999-2004 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1094. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, OARM, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1095. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's annual report for FY 2006 pre-

pared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1096. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas MD-11 and -11F Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2006-25089; Directorate Identifier 2006-NM-091-AD; Amendment 39-14873; AD 2007-01-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1097. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300 B2 and B4 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2006-25670; Directorate Identifier 2006-NM-027-AD; Amendment 39-14868; AD 2006-26-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1098. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Stemme GmbH & Co. KG Model S10-VT Gliders [FAA-2006-26518; Directorate Identifier 2006-CE-84-AD; Amendment 39-14874; AD 2007-01-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1099. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation Model S-61L, N, R, and NM Helicopters [Docket No. FAA-2006-25824; Directorate Identifier 2004-SW-23-AD; Amendment 39-14876; AD 2007-01-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1100. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 707-100 Long Body, -100B Long Body, -100B Short Body, -E3F, -300, -300B, and -300C Series Airplanes; Model 727-100 and -200 Series Airplanes; Model 737-200, -200C, -300, -400, and -500 Series Airplanes; Model 747-100B, 747-200B, 747-200C, 747-200F, 747-300, 747-400, 747-400D, 747SR, and 747SP Series Airplanes; Model 757-200 and 757-200PF Series Airplanes; and Model 767-200 and -300 Series Airplanes; Equipped with Observer or Attendant Seats [Docket No. FAA-2006-24948; Directorate Identifier 2005-NM-030-AD; Amendment 39-14871; AD 2006-26-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) Received March 15, to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1101. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Model BAe 146 and Avro 146-RJ Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2006-25851; Directorate Identifier 2006-NM-133-AD; Amendment 39-14872; AD 2007-01-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1102. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Raytheon Aircraft Company Model 390 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2006-25745; Directorate Identifier 2006-CE-47-AD; Amendment 39-14866; AD 2006-26-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1103. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting

the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; PZL-Bielsko Model SZD-50-3 "Puchacz" Gliders [Docket No. FAA-2006-25810; Directorate Identifier 2006-CE-49-AD; Amendment 39-14838; AD 2006-24-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1104. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Air Tractor, Inc. Models AT-501, AT-502, AT-502A, AT-502B, and AT-503A Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2004-19961; Directorate Identifier 2004-CE-48-AD; Amendment 39-14839; AD 2006-24-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1105. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; International Aero Engines AG (IAE) V2522-A5, V2524-A5, V2527-A5, V2527E-A5, V2527M-A5, V2530-A5, and V2533-A5 Turbofan Engines. [Docket No. FAA-2006-26013; Directorate Identifier 2003-NE-21-AD; Amendment 39-14841; AD 2006-25-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1106. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Raytheon Aircraft Company Models 1900, 1900C, and 1900D Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2006-26258; Directorate Identifier 2006-CE-67-AD; Amendment 39-14840; AD 2006-24-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1107. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A330, A340-200, and A340-300 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2006-25389; Directorate Identifier 2006-NM-059-AD; Amendment 39-14870; AD 2006-26-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1108. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca Model Arrius 2B1, 2B1A, 2B2, Turbohaft Engines [Docket No. FAA-2006-26138; Directorate Identifier 2006-NE-38-AD; Amendment 39-14865; AD 2006-26-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1109. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-200, -300, -400, and -500 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-22629; Directorate Identifier 2005-NM-089-AD; Amendment 39-14867; AD 2006-26-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1110. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Raytheon Aircraft Company Models C90A, B200, B200C, B300, and B300C Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2006-25157; Directorate Identifier 2006-CE-34-AD; Amendment 39-14814; AD 2006-23-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1111. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model DHC-8-400 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2006-25723;

Directorate Identifier 2006-NM-007-AD; Amendment 39-14858; AD 2006-25-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1112. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL-600-1A11 (CL-600), CL-600-2A12 (CL-601), and CL-600-2B16 (CL-601-3A and CL-601-3R) Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2006-25645; Directorate Identifier 2005-NM-201-AD; Amendment 39-14857; AD 2006-25-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1113. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 777 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2006-23817; Directorate Identifier 2005-NM-176-AD; Amendment 39-14846; AD 2006-25-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1114. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Columbia Aircraft Manufacturing Models LC41-550FG and LC42-550FG Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2006-26400; Directorate Identifier 2006-CE-71-AD; Amendment 39-14948; AD 2006-25-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1115. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2006-25423; Directorate Identifier 2006-NM-029-AD; Amendment 39-14845; AD 2006-25-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1116. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.A. Model AB139 Helicopters [Docket No. FAA-2006-25703; Directorate Identifier 2006-SW-20-AD; Amendment 39-14747; AD 2006-17-51] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 886. A bill to enhance ecosystem protection and the range of outdoor opportunities protected by statute in the Skykomish River valley of the State of Washington by designating certain lower-elevation Federal lands as wilderness, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-89). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 309. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a demonstration program to facilitate landscape restoration programs within certain units of the National Park System established by law to preserve and interpret resources associated with American history, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-90). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 865. A bill to grant rights-of-way for electric transmission lines over certain Native allotments in the State of Alaska (Rept. 110-91). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 285. A bill to establish the Steel Industry National Historic Site in the State of Pennsylvania; with an amendment (Rept. 110-92). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 249. A bill to restore the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros (Rept. 110-93). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 162. A bill to adjust the boundary of the Barataria Preserve Unit of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in the State of Louisiana, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-94). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 319. A bill to establish the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-95). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. MCGOVERN: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 301. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1257) to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to provide shareholders with an advisory vote on executive compensation (Rept. 110-96). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 302. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1361) to improve the disaster relief programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-97). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. LAMBORN (for himself and Mr. BUYER):

