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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 6, 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.

PRAYER

Chaplain (Maj.) Jonathan J. Etterbeek, 32nd Medical Brigade, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we humbly request Your blessing upon today's session of the United States House of Representatives. Grant guidance and wisdom upon our legislators in advocating equal opportunity, truth, and justice according to the convictions of their conscience, and in accordance with the will of the American people who we have the honor and privilege to serve.

May our legislators exemplify principle-centered, value-based leadership, and may all our thoughts, words, and actions be pleasing and acceptable in Your sight.

Lord, we also remember all of our military men and women serving the cause of democracy and human rights throughout the world today, especially those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice upon the altar of freedom. Thank You for spiritually sustaining us in the defense of liberty, which we as Americans hold sacred and are called to defend.

In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 196. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Rotunda and grounds of the Capitol for a ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Tenzin Gyatso, the Fourteenth Dalai Lama.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COBLE 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.

WELCOMING CHAPLAIN (MAJ.) JONATHAN J. ETTERBEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, today it is my honor to welcome Major Jonathan Etterbeek to the House of Representatives to deliver the House invocation. He is a native of Holland, Michigan, and he is a chaplain of the U.S. Army's 32nd Medical Brigade.

The House is honored to have you with us today. We appreciate you being here to deliver this invocation. It is a time-honored tradition in this historic Chamber to request God's guidance as Congress conducts the business of the American people. We thank you for doing that.

Major Etterbeek is a graduate of Holland High School, Hope College, and Western Theological Seminary, and he is currently stationed in Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

While he has many accomplishments and a distinguished record in the military, it was especially important in 2005 where I had the opportunity in front of a hometown audience to present him with the medals that he earned for his distinguished service while he was in Iraq. I was honored to award him the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Iraq Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Combat Action Badge.

Major Etterbeek, thank you for being here today. Thank you for your service to this country.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

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.



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JUDGING PEOPLE BY THE CONTENT OF THEIR CHARACTER

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, last June 6 I voted for a hate crimes bill in this session, and was proud to do it. Since that time, the black ministers association in my city has come out strongly against the hate crimes bill that provides protection to people against violent crimes.

Mr. Speaker, I addressed that group in Memphis Tuesday a week ago, and at that meeting one of the ministers got up and said to the press, "The reason we're against this bill basically is because a white man can't represent black people."

I represent a black district. I am one of only two Members that do. I plan to represent my people, as I have, and show this country from my district in Memphis, Tennessee, that regardless of race or color, a person should be judged by the content of their character and not the color of their skin, and they can represent people in this country, for this is indeed one country under God, with liberty and justice for all.

We recently celebrated in my city the 50th anniversary of the 1957 civil rights bill and will have the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. King. That event will be in Memphis, Tennessee.

We've come a long way, and we have a long way to go.

CONGRATULATING THE APPALACHIAN STATE MOUNTAINEERS ON THEIR VICTORY OVER THE MICHIGAN WOLVERINES

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, following Appalachian's upset football win over Michigan, Boone, North Carolina, is no longer a sleepy Blue Ridge mountain town. The representatives from each university responded to last Saturday's contest with class: Appalachian not in-sufferable in victory; Michigan a gracious loser in defeat.

But the beneficiaries of this game, Mr. Speaker, are the underdogs, the little guys who are given little or no chance of tasting the spoils of victory. Appalachian's Mountaineers and Michigan's Wolverines will post impressive records during the 2007 season. But Saturday's game, Mr. Speaker, will reinforce the optimism of the proverbial underdog, with the assurance that their chances of achieving victory, albeit remote, are within the realm of possibility, and much is to be said in support of that conclusion.

GAO REPORT SHOWS THAT IRAQI GOVERNMENT IS NOT LIVING UP TO ITS PROMISES

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

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, this week we finally got an objective analysis of the situation in Iraq. We shouldn't be surprised that it differs significantly from the status report from the White House last month, which painted a much rosier political and security scenario in Iraq. Nor should we be surprised if its conclusions are different from a final report that is scheduled to come from the President this week.

The GAO findings are not a surprise. When President Bush began this troop escalation plan, he promised this Congress that the Iraqis must meet these benchmarks, and, if they did not, they would lose the support of the American people.

Many of us who opposed the troop escalation plan were skeptical the Iraqis would be able to meet these benchmarks and that 30,000 more troops would bring about any real improvements in securing Iraq. The GAO report shows that our concerns were justified.

With the failure of the Iraqi Government to meet 15 of the 18 benchmarks, it is clear that a change of course is needed. I would hope that my Republican colleagues would stop blindly following President Bush and conclude, much as this Nation has, that it is time to begin bringing our troops home.

TAX PAIN ON AMERICANS

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Congress talks about feeling the pain of Americans. Well, raising taxes on them doesn't ease their financial pain. Working families are already burdened with high gasoline prices and increased expenses every day of their lives. Working Americans deserve to keep more of their money. It should be their responsibility how to spend it, not a bunch of tax-and-spend bureaucrats in Washington, DC.

We talk a lot about helping American families. Well, let them keep more of their money, instead of taxing them more. More government spending is not a strategy for helping Americans. More taxes on Americans, so special interest groups get more Federal money, is not a strategy for helping Americans.

President Kennedy and President Reagan both proved tax cuts work. Tax cuts, not tax increases, are the fundamental way to move our economy forward. We need to make permanent the tax cuts. And who benefits from tax cuts? Anybody that pays taxes benefits. And those that live off the taxpayer should not expect everybody else to pay more taxes for them.

And that's just the way it is.

SUPPORT AMERICAN TROOPS BY BRINGING THEM HOME

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, all of the photo ops and the doctored statistics in the world will not change the fundamental fact that there is no military solution to the civil war in Iraq. Instead of facing reality, the President is asking for another blank check for his failed policy, and Congress should not give it to him.

We must decide whose interests we represent, a President who has staked his legacy on an unnecessary war, or the millions of Americans that understand that ending the occupation is the first step in repairing the damage that this administration has done to the security of our Nation and the world.

Congress has the power really to end this failed policy. We should not approve another penny to continue that policy. Instead, we should use our constitutionally mandated appropriations power to fully fund the safe, timely and responsible redeployment of our troops and contractors from Iraq.

When we say we support our troops, let's mean it by bringing them home.

VICTORY IN IRAQ

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the plan for General Petraeus' surge was designed to improve Iraq's security so that political and economic progress could follow. Stability measures implemented in violent areas in and around Baghdad and across the nation have produced recognizable results.

There is an increased security in Iraq, and optimistic reports are traveling back from Members of Congress, war critics, and, yes, even the liberal press. Areas once considered terrorist strongholds are now relatively secure. Progress. Sunni and U.S. forces are working together for victory. Progress. Tribal leaders are turning their backs on terrorist insurgents and helping American forces. Progress.

Next week, General Petraeus will deliver a comprehensive report on Iraq and what the surge has produced since he has been on the ground, and I am confident his report will be detailed and honest.

Mr. Speaker, the level of progress is evident, and I believe the continued success of the surge will pave the way for the only way out of Iraq: Victory.

GAO REPORT SHOWS THAT IRAQI GOVERNMENT IS NOT LIVING UP TO ITS PROMISES

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, for months now we have heard from our Republican colleagues that September would be a critical month for the war in Iraq. Earlier this year when this Democratic Congress and the American

people voiced their overwhelming opposition to President Bush's troop escalation plan, our Republican colleagues said, "Give the President time."

The problem is, both the Republican Congress and the Bush administration have been moving the time frame for success on the troop escalation plan. First it was June. Then it was August. Finally, a couple of months ago, Republican leaders agreed that September would be the defining month.

It is clear that President Bush has no intention of ending the troop escalation in Iraq, even though the Iraqi Government has failed to meet the benchmarks that he himself outlined earlier this year. President Bush is determined to leave as many troops in Iraq as possible, no matter what the facts suggest.

The question now is, will Congressional Republicans finally break away from the President and do what is right for this Nation and for the military? Congressional Republicans must realize that the time has come to change course.

MOVING FORWARD AND WINNING PEACE IN IRAQ

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

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, for the last year the Democrats have been saying that the war in Iraq is lost and we should pull our troops out, and they were, of course, opposed to the surge. But after hearing from witnesses of every political stripe week after week on the oversight subcommittee, this profound reality became obvious: The least costly and best alternative for America is not to lose. It is to win.

We are more than halfway through the campaign, and it is too costly to quit and to go back. The concept that we can win is novel to Democrats perhaps, who think in top-down solutions in Washington and in Iraq. But our new military strategy is proving successful.

Just as our Nation grew from the bottom up, town by town, State by State, so also federalism shows success in Iraq. Local communities are working closely with our military to curb violence. For this reason, we must ensure that they have the freedom and the autonomy to continue to develop.

The best alternative for America in Iraq is to move forward to win the peace.

□ 1015

CHILDREN DESERVE HEALTH INSURANCE

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

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is getting harder for American families to make ends meet, especially when it comes to the rising cost of health insurance.

New census data shows that the number of Americans without health insurance nationwide rose by nearly 2 million in 2006. In addition, the number of children without health insurance grew by 700,000 to nearly 8.7 million children. These new numbers mean that one in nine American kids don't have health insurance, including 22 percent of Hispanic children and 14 percent of African American children.

These numbers are appalling for a Nation as wealthy as ours. That is why the Democratic Congress passed the CHAMP Act; to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program for 6 million children and to provide 5 million more children with health insurance, covering a total of 11 million children. But President Bush has threatened to veto this critical bill, despite strong bipartisan support among Congress and Governors.

Mr. Speaker, these new census numbers can't be ignored. It is time to stop playing politics with children's health insurance. It is time for the President to support and sign the CHAMP Act.

WAIT FOR REPORT TO EVALUATE PROGRESS

(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, as America awaits word from our military and diplomatic leaders in Iraq early next week, it is apparent to me that many in Congress seem prepared to prejudge our progress and dismiss the report of General David Petraeus even before he makes it.

Many, as has been done here this morning, cite the recent GAO report as a basis for accepting retreat and defeat in Iraq. But as Fred Kagan of the American Enterprise Institute pointed out recently, the mandate of the GAO report was not to evaluate progress broadly defined in Iraq, it was to determine whether or not the Iraqi Government had met 18 benchmarks set by the U.S. Government. Fred Kagan pointed out that the term "Anbar" actually only appears twice in the GAO report, despite the extraordinary progress in the Anbar Province where we have seen Sunni leadership come forward, working with marines, working with the al-Maliki government and defeating terrorism. The so-called "triangle of death" is so safe the President of the United States was able to land there and meet with Sunni and Shia leaders earlier this week.

I think it is imperative that we stand with our soldiers, we wait and hear from our military and diplomatic leaders, and for the purpose of freedom in Iraq and for the purpose of our national honor, we accept nothing short of victory in that nation.

CHAMP ACT CHAMPIONS CHILDREN

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, for a decade now the Children's Health Insurance Program has provided 6 million children access to private health insurance. Thanks to CHIP, every year over the last decade, the number of uninsured children fell. That is until the last 2 years.

Last week, the Census Bureau reported that the number of American children living without health insurance increased from 8 million in 2005 to 8.7 million in 2006. This is simply unacceptable.

I would hope President Bush saw these troubling numbers and finally realized we cannot afford to ignore them any longer. Last month, this Democratic House acted by passing the CHAMP Act, legislation that will allow us to reach an additional 5 million children who are already eligible for the CHIP program.

When CHIP was created back in 1997, it was supported by both Democrats and Republicans. But today, both the White House and the House Republican leadership oppose the CHAMP Act.

Mr. Speaker, the Census Bureau report should serve as a wake-up call to the President to reconsider his veto threat of the CHAMP Act.

AMERICA HONORS HER GOLD STAR MOTHERS

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

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, last month I was humbled and honored to introduce a resolution honoring the goals and ideals of Gold Star Mothers Day. In 1940, FDR designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mothers Day to commemorate the tremendous sacrifice these courageous mothers have endured on behalf of our Nation.

This year Gold Star Mothers Day will be held on September 30. This brave group of women have turned their personal tragedy into patriotism and caring service.

I want to take this opportunity to pay special tribute to Georgette Frank of Elk Grove Village, Illinois. Her son, Phil, enlisted in the Marine Corps right out of high school in response to the September 11 attacks, and paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

Phil believed that the best way to keep America safe was to take the fight to the terrorists. And the last time he saw his mom he said, "Be strong, Mom. No matter what happens, you be strong." That's exactly what Georgette has done.

Phil and his family represent the best and the bravest that our country

has to offer. Many other courageous families have paid this ultimate sacrifice, one we cannot ignore. Please join me in thanking Georgette and all the Gold Star Mothers by cosponsoring this important resolution.

EDUCATION POLICY

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, No Child Left Behind originally sought to return some education policy-making authority to the States, but in its current form the legislation is a massive spending bill filled with Federal mandates that increases the presence of Federal bureaucrats in our classrooms.

Today, Michigan teachers are forced to adopt a "teach to the test" mentality and spend valuable time on paperwork instead of students.

It has been estimated that teachers and school officials have spent an additional 6.7 million hours completing the cumbersome paperwork required by No Child Left Behind.

As Congress considers the future of education policy in America, we must find a way to give our schools, communities and parents greater flexibility, reduce the bureaucracy in education and ensure the best educational opportunities are being given to our children.

Because I believe each child's educational path should be determined by a child's parents and not by the Federal Government, I am an original cosponsor of the A-PLUS Act, an alternative education policy introduced this year in the House. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

TIME TO BRING WAR IN IRAQ TO AN END

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, we have been at war in Iraq for 5 years, longer than we fought World War II. And notwithstanding all of the rosy predictions by this President and his staff, we are now stuck refereeing a civil war.

Our soldiers are to be praised; they have done an outstanding job. But our political leaders in Washington, including those in this Congress, should be strongly criticized for acquiescing and going along time and time again.

We are told that we need to stay the course for the sake of our standing in the world. But, Mr. Speaker, this war has diminished our standing in the world. Enough is enough. It is time to bring this war in Iraq to an end.

CHARLIE NORWOOD CLEAR ACT OF 2007

(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, last month three college students were murdered by a horrifically violent criminal alien with three previous felony arrests, including the rape of a 5-year-old girl. He should have been deported, but Newark, New Jersey's "sanctuary" law prevented local law enforcement from working with the Feds to detain and deport him.

We need an efficient system of identifying and removing violent criminal elements. That is why I am introducing the Charlie Norwood CLEAR Act of 2007. This bill increases Federal funds to local law enforcement agencies, provides the information they need, requires the Feds to remove and deport criminal aliens and reduces Federal funds for cities that provide safe haven to violent criminal aliens that harm the public.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the Charlie Norwood CLEAR Act of 2007.

AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1852, EXPANDING AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP ACT OF 2007

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the Rules Committee is expected to meet on Monday, September 10, to report a rule that may structure the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 1852, the Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007.

Members who wish to offer an amendment to this bill must submit 30 copies of the amendment and a brief description of the amendment to the Rules Committee in H-312 in the Capitol no later than 11 a.m. on Monday, September 10. Members are strongly advised to adhere to the amendment deadline to ensure that amendments receive consideration.