H.R. 1863. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a two-year pilot program to use a mobile processing unit to perform certain services of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LAMBORN (for himself and Mr. BUYER):

H.R. 1864. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the automated processing of veterans disability compensation claims; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia (for himself, Mr. TURNER, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mr. BILBRAY):

H.R. 1865. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to allow certain local tax debt to be collected through the reduction of Federal tax refunds; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CUELLAR (for himself and Mr. AKIN):

H.R. 1866. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide payment

under part A of the Medicare Program on a reasonable cost basis for anesthesia services furnished by an anesthesiologist in certain rural hospitals in the same manner as payments are provided for anesthesia services furnished by anesthesiologist assistants and certified registered nurse anesthetists in such hospitals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BAIRD (for himself, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. GORDON, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. HILL):

H.R. 1867. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010 for the National Science Foundation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

By Mr. WU (for himself, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. GORDON, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. MITCHELL, and Mr. EHLERS):

H.R. 1868. A bill to authorize appropriations for the National Institute of Standards and Technology for fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

By Ms. VELAZQUEZ:

H.R. 1869. A bill to enhance the ability of community banks to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TOWNS (for himself, Mr. WAXMAN, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut):

H.R. 1870. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to prohibit delinquent Federal debtors from being eligible to enter into Federal contracts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mrs. BONO, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BARROW, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. SHULER, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. MCNULTY, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Ms. HARMAN, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. HARE, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 1871. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase, expand the availability of, and repeal the sunset with respect to, the dependent care tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 1872. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to give investigators and prosecutors the tools they need to combat public corruption; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa (for himself, Mr. CHABOT, and Ms. VELAZQUEZ):

H.R. 1873. A bill to reauthorize the programs and activities of the Small Business Administration relating to procurement, and

for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. ANDREWS:

H.R. 1874. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to require microstamping of all firearms manufactured in or imported into the United States, and ballistics testing of all firearms in the custody of the Federal Government; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOREN (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

H.R. 1875. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the Indian employment credit and the depreciation rules for property used predominantly within an Indian reservation; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ANDREWS (for himself and Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky):

H.R. 1876. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income of individual taxpayers discharges of indebtedness attributable to certain forgiven residential mortgage obligations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BECERRA (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. EHLERS, and Mr. SHIMKUS):

H.R. 1877. A bill to authorize the cancellation of Perkins Loans for students who perform public service as librarians in low-income schools and public libraries; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida (for herself, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. ETHERIDGE):

H.R. 1878. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to permit States, at their option, to require certain individuals to present satisfactory documentary evidence of proof of citizenship or nationality for purposes of eligibility for Medicaid, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARTER:

H.R. 1879. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to convey the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center located in Marlin, Texas, to the State of Texas; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HONDA, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut):

H.R. 1880. A bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish a Summer of Service State grant program, a Summer of Service national direct grant program, and related national activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. DOYLE (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. PICKERING):

H.R. 1881. A bill to improve support and services for individuals with autism and their families; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. EVERETT (for himself, Mr. BONNER, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. BACHUS):

H.R. 1882. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to authorize agricultural producers to establish and contribute to tax-exempt farm risk management accounts in lieu of obtaining federally subsidized crop insurance or noninsured crop assistance, to provide for contributions to such accounts by the Secretary of Agriculture, to specify the situations in which amounts may be paid to producers from such accounts, and to limit the total amount of such distributions to a producer during a taxable year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee

on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FOSSELLA:

H.R. 1883. A bill to codify procedures regarding naturalization ceremonies conducted by the Secretary of Homeland Security; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GORDON (for himself and Mr. PITTS):

H.R. 1884. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of optometrists in the National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself and Ms. GIFFORDS):

H.R. 1885. A bill to establish the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area in the State of Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HINCHEY:

H.R. 1886. A bill to prevent public financing of oil or gas field development projects, surveying or extraction activities, processing facilities, pipelines, or terminals, or other oil and gas production or distribution operations or facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HINCHEY:

H.R. 1887. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the financing for Superfund for purposes of cleanup activities with respect to those Superfund sites for which removal and remedial action is estimated to cost more than \$50 million, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HOEKSTRA (for himself, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. WALSH of New York, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. AKIN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. CLAY, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. UPTON, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. KELLER, Mr. CALVERT, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut):

H.R. 1888. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a shorter recovery period for the depreciation of certain systems installed in nonresidential buildings; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HOLDEN (for himself, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. LAHOOD):

H.R. 1889. A bill to require prisons and other correctional facilities holding Federal prisoners under a contract with the Federal Government to make the same information available to the public that Federal prisons and correctional facilities are required to do by law; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HOLDEN (for himself, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. MUR-

THA, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. LAHOOD):

H.R. 1890. A bill to ensure that the incarceration of inmates is not provided by private contractors or vendors and that persons charged with or convicted of an offense against the United States shall be housed in facilities managed and maintained by Federal, State, or local governments; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 1891. A bill to promote the development of disaster plans that will protect the maximum number of citizens; to foster public trust, confidence, and cooperation with these plans; and to encourage greater public participation in homeland security by allowing the American people to have a direct and influential role in developing and modifying community disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation plans in collaboration with government officials, emergency managers, health authorities, and professional responders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LIPINSKI (for himself, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. SHULER, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. MELANCON, and Mr. DONNELLY):

H.R. 1892. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a National Amniotic and Placental Stem Cell Bank; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 1893. A bill to amend the Federal Hazardous Substances Act to require the inclusion of warning labels on Internet and catalogue advertising of certain toys and games; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York:

H.R. 1894. A bill to provide for the construction and renovation of child care facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York:

H.R. 1895. A bill to improve the tracking of stolen firearms and firearms used in a crime, to allow more frequent inspections of gun dealers to ensure compliance with Federal gun law, to enhance the penalties for gun trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota (for herself, Mr. OBERSTAR, and Mr. ELLISON):

H.R. 1896. A bill to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to fully fund 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure for programs under part B of that Act; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. PAUL:

H.R. 1897. A bill to protect the second amendment rights of individuals to carry firearms in units of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PAUL:

H.R. 1898. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals a credit against income tax for medical expenses for dependents; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PAUL:

H.R. 1899. A bill to amend part A of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify that facilities designated as critical access hospitals may use beds certified for such hospitals for assisted living; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RAHALL:

H.R. 1900. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend eligibility for pension benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to veterans who received an expeditionary medal during a period of military service other than a period of war; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. RAHALL:

H.R. 1901. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend eligibility for pension benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to veterans who served during certain periods of time in specified locations; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. RUSH (for himself, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. DINGELL):

H.R. 1902. A bill to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TOWNS:

H.R. 1903. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act and Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for reconstructive prosthetic urology surgery if they provide coverage for prostate cancer treatment; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico (for herself and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico):

H.R. 1904. A bill to provide assistance to the State of New Mexico for the development of comprehensive State water plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York (for herself, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. ELLISON):

H. Con. Res. 112. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideas of a National Child Care Worthy Wage Day; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. CARNEY (for himself, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. REYES, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. MEEHAN, and Mr. DOYLE):

H. Con. Res. 113. Concurrent resolution recognizing the important contributions and tremendous potential of military ground robotics and expressing the support of the Congress for continued funding and development of Unmanned Ground Vehicles; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CLEAVER (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. BLUNT):

H. Con. Res. 114. Concurrent resolution encouraging recognition of February 13th of each year for the founding of the Negro Leagues in Kansas City, Missouri; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. LEVIN):

H. Con. Res. 115. Concurrent resolution urging all sides to the current political crisis in Ukraine to act responsibly and use dialogue to resolve the crisis and ensure a free and transparent democratic system in Ukraine based on the rule of law; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. McDERMOTT (for himself and Mr. WELLER):

H. Res. 299. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should increase public awareness of child abuse and neglect and should continue to work with the States to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect through such programs as the Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. SIREN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. WATSON, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. LEE, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. CARSON, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. HOYER, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. WYNN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H. Res. 300. A resolution commending the achievements of the Rutgers University women's basketball team and applauding the character and integrity of their student-athletes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

H. Res. 303. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a day ought to be established to bring awareness to the issue of missing persons; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BECERRA:

H. Res. 304. A resolution electing a Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. DRAKE (for herself, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. HAYES, Mr. McINTYRE, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. HUNTER, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. COOPER, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. TURNER, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. ANDREWS, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado):

H. Res. 305. A resolution honoring the 53,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and civilians that comprise the Nation's special operations forces community; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BOUCHER (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. GOODE, Mr. CANTOR, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. FORBES, and Mrs. DRAKE):

H. Res. 306. A resolution offering heartfelt condolences to the victims and their families regarding the horrific violence at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, and to the students, faculty, administration and staff and their families who have been deeply affected by the tragic events that occurred there; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr.

MARCHANT, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WYNN, Mr. REYES, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. HOYER, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. HOLT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MCHUGH, Ms. DeLAURO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. RANGEL, and Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California):

H. Res. 307. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the Nation during Public Service Recognition Week, May 7 through 13, 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

H. Res. 308. A resolution remembering and honoring the life and achievements of Jackie Robinson on the 60th anniversary of integrated Major League Baseball; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself and Mr. KIRK):

H. Res. 309. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should support independence for Kosovo; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. REYES, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ISSA, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. FILNER, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. SOLIS, Ms. KILPATRICK, Ms. LEE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. TIERNEY, and Mr. BOYD of Florida):

H. Res. 310. A resolution condemning in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks that occurred in Casablanca, Morocco, on April 10 and 14, 2007, and in Algiers, Algeria, on April 11, 2007; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LATHAM:

H. Res. 311. A resolution congratulating Iowa State University for its efforts to refurbish and rededicate Morrill Hall; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. LOEBSACK (for himself, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. KING of Iowa):

H. Res. 312. A resolution congratulating Zach Johnson on his victory in the 2007 Masters golf tournament; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. ORTIZ (for himself, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. TAYLOR, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. HARE, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. WOLF, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. SHAYS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. BOSWELL, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. HAYES, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. REYES, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. McNERNEY):

H. Res. 313. A resolution recognizing and commending all of the volunteers and supporters of Our Military Kids, Inc., for their efforts in awarding grants to over 1,100 school-aged children of deployed and severely injured National Guard and Reserve personnel in 49 states and the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WEXLER (for himself, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. COBLE, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. BONO, Ms. WATSON, and Mr. ISSA):

H. Res. 314. A resolution supporting the goals of World Intellectual Property Day, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 19: Mr. DEAL of Georgia.
 H.R. 23: Ms. CARSON, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. MCCOTTER, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. MARCHANT, and Ms. DELAURO.
 H.R. 25: Mr. BILBRAY.
 H.R. 45: Mr. LANTOS.
 H.R. 63: Mr. WHITFIELD and Mr. CHABOT.
 H.R. 67: Mr. SOUDER.
 H.R. 91: Mr. JONES of North Carolina and Mr. GORDON.
 H.R. 154: Mr. ENGEL.
 H.R. 156: Mr. RAHALL, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. CARNEY.
 H.R. 174: Mr. COHEN and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
 H.R. 176: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. DELAHUNT, and Mr. WATT.
 H.R. 178: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. COHEN, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CONYERS, and Ms. CARSON.
 H.R. 180: Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. NADLER, Mr. LAHOOD, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
 H.R. 192: Mr. SHAYS.
 H.R. 219: Mr. TANCREDO and Mr. GERLACH.
 H.R. 221: Mr. SALI.
 H.R. 241: Mr. SESSIONS and Mr. WAMP.
 H.R. 255: Mr. ISSA.
 H.R. 278: Mr. MOORE of Kansas and Mr. DOGGETT.
 H.R. 281: Mr. WU, Mr. McNERNEY, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
 H.R. 303: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
 H.R. 346: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.
 H.R. 359: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota and Mr. WAXMAN.
 H.R. 367: Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.
 H.R. 404: Mr. GOODLATTE.
 H.R. 405: Mr. WAMP, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Ms. HIRONO.
 H.R. 406: Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. KILDEE.
 H.R. 418: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
 H.R. 436: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. FOSSELLA, and Mr. PITTS.
 H.R. 443: Mrs. EMERSON.
 H.R. 445: Mrs. EMERSON.
 H.R. 463: Mr. MCINTYRE.
 H.R. 464: Mr. COHEN and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
 H.R. 468: Mr. HINOJOSA.
 H.R. 503: Mr. EMANUEL, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
 H.R. 522: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
 H.R. 526: Mr. RAHALL.
 H.R. 549: Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. McNERNEY, Ms. SUTTON, and Mr. TIAHRT.
 H.R. 583: Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. ISSA, Mr.