Amendments must be drafted to the bill as reported by the Committee on Financial Services on June 28, 2007. The text of the bill is posted on the Rules Committee Web site. Amendments should be drafted by legislative counsel and also should be reviewed by the Office of the Parliamentarian to be sure that the amendments comply with the rules of the House. Members are also strongly encouraged to submit their amendments to the Congressional Budget Office for analysis regarding possible PAYGO violations.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2786, NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 633 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 633

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2786) to reauthorize the programs for housing assistance for Native Americans. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions of the bill are waived. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII and except pro forma amendments for the purpose of debate. Each amendment so printed may be offered only by the Member who caused it to be printed or his designee and shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. During consideration in the House of H.R. 2786 pursuant to this resolution, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to such time as may be designated by the Speaker.

SEC. 3. House Resolutions 595, 596, 613, and 614 are laid upon the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 633.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 633 provides for the consideration of H.R. 2786, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2007, under an open rule with a preprinting requirement. The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate controlled by the Committee on Financial Services. The rule tables H. Res. 595, H. Res. 596, H. Res. 613, and H. Res. 614.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this rule and in support of the Native American Housing Assistance and

Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2007. This is an open rule that allows for any germane amendment to be offered to this bill, as long as it is preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I am pleased to see seven amendments were preprinted in the RECORD, and it is important to note that six of these are Republican amendments.

I commend my colleagues Chairman FRANK, Ranking Member BACHUS, Housing Subcommittee Chair WATERS, Housing Subcommittee Ranking Member BIGGERT, and the members of the Committee on Financial Services for their hard work and for this excellent bill. I also want to commend the bipartisan efforts of Congressmen KILDEE, COLE, PEARCE, BOREN and RENZI for their tireless work on this bill and on Native American issues overall.

H.R. 2786 takes a critical step in addressing Native American housing needs. By providing desperately needed reforms, this legislation allows Native American communities to put roofs over the heads of its neediest members.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2786 increases flexibility and independence within the tribal housing authorities to best meet the needs of their individual communities. This legislation ensures safety and quality of housing by allowing Native American tribes to set aside up to 15 percent of their grant funding for housing rehabilitation, construction and acquisition. Increased efficiency within housing authorities means more affordable housing for more low-income families.

In addition to guaranteeing available and quality housing, H.R. 2786 allows tribes discretion in tailoring block grant funding to their community. Tribes will be able to compete for a greater variety of available grants and attend educational seminars from the Department of Housing and Urban Development on how best to utilize funds and programs.

Currently, the cost to rent a house or apartment is at an all-time high across the United States, and the wages people earn have not kept up with the increases in housing, food, transportation and other basic necessities. Having shelter for you and your family, a decent place to live, is not a luxury. It's a basic human need that everyone requires and deserves.

Too many people face the choice every day between paying the rent or being able to put food on the table or buying medicine for a sick child. That simply should not be happening in America.

Once again, I commend the efforts of the House Financial Services Committee, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2786, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2007.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Massa-

chusetts for yielding his time, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this unnecessarily restrictive rule and to parts of the potentially unconstitutional legislation that the Democrat majority is bringing to the floor today.

I would like to note at the outset of this debate that this legislation accomplishes a number of positive things, including making the Indian Housing Block Grant program more flexible and helping Native American tribes become less dependent on the Federal Government by giving them the tools that they need to exercise greater autonomy over their own affairs. I would like to commend my friend from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) for his hard work on this legislation on behalf of his well-represented constituents and for Native American tribes across the United States.

However, this legislation does include language that places funding for Native Hawaiians at great risk because of its extremely suspect constitutionality. In 2000, the Supreme Court decided in *Rice v. Cayetano* that the current configuration of justices would likely strike down most Federal benefits flowing to Native Hawaiians as an unconstitutional racial set-aside, if given a chance.

I am already aware of this problem because these exact same constitutional concerns plagued H.R. 835, the Hawaiian Homeownership Opportunity Act of 2007, which the Democrat leadership allowed to fail under suspension of the rules earlier this year.

Title VIII of today's bill contains this same language and opens up today's legislation to all of the same concerns that were leveled against H.R. 835. I understand that my good friend from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) has submitted an amendment to correct this problem, and I look forward to hearing the debate on its passage later this afternoon.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned by the open-ended nature of this authorization. I understand that about \$650 million has been appropriated annually for Native American housing over the last few years. Today's bill authorizes an unlimited amount of spending for the next 5 years for these programs.

While I understand very well the need for funding in a number of impoverished communities across this country, I believe that in the current fiscal climate, a climate in which Democrats have proposed an enormous \$26 billion of additional new spending over last year, that authorizing an unlimited amount of money for the program is simply irresponsible.

Limits need to be set, Mr. Speaker, and it's the job of a majority to make tough decisions as to where spending is most needed and from which other programs it should be taken. By authorizing as much money as the appropri-

ators care to spend, this legislation shirks its responsibility to provide guidance to an appropriate level of spending. As a fiscal conservative who is greatly concerned about runaway spending in this Democrat Congress, I believe this is simply wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to oppose this restrictive rule that is not an open rule, despite Democrat claims to the contrary. I understand that they are in the majority and that the Democrat leadership has the ability to pressure their Members into supporting a resolution stating that Congress believes that two plus two equals five. However, that simply does not make it so and true.

In this same vein, despite their protests when they came to the floor and the claim that this modified open rule is open, that too is simply not so. It restricts Members who have ideas about how to improve this legislation during the debate from having their proposals heard, and there is simply no denying that fact.

I oppose this restrictive rule and the unconstitutional and irresponsible spending provisions included in the underlying legislation.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud of what the Democratic Rules Committee did last night. I think the gentleman has a little problem saying Democratic, but that's what it is, Democratic Rules Committee.

Yes, this is an open rule that calls for a preprinting requirement so that people can actually read what we're going to debate. I'm sorry that the gentleman from Texas doesn't believe that Members of Congress deserve the courtesy of being able to read what they should vote on.

I should also say that the gentleman, if he's got a brilliant idea along the way, that his leadership can work with our leadership and maybe we can come to some sort of accommodation if there's another amendment that hasn't been offered. But I will remind him that the majority of amendments that have been preprinted are Republican amendments.

I will also remind him, in case he forgot, that last night in the Rules Committee when we called for a roll call vote, the former chairman of the Rules Committee, the distinguished Republican from California (Mr. DREIER) voted "yes" for the rule. The distinguished Republican gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) voted "yes" for the rule.

So I'm not quite sure what the controversy is.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve my time at this point.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE), one of the sponsors of this bill and the leader behind this effort.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding,

and I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for his work on this bill.

The Native American Housing Assistance Self-Determination Reauthorization is actually quite a bipartisan effort in the Financial Services Committee. We had Representative WATERS, Chairman FRANK, myself, and Mr. KILDEE working on the bill.

Basically, we're faced in many of the States with Indian tribes with large Indian populations. We are faced with the problem of consistent high unemployment, consistent homelessness, substandard housing, infrastructure that is not developed.

In New Mexico, I've seen Native American homes which consist of cardboard, corrugated tin, bare boards, no insulation, and I've seen where toilets simply flush out the bottom of the trailer out onto the ground with no sewage infrastructure.

And so what I began to do when I first came to Congress is sit down and meet with the tribal leaders. We formed not only a working relationship but a strong friendship as we tried to wrestle with these problems in New Mexico, as we began to wrestle with the problems of self-determination, the problems of self-sufficiency, the problems of employment of tribal members. They understand there's a cultural problem, as well as a systemic economic problem; but we have committed ourselves together to work one issue at a time, side by side, to accomplish what we can.

So when we come to this housing problem, this reauthorization, and I understand my friend from Texas and in his objections, and do not disagree with those, but at some point, I myself am faced with a pragmatic decision about just what can we do and what are we going to do.

So I find that the greater discretion that's allowed in this language, the greater flexibility that is allowed to the Native Americans to begin to make their own decisions, and we've had frank, straightforward discussions about accountability, about the needs of these funds to be measured and where they go and what they accomplish, and never do I find them to be wary of this accountability. It's just that they are trying to get their feet underneath them to try to solve the problems on their tribal grounds.

And so I come to the floor to support the reauthorization and several of the underlying amendments that will come up on that.

One of the things that this bill does is begin to set up block grant programs to where the tribes can take out loans for infrastructure, clean water, healthy drinking water, ways to dispose of raw sewage. Those are things that really affect every tribe, and not many of them have very good solutions. Many in New Mexico are a long way away from the urban centers where the funds are available to create sewage treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants; and so it's an important addition to

this bill that we allow them that flexibility and that ability to create the loan programs, much like the CDBG program which affects small communities, rural communities throughout New Mexico.

So as we begin to look at this reauthorization again, I would come to the floor in support of that and in support of the idea that we must begin to pay attention to the very desperate needs that exist on many of the tribal grounds throughout this country; and as we do that, I think that we'll find when housing begins to stabilize, then those cultures begin to stabilize because homeownership is one of the basic building blocks of a society, that ability to have some place where you can retreat and be away from the cares of the world with the family structure gathered around.

So it would work well. The idea of affordable housing is one that is extraordinarily important in all of New Mexico. We have a very low per capita income, and so affordable housing is important in every community but especially in our Native American communities, and the affordable housing is addressed here in this reauthorization, too.

So understanding the objection of my friend from Texas, I would still rise in support of the underlying legislation of this rule.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, if I could inquire from my friend from Massachusetts about additional speakers that he may have, I do not have any additional speakers at this time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I am the final speaker on this side, so I will let the gentleman close.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the gentleman.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would close by simply saying that this is a good underlying bill. I hope it passes, but this is also a good rule. It is an open rule that requires the preprinting of amendments so that Members who come to the floor can have an opportunity to read and to study what they're going to vote on.

This was a rule that had strong bipartisan support in the Rules Committee last night, including from the distinguished former chairman, the ranking Republican from California (Mr. DREIER); from Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART, the Republican from Florida.

This is a good way to approach this issue, and with that, Mr. Speaker, I would urge a "yes" vote on the rule and I would urge a "yes" vote on the underlying bill as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Approval of the Journal, by the yeas and nays;

Adoption of H. Res. 633, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 214, nays 176, not voting 42, as follows:

[Roll No. 854]

YEAS—214

Abercrombie	Davis, Lincoln	Jackson-Lee
Ackerman	Deal (GA)	(TX)
Allen	DeFazio	Johnson (GA)
Arcuri	DeGette	Johnson (IL)
Baca	Delahunt	Johnson, E. B.
Baird	DeLauro	Jones (NC)
Baldwin	Dicks	Jones (OH)
Bean	Dingell	Kagen
Becerra	Doggett	Kanjorski
Berkley	Doyle	Kaptur
Berman	Edwards	Kennedy
Berry	Ehlers	Kildee
Bishop (GA)	Ellison	Kilpatrick
Bishop (NY)	Emanuel	Kind
Blumenauer	Eshoo	Klein (FL)
Boren	Etheridge	Kuhl (NY)
Boswell	Farr	LaHood
Boucher	Fattah	Lampson
Boyd (FL)	Forbes	Langevin
Boyd (KS)	Fortenberry	Lantos
Braley (IA)	Giffords	Larsen (WA)
Brown, Corrine	Gillibrand	Larson (CT)
Butterfield	Gonzalez	LaTourette
Capps	Gordon	Lee
Capuano	Green, Al	Levin
Carnahan	Green, Gene	Lewis (GA)
Carson	Grijalva	Lipinski
Castor	Gutierrez	Loebsack
Clarke	Hall (NY)	Lofgren, Zoe
Cleaver	Hare	Lowe
Clyburn	Harman	Lynch
Coble	Hastings (FL)	Mahoney (FL)
Cohen	Herseth Sandlin	Maloney (NY)
Conyers	Higgins	Markey
Cooper	Hinches	Marshall
Costa	Hinojosa	McCollum (MN)
Costello	Hirono	McDermott
Courtney	Hodes	McGovern
Cramer	Holden	McIntyre
Crowley	Holt	McNerney
Cuellar	Honda	McNulty
Cummings	Hoyer	Meek (FL)
Davis (AL)	Inslee	Meeks (NY)
Davis (CA)	Israel	Melancon
Davis (IL)	Jackson (IL)	Michaud

Miller (NC) Rothman
 Miller, George Roybal-Allard
 Mollohan Ruppertsberger
 Moore (KS) Rush
 Moore (WI) Ryan (OH)
 Moran (VA) Salazar
 Murphy (CT) Sánchez, Linda
 Murtha T.
 Nadler Sarbanes
 Napolitano Schakowsky
 Neal (MA) Schiff
 Oberstar Schwartz
 Obey Scott (GA)
 Ortiz Scott (VA)
 Pallone Sestak
 Pascrell Shea-Porter
 Pastor Sherman
 Paul Simpson
 Payne Sires
 Perlmutter Skelton
 Pomeroy Slaughter
 Price (NC) Smith (WA)
 Rahall Snyder
 Rangel Solis
 Reyes Space
 Richardson Spratt
 Rodriguez Stark
 Ross Sullivan

McCarthy (NY) Royce
 McCotter Sali
 McMorris Sanchez, Loretta
 Rodgers Serrano
 Murphy, Patrick Shimkus
 Oliver Tancred
 Radanovich Terry
 Renzi Visclosky

Maloney (NY) Payne
 Markey Perlmutter
 Marshall Peterson (MN)
 Matheson Pomeroy
 McCollum (MN) Price (NC)
 McDermott Rahall
 McGovern Rangel
 McIntyre Reyes
 McNerney Richardson
 McNulty Rodriguez
 Meek (FL) Ross
 Meeks (NY) Rothman
 Melancon Roybal-Allard
 Michaud Ruppertsberger
 Miller (NC) Rush
 Miller, George Ryan (OH)
 Mitchell Salazar
 Mollohan Sánchez, Linda
 Moore (KS) T.
 Moore (WI) Sarbanes
 Moran (VA) Schakowsky
 Murphy (CT) Schiff
 Murtha Schwartz
 Nadler Scott (GA)
 Napolitano Scott (VA)
 Neal (MA) Serrano
 Oberstar Sestak
 Obey Shays
 Olver Shea-Porter
 Ortiz Sherman
 Pallone Shuler
 Pascrell Sires
 Pastor Skelton

□ 1109

Messrs. McCRERY, LEWIS of California, HAYES and HUNTER changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. HOLT changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 854, I was away on official business in my capacity as Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

NAYS—176

Aderholt Ferguson
 Akin Flake
 Alexander Foxx
 Altmire Franks (AZ)
 Bachmann Frelinghuysen
 Bachus Gallegly
 Baker Garrett (NJ)
 Barrett (SC) Gerlach
 Barrow Gilchrest
 Bartlett (MD) Gingrey
 Biggert Goode
 Bilbray Goodlatte
 Bilirakis Granger
 Bishop (UT) Graves
 Blackburn Hall (TX)
 Blunt Hastings (WA)
 Boehner Hayes
 Bonner Heller
 Bono Hensarling
 Boozman Herger
 Boustany Regula
 Brady (TX) Hobson
 Broun (GA) Hoekstra
 Brown (SC) Hulshof
 Brown-Waite, Hunter
 Ginny Inglis (SC)
 Burgess Issa
 Burton (IN) Jordan
 Buyer Keller
 Calvert King (IA)
 Camp (MI) King (NY)
 Campbell (CA) Kingston
 Cannon Kirk
 Cantor Kline (MN)
 Capito Knollenberg
 Carney Lamborn
 Castle Latham
 Chabot Lewis (CA)
 Chandler Lewis (KY)
 Cole (OK) Linder
 Conaway LoBiondo
 Crenshaw Lucas
 Culberson Lungren, Daniel
 Davis (KY) E.
 Davis, David Mack
 Davis, Tom Manzullo
 Dent Marchant
 Diaz-Balart, L. Matheson
 Diaz-Balart, M. McCarthy (CA)
 Donnelly McCaul (TX)
 Doolittle McCrery
 Drake McHenry
 Dreier McHugh
 Duncan McKeon
 Ellsworth Mica
 Emerson Miller (FL)
 English (PA) Miller (MI)
 Everrett Miller, Gary
 Fallin Mitchell
 Feeney Moran (KS)