HODES, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. HAYES, Mr. WU, Mr. CANNON, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. TAYLOR, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

H.R. 592: Mr. HIGGINS and Mr. CUMMINGS.
 H.R. 612: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
 H.R. 618: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
 H.R. 628: Mr. FORBES, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee.
 H.R. 633: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
 H.R. 657: Mr. MARSHALL.
 H.R. 667: Mr. LANTOS and Mr. WYNN.
 H.R. 676: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. KILDEE, and Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.
 H.R. 690: Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. ROSS, Mr. JINDAL, and Mrs. CAPPS.
 H.R. 695: Mr. BECERRA, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. OLVER, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. HOYER, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. LEE, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. WYNN, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
 H.R. 711: Mr. BAKER.
 H.R. 718: Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. JINDAL, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. POE, and Mr. WAMP.
 H.R. 728: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. Carney.
 H.R. 729: Mr. WAXMAN.
 H.R. 734: Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. SHAYS, and Mr. ORTIZ.
 H.R. 736: Mrs. CAPITO.
 H.R. 741: Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. PETRI, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. BISHOP of New York, and Mr. KUHLL of New York.
 H.R. 743: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
 H.R. 748: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. BERRY, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. WHITFIELD, and Mr. MARSHALL.
 H.R. 758: Mr. WAMP, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
 H.R. 760: Mr. LYNCH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. WU, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. STARK, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. RUSH.
 H.R. 769: Mrs. MUSGRAVE.
 H.R. 782: Mr. REYNOLDS.
 H.R. 784: Mr. CANTOR, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. ROSS, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. BOYD of Florida, Ms. KILPATRICK, and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
 H.R. 806: Mr. RAHALL.
 H.R. 811: Mr. SAXTON, Ms. CARSON, Mr. SIREN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. HILL, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. BARROW, and Mr. SARBANES.
 H.R. 821: Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. MEEKS of New York.
 H.R. 823: Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. INSLEE, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. WYNN.
 H.R. 829: Mr. CARNEY.
 H.R. 878: Mr. LEVIN.
 H.R. 882: Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. JINDAL, and Mr. HINCHEY.
 H.R. 891: Ms. ESHOO, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. OLVER, Mr. ARCURI, Mrs. TAUSCHER, and Mr. ENGEL.
 H.R. 897: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
 H.R. 916: Mr. ROTHMAN and Mr. MEEK of Florida.
 H.R. 917: Mr. LATHAM.
 H.R. 923: Mr. HINOJOSA and Mr. MCCOTTER.
 H.R. 943: Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, and Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee.
 H.R. 947: Ms. DELAURO.
 H.R. 962: Mr. WAXMAN.
 H.R. 970: Mr. EHLERS and Mrs. BONO.
 H.R. 971: Mr. REHBERG, Mr. ARCURI, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 980: Mr. WEXLER, Mr. COOPER, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. RAHALL, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. POMEROY, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. GORDON, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. PETRI, and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 989: Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. JINDAL, and Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 997: Mr. REGULA, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, and Mr. SOUDER.

H.R. 1017: Mrs. CAPPS and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 1023: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 1026: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. BONNER, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BERRY, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. GORDON, and Mr. WALZ of Minnesota.

H.R. 1028: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota and Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 1031: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 1032: Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 1056: Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 1057: Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 1058: Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 1061: Mr. SHAYS.

H.R. 1064: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. OLVER, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. BEAN, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. CARSON, Mr. HIGGINS, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. LANTOS, and Mr. HALL of New York.

H.R. 1070: Mr. COHEN and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 1072: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 1073: Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. SUTTON, and Mr. ROTHMAN.

H.R. 1076: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. MANZULLO, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND.

H.R. 1084: Mr. BERMAN.

H.R. 1092: Mr. FERGUSON, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. HARE.

H.R. 1093: Mr. BERRY.

H.R. 1094: Mr. JONES of North Carolina.

H.R. 1095: Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 1098: Mr. CARNAHAN and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.

H.R. 1102: Mr. TIBERI, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1103: Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 1108: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 1142: Mr. LANTOS, Mr. McNERNEY, Mr. PORTER, Mr. BOREN, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 1157: Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. FOSSELLA.

H.R. 1187: Mr. WAXMAN, Mrs. CAPPS, and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1190: Mr. BOREN, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 1192: Mr. FILNER and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 1194: Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. FATTAH, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. BERRY, Ms.

- BALDWIN, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mrs. JONES of Ohio.
H.R. 1197: Mr. GORDON and Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 1199: Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 1216: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Mr. REYES.
H.R. 1222: Mr. HIGGINS and Mr. GINGREY.
H.R. 1225: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 1228: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama and Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 1237: Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. WELDON of Florida, and Mr. BOUSTANY.
H.R. 1239: Mr. PITTS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MARSHALL, and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 1261: Mr. SOUDER, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, and Mr. SALLI.
H.R. 1264: Mr. HOLDEN, Mrs. EMERSON, and Mr. MANZULLO.
H.R. 1280: Mr. WOLF.
H.R. 1281: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 1283: Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. SUTTON, and Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 1293: Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. WAMP, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. LATOURETTE, and Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 1304: Mr. ISSA.
H.R. 1308: Mrs. CAYPS.
H.R. 1324: Mr. HAYES.
H.R. 1333: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.
H.R. 1343: Mr. MATHESON, Mr. SRES, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. EMANUEL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. GOODE, Mr. STARK, Mr. FILNER, Mr. CLAY, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 1344: Mr. BARROW, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. SKELTON.
H.R. 1346: Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. WATSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 1355: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 1363: Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. SRES.
H.R. 1368: Mr. CASTLE and Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1377: Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
H.R. 1379: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 1380: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1385: Mr. WEXLER, Mrs. CAPPs, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 1386: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mrs. CAPPs, and Mr. LATOURETTE.
H.R. 1399: Mr. MURTHA, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. GORDON, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. BAKER, Mr. CARTER, Mr. RENZI, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. CAMPBELL of California, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. McCAUL of Texas, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. BARROW, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. GOODE, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. SHIMKUS.
H.R. 1413: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 1420: Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RUSH, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. WATERS, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HARE, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. MARKEY.
H.R. 1424: Mr. DENT and Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1428: Mr. Cohen and Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.
H.R. 1440: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 1453: Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 1457: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
H.R. 1459: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. Clarke, Mr. NADLER, Mr. BOUCHER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 1467: Mr. LATHAM.
H.R. 1474: Mr. RAHALL, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. HOEKSTRA, and Mr. KIRK.
H.R. 1488: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1494: Mr. RAMSTAD, Mrs. CAPPs, and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 1497: Mr. WYNN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. WATSON, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 1498: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. MCCOTTER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. WYNN, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 1518: Mr. GOODE, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, and Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 1524: Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. PAUL, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Ms. LEE, Mr. Welch of Vermont, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 1527: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington.
H.R. 1532: Mrs. CAPPs, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 1540: Ms. SCHWARTZ.
H.R. 1541: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 1551: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. KAGEN, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. FERGUSON, and Mr. WYNN.
H.R. 1560: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. DELAHUNT.
H.R. 1567: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. LEE, Mrs. CAPPs, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 1576: Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. WYNN, and Mr. McNULTY.
H.R. 1582: Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
H.R. 1586: Mr. BOREN, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mrs. CUBIN.
H.R. 1588: Mrs. CAPPs, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 1589: Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.
H.R. 1600: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. CAMP of Michigan, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 1609: Mr. TOWNS, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FILNER, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 1611: Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. MEEK of Florida, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 1616: Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. FILNER, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 1640: Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. SIMPSON.
H.R. 1645: Mr. FILNER, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. MEEK of Florida, and Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 1646: Mr. LANTOS.
H.R. 1647: Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. SPACE, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. FARR, Mr. ROYCE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. WU, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. LATHAM, and Mr. DAVIS of Alabama.
H.R. 1653: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 1655: Mr. CULBERSON, Ms. CARSON, Mrs. EMERSON, and Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 1667: Ms. BERKLEY.
H.R. 1673: Mr. HAYES, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. ALTMIRE, and Mr. ARCURI.
H.R. 1678: Mr. KIRK.
H.R. 1683: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 1688: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 1691: Mr. SERRANO, Mr. FARR, and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 1692: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1700: Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1705: Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. McNERNEY, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. SUTTON, and Mr. LANTOS.
H.R. 1707: Ms. LEE, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. McNERNEY, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 1709: Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HOLT, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, and Mr. MAHONEY of Florida.
H.R. 1713: Mr. LANTOS, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. HOLT, Ms. WATERS, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CARNAHAN, and Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 1728: Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 1729: Mr. GINGREY.
H.R. 1730: Mr. RAHALL, Mr. PETRI, Mr. GILCHREST, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
H.R. 1732: Mr. JONES of North Carolina.
H.R. 1740: Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. WYNN, Mr. HOLT, and Mrs. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 1747: Mr. DOGGETT, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 1755: Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 1756: Mr. SHULER, Mr. ROSS, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mrs. EMERSON, and Mr. GALLEGLY.
H.R. 1760: Mr. WALZ of Minnesota.
H.R. 1773: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. CARNAHAN, and Mr. FERGUSON.
H.R. 1783: Mr. SESTAK, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. ALTMIRE, Ms. SUTTON, and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 1791: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
H.R. 1801: Mr. REICHERT, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. WYNN, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MEEKs of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BERMAN, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. CAPPs, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 1809: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 1811: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.
H.R. 1813: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 1819: Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. DELAURIO, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, and Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 1820: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 1821: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 1823: Mr. SMITH of Texas.

H.R. 1829: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 1845: Mr. PRICE of Georgia and Mr. MURTHA.

H.J. Res. 3: Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. ROTHMAN.

H.J. Res. 12: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.

H.J. Res. 14: Mrs. CAPPS and Mr. HARE.

H.J. Res. 40: Mr. BOYD of Florida.

H. Con. Res. 7: Mr. LANTOS, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. LAHOOD.

H. Con. Res. 21: Mr. STARK and Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia.

H. Con. Res. 33: Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H. Con. Res. 48: Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. PAUL, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. CAPUANO.