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2786, NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on adoption of House Resolution 633, 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 resolution.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 221, nays 178, not voting 33, as follows:

[Roll No. 855]
 YEAS—221

Abercrombie Costello
 Ackerman Courtney
 Allen Cramer
 Altmire Crowley
 Arcuri Cuellar
 Baca Cummings
 Baird Davis (AL)
 Baldwin Davis (CA)
 Barrow Davis (IL)
 Bean Davis, Lincoln
 Becerra DeFazio
 Berkley DeGette
 Berman Delahunt
 Berry DeLauro
 Bishop (GA) Dicks
 Bishop (NY) Dingell
 Blumenauer Doggett
 Boren Donnelly
 Boswell Doyle
 Boucher Edwards
 Boyd (FL) Ellison
 Boyda (KS) Ellsworth
 Braley (IA) Emanuel
 Brown, Corrine Eshoo
 Brown-Waite, Etheridge
 Ginny Farr
 Butterfield Fattah
 Capps Filner
 Capuano Frank (MA)
 Carnahan Giffords
 Carney Gillibrand
 Carson Gonzalez
 Castor Gordon
 Chandler Green, Al
 Clarke Green, Gene
 Clay Grijalva
 Cleaver Gutierrez
 Clayburn Hall (NY)
 Cohen Hare
 Conyers Harman
 Cooper Hastings (FL)
 Costa Hayes

Aderholt Fossella
 Akin Foxx
 Alexander Franks (AZ)
 Bachmann Frelinghuysen
 Bachus Gallegly
 Baker Garrett (NJ)
 Barrett (SC) Gerlach
 Bartlett (MD) Gilchrest
 Barton (TX) Gingrey
 Biggert Goode
 Bilbray Goodlatte
 Bilirakis Granger
 Bishop (UT) Graves
 Blackburn Hall (TX)
 Blunt Hastings (WA)
 Bonner Heller
 Bono Hensarling
 Boozman Herger
 Boustany Hobson
 Brady (TX) Hoekstra
 Broun (GA) Hulshof
 Brown (SC) Inglis (SC)
 Buchanan Issa
 Burgess Johnson (IL)
 Burton (IN) Jones (NC)
 Buyer Jordan
 Calvert Keller
 Camp (MI) King (IA)
 Campbell (CA) King (NY)
 Cannon Kingston
 Cantor Kirk
 Capito Kline (MN)
 Castle Knollenberg
 Chabot Kuhl (NY)
 Coble LaHood
 Cole (OK) Lamborn
 Conaway Latham
 Crenshaw LaTourette
 Culberson Lewis (CA)
 Davis (KY) Lewis (KY)
 Davis, David Linder
 Davis, Tom LoBiondo
 Deal (GA) Lucas
 Dent Lungren, Daniel
 Diaz-Balart, L. E.
 Diaz-Balart, M. Mack
 Doolittle Manzullo
 Drake Marchant
 Dreier McCarthy (CA)
 Duncan McCaul (TX)
 Ehlers McCotter
 Emerson McCrery
 English (PA) McHenry
 Everrett McHugh
 Fallin McKeon
 Feeney McMorris
 Ferguson Rodgers
 Flake Mica
 Forbes Miller (FL)
 Fortenberry Miller (MI)

NAYS—178

Miller, Gary
 Moran (KS)
 Murphy, Tim
 Musgrave
 Myrick
 Neugebauer
 Nunes
 Paul
 Pearce
 Pence
 Peterson (PA)
 Petri
 Pickering
 Pitts
 Platts
 Porter
 Price (GA)
 Pryce (OH)
 Putnam
 Ramstad
 Regula
 Rehberg
 Reichert
 Reynolds
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rogers (MI)
 Rohrabacher
 Roskam
 Ryan (WI)
 Sali
 Saxton
 Schmidt
 Sensenbrenner
 Sessions
 Shadegg
 Shuster
 Simpson
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (TX)
 Souder
 Stearns
 Sullivan
 Thornberry
 Tiahrt
 Tiberi
 Turner
 Upton
 Walberg
 Walden (OR)
 Walsh (NY)
 Wamp
 Weldon (FL)
 Westmoreland
 Whitfield
 Wicker
 Wilson (NC)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wolf

NOT VOTING—42

Andrews Cubin
 Barton (TX) Davis, Jo Ann
 Brady (PA) Engel
 Buchanan Filner
 Cardoza Fossella
 Carter Frank (MA)
 Clay Gohmert

NOT VOTING—33

Andrews Brady (PA)
 Boehner Cardoza
 Carter
 Cubin

Davis, Jo Ann	Matsui	Smith (NJ)
Engel	McCarthy (NY)	Tancredo
Gohmert	Murphy, Patrick	Terry
Hastert	Radanovich	Visclosky
Hooley	Renzi	Watson
Jefferson	Ros-Lehtinen	Weiner
Jindal	Royce	Weller
Johnson, Sam	Sanchez, Loretta	Young (AK)
Kucinich	Shimkus	Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1119

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 855 I inadvertently voted "yes," but meant to vote "no."

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2669, COLLEGE COST REDUCTION AND ACCESS ACT

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 2669) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 601 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008:

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 110-317)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment to the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2669), to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 601 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the "College Cost Reduction and Access Act".

(b) **REFERENCES.**—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 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.).

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Except as otherwise expressly provided, the amendments made by this Act shall be effective on October 1, 2007.

TITLE I—GRANTS TO STUDENTS IN ATTENDANCE AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

SEC. 101. TUITION SENSITIVITY.

(a) **AMENDMENT.**—Section 401(b) (20 U.S.C. 1070a(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (3); and

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (9) as paragraphs (3) through (8), respectively.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall be effective with respect to determinations of Federal Pell Grant amounts for award years beginning on or after July 1, 2007.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated, and there is appropriated, out of any money in

the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Department of Education to carry out the amendment made by subsection (a), \$11,000,000 for fiscal year 2008.

SEC. 102. MANDATORY PELL GRANT INCREASES.

(a) **EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.**—Section 401(a) (20 U.S.C. 1070a(a)) is amended by striking "fiscal year 2004" and inserting "fiscal year 2017".

(b) **FUNDING FOR INCREASES.**—Section 401(b) (20 U.S.C. 1070a(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(9) **ADDITIONAL FUNDS.**—

"(A) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appropriated, and there are appropriated, to carry out subparagraph (B) of this paragraph (in addition to any other amounts appropriated to carry out this section and out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated) the following amounts:

"(i) \$2,030,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

"(ii) \$2,090,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

"(iii) \$3,030,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

"(iv) \$3,090,000,000 for fiscal year 2011;

"(v) \$5,050,000,000 for fiscal year 2012;

"(vi) \$105,000,000 for fiscal year 2013;

"(vii) \$4,305,000,000 for fiscal year 2014;

"(viii) \$4,400,000,000 for fiscal year 2015;

"(ix) \$4,600,000,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

"(x) \$4,900,000,000 for fiscal year 2017.

"(B) **INCREASE IN FEDERAL PELL GRANTS.**—The amounts made available pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this paragraph shall be used to increase the amount of the maximum Federal Pell Grant for which a student shall be eligible during an award year, as specified in the last enacted appropriation Act applicable to that award year, by—

"(i) \$490 for each of the award years 2008–2009 and 2009–2010;

"(ii) \$690 for each of the award years 2010–2011 and 2011–2012; and

"(iii) \$1,090 for award year 2012–2013.

"(C) **ELIGIBILITY.**—The Secretary shall only award an increased amount of a Federal Pell Grant under this section for any award year pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph to students who qualify for a Federal Pell Grant award under the maximum grant award enacted in the annual appropriation Act for such award year without regard to the provisions of this paragraph.

"(D) **FORMULA OTHERWISE UNAFFECTED.**—Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to alter the requirements of this section, or authorize the imposition of additional requirements, for the determination and allocation of Federal Pell Grants under this section.

"(E) **RATABLE INCREASES AND DECREASES.**—The amounts specified in subparagraph (B) shall be ratably increased or decreased to the extent that funds available under subparagraph (A) exceed or are less than (respectively) the amount required to provide the amounts specified in subparagraph (B).

"(F) **USE OF FISCAL YEAR FUNDS FOR AWARD YEARS.**—The amounts made available by subparagraph (A) for any fiscal year shall be available and remain available for use under subparagraph (B) for the award year that begins in such fiscal year."

SEC. 103. UPWARD BOUND.

Section 402C is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(f) **ADDITIONAL FUNDS.**—

"(1) **AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATION.**—There are authorized to be appropriated, and there are appropriated to the Secretary, from funds not otherwise appropriated, \$57,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2011 to carry out paragraph (2), except that any amounts that remain unexpended for such purpose for each of such fiscal years may be available for technical assistance and administration costs for the Upward Bound program. The authority to award grants under this subsection shall expire at the end of fiscal year 2011.

"(2) **USE OF FUNDS.**—The amounts made available by paragraph (1) shall be available to provide assistance to all Upward Bound projects that did not receive assistance in fiscal year 2007 and that have a grant score above 70. Such assistance shall be made available in the form of 4-year grants."

SEC. 104. TEACH GRANTS.

Part A of title IV (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new subpart:

"Subpart 9—TEACH Grants

"SEC. 420L. DEFINITIONS.

"For the purposes of this subpart:

"(1) **ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.**—The term 'eligible institution' means an institution of higher education, as defined in section 102, that the Secretary determines—

"(A) provides high quality teacher preparation and professional development services, including extensive clinical experience as a part of pre-service preparation;

"(B) is financially sound;

"(C) provides pedagogical course work, or assistance in the provision of such coursework, including the monitoring of student performance, and formal instruction related to the theory and practices of teaching; and

"(D) provides supervision and support services to teachers, or assistance in the provision of such services, including mentoring focused on developing effective teaching skills and strategies.

"(2) **POST-BACCALAUREATE.**—The term 'post-baccalaureate' means a program of instruction for individuals who have completed a baccalaureate degree, that does not lead to a graduate degree, and that consists of courses required by a State in order for a teacher candidate to receive a professional certification or licensing credential that is required for employment as a teacher in an elementary school or secondary school in that State, except that such term shall not include any program of instruction offered by an eligible institution that offers a baccalaureate degree in education.

"(3) **TEACHER CANDIDATE.**—The term 'teacher candidate' means a student or teacher described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 420N(a)(2).

"SEC. 420M. PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.

"(a) **PROGRAM AUTHORITY.**—

"(1) **PAYMENTS REQUIRED.**—The Secretary shall pay to each eligible institution such sums as may be necessary to pay to each teacher candidate who files an application and agreement in accordance with section 420N, and who qualifies under paragraph (2) of section 420N(a), a TEACH Grant in the amount of \$4,000 for each academic year during which that teacher candidate is in attendance at the institution.

"(2) **REFERENCES.**—Grants made under paragraph (1) shall be known as 'Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grants' or 'TEACH Grants'.

"(b) **PAYMENT METHODOLOGY.**—

"(1) **PREPAYMENT.**—Not less than 85 percent of any funds provided to an eligible institution under subsection (a) shall be advanced to the eligible institution prior to the start of each payment period and shall be based upon an amount requested by the institution as needed to pay teacher candidates until such time as the Secretary determines and publishes in the Federal Register with an opportunity for comment, an alternative payment system that provides payments to institutions in an accurate and timely manner, except that this sentence shall not be construed to limit the authority of the Secretary to place an institution on a reimbursement system of payment.

"(2) **DIRECT PAYMENT.**—Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to prohibit the Secretary from paying directly to teacher candidates, in advance of the beginning of the academic term, an amount for which teacher candidates are eligible, in cases where the eligible

institution elects not to participate in the disbursement system required by paragraph (1).

“(3) DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS TO TEACHER CANDIDATES.—Payments under this subpart shall be made, in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary for such purpose, in such manner as will best accomplish the purposes of this subpart. Any disbursement allowed to be made by crediting the teacher candidate’s account shall be limited to tuition and fees and, in the case of institutionally-owned housing, room and board. The teacher candidate may elect to have the institution provide other such goods and services by crediting the teacher candidate’s account.

“(c) REDUCTIONS IN AMOUNT.—

“(1) PART-TIME STUDENTS.—In any case where a teacher candidate attends an eligible institution on less than a full-time basis (including a teacher candidate who attends an eligible institution on less than a half-time basis) during any academic year, the amount of a grant under this subpart for which that teacher candidate is eligible shall be reduced in proportion to the degree to which that teacher candidate is not attending on a full-time basis, in accordance with a schedule of reductions established by the Secretary for the purposes of this subpart, computed in accordance with this subpart. Such schedule of reductions shall be established by regulation and published in the Federal Register in accordance with section 482 of this Act.

“(2) NO EXCEEDING COST.—The amount of a grant awarded under this subpart, in combination with Federal assistance and other student assistance, shall not exceed the cost of attendance (as defined in section 472) at the eligible institution at which that teacher candidate is in attendance. If, with respect to any teacher candidate for any academic year, it is determined that the amount of a TEACH Grant exceeds the cost of attendance for that year, the amount of the TEACH Grant shall be reduced until such grant does not exceed the cost of attendance at the eligible institution.

“(d) PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS.—

“(1) UNDERGRADUATE AND POST-BACCALAUREATE STUDENTS.—The period during which an undergraduate or post-baccalaureate student may receive grants under this subpart shall be the period required for the completion of the first undergraduate baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate course of study being pursued by the teacher candidate at the eligible institution at which the teacher candidate is in attendance, except that—

“(A) any period during which the teacher candidate is enrolled in a noncredit or remedial course of study as described in paragraph (3) shall not be counted for the purpose of this paragraph; and

“(B) the total amount that a teacher candidate may receive under this subpart for undergraduate or post-baccalaureate study shall not exceed \$16,000.

“(2) GRADUATE STUDENTS.—The period during which a graduate student may receive grants under this subpart shall be the period required for the completion of a master’s degree course of study pursued by the teacher candidate at the eligible institution at which the teacher candidate is in attendance, except that the total amount that a teacher candidate may receive under this subpart for graduate study shall not exceed \$8,000.

“(3) REMEDIAL COURSE; STUDY ABROAD.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to exclude from eligibility courses of study which are noncredit or remedial in nature (including courses in English language acquisition) which are determined by the eligible institution to be necessary to help the teacher candidate be prepared for the pursuit of a first undergraduate baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate degree or certificate or, in the case of courses in English language instruction, to be necessary to enable the teacher candidate to utilize already existing knowledge, training, or skills. Nothing in this

section shall be construed to exclude from eligibility programs of study abroad that are approved for credit by the home institution at which the teacher candidate is enrolled.

“SEC. 420N. APPLICATIONS; ELIGIBILITY.

“(a) APPLICATIONS; DEMONSTRATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—

“(1) FILING REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall periodically set dates by which teacher candidates shall file applications for grants under this subpart. Each teacher candidate desiring a grant under this subpart for any year shall file an application containing such information and assurances as the Secretary may determine necessary to enable the Secretary to carry out the functions and responsibilities of this subpart.

“(2) DEMONSTRATION OF TEACH GRANT ELIGIBILITY.—Each application submitted under paragraph (1) shall contain such information as is necessary to demonstrate that—

“(A) if the applicant is an enrolled student—

“(i) the student is an eligible student for purposes of section 484;

“(ii) the student—

“(I) has a grade point average that is determined, under standards prescribed by the Secretary, to be comparable to a 3.25 average on a zero to 4.0 scale, except that, if the student is in the first year of a program of undergraduate education, such grade point average shall be determined on the basis of the student’s cumulative secondary school grade point average; or

“(II) displayed high academic aptitude by receiving a score above the 75th percentile on at least one of the batteries in an undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, or graduate school admissions test; and

“(iii) the student is completing coursework and other requirements necessary to begin a career in teaching, or plans to complete such coursework and requirements prior to graduating; or

“(B) if the applicant is a current or prospective teacher applying for a grant to obtain a graduate degree—

“(i) the applicant is a teacher or a retiree from another occupation with expertise in a field in which there is a shortage of teachers, such as mathematics, science, special education, English language acquisition, or another high-need subject; or

“(ii) the applicant is or was a teacher who is using high-quality alternative certification routes, such as Teach For America, to get certified.

“(b) AGREEMENTS TO SERVE.—Each application under subsection (a) shall contain or be accompanied by an agreement by the applicant that—

“(1) the applicant will—

“(A) serve as a full-time teacher for a total of not less than 4 academic years within 8 years after completing the course of study for which the applicant received a TEACH Grant under this subpart;

“(B) teach in a school described in section 465(a)(2)(A);

“(C) teach in any of the following fields:

“(i) mathematics;

“(ii) science;

“(iii) a foreign language;

“(iv) bilingual education;

“(v) special education;

“(vi) as a reading specialist; or

“(vii) another field documented as high-need by the Federal Government, State government, or local educational agency, and approved by the Secretary;

“(D) submit evidence of such employment in the form of a certification by the chief administrative officer of the school upon completion of each year of such service; and

“(E) comply with the requirements for being a highly qualified teacher as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; and

“(2) in the event that the applicant is determined to have failed or refused to carry out

such service obligation, the sum of the amounts of any TEACH Grants received by such applicant will be treated as a loan and collected from the applicant in accordance with subsection (c) and the regulations thereunder.

“(c) REPAYMENT FOR FAILURE TO COMPLETE SERVICE.—In the event that any recipient of a grant under this subpart fails or refuses to comply with the service obligation in the agreement under subsection (b), the sum of the amounts of any TEACH Grants received by such recipient shall, upon a determination of such a failure or refusal in such service obligation, be treated as a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D of title IV, and shall be subject to repayment, together with interest thereon accruing from the date of the grant award, in accordance with terms and conditions specified by the Secretary in regulations under this subpart.

“SEC. 420O. PROGRAM PERIOD AND FUNDING.

“Beginning on July 1, 2008, there shall be available to the Secretary to carry out this subpart, from funds not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be necessary to provide TEACH Grants in accordance with this subpart to each eligible applicant.”

TITLE II—STUDENT LOAN BENEFITS, TERMS, AND CONDITIONS

SEC. 201. INTEREST RATE REDUCTIONS.

(a) FFEL INTEREST RATES.—

(1) Section 427A(l) (20 U.S.C. 1077a(l)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) REDUCED RATES FOR UNDERGRADUATE SUBSIDIZED LOANS.—Notwithstanding subsection (h) and paragraph (1) of this subsection, with respect to any loan to an undergraduate student made, insured, or guaranteed under this part (other than a loan made pursuant to section 428B, 428C, or 428H) for which the first disbursement is made on or after July 1, 2006, and before July 1, 2012, the applicable rate of interest shall be as follows:

“(A) For a loan for which the first disbursement is made on or after July 1, 2006, and before July 1, 2008, 6.8 percent on the unpaid principal balance of the loan.

“(B) For a loan for which the first disbursement is made on or after July 1, 2008, and before July 1, 2009, 6.0 percent on the unpaid principal balance of the loan.

“(C) For a loan for which the first disbursement is made on or after July 1, 2009, and before July 1, 2010, 5.6 percent on the unpaid principal balance of the loan.

“(D) For a loan for which the first disbursement is made on or after July 1, 2010, and before July 1, 2011, 4.5 percent on the unpaid principal balance of the loan.

“(E) For a loan for which the first disbursement is made on or after July 1, 2011, and before July 1, 2012, 3.4 percent on the unpaid principal balance of the loan.”

(2) SPECIAL ALLOWANCE CROSS REFERENCE.—Section 438(b)(2)(I)(ii)(II) (20 U.S.C. 1087-1(b)(2)(I)(ii)(II)) is amended by striking “section 427A(l)(1)” and inserting “section 427A(l)(1) or (l)(4)”.

(b) DIRECT LOAN INTEREST RATES.—Section 455(b)(7) (20 U.S.C. 1087e(b)(7)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) REDUCED RATES FOR UNDERGRADUATE FDSL.—Notwithstanding the preceding paragraphs of this subsection and subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, for Federal Direct Stafford Loans made to undergraduate students for which the first disbursement is made on or after July 1, 2006, and before July 1, 2012, the applicable rate of interest shall be as follows:

“(i) For a loan for which the first disbursement is made on or after July 1, 2006, and before July 1, 2008, 6.8 percent on the unpaid principal balance of the loan.

“(ii) For a loan for which the first disbursement is made on or after July 1, 2008, and before July 1, 2009, 6.0 percent on the unpaid principal balance of the loan.

“(iii) For a loan for which the first disbursement is made on or after July 1, 2009, and before July 1, 2010, 5.6 percent on the unpaid principal balance of the loan.

“(iv) For a loan for which the first disbursement is made on or after July 1, 2010, and before July 1, 2011, 4.5 percent on the unpaid principal balance of the loan.

“(v) For a loan for which the first disbursement is made on or after July 1, 2011, and before July 1, 2012, 3.4 percent on the unpaid principal balance of the loan.”

SEC. 202. STUDENT LOAN DEFERMENT FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) **FEDERAL FAMILY EDUCATION LOANS.**—Section 428(b)(1)(M)(iii) (20 U.S.C. 1078(b)(1)(M)(iii)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “not in excess of 3 years”;

(2) in subclause (II), by striking “; or” and inserting a comma; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“and for the 180-day period following the demobilization date for the service described in subclause (I) or (II); or”.

(b) **DIRECT LOANS.**—Section 455(f)(2)(C) (20 U.S.C. 1087e(f)(2)(C)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “not in excess of 3 years”;

(2) in clause (ii), by striking “; or” and inserting a comma; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“and for the 180-day period following the demobilization date for the service described in clause (i) or (ii); or”.

(c) **PERKINS LOANS.**—Section 464(c)(2)(A)(iii) (20 U.S.C. 1087dd(c)(2)(A)(iii)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “not in excess of 3 years”;

(2) in subclause (II), by striking the semicolon and inserting a comma; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“and for the 180-day period following the demobilization date for the service described in subclause (I) or (II);”.

(d) **APPLICABILITY.**—Section 8007(f) of the Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005 (20 U.S.C. 1078 note) is amended by striking “loans for which” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “all loans under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.”.

SEC. 203. INCOME-BASED REPAYMENT.

(a) **AMENDMENT.**—Part G of title IV (20 U.S.C. 1088 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 493C. INCOME-BASED REPAYMENT.

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **EXCEPTED PLUS LOAN.**—The term ‘excepted PLUS loan’ means a loan under section 428B, or a Federal Direct PLUS Loan, that is made, insured, or guaranteed on behalf of a dependent student.

“(2) **EXCEPTED CONSOLIDATION LOAN.**—The term ‘excepted consolidation loan’ means a consolidation loan under section 428C, or a Federal Direct Consolidation Loan, if the proceeds of such loan were used to the discharge the liability on an excepted PLUS loan.

“(3) **PARTIAL FINANCIAL HARDSHIP.**—The term ‘partial financial hardship’, when used with respect to a borrower, means that for such borrower—

“(A) the annual amount due on the total amount of loans made, insured, or guaranteed under part B or D (other than an excepted PLUS loan or excepted consolidation loan) to a borrower as calculated under the standard repayment plan under section 428(b)(9)(A)(i) or 455(d)(1)(A), based on a 10-year repayment period, exceeds

“(B) 15 percent of the result obtained by calculating, on at least an annual basis, the amount by which—

“(i) the borrower’s, and the borrower’s spouse’s (if applicable), adjusted gross income; exceeds

“(ii) 150 percent of the poverty line applicable to the borrower’s family size as determined under section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)).

“(b) **INCOME-BASED REPAYMENT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary shall carry out a program under which—

“(1) a borrower of any loan made, insured, or guaranteed under part B or D (other than an excepted PLUS loan or excepted consolidation loan) who has a partial financial hardship (whether or not the borrower’s loan has been submitted to a guaranty agency for default aversion or is already in default) may elect, during any period the borrower has the partial financial hardship, to have the borrower’s aggregate monthly payment for all such loans not exceed the result described in subsection (a)(3)(B) divided by 12;

“(2) the holder of such a loan shall apply the borrower’s monthly payment under this subsection first toward interest due on the loan, next toward any fees due on the loan, and then toward the principal of the loan;

“(3) any interest due and not paid under paragraph (2)—

“(A) shall, on subsidized loans, be paid by the Secretary for a period of not more than 3 years after the date of the borrower’s election under paragraph (1), except that such period shall not include any period during which the borrower is in deferment due to an economic hardship described in section 435(o); and

“(B) be capitalized—

“(i) in the case of a subsidized loan, subject to subparagraph (A), at the time the borrower—

“(I) ends the election to make income-based repayment under this subsection; or

“(II) begins making payments of not less than the amount specified in paragraph (6)(A); or

“(ii) in the case of an unsubsidized loan, at the time the borrower—

“(I) ends the election to make income-based repayment under this subsection; or

“(II) begins making payments of not less than the amount specified in paragraph (6)(A);

“(4) any principal due and not paid under paragraph (2) shall be deferred;

“(5) the amount of time the borrower makes monthly payments under paragraph (1) may exceed 10 years;

“(6) if the borrower no longer has a partial financial hardship or no longer wishes to continue the election under this subsection, then—

“(A) the maximum monthly payment required to be paid for all loans made to the borrower under part B or D (other than an excepted PLUS loan or excepted consolidation loan) shall not exceed the monthly amount calculated under section 428(b)(9)(A)(i) or 455(d)(1)(A), based on a 10-year repayment period, when the borrower first made the election described in this subsection; and

“(B) the amount of time the borrower is permitted to repay such loans may exceed 10 years;

“(7) the Secretary shall repay or cancel any outstanding balance of principal and interest due on all loans made under part B or D (other than a loan under section 428B or a Federal Direct PLUS Loan) to a borrower who—

“(A) at any time, elected to participate in income-based repayment under paragraph (1); and

“(B) for a period of time prescribed by the Secretary, not to exceed 25 years, meets 1 or more of the following requirements:

“(i) has made reduced monthly payments under paragraph (1) or paragraph (6);

“(ii) has made monthly payments of not less than the monthly amount calculated under section 428(b)(9)(A)(i) or 455(d)(1)(A), based on a 10-year repayment period, when the borrower first made the election described in this subsection;

“(iii) has made payments of not less than the payments required under a standard repayment plan under section 428(b)(9)(A)(i) or 455(d)(1)(A) with a repayment period of 10 years;

“(iv) has made payments under an income-contingent repayment plan under section 455(d)(1)(D);

“(v) has been in deferment due to an economic hardship described in section 435(o);

“(8) a borrower who is repaying a loan made under part B or D pursuant to income-based repayment may elect, at any time, to terminate repayment pursuant to income-based repayment and repay such loan under the standard repayment plan; and

“(9) the special allowance payment to a lender calculated under section 438(b)(2)(I), when calculated for a loan in repayment under this section, shall be calculated on the principal balance of the loan and on any accrued interest unpaid by the borrower in accordance with this section.

“(c) **ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS.**—The Secretary shall establish procedures for annually determining the borrower’s eligibility for income-based repayment, including verification of a borrower’s annual income and the annual amount due on the total amount of loans made, insured, or guaranteed under part B or D (other than an excepted PLUS loan or excepted consolidation loan), and such other procedures as are necessary to effectively implement income-based repayment under this section. The Secretary shall consider, but is not limited to, the procedures established in accordance with section 455(e)(1) or in connection with income sensitive repayment schedules under section 428(b)(9)(A)(iii) or 428C(b)(1)(E).”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) Section 428C (20 U.S.C. 1078-3) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(3)(B)(i), by amending subclause (V) to read as follows:

“(V) an individual may obtain a subsequent consolidation loan under section 455(g) only—

“(aa) for the purposes of obtaining an income contingent repayment plan, and only if the loan has been submitted to the guaranty agency for default aversion; or

“(bb) for the purposes of using the public service loan forgiveness program under section 455(m).”;

(B) in the first sentence of subsection (b)(5), by inserting “or chooses to obtain a consolidation loan for the purposes of using the public service loan forgiveness program offered under section 455(m),” after “from such a lender,”; and

(C) in the second sentence of such subsection, by inserting before the period the following: “, except that if a borrower intends to be eligible to use the public service loan forgiveness program under section 455(m), such loan shall be repaid using one of the repayment options described in section 455(m)(1)(A).”.

(2) Section 428C (20 U.S.C. 1078-3) (as amended by paragraph (1) of this subsection) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(3)(B)(i)(V)(aa)—

(i) by striking “an income contingent repayment plan,” and inserting “income contingent repayment or income-based repayment,”; and

(ii) by inserting “or if the loan is already in default” before the semicolon;

(B) in the first sentence of subsection (b)(5), by inserting “or income-based repayment terms” after “income-sensitive repayment terms”; and

(C) in the second sentence of such subsection, by inserting “, pursuant to income-based repayment under section 493C,” after “part D of this title”.

(3) Section 455(d)(1)(D) (20 U.S.C. 1087e(d)(1)(D)) is amended by inserting “made on behalf of a dependent student” after “PLUS loan”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall be effective on July 1, 2009.

(2) **EXCEPTION.**—The amendments made by subsection (b)(1) shall be effective on July 1, 2008.

SEC. 204. DEFERRAL OF LOAN REPAYMENT FOLLOWING ACTIVE DUTY.

Part G of title IV is further amended by adding after section 493C (as added by section 203 of this Act) the following new section:

“SEC. 493D. DEFERRAL OF LOAN REPAYMENT FOLLOWING ACTIVE DUTY.

“(a) DEFERRAL OF LOAN REPAYMENT FOLLOWING ACTIVE DUTY.—In addition to any deferral of repayment of a loan made under this title pursuant to section 428(b)(1)(M)(iii), 455(f)(2)(C), or 464(c)(2)(A)(iii), a borrower of a loan under this title who is a member of the National Guard or other reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States, or a member of such Armed Forces in a retired status, is called or ordered to active duty, and is enrolled, or was enrolled within six months prior to the activation, in a program of instruction at an eligible institution, shall be eligible for a deferment during the 13 months following the conclusion of such service, except that a deferment under this subsection shall expire upon the borrower's return to enrolled student status.

“(b) ACTIVE DUTY.—Notwithstanding section 481(d), in this section, the term ‘active duty’ has the meaning given such term in section 101(d)(1) of title 10, United States Code, except that such term—

“(1) does not include active duty for training or attendance at a service school; but

“(2) includes, in the case of members of the National Guard, active State duty.”.

SEC. 205. MAXIMUM REPAYMENT PERIOD.

Section 455(e) (20 U.S.C. 1087e(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(7) MAXIMUM REPAYMENT PERIOD.—In calculating the extended period of time for which an income contingent repayment plan under this subsection may be in effect for a borrower, the Secretary shall include all time periods during which a borrower of loans under part B, part D, or part E—

“(A) is not in default on any loan that is included in the income contingent repayment plan; and

“(B)(i) is in deferment due to an economic hardship described in section 435(o);

“(ii) makes monthly payments under paragraph (1) or (6) of section 493C(b);

“(iii) makes monthly payments of not less than the monthly amount calculated under section 428(b)(9)(A)(i) or subsection (d)(1)(A), based on a 10-year repayment period, when the borrower first made the election described in section 493C(b)(1);

“(iv) makes payments of not less than the payments required under a standard repayment plan under section 428(b)(9)(A)(i) or subsection (d)(1)(A) with a repayment period of 10 years; or

“(v) makes payments under an income contingent repayment plan under subsection (d)(1)(D).”.

TITLE III—FEDERAL FAMILY EDUCATION LOAN PROGRAM**SEC. 301. GUARANTY AGENCY COLLECTION RETENTION.**

Clause (ii) of section 428(c)(6)(A) (20 U.S.C. 1078(c)(6)(A)(ii)) is amended to read as follows:

“(ii) an amount equal to 24 percent of such payments for use in accordance with section 422B, except that—

“(I) beginning October 1, 2003 and ending September 30, 2007, this clause shall be applied by substituting ‘23 percent’ for ‘24 percent’; and

“(II) beginning October 1, 2007, this clause shall be applied by substituting ‘16 percent’ for ‘24 percent’.”.

SEC. 302. ELIMINATION OF EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMER STATUS FOR LENDERS.

(a) ELIMINATION OF STATUS.—Part B of title IV (20 U.S.C. 1071 et seq.) is amended by striking section 428I (20 U.S.C. 1078–9).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Part B of title IV is further amended—

(1) in section 428(c)(1) (20 U.S.C. 1078(c)(1))—

(A) by striking subparagraph (D); and

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) through (H) as subparagraphs (D) through (G), respectively; and

(2) in section 438(b)(5) (20 U.S.C. 1087–1(b)(5)), by striking the matter following subparagraph (B).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall be effective on October 1, 2007, except that section 428I of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) shall apply to eligible lenders that received a designation under subsection (a) of such section prior to October 1, 2007, for the remainder of the year for which the designation was made.

SEC. 303. REDUCTION OF LENDER INSURANCE PERCENTAGE.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Subparagraph (G) of section 428(b)(1) (20 U.S.C. 1078(b)(1)(G)) is amended to read as follows:

“(G) insures 95 percent of the unpaid principal of loans insured under the program, except that—

“(i) such program shall insure 100 percent of the unpaid principal of loans made with funds advanced pursuant to section 428(j) or 439(q); and

“(ii) notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this subparagraph, such program shall insure 100 percent of the unpaid principal amount of exempt claims as defined in subsection (c)(1)(G).”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall be effective on October 1, 2012, and shall apply with respect to loans made on or after such date.

SEC. 304. DEFINITIONS.

Section 435 (20 U.S.C. 1085) is amended—

(1) in subsection (o)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

(i) by striking “100 percent of the poverty line for a family of 2” and inserting “150 percent of the poverty line applicable to the borrower's family size”; and

(ii) by inserting “or” after the semicolon;

(B) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(C) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B);

(2) in subsection (o)(2), by striking “(1)(C)” and inserting “(1)(B)”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(p) ELIGIBLE NOT-FOR-PROFIT HOLDER.—

“(1) DEFINITION.—Subject to the limitations in paragraph (2) and the prohibition in paragraph (3), the term ‘eligible not-for-profit holder’ means an eligible lender under subsection (d) (except for an eligible lender described in subsection (d)(1)(E)) that requests a special allowance payment under section 438(b)(2)(I)(vi)(II) or a payment under section 771 and that is—

“(A) a State, or a political subdivision, authority, agency, or other instrumentality thereof, including such entities that are eligible to issue bonds described in section 1.103-1 of title 26, Code of Federal Regulations, or section 144(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

“(B) an entity described in section 150(d)(2) of such Code that has not made the election described in section 150(d)(3) of such Code;

“(C) an entity described in section 501(c)(3) of such Code; or

“(D) a trustee acting as an eligible lender on behalf of a State, political subdivision, authority, agency, instrumentality, or other entity described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C).

“(2) LIMITATIONS.—

“(A) EXISTING ON DATE OF ENACTMENT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—An eligible lender shall not be an eligible not-for-profit holder under this Act unless such lender—

“(I) was a State, political subdivision, authority, agency, instrumentality, or other entity described in paragraph (1)(A), (B), or (C) that was, on the date of the enactment of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, acting as an eligible lender under subsection (d) (other than an eligible lender described in subsection (d)(1)(E)); or

“(II) is a trustee acting as an eligible lender under this Act on behalf of such a State, political subdivision, authority, agency, instrumentality, or other entity described in subclause (I) of this clause.

“(ii) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding clause (i), a State may elect, in accordance with regulations of the Secretary, to waive the requirements this subparagraph for a new not-for-profit holder determined by the State to be necessary to carry out a public purpose of such State, except that a State may not make such election with respect to the requirements of clause (i)(II).

“(B) NO FOR-PROFIT OWNERSHIP OR CONTROL.—No political subdivision, authority, agency, instrumentality, or other entity described in paragraph (1)(A), (B), or (C) shall be an eligible not-for-profit holder under this Act if such entity is owned or controlled, in whole or in part, by a for-profit entity.

“(C) SOLE OWNERSHIP OF LOANS AND INCOME.—No State, political subdivision, authority, agency, instrumentality, or other entity described in paragraph (1)(A), (B), or (C) shall be an eligible not-for-profit holder under this Act with respect to any loan, or income from any loan, unless the State, political subdivision, authority, agency, instrumentality, or other entity described in paragraph (1)(A), (B), or (C) is the sole owner of the beneficial interest in such loan and the income from such loan.

“(D) TRUSTEE COMPENSATION LIMITATIONS.—A trustee described in paragraph (1)(D) shall not receive compensation as consideration for acting as an eligible lender on behalf of an entity described in paragraph (1)(A), (B), or (C) in excess of reasonable and customary fees.

“(E) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) of this paragraph, a State, political subdivision, authority, agency, instrumentality, or other entity described in paragraph (1)(A), (B), or (C) shall not—

“(i) be deemed to be owned or controlled, in whole or in part, by a for-profit entity, or

“(ii) lose its status as the sole owner of a beneficial interest in a loan and the income from a loan by that political subdivision, authority, agency, instrumentality, or other entity, by granting a security interest in, or otherwise pledging as collateral, such loan, or the income from such loan, to secure a debt obligation in the operation of an arrangement described in paragraph (1)(D).

“(3) PROHIBITION.—In the case of a loan for which the special allowance payment is calculated under section 438(b)(2)(I)(vi)(II) and that is sold by the eligible not-for-profit holder holding the loan to an entity that is not an eligible not-for-profit holder under this Act, the special allowance payment for such loan shall, beginning on the date of the sale, no longer be calculated under section 438(b)(2)(I)(vi)(II) and shall be calculated under section 438(b)(2)(I)(vi)(I) instead.

“(4) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations in accordance with the provisions of this subsection.”.

SEC. 305. SPECIAL ALLOWANCES.

(a) REDUCTION OF LENDER SPECIAL ALLOWANCE PAYMENTS.—Section 438(b)(2)(I) (20 U.S.C. 1087–1(b)(2)(I)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “clauses (ii), (iii), and (iv)” and inserting “the following clauses”;

(2) in clause (v)(III), by striking “clauses (ii), (iii), and (iv)” and inserting “clauses (ii), (iii), and (vi)”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(vi) REDUCTION FOR LOANS DISBURSED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2007.—With respect to a loan on which the applicable interest rate is determined under section 427A(l) and for which the first disbursement of principal is made on or after October 1, 2007, the special allowance payment computed pursuant to this subparagraph shall be computed—

“(I) for loans held by an eligible lender not described in subclause (II)—

“(aa) by substituting ‘1.79 percent’ for ‘2.34 percent’ each place the term appears in this subparagraph;

“(bb) by substituting ‘1.19 percent’ for ‘1.74 percent’ in clause (ii);

“(cc) by substituting ‘1.79 percent’ for ‘2.64 percent’ in clause (iii); and

“(dd) by substituting ‘2.09 percent’ for ‘2.64 percent’ in clause (iv); and

“(II) for loans held by an eligible not-for-profit holder—

“(aa) by substituting ‘1.94 percent’ for ‘2.34 percent’ each place the term appears in this subparagraph;

“(bb) by substituting ‘1.34 percent’ for ‘1.74 percent’ in clause (ii);

“(cc) by substituting ‘1.94 percent’ for ‘2.64 percent’ in clause (iii); and

“(dd) by substituting ‘2.24 percent’ for ‘2.64 percent’ in clause (iv).”.

(b) INCREASED LOAN FEES FROM LENDERS.—Paragraph (2) of section 438(d) (20 U.S.C. 1087-1(d)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) AMOUNT OF LOAN FEES.—The amount of the loan fee which shall be deducted under paragraph (1), but which may not be collected from the borrower, shall be equal to—

“(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), 0.50 percent of the principal amount of the loan with respect to any loan under this part for which the first disbursement was made on or after October 1, 1993; and

“(B) 1.0 percent of the principal amount of the loan with respect to any loan under this part for which the first disbursement was made on or after October 1, 2007.”.

SEC. 306. ACCOUNT MAINTENANCE FEES.

Section 458(b) (20 U.S.C. 1087h(b)) is amended by striking “0.10 percent” and inserting “0.06 percent”.

TITLE IV—LOAN FORGIVENESS

SEC. 401. LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES.

Section 455 (20 U.S.C. 1087e) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(m) REPAYMENT PLAN FOR PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall cancel the balance of interest and principal due, in accordance with paragraph (2), on any eligible Federal Direct Loan not in default for a borrower who—

“(A) has made 120 monthly payments on the eligible Federal Direct Loan after October 1, 2007, pursuant to any one or a combination of the following:

“(i) payments under an income-based repayment plan under section 493C;

“(ii) payments under a standard repayment plan under subsection (d)(1)(A), based on a 10-year repayment period;

“(iii) monthly payments under a repayment plan under subsection (d)(1) or (g) of not less than the monthly amount calculated under subsection (d)(1)(A), based on a 10-year repayment period;

“(iv) payments under an income contingent repayment plan under subsection (d)(1)(D); and

“(B)(i) is employed in a public service job at the time of such forgiveness; and

“(ii) has been employed in a public service job during the period in which the borrower makes each of the 120 payments described in subparagraph (A).

“(2) LOAN CANCELLATION AMOUNT.—After the conclusion of the employment period described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall cancel the obligation to repay the balance of principal and interest due as of the time of such cancellation, on the eligible Federal Direct Loans made to the borrower under this part.

“(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) ELIGIBLE FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN.—The term ‘eligible Federal Direct Loan’ means a Federal Direct Stafford Loan, Federal Direct PLUS Loan, or Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, or a Federal Direct Consolidation Loan.

“(B) PUBLIC SERVICE JOB.—The term ‘public service job’ means—

“(i) a full-time job in emergency management, government, military service, public safety, law enforcement, public health, public education (including early childhood education), social work in a public child or family service agency, public interest law services (including prosecution or public defense or legal advocacy in low-income communities at a nonprofit organization), public child care, public service for individuals with disabilities, public service for the elderly, public library sciences, school-based library sciences and other school-based services, or at an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code; or

“(ii) teaching as a full-time faculty member at a Tribal College or University as defined in sec-

tion 316(b) and other faculty teaching in high-needs areas, as determined by the Secretary.”.

TITLE V—FEDERAL PERKINS LOANS

SEC. 501. DISTRIBUTION OF LATE COLLECTIONS.

Section 466(b) (20 U.S.C. 1087ff(b)) is amended by striking “March 31, 2012” and inserting “October 1, 2012”.

TITLE VI—NEED ANALYSIS

SEC. 601. SUPPORT FOR WORKING STUDENTS.

(a) DEPENDENT STUDENTS.—Subparagraph (D) of section 475(g)(2) (20 U.S.C. 1087oo(g)(2)(D)) is amended to read as follows:

“(D) an income protection allowance of the following amount (or a successor amount prescribed by the Secretary under section 478):

“(i) for academic year 2009–2010, \$3,750;

“(ii) for academic year 2010–2011, \$4,500;

“(iii) for academic year 2011–2012, \$5,250; and

“(iv) for academic year 2012–2013, \$6,000;”.

(b) INDEPENDENT STUDENTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS OTHER THAN A SPOUSE.—Clause (iv) of section 476(b)(1)(A) (20 U.S.C. 1087pp(b)(1)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

“(iv) an income protection allowance of the following amount (or a successor amount prescribed by the Secretary under section 478):

“(I) for single or separated students, or married students where both are enrolled pursuant to subsection (a)(2)—

“(aa) for academic year 2009–2010, \$7,000;

“(bb) for academic year 2010–2011, \$7,780;

“(cc) for academic year 2011–2012, \$8,550; and

“(dd) for academic year 2012–2013, \$9,330; and

“(II) for married students where 1 is enrolled pursuant to subsection (a)(2)—

“(aa) for academic year 2009–2010, \$11,220;

“(bb) for academic year 2010–2011, \$12,460;

“(cc) for academic year 2011–2012, \$13,710; and

“(dd) for academic year 2012–2013, \$14,960;”.

(c) INDEPENDENT STUDENTS WITH DEPENDENTS OTHER THAN A SPOUSE.—Paragraph (4) of section 477(b) (20 U.S.C. 1087qq(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(4) INCOME PROTECTION ALLOWANCE.—The income protection allowance is determined by the tables described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) (or a successor table prescribed by the Secretary under section 478).

“(A) ACADEMIC YEAR 2009–2010.—For academic year 2009–2010, the income protection allowance is determined by the following table:

		Income Protection Allowance							
		Family Size		Number in College					
		(including student)		1	2	3	4	5	For each additional subtract:
		2		\$17,720	\$14,690				
		3		22,060	19,050	\$16,020			
		4		27,250	24,220	21,210	\$18,170		
		5		32,150	29,120	26,100	23,070	\$20,060	
		6		37,600	34,570	31,570	28,520	25,520	\$3,020
For each additional add:				4,240	4,240	4,240	4,240	4,240	

“(B) ACADEMIC YEAR 2010–2011.—For academic year 2010–2011, the income protection allowance is determined by the following table:

		Income Protection Allowance							
		Family Size		Number in College					
		(including student)		1	2	3	4	5	For each additional subtract:
		2		\$19,690	\$16,330				
		3		24,510	21,160	\$17,800			
		4		30,280	26,910	23,560	\$20,190		
		5		35,730	32,350	29,000	25,640	\$22,290	
		6		41,780	38,410	35,080	31,690	28,350	\$3,350

“Income Protection Allowance—Continued

Family Size (including student)	Number in College					For each additional subtract:
	1	2	3	4	5	
For each additional add:	4,710	4,710	4,710	4,710	4,710	

“(C) ACADEMIC YEAR 2011–2012.—For academic year 2011–2012, the income protection allowance is determined by the following table:

“Income Protection Allowance

Family Size (including student)	Number in College					For each additional subtract:
	1	2	3	4	5	
2	\$21,660	\$17,960				
3	26,960	23,280	\$19,580			
4	33,300	29,600	25,920	\$22,210		
5	39,300	35,590	31,900	28,200	\$24,520	
6	45,950	42,250	38,580	34,860	31,190	\$3,690
For each additional add:	5,180	5,180	5,180	5,180	5,180	

“(D) ACADEMIC YEAR 2012–2013.—For academic year 2012–2013, the income protection allowance is determined by the following table:

“Income Protection Allowance

Family Size (including student)	Number in College					For each additional subtract:
	1	2	3	4	5	
2	\$23,630	\$19,590				
3	29,420	25,400	\$21,360			
4	36,330	32,300	28,280	\$24,230		
5	42,870	38,820	34,800	30,770	\$26,750	
6	50,130	46,100	42,090	38,030	34,020	\$4,020
For each additional add:	5,660	5,660	5,660	5,660	5,660	”.

(d) UPDATED TABLES AND AMOUNTS.—Section 478(b) (20 U.S.C. 1087rr(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) REVISED TABLES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For each academic year after academic year 2008–2009, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a revised table of income protection allowances for the purpose of sections 475(c)(4) and 477(b)(4), subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C).

“(B) TABLE FOR INDEPENDENT STUDENTS.—

“(i) ACADEMIC YEARS 2009–2010 THROUGH 2012–2013.—For each of the academic years 2009–2010 through 2012–2013, the Secretary shall not develop a revised table of income protection allowances under section 477(b)(4) and the table specified for such academic year under subparagraphs (A) through (D) of such section shall apply.

“(ii) OTHER ACADEMIC YEARS.—For each academic year after academic year 2012–2013, the Secretary shall develop the revised table of income protection allowances by increasing each of the dollar amounts contained in the table of income protection allowances under section 477(b)(4)(D) by a percentage equal to the estimated percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (as determined by the Secretary) between December 2011 and the December next preceding the beginning of such academic year, and rounding the result to the nearest \$10.

“(C) TABLE FOR PARENTS.—For each academic year after academic year 2008–2009, the Secretary shall develop the revised table of income protection allowances under section 475(c)(4) by

increasing each of the dollar amounts contained in the table by a percentage equal to the estimated percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (as determined by the Secretary) between December 1992 and the December next preceding the beginning of such academic year, and rounding the result to the nearest \$10.”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “shall be developed” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “shall be developed for each academic year after academic year 2012–2013, by increasing each of the dollar amounts contained in such section for academic year 2012–2013 by a percentage equal to the estimated percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (as determined by the Secretary) between December 2011 and the December next preceding the beginning of such academic year, and rounding the result to the nearest \$10.”.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall be effective on July 1, 2009.

SEC. 602. SIMPLIFIED NEEDS TEST AND AUTOMATIC ZERO IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) SIMPLIFIED NEEDS TEST.—Section 479 (20 U.S.C. 1087ss) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)(i)—

(i) in subclause (II), by striking “or” after the semicolon;

(ii) by redesignating subclause (III) as subclause (IV);

(iii) by inserting after subclause (II) the following:

“(III) 1 of whom is a dislocated worker; or”;

(iv) in subclause (IV) (as redesignated by clause (ii)), by striking “12-month” and inserting “24-month”;

and

(B) in paragraph (1)(B)(i)—

(i) in subclause (II), by striking “or” after the semicolon;

(ii) by redesignating subclause (III) as subclause (IV);

(iii) by inserting after subclause (II) the following:

“(III) 1 of whom is a dislocated worker; or”;

and

(iv) in subclause (IV) (as redesignated by clause (ii)), by striking “12-month” and inserting “24-month”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (ii), by striking “or” after the semicolon;

(II) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv);

(III) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

“(iii) 1 of whom is a dislocated worker; or”;

and

(IV) in clause (iv) (as redesignated by subclause (II)), by striking “12-month” and inserting “24-month”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “\$20,000” and inserting “\$30,000”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (ii), by striking “or” after the semicolon;

(II) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv);

(III) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

“(iii) 1 of whom is a dislocated worker; or”;

and
(IV) in clause (iv) (as redesignated by subclause (II)), by striking “12-month” and inserting “24-month”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “\$20,000” and inserting “\$30,000”; and

(C) in the flush matter following paragraph (2)(B), by adding at the end the following: “The Secretary shall annually adjust the income level necessary to qualify an applicant for the zero expected family contribution. The income level shall be adjusted according to increases in the Consumer Price Index, as defined in section 478(f).”; and

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (6) as subparagraphs (A) through (F), respectively and moving the margins of such subparagraphs 2 ems to the right;

(B) by striking “(d) DEFINITION” and all that follows through “the term” and inserting the following:

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) **DISLOCATED WORKER.**—The term ‘dislocated worker’ has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801).

“(2) **MEANS-TESTED FEDERAL BENEFIT PROGRAM.**—The term”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall be effective on July 1, 2009.

SEC. 603. DISCRETION OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS.

(a) **AMENDMENTS.**—The third sentence of section 479A(a) (20 U.S.C. 1087tt(a)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “or an independent student” after “family member”;

(2) by inserting “a family member who is a dislocated worker (as defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998),” before “the number of parents”;

(3) by inserting “a change in housing status that results in an individual being homeless (as defined in section 103 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act),” after “under section 487.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on July 1, 2009.

SEC. 604. DEFINITIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 480 (20 U.S.C. 1087vv) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) by striking “and no portion” and inserting “no portion”; and

(B) by inserting “and no distribution from any qualified education benefit described in subsection (f)(3) that is not subject to Federal income tax,” after “1986.”;

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) **UNTAXED INCOME AND BENEFITS.**—

“(1) The term ‘untaxed income and benefits’ means—

“(A) child support received;

“(B) workman’s compensation;

“(C) veteran’s benefits such as death pension, dependency, and indemnity compensation, but excluding veterans’ education benefits as defined in subsection (c);

“(D) interest on tax-free bonds;

“(E) housing, food, and other allowances (excluding rent subsidies for low-income housing) for military, clergy, and others (including cash payments and cash value of benefits);

“(F) cash support or any money paid on the student’s behalf, except, for dependent students, funds provided by the student’s parents;

“(G) untaxed portion of pensions;

“(H) payments to individual retirement accounts and Keogh accounts excluded from income for Federal income tax purposes; and

“(I) any other untaxed income and benefits, such as Black Lung Benefits, Refugee Assistance, or railroad retirement benefits, or benefits received through participation in employment and training activities under title I of the Work-

force Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.).

“(2) The term ‘untaxed income and benefits’ shall not include the amount of additional child tax credit claimed for Federal income tax purposes.”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3) through (6), and (7) as subparagraphs (A), (B), (D) through (G), and (I), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(B) by striking “The term” and inserting the following:

“(1) **DEFINITION.**—The term”;

(C) by striking subparagraph (B) (as redesignated by subparagraph (A)) and inserting the following:

“(B) is an orphan, in foster care, or a ward of the court, at any time when the individual is 13 years of age or older;

“(C) is an emancipated minor or is in legal guardianship as determined by a court of competent jurisdiction in the individual’s State of legal residence.”;

(D) in subparagraph (G) (as redesignated by subparagraph (A)), by striking “or” after the semicolon;

(E) by inserting after subparagraph (G) (as redesignated by subparagraph (A)) the following:

“(H) has been verified during the school year in which the application is submitted as either an unaccompanied youth who is a homeless child or youth (as such terms are defined in section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act), or as unaccompanied, at risk of homelessness, and self-supporting, by—

“(i) a local educational agency homeless liaison, designated pursuant to section 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act;

“(ii) the director of a program funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act or a designee of the director;

“(iii) the director of a program funded under subtitle B of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (relating to emergency shelter grants) or a designee of the director; or

“(iv) a financial aid administrator; or”;

(F) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) **SIMPLIFYING THE DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE PROCESS.**—A financial aid administrator may make a determination of independence under paragraph (1)(I) based upon a documented determination of independence that was previously made by another financial aid administrator under such paragraph in the same award year.”;

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) special combat pay.”;

(5) in subsection (f), by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) A qualified education benefit shall be considered an asset of—

“(A) the student if the student is an independent student; or

“(B) the parent if the student is a dependent student, regardless of whether the owner of the account is the student or the parent.”;

(6) in subsection (j)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, or a distribution that is not includable in gross income under section 529 of such Code, under another prepaid tuition plan offered by a State, or under a Coverdell education savings account under section 530 of such Code,” after “1986”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), special combat pay shall not be treated as estimated financial assistance for purposes of section 471(3).”; and

(7) by adding at the end the following:

“(n) **SPECIAL COMBAT PAY.**—The term ‘special combat pay’ means pay received by a member of

the Armed Forces because of exposure to a hazardous situation.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall be effective on July 1, 2009.

TITLE VII—COMPETITIVE LOAN AUCTION PILOT PROGRAM

SEC. 701. COMPETITIVE LOAN AUCTION PILOT PROGRAM.

Title IV (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“PART I—COMPETITIVE LOAN AUCTION PILOT PROGRAM

“SEC. 499. COMPETITIVE LOAN AUCTION PILOT PROGRAM.

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **ELIGIBLE FEDERAL PLUS LOAN.**—The term ‘eligible Federal PLUS Loan’ means a loan described in section 428B made to a parent of a dependent student who is a new borrower on or after July 1, 2009.

“(2) **ELIGIBLE LENDER.**—The term ‘eligible lender’ has the meaning given the term in section 435.

“(b) **PILOT PROGRAM.**—The Secretary shall carry out a pilot program under which the Secretary establishes a mechanism for an auction of eligible Federal PLUS Loans in accordance with this subsection. The pilot program shall meet the following requirements:

“(1) **PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION.**—During the period beginning on the date of enactment of this section and ending on June 30, 2009, the Secretary shall plan and implement the pilot program under this subsection. During the planning and implementation, the Secretary shall consult with other Federal agencies with knowledge of, and experience with, auction programs, including the Federal Communication Commission and the Department of the Treasury.

“(2) **ORIGINATION AND DISBURSEMENT; APPLICABILITY OF SECTION 428B.**—Beginning on July 1, 2009, the Secretary shall arrange for the origination and disbursement of all eligible Federal PLUS Loans in accordance with the provisions of this subsection and the provisions of section 428B that are not inconsistent with this subsection.

“(3) **LOAN ORIGINATION MECHANISM.**—The Secretary shall establish a loan origination auction mechanism that meets the following requirements:

“(A) **AUCTION FOR EACH STATE.**—The Secretary administers an auction under this paragraph for each State, under which eligible lenders compete to originate eligible Federal PLUS Loans under this paragraph at all institutions of higher education within such State.

“(B) **PREQUALIFICATION PROCESS.**—The Secretary establishes a prequalification process for eligible lenders desiring to participate in an auction under this paragraph that contains, at a minimum—

“(i) a set of borrower benefits and servicing requirements each eligible lender shall meet in order to participate in such an auction; and

“(ii) an assessment of each such eligible lender’s capacity, including capital capacity, to participate effectively.

“(C) **TIMING AND ORIGINATION.**—Each State auction takes place every 2 years, and the eligible lenders with the winning bids for the State are the only eligible lenders permitted to originate eligible Federal PLUS Loans made under this paragraph for the cohort of students at the institutions of higher education within the State until the students graduate from or leave the institutions of higher education.

“(D) **BIDS.**—Each eligible lender’s bid consists of the amount of the special allowance payment (after the application of section 438(b)(2)(I)(v)) the eligible lender proposes to accept from the Secretary with respect to the eligible Federal PLUS Loans made under this paragraph in lieu of the amount determined under section 438(b)(2)(I).

“(E) **MAXIMUM BID.**—The maximum bid allowable under this paragraph shall not exceed the

amount of the special allowance payable on eligible Federal PLUS Loans made under this paragraph computed under section 438(b)(2)(I) (other than clauses (ii), (iii), (iv), and (vi) of such section), except that for purposes of the computation under this subparagraph, section 438(b)(2)(I)(i)(III) shall be applied by substituting "1.79 percent" for "2.34 percent".

"(F) WINNING BIDS.—The winning bids for each State auction shall be the 2 bids containing the lowest and the second lowest proposed special allowance payments, subject to subparagraph (E).

"(G) AGREEMENT WITH SECRETARY.—Each eligible lender having a winning bid under subparagraph (F) enters into an agreement with the Secretary under which the eligible lender—

"(i) agrees to originate eligible Federal PLUS Loans under this paragraph to each borrower who—

"(I) seeks an eligible Federal PLUS Loan under this paragraph to enable a dependent student to attend an institution of higher education within the State;

"(II) is eligible for an eligible Federal PLUS Loan; and

"(III) elects to borrow from the eligible lender; and

"(ii) agrees to accept a special allowance payment (after the application of section 438(b)(2)(I)(v)) from the Secretary with respect to the eligible Federal PLUS Loans originated under clause (i) in the amount proposed in the second lowest winning bid described in subparagraph (F) for the applicable State auction.

"(H) SEALED BIDS; CONFIDENTIALITY.—All bids are sealed and the Secretary keeps the bids confidential, including following the announcement of the winning bids.

"(I) ELIGIBLE LENDER OF LAST RESORT.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—In the event that there is no winning bid under subparagraph (F), the students at the institutions of higher education within the State that was the subject of the auction shall be served by an eligible lender of last resort, as determined by the Secretary.

"(ii) DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBLE LENDER OF LAST RESORT.—Prior to the start of any auction under this paragraph, eligible lenders that desire to serve as an eligible lender of last resort shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may determine. Such application shall include an assurance that the eligible lender will meet the prequalification requirements described in subparagraph (B).

"(iii) GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION.—The Secretary shall identify an eligible lender of last resort for each State.

"(iv) NOTIFICATION TIMING.—The Secretary shall not identify any eligible lender of last resort until after the announcement of all the winning bids for a State auction for any year.

"(v) MAXIMUM SPECIAL ALLOWANCE.—The Secretary is authorized to set a special allowance payment that shall be payable to a lender of last resort for a State under this subparagraph, which special allowance payment shall be kept confidential, including following the announcement of winning bids. The Secretary shall set such special allowance payment so that it incurs the lowest possible cost to the Federal Government, taking into consideration the lowest bid that was submitted in an auction for such State and the lowest bid submitted in a similar State, as determined by the Secretary.

"(J) GUARANTEE AGAINST LOSSES.—The Secretary guarantees the eligible Federal PLUS Loans made under this paragraph against losses resulting from the default of a parent borrower in an amount equal to 99 percent of the unpaid principal and interest due on the loan.

"(K) LOAN FEES.—The Secretary shall not collect a loan fee under section 438(d) with respect to an eligible Federal Plus Loan originated under this paragraph.

"(L) CONSOLIDATION.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—An eligible lender who is permitted to originate eligible Federal PLUS

Loans for a borrower under this paragraph shall have the option to consolidate such loans into 1 loan.

"(ii) NOTIFICATION.—In the event a borrower with eligible Federal PLUS Loans made under this paragraph wishes to consolidate the loans, the borrower shall notify the eligible lender who originated the loans under this paragraph.

"(iii) LIMITATION ON ELIGIBLE LENDER OPTION TO CONSOLIDATE.—The option described in clause (i) shall not apply if—

"(I) the borrower includes in the notification in clause (ii) verification of consolidation terms and conditions offered by an eligible lender other than the eligible lender described in clause (i); and

"(II) not later than 10 days after receiving such notification from the borrower, the eligible lender described in clause (i) does not agree to match such terms and conditions, or provide more favorable terms and conditions to such borrower than the offered terms and conditions described in subclause (I).

"(iv) CONSOLIDATION OF ADDITIONAL LOANS.—

If a borrower has a Federal Direct PLUS Loan or a loan made on behalf of a dependent student under section 428B and seeks to consolidate such loan with an eligible Federal PLUS Loan made under this paragraph, then the eligible lender that originated the borrower's loan under this paragraph may include in the consolidation under this subparagraph a Federal Direct PLUS Loan or a loan made on behalf of a dependent student under section 428B, but only if—

"(I) in the case of a Federal Direct PLUS Loan, the eligible lender agrees, not later than 10 days after the borrower requests such consolidation from the lender, to match the consolidation terms and conditions that would otherwise be available to the borrower if the borrower consolidated such loans in the loan program under part D; or

"(II) in the case of a loan made on behalf of a dependent student under section 428B, the eligible lender agrees, not later than 10 days after the borrower requests such consolidation from the lender, to match the consolidation terms and conditions offered by an eligible lender other than the eligible lender that originated the borrower's loans under this paragraph.

"(v) SPECIAL ALLOWANCE ON CONSOLIDATION LOANS THAT INCLUDE LOANS MADE UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH.—The applicable special allowance payment for loans consolidated under this paragraph shall be equal to the lesser of—

"(I) the weighted average of the special allowance payment on such loans, except that in calculating such weighted average the Secretary shall exclude any Federal Direct PLUS Loan included in the consolidation; or

"(II) the result of—

"(aa) the average of the bond equivalent rates of the quotes of the 3-month commercial paper (financial) rates in effect for each of the days in such quarter as reported by the Federal Reserve in Publication H-15 (or its successor) for such 3-month period; plus

"(bb) 1.59 percent.

"(vi) INTEREST PAYMENT REBATE FEE.—Any loan under section 428C consolidated under this paragraph shall not be subject to the interest payment rebate fee under section 428C(f)."

TITLE VIII—PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

SEC. 801. COLLEGE ACCESS CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM.

Title VII (20 U.S.C. 1133 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new part:

"PART E—COLLEGE ACCESS CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM

"SEC. 771. COLLEGE ACCESS CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM.

"(a) AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated, and there are appropriated, to carry out this section \$66,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 and 2009. The authority to award grants under this section shall expire at the end of fiscal year 2009.

"(b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

"(1) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—From amounts appropriated under subsection (a), the Secretary shall award grants, from allotments under subsection (c), to States (and to philanthropic organization, as appropriate under paragraph (3)) having applications approved under subsection (d), to enable the State (or philanthropic organization) to pay the Federal share of the costs of carrying out the activities and services described in subsection (f).

"(2) FEDERAL SHARE; NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

"(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—The amount of the Federal share under this section for a fiscal year shall be equal to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the costs of the activities and services described in subsection (f) that are carried out under the grant.

"(B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The amount of the non-Federal share under this section shall be equal to $\frac{1}{3}$ of the costs of the activities and services described in subsection (f). The non-Federal share may be in cash or in-kind, and may be provided from State resources, contributions from private organizations, or both.

"(3) REDUCTION FOR FAILURE TO PAY NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—If a State fails to provide the full non-Federal share required under this subsection, the Secretary shall reduce the amount of the grant payment under this section proportionately, and may award the proportionate reduction amount of the grant directly to a philanthropic organization, as defined in subsection (i), to carry out this section.

"(4) TEMPORARY INELIGIBILITY FOR SUBSEQUENT PAYMENTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall determine a grantee to be temporarily ineligible to receive a grant payment under this section for a fiscal year if—

"(i) the grantee fails to submit an annual report pursuant to subsection (h) for the preceding fiscal year; or

"(ii) the Secretary determines, based on information in such annual report, that the grantee is not effectively meeting the conditions described under subsection (g) and the goals of the application under subsection (d).

"(B) REINSTATEMENT.—If the Secretary determines that a grantee is ineligible under subparagraph (A), the Secretary may enter into an agreement with the grantee setting forth the terms and conditions under which the grantee may regain eligibility to receive payments under this section.

"(c) DETERMINATION OF ALLOTMENT.—

"(1) AMOUNT OF ALLOTMENT.—Subject to paragraph (2), in making grant payments to grantees under this section, the allotment to each grantee for a fiscal year shall be equal to the sum of—

"(A) the amount that bears the same relation to 50 percent of the amount appropriated under subsection (a) for such fiscal year as the number of residents in the State aged 5 through 17 who are living below the poverty line applicable to the resident's family size (as determined under section 673(2) of the Community Service Block Grant Act) bears to the total number of such residents in all States; and

"(B) the amount that bears the same relation to 50 percent of the amount appropriated under subsection (a) for such fiscal year as the number of residents in the State aged 15 through 44 who are living below the poverty line applicable to the individual's family size (as determined under section 673(2) of the Community Service Block Grant Act) bears to the total number of such residents in all States.

"(2) MINIMUM AMOUNT.—The allotment for each State under this section for a fiscal year shall not be an amount that is less than 0.5 percent of the total amount appropriated under subsection (a) for such fiscal year.

"(d) SUBMISSION AND CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year for which a grantee desires a grant payment under subsection (b), the State agency with jurisdiction over higher education, or another agency

designated by the Governor or chief executive of the State to administer the program under this section, or a philanthropic organization, in accordance with subsection (b)(3), shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing the information described in paragraph (2).

“(2) APPLICATION.—An application submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) A description of the grantee’s capacity to administer the grant under this section and report annually to the Secretary on the activities and services described in subsection (f).

“(B) A description of the grantee’s plan for using the grant funds to meet the requirements of subsections (f) and (g), including plans for how the grantee will make special efforts to—

“(i) provide such benefits to students in the State that are underrepresented in postsecondary education; or

“(ii) in the case of a philanthropic organization that operates in more than one State, provide benefits to such students in each such State for which the philanthropic organization is receiving grant funds under this section.

“(C) A description of how the grantee will provide or coordinate the provision of the non-Federal share from State resources or private contributions.

“(D) A description of—

“(i) the structure that the grantee has in place to administer the activities and services described in subsection (f); or

“(ii) the plan to develop such administrative capacity.

“(e) SUBGRANTS TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—A State receiving a payment under this section may elect to make a subgrant to one or more nonprofit organizations in the State, including an eligible not-for-profit holder (as defined in section 435(p) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended by section 303 of this Act), or a partnership of such organizations, to carry out activities or services described in subsection (f), if the nonprofit organization or partnership—

“(1) was in existence on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act; and

“(2) as of such day, was participating in activities and services related to increasing access to higher education, such as those activities and services described in subsection (f).

“(f) ALLOWABLE USES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3), a grantee may use a grant payment under this section only for the following activities and services, pursuant to the conditions under subsection (g):

“(A) Information for students and families regarding—

“(i) the benefits of a postsecondary education;

“(ii) postsecondary education opportunities;

“(iii) planning for postsecondary education; and

“(iv) career preparation.

“(B) Information on financing options for postsecondary education and activities that promote financial literacy and debt management among students and families.

“(C) Outreach activities for students who may be at risk of not enrolling in or completing postsecondary education.

“(D) Assistance in completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or other common financial reporting form under section 483(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

“(E) Need-based grant aid for students.

“(F) Professional development for guidance counselors at middle schools and secondary schools, and financial aid administrators and college admissions counselors at institutions of higher education, to improve such individuals’ capacity to assist students and parents with—

“(i) understanding—

“(I) entrance requirements for admission to institutions of higher education; and

“(II) State eligibility requirements for Academic Competitiveness Grants or National

SMART Grants under section 401A, and other financial assistance that is dependent upon a student’s coursework;

“(ii) applying to institutions of higher education;

“(iii) applying for Federal student financial assistance and other State, local, and private student financial assistance and scholarships;

“(iv) activities that increase students’ ability to successfully complete the coursework required for a postsecondary degree, including activities such as tutoring or mentoring; and

“(v) activities to improve secondary school students’ preparedness for postsecondary entrance examinations.

“(G) Student loan cancellation or repayment (as applicable), or interest rate reductions, for borrowers who are employed in a high-need geographical area or a high-need profession in the State, as determined by the State.

“(2) PROHIBITED USES.—Funds made available under this section shall not be used to promote any lender’s loans.

“(3) USE OF FUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES.—A grantee may use not more than 6 percent of the total amount of the sum of the Federal share provided under this section and the non-Federal share required under this section for administrative purposes relating to the grant under this section.

“(g) SPECIAL CONDITIONS.—

“(1) AVAILABILITY TO STUDENTS AND FAMILIES.—A grantee receiving a grant payment under this section shall—

“(A) make the activities and services described in subparagraphs (A) through (F) of subsection (f)(1) that are funded under the payment available to all qualifying students and families in the State;

“(B) allow students and families to participate in the activities and services without regard to—

“(i) the postsecondary institution in which the student enrolls;

“(ii) the type of student loan the student receives;

“(iii) the servicer of such loan; or

“(iv) the student’s academic performance;

“(C) not charge any student or parent a fee or additional charge to participate in the activities or services; and

“(D) in the case of an activity providing grant aid, not require a student to meet any condition other than eligibility for Federal financial assistance under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, except as provided for in the loan cancellation or repayment or interest rate reductions described in subsection (f)(1)(G).

“(2) PRIORITY.—A grantee receiving a grant payment under this section shall, in carrying out any activity or service described in subsection (f)(1) with the grant funds, prioritize students and families who are living below the poverty line applicable to the individual’s family size (as determined under section 673(2) of the Community Service Block Grant Act).

“(3) DISCLOSURES.—

“(A) ORGANIZATIONAL DISCLOSURES.—In the case of a State that has chosen to make a payment to an eligible not-for-profit holder in the State in accordance with subsection (e), the holder shall clearly and prominently indicate the name of the holder and the nature of the holder’s work in connection with any of the activities carried out, or any information or services provided, with such funds.

“(B) INFORMATIONAL DISCLOSURES.—Any information about financing options for higher education provided through an activity or service funded under this section shall—

“(i) include information to students and the students’ parents of the availability of Federal, State, local, institutional, and other grants and loans for postsecondary education; and

“(ii) present information on financial assistance for postsecondary education that is not provided under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 in a manner that is clearly distinct

from information on student financial assistance under such title.

“(4) COORDINATION.—A grantee receiving a grant payment under this section shall attempt to coordinate the activities carried out with the grant payment with any existing activities that are similar to such activities, and with any other entities that support the existing activities in the State.

“(h) REPORT.—A grantee receiving a payment under this section shall prepare and submit an annual report to the Secretary on the activities and services carried out under this section, and on the implementation of such activities and services. The report shall include—

“(1) each activity or service that was provided to students and families over the course of the year;

“(2) the cost of providing each activity or service;

“(3) the number, and percentage, if feasible and applicable, of students who received each activity or service; and

“(4) the total contributions from private organizations included in the grantee’s non-Federal share for the fiscal year.

“(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘philanthropic organization’ means a non-profit organization—

“(A) that does not receive funds under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 or under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;

“(B) that is not a local educational agency or an institution of higher education;

“(C) that has a demonstrated record of dispersing grant aid to underserved populations to ensure access to, and participation in, higher education;

“(D) that is affiliated with an eligible consortia (as defined in paragraph (2)) to carry out this section; and

“(E) the primary purpose of which is to provide financial aid and support services to students from underrepresented populations to increase the number of such students who enter and remain in college.

“(2) ELIGIBLE CONSORTIA.—The term ‘eligible consortia’ means a partnership of 2 or more entities that have agreed to work together to carry out this section that—

“(A) includes—

“(i) a philanthropic organization, which serves as the manager of the consortia;

“(ii) a State that demonstrates a commitment to ensuring the creation of a Statewide system to address the issues of early intervention and financial support for eligible students to enter and remain in college; and

“(iii) at the discretion of the philanthropic organization described in clause (i), additional partners, including other non-profit organizations, government entities (including local municipalities, school districts, cities, and counties), institutions of higher education, and other public or private programs that provide mentoring or outreach programs; and

“(B) conducts activities to assist students with entering and remaining in college, which may include—

“(i) providing need-based grants to students;

“(ii) providing early notification to low-income students of their potential eligibility for Federal financial aid (which may include assisting students and families with filling out FAFSA forms), as well as other financial aid and other support available from the eligible consortia;

“(iii) encouraging increased student participation in higher education through mentoring or outreach programs; and

“(iv) conducting marketing and outreach efforts that are designed to—

“(I) encourage full participation of students in the activities of the consortia that carry out this section; and

“(II) provide the communities impacted by the activities of the consortia with a general knowledge about the efforts of the consortia.

“(3) GRANTEE.—The term ‘grantee’ means—

“(A) a State awarded a grant under this section; or

“(B) with respect to such a State that has failed to meet the non-Federal share requirement of subsection (b), a philanthropic organization awarded the proportionate reduction amount of such a grant under subsection (b)(3).”

SEC. 802. INVESTMENT IN HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.

Title IV (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) is further amended by adding after part I (as added by section 701 of this Act) the following new part:

“PART J—STRENGTHENING HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS

“SEC. 499A. INVESTMENT IN HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.

“(a) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—An institution of higher education is eligible to receive funds from the amounts made available under this section if such institution is—

“(1) a part B institution (as defined in section 322 (20 U.S.C. 1061));

“(2) a Hispanic-serving institution (as defined in section 502 (20 U.S.C. 1101a));

“(3) a Tribal College or University (as defined in section 316 (20 U.S.C. 1059c));

“(4) an Alaska Native-serving institution or a Native Hawaiian-serving institution (as defined in section 317(b) (20 U.S.C. 1059d(b)));

“(5) a Predominantly Black Institution (as defined in subsection (c));

“(6) an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institution (as defined in subsection (c)); or

“(7) a Native American-serving nontribal institution (as defined in subsection (c)).

“(b) NEW INVESTMENT OF FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be available to the Secretary to carry out this section, from funds not otherwise appropriated, \$255,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 and 2009. The authority to award grants under this section shall expire at the end of fiscal year 2009.

“(2) ALLOCATION AND ALLOTMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made available under paragraph (1) for each fiscal year—

“(i) \$100,000,000 shall be available for allocation under subparagraph (B);

“(ii) \$100,000,000 shall be available for allocation under subparagraph (C); and

“(iii) \$55,000,000 shall be available for allocation under subparagraph (D).

“(B) HSI STEM AND ARTICULATION PROGRAMS.—The amount made available for allocation under this subparagraph by subparagraph (A)(i) for any fiscal year shall be available for Hispanic-serving Institutions for activities described in section 503, with a priority given to applications that propose—

“(i) to increase the number of Hispanic and other low income students attaining degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics; and

“(ii) to develop model transfer and articulation agreements between 2-year Hispanic-serving institutions and 4-year institutions in such fields.

“(C) ALLOCATION AND ALLOTMENT HBCUS AND PBIS.—From the amount made available for allocation under this subparagraph by subparagraph (A)(i) for any fiscal year—

“(i) 85 percent shall be available to eligible institutions described in subsection (a)(1) and shall be made available as grants under section 323 and allotted among such institutions under section 324, treating such amount, plus the amount appropriated for such fiscal year in a regular or supplemental appropriation Act to carry out part B of title III, as the amount ap-

propriated to carry out part B of title III for purposes of allotments under section 324, for use by such institutions with a priority for—

“(I) activities described in paragraphs (1), (2), (4), (5), and (10) of section 323(a); and

“(II) other activities, consistent with the institution’s comprehensive plan and designed to increase the institution’s capacity to prepare students for careers in the physical or natural sciences, mathematics, computer science or information technology or sciences, engineering, language instruction in the less-commonly taught languages or international affairs, or nursing or allied health professions; and

“(ii) 15 percent shall be available to eligible institutions described in subsection (a)(5) and shall be available for a competitive grant program to award 25 grants of \$600,000 annually for programs in any of the following areas:

“(I) science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM);

“(II) health education;

“(III) internationalization or globalization;

“(IV) teacher preparation; or

“(V) improving educational outcomes of African American males.

“(D) ALLOCATION AND ALLOTMENT TO OTHER MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.—From the amount made available for allocation under this subparagraph by subparagraph (A)(iii) for any fiscal year—

“(i) \$30,000,000 for such fiscal year shall be available to eligible institutions described in subsection (a)(3) and shall be made available as grants under section 316, treating such \$30,000,000 as part of the amount appropriated for such fiscal year in a regular or supplemental appropriation Act to carry out such section, and using such \$30,000,000 for purposes described in subsection (c) of such section;

“(ii) \$15,000,000 for such fiscal year shall be available to eligible institutions described in subsection (a)(4) and shall be made available as grants under section 317, treating such \$15,000,000 as part of the amount appropriated for such fiscal year in a regular or supplemental appropriation Act to carry out such section and using such \$15,000,000 for purposes described in subsection (c) of such section;

“(iii) \$5,000,000 for such fiscal year shall be available to eligible institutions described in subsection (a)(6) for activities described in section 311(c); and

“(iv) \$5,000,000 for such fiscal year shall be available to eligible institutions described in subsection (a)(7)—

“(I) to plan, develop, undertake, and carry out activities to improve and expand such institutions’ capacity to serve Native Americans, which may include—

“(aa) the purchase, rental, or lease of scientific or laboratory equipment for educational purposes, including instructional and research purposes;

“(bb) renovation and improvement in classroom, library, laboratory, and other instructional facilities;

“(cc) support of faculty exchanges, faculty development, and faculty fellowships to assist faculty in attaining advanced degrees in the faculty’s field of instruction;

“(dd) curriculum development and academic instruction;

“(ee) the purchase of library books, periodicals, microfilm, and other educational materials;

“(ff) funds and administrative management, and acquisition of equipment for use in strengthening funds management;

“(gg) the joint use of facilities such as laboratories and libraries; and

“(hh) academic tutoring and counseling programs and student support services; and

“(I) to which the Secretary, to the extent possible and consistent with a competitive process under which such grants are awarded, allocates funds under this clause to ensure maximum and equitable distribution among all such eligible institutions.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—

“(1) ASIAN AMERICAN.—The term ‘Asian American’ has the meaning given the term ‘Asian’ in the Office of Management and Budget’s Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity as published on October 30, 1997 (62 Fed. Reg. 58789).

“(2) ASIAN AMERICAN AND NATIVE AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The term ‘Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institution’ means an institution of higher education that—

“(A) is an eligible institution under section 312(b); and

“(B) at the time of application, has an enrollment of undergraduate students that is at least 10 percent Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander students.

“(3) ENROLLMENT OF NEEDY STUDENTS.—The term ‘enrollment of needy students’ means the enrollment at an institution of higher education with respect to which not less than 50 percent of the undergraduate students enrolled in an academic program leading to a degree—

“(A) in the second fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the determination is made, were Federal Pell Grant recipients for such year;

“(B) come from families that receive benefits under a means-tested Federal benefit program (as defined in paragraph (5));

“(C) attended a public or nonprofit private secondary school—

“(i) that is in the school district of a local educational agency that was eligible for assistance under part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 for any year during which the student attended such secondary school; and

“(ii) which for the purpose of this paragraph and for that year was determined by the Secretary (pursuant to regulations and after consultation with the State educational agency of the State in which the school is located) to be a school in which the enrollment of children counted under a measure of poverty described in section 1113(a)(5) of such Act exceeds 30 percent of the total enrollment of such school; or

“(D) are first-generation college students (as that term is defined in section 402A(g)), and a majority of such first-generation college students are low-income individuals.

“(4) LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘low-income individual’ has the meaning given such term in section 402A(g).

“(5) MEANS-TESTED FEDERAL BENEFIT PROGRAM.—The term ‘means-tested Federal benefit program’ means a program of the Federal Government, other than a program under title IV, in which eligibility for the programs’ benefits or the amount of such benefits are determined on the basis of income or resources of the individual or family seeking the benefit.

“(6) NATIVE AMERICAN.—The term ‘Native American’ means an individual who is of a tribe, people, or culture that is indigenous to the United States.

“(7) NATIVE AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER.—The term ‘Native American Pacific Islander’ means any descendant of the aboriginal people of any island in the Pacific Ocean that is a territory or possession of the United States

“(8) NATIVE AMERICAN-SERVING NONTRIBAL INSTITUTION.—The term ‘Native American-serving nontribal institution’ means an institution of higher education that—

“(A) at the time of application—

“(i) has an enrollment of undergraduate students that is not less than 10 percent Native American students; and

“(ii) is not a Tribal College or University (as defined in section 316); and

“(B) submits to the Secretary such enrollment data as may be necessary to demonstrate that the institution is described in subparagraph (A), along with such other information and data as the Secretary may by regulation require.

“(9) *PREDOMINANTLY BLACK INSTITUTION.*—The term ‘Predominantly Black institution’ means an institution of higher education that—

“(A) has an enrollment of needy students as defined by paragraph (3);

“(B) has an average educational and general expenditure which is low, per full-time equivalent undergraduate student in comparison with the average educational and general expenditure per full-time equivalent undergraduate student of institutions of higher education that offer similar instruction, except that the Secretary may apply the waiver requirements described in section 392(b) to this subparagraph in the same manner as the Secretary applies the waiver requirements to section 312(b)(1)(B);

“(C) has an enrollment of undergraduate students—

“(i) that is at least 40 percent Black American students;

“(ii) that is at least 1,000 undergraduate students;

“(iii) of which not less than 50 percent of the undergraduate students enrolled at the institution are low-income individuals or first-generation college students (as that term is defined in section 402A(g)); and

“(iv) of which not less than 50 percent of the undergraduate students are enrolled in an educational program leading to a bachelor’s or associate’s degree that the institution is licensed to award by the State in which the institution is located;

“(D) is legally authorized to provide, and provides within the State, an educational program for which the institution of higher education awards a bachelor’s degree, or in the case of a junior or community college, an associate’s degree;

“(E) is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association determined by the Secretary to be a reliable authority as to the quality of training offered, or is, according to such an agency or association, making reasonable progress toward accreditation; and

“(F) is not receiving assistance under part B of title III.”

And the Senate agree to the same.

GEORGE MILLER,
ROBERT E. ANDREWS,
BOBBY SCOTT,
RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
JOHN F. TIERNEY,
DAVID WU,
SUSAN A. DAVIS,
DANNY K. DAVIS,
TIMOTHY BISHOP,
MAZIE K. HIRONO,
JASON ALTMIRE,
JOHN YARMUTH,
JOE COURTNEY,

Managers on the Part of the House.

TED KENNEDY,
CHRIS DODD,
TOM HARKIN,
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI,
JEFF BINGAMAN,
PATTY MURRAY,
JACK REED,
HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON,
BARACK OBAMA,
BERNARD SANDERS,
SHERROD BROWN,
MICHAEL B. ENZI,
LAMAR ALEXANDER,
ORRIN G. HATCH,

Managers on the Part of the Senate.

JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT OF THE
COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE

The managers on the part of the House and the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2669), to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 601 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008, submit the

following joint statement to the House and the Senate in explanation of the effect of the action agreed upon by the managers and recommended in the accompanying conference report:

The Senate amendment struck all of the House bill after the enacting clause and inserted a substitute text.

The House recedes from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate with an amendment that is a substitute for the House bill and the Senate amendment. The differences between the House bill, the Senate amendment, and the substitute agreed to in conference are noted below, except for clerical corrections, conforming changes made necessary by agreements reached by the conferees, and minor drafting and clarifying changes.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

The House bill’s short title is the “College Cost Reduction Act.”

The Senate amendment provides that the Act may be cited as the “Higher Education Access Act of 2007” and that, unless otherwise indicated, references in the bill are made to the Higher Education Act of 1965.

The House recedes with an amendment to provide a new short title of the “College Cost Reduction and Access Act.” The Conferees adopt the Senate amendment as amended by the House.

TITLE I—GRANTS TO STUDENTS IN ATTENDANCE AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

SECTION 101. TUITION SENSITIVITY

The House bill (Sec. 101) eliminates the Pell grant “tuition sensitivity” provision that prevents low-income students attending low-cost institutions, such as community colleges, to benefit fully from the Pell Grant. Authorizes and appropriates \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2008.

The Senate amendment (Sec. 101) also eliminates the Pell grant “tuition sensitivity” provision and authorizes and appropriates \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2008.

The House and the Senate recede with an amendment to authorize and appropriate \$11,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 to ensure that all eligible students in award year 2007–2008 receive funding. The Conferees concur and adopt the amendment.

SECTION 102. MANDATORY PELL GRANT INCREASES

The House bill (Sec. 101) authorizes and appropriates new mandatory funding to increase the maximum Pell grant award, above the appropriated level, by: \$200 in 2008–09; \$200 in 2009–10; \$300 in 2010–11; \$500 in 2011–12; and \$500 in 2012 and each subsequent award year.

The Senate amendment (Sec. 102) creates “Promise grants”—a new grant program for low-income, Pell-eligible students to be established in addition to the Pell grant program. Promise grants shall be awarded in the same way Pell grants are awarded, except that they shall be awarded only to students who are already eligible for Pell grants. Grants shall be awarded to those students with the greatest need, as determined under Section 471. Grants awarded under this subsection shall be used to supplement and not supplant other Federal, State and institutional grant funds. The Senate amendment authorizes and appropriates new mandatory funding to increase the maximum Pell grant award, above the appropriated level, by: \$790 in 2008–09; \$890 in 2009–10; \$990 in 2010–11; \$1,090 in 2011–12; and \$1,090 in 2012.

The House and Senate recede with an amendment that provides new mandatory funding for Pell grants and makes the following increases in the Pell maximum under current law:

\$490 in 2008–2009 and 2009–2010;
\$690 in 2010–2011 and 2011–2012; and
\$1,090 in 2012–2013.

The Conferees concur and adopt the amendment as proposed by both the House and the Senate. Combined with an appropriated level of \$4,310, as it is in current law, the maximum Pell Grant award will reach \$4,800 in the 2008–2009 academic year, \$4,800 in the 2009–2010 academic year, \$5,000 in the 2010–2011 academic year, \$5,000 in the 2011–2012 academic year, and \$5,400 in the 2012–2013 academic year.

The Conferees intend that in awarding the funds under this section, the Secretary shall determine the universe of students who are eligible to receive a Pell grant, without regard to this section, and award grants under this section only to such students. The Conferees further intend that the allocated funds for all academic years be distributed in the same manner as funds are awarded under the Pell grant program, in accordance with the eligibility determination, needs analysis formula and regulations used for the distribution of Pell grant awards from discretionary funds. The Conferees intend that students who receive a maximum Pell grant under the discretionary maximum award level will be eligible to receive the maximum award allowed under this section, and students who receive Pell grants that are less than the maximum under the discretionary funding would be eligible to receive grants under this section proportionate to the size of the Pell grant the student received under the discretionary funding level, in accordance with the Pell grant formula.

The Conferees intend that the funding provided in this section be used to supplement, and in no way supplant, current or future discretionary funding for the Pell grant program or increases in such funding.

SECTION 103. UPWARD BOUND

The House bill (Sec. 412) restricts the Secretary’s use of funds for the purposes of evaluating and selecting participants of the Upward Bound program. The bill also provides an additional \$228 million to restore Upward Bound funding to unfunded programs from the FY07 competition.

The Senate amendment contains no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment to strike the provision that restricts the Secretary’s use of funds for the purposes of evaluating and selecting participants of the Upward Bound Program. The Conferees adopt the provision in the House bill as amended by the Senate.

SECTION 104. TEACH GRANTS

The House bill (Sec. 301) creates new TEACH Grants that provide up-front prepaid tuition assistance of \$4,000/year (with a maximum of \$16,000) for high-achieving graduate and undergraduate students who commit to teaching a high-need subject in a high-need school for four years. Bonus grants are provided to students who are enrolled in a qualified teacher education program and teach in a science or mathematics field.

The Senate amendment contains no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment striking the bonus grants in the House proposal. The Conferees adopt the provision in the House bill as amended by the Senate.

The Conferees intend that the Department of Education may operate this program through a pre-existing office, and does not require the creation of a new office.

TITLE II—STUDENT LOAN BENEFITS, TERMS, AND CONDITIONS

SECTION 201. INTEREST RATE REDUCTIONS

The House bill (Sec. 111) reduces interest rates on subsidized Stafford loans for undergraduates to 6.12 percent on July 1, 2008; 5.44

percent on July 1, 2009; 4.76 percent on July 1, 2010; 4.08 percent on July 1, 2011 and 3.4 percent on July 1, 2012.

The Senate amendment contains no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment, to reduce interest rates on subsidized Stafford loans for undergraduates to 6.0 percent on July 1, 2008; 5.6 percent on July 1, 2009; 4.5 percent on July 1, 2010; and 3.4 percent on July 1, 2011. The Conferees adopt the provision in the House bill as amended by the Senate.

SECTION 202. STUDENT LOAN DEFERMENT FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

The Senate amendment (Sec. 202) eliminates a three-year limitation on the period for which certain members of the armed forces may receive deferments on their student loan payments. It allows deferments until 180 days after such member is demobilized. It also provides that such benefits are available regardless of when the student loan was originated. As in current law, members of the armed forces who qualify for this deferment are limited to those who are serving on active duty or performing qualifying National Guard duty during a war or other military operation in a national emergency.

The House bill contains no similar provision.

The House recedes.

SECTION 203. INCOME-BASED REPAYMENT

The House bill (Sec. 133) builds on the tenets of the Income Contingent Repayment program by guaranteeing that all borrowers' loan payments will be limited to 15 percent of their discretionary income, or 15 percent of the amount by which a borrower's adjusted gross income exceeds 150 percent of the poverty line, divided by 12. Under this section, unpaid interest and principal are capitalized and any outstanding loan balance is forgiven after 20 years of repayment.

In the Senate amendment, unpaid interest on subsidized loans is paid or forgiven by the Secretary and outstanding loan balance is forgiven after 25 years of repayment. The amendment provides that borrowers repaying loans according to income-contingent repayment or income-sensitive repayment plans prior to enactment of this Act shall have the option of continuing to repay under the terms and conditions of those programs as they existed prior to enactment of this Act or may elect to use the income-based repayment plan created by this section.

The House and Senate recede with an amendment adopting the structure of the House proposal, and requiring the Secretary to pay any unpaid interest on subsidized loans for up to three years. The amendment also provides for loan forgiveness of unpaid principal balances after 25 years of repayment in the income-based repayment program. The Conferees adopt the provision as proposed by both the House and the Senate.

SECTION 204. DEFERRAL OF LOAN REPAYMENT FOLLOWING ACTIVE DUTY

The House bill (Sec. 137) allows active duty members of the armed services, including members of the National Guard or other reserve component of the armed forces who were enrolled in college or left college within six months of deployment to receive extended repayment on loan terms of up to 13 months upon return from active duty.

The Senate amendment contains no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

SECTION 205. MAXIMUM REPAYMENT PERIOD

The House bill (Sec. 136) amends provisions concerning the maximum repayment period in the income-contingent