H. Con. Res. 49: Mr. HARE.

H. Con. Res. 60: Mr. POE.

H. Con. Res. 81: Mr. WOLF and Ms. SUTTON.

H. Con. Res. 108: Mr. LAHOOD.

H. Res. 37: Mr. HARE.

H. Res. 49: Mr. WYNN, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. BOYD of Florida.

H. Res. 55: Ms. CLARKE.

H. Res. 100: Mr. REYES, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. SIRES.

H. Res. 101: Ms. LEE, Mr. HARE, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. KILPATRICK, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Ms. HOOLEY.

H. Res. 121: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. WYNN, and Mr. WEINER.

H. Res. 146: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H. Res. 158: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H. Res. 186: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. KENNEDY.

H. Res. 194: Mr. NADLER, Ms. CLARKE, and Mr. WYNN.

H. Res. 208: Mr. ISSA.

H. Res. 209: Mr. NADLER, Mr. HIGGINS, and Ms. CLARKE.

H. Res. 216: Mr. PLATTS and Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.

H. Res. 226: Mr. RANGEL.

H. Res. 227: Mr. SERRANO, Mr. HOLT, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H. Res. 241, Mr. FILNER and Ms. WOOLSEY.

H. Res. 243: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. WAMP, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. STUPAK.

H. Res. 257: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. WOLF, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GOODE, Mr. TANNER, Ms. BORDALLO, and Ms. SUTTON.

H. Res. 258: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. MCCOTTER.

H. Res. 259: Mr. HARE, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H. Res. 272: Mr. LANTOS, Mr. WYNN, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. JEFFERSON, and Ms. CARSON.

H. Res. 273: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H. Res. 282: Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. STARK, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. WATSON, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BERMAN, and Mr. FILNER.

H. Res. 285: Mr. GERLACH, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, and Mr. MCCOTTER.

H. Res. 287: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. WYNN, and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.

H. Res. 292: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 293: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SHAYS, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. HONDA, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. HOLT, Mr. CLAY, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HARE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Mr. FORTUÑO.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY: MR. CHABOT

The amendments to be offered by Representative Chabot or a designee to H.R. 1361, the RECOVER Act, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY: MR. HALL OF TEXAS

The amendment to be offered by Representative Hall of Texas or a designee to H.R. 363, the Sowing the Seeds through Science and Engineering Research Act does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 1257

OFFERED BY: MR. BACHUS

AMENDMENT No. 1: Page 4, beginning on line 8, strike "Section 16" and insert "Section 14", and on line 11, strike "(h)" and insert "(i)".

H.R. 1257

OFFERED BY: MR. CAMPBELL OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT No. 2: Page 4, line 13, strike "Any proxy" and insert "Subject to paragraph (3), any proxy".

Page 5, line 6, strike "In any proxy" and insert "Subject to paragraph (3), in any proxy".

Page 6, line 13, strike the close quotation marks and following period and after such line insert the following:

"(3) MAJORITY-ELECTED BOARD EXEMPTION.—The shareholder vote requirements of this subsection shall not apply with respect to any issuer that requires the members of its board of directors to be elected by a majority of the voters cast in a shareholder election of such board."

H.R. 1257

OFFERED BY: MR. FRANK OF MASSACHUSETTS

AMENDMENT No. 3: Page 4, beginning on line 8, strike "Section 16" and insert "Section 14", and on line 11, strike "(h)" and insert "(i)".

H.R. 1257

OFFERED BY: MR. FRANK OF MASSACHUSETTS

AMENDMENT No. 4: Page 4, line 13, strike "IN GENERAL" and insert "ANNUAL VOTE".

Page 4, beginning on line 14, strike "or other meeting of the shareholders" and insert "meeting of the shareholders (or a special meeting in lieu of the annual meeting)".

Page 4, line 16, strike "shall permit" and insert "shall provide for".

Page 4, line 22, insert "the corporation or" after "binding on".

Page 5, beginning on line 7, strike "or other meeting of the shareholders" and insert "meeting of the shareholders (or a special meeting in lieu of the annual meeting)".

Page 6, line 3, strike "shall require" and insert "shall provide for".

Page 6, line 6, insert "the corporation or" after "binding on".

H.R. 1257

OFFERED BY: MR. GARRETT

AMENDMENT No. 5: Page 4, line 13, strike "Any proxy" and insert "Subject to paragraph (3), any proxy".

Page 5, line 6, strike "In any proxy" and insert "Subject to paragraph (3), in any proxy".

Page 6, line 13, strike the close quotation marks and following period and after such line insert the following:

"(3) CONDITIONS TRIGGERING VOTE.—The shareholder vote requirements of this subsection shall only apply if the executive compensation (as disclosed pursuant to the Commission's compensation disclosure rules) exceeds by 10 percent or more the average compensation for comparable positions—

"(A) in companies within the issuer's industry; and

"(B) among companies with comparable total market capitalization,

as determined in accordance with regulations issued by the Commission."

H.R. 1257

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT No. 6: Page 6, line 13, strike the close quotation marks and following period and after such line insert the following new paragraph:

"(3) WEBSITE DISCLOSURE OF VOTE.—Not later than 30 days after the votes provided for in paragraphs (1) and (2)(B) are counted, the issuer shall post the results of such vote in a prominent location on the issuer's Internet website (if the issuer maintains an Internet website)."

H.R. 1257

OFFERED BY: MR. MCHENRY

AMENDMENT No. 7: Page 3, line 18, strike the close quotation marks and following period and after such line insert the following new paragraph:

"(3) DISCLOSURE OF VOTE TO PENSION FUND BENEFICIARIES.—A shareholder who is casting the vote permitted under this subsection on behalf of the beneficiaries of a pension fund shall be required to disclose to such beneficiaries whether such vote was cast to approve or disapprove the compensation."

H.R. 1257

OFFERED BY: MR. PRICE OF GEORGIA

AMENDMENT No. 8: Page 6, line 13, strike the close quotation marks and following period and after such line insert the following:

"(3) CONDITIONAL IMPLEMENTATION.—

"(A) CONDITIONAL EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subject to subparagraph (C), this subsection shall be effective with respect to any solicitation of a proxy, consent, or authorization for an annual or other shareholder meeting occurring on or after the date that is 90 days after the Commission transmits to Congress the report required under subparagraph (B).

"(B) STUDY ON RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF EXECUTIVES.—The Commission shall conduct a study to determine the effect of the separate vote requirements under this subsection on the ability of issuers to recruit and retain executives, and not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, shall transmit to Congress a report containing the findings of such study."

“(C) DETERMINATION BY COMMISSION.—This subsection shall not take effect if the Commission determines, pursuant to the study required under subparagraph (B), that the requirements of this subsection would significantly hinder issuers’ recruitment and retention of executives.”.

H.R. 1257

OFFERED BY: MR. PRICE OF GEORGIA

AMENDMENT No. 9: Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SEC. 1. DISCLOSURE OF EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION.

Congress finds and declares that the shareholder disclosures relating to executive compensation required by the rules issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 8, 2006 (71 Fed. Reg. 53158) provide an adequate and complete mechanism for shareholder approval of such compensation.

H.R. 1257

OFFERED BY: MR. PRICE OF GEORGIA

AMENDMENT No. 10: Page 4, line 25, strike “, nor shall such vote” and all that follows through page 5, line 3, and insert a period.

Page 6, line 10, strike “, nor shall such vote” and all that follows through page 6, line 13, and insert a period, and after such line insert the following:

“(3) LIMITATION ON SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS.—A shareholder permitted to vote

under this subsection shall not be eligible under the Commission’s shareholder proposal regulation (17 CFR 240.14a-8) to make proposals for inclusion in any proxy materials related to compensation.”.

H.R. 1257

OFFERED BY: MR. PUTNAM

AMENDMENT No. 11: Page 4, line 13, strike “Any proxy” and insert “Subject to paragraph (3), any proxy”.

Page 5, line 6, strike “In any proxy” and insert “Subject to paragraph (3), in any proxy”.

Page 6, line 13, strike the close quotation marks and following period and after such line insert the following:

“(3) DEFERRED COMPENSATION EXEMPTION.—The shareholder vote requirements of this subsection shall not apply to an issuer if the compensation of executives as disclosed pursuant to the Commission’s compensation disclosure rule indicates that the issuer provides the majority of the issuer’s executive compensation in the form of non-qualified deferred compensation.”.

H.R. 1257

OFFERED BY: MR. ROSKAM

AMENDMENT No. 12: Page 4, line 13, strike “IN GENERAL” and insert “ANNUAL VOTE”.

Page 4, beginning on line 14, strike “or other meeting of the shareholders” and in-

sert “meeting of the shareholders (or a special meeting in lieu of the annual meeting)”.

Page 5, beginning on line 7, strike “or other meeting of the shareholders” and insert “meeting of the shareholders (or a special meeting in lieu of the annual meeting)”.

H.R. 1257

OFFERED BY: MR. SESSIONS

AMENDMENT No. 13: Page 6, line 13, strike the close quotation marks and following period and after such line insert the following new paragraph:

“(3) DISCLOSURE OF ACTIVITIES TO INFLUENCE VOTE.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) or (2)(B), a shareholder’s vote shall not be counted under such paragraphs if the shareholder has spent, directly or indirectly, more than a de minimis amount of money (as determined by the Commission) on activities to influence a vote of other shareholders, unless such shareholder discloses to the Commission, in accordance with rules prescribed by the Commission—

“(A) the identity of all persons or entities engaged in such a campaign;

“(B) the activities engaged in to influence the vote; and

“(C) the amount of money expended on such a campaign.”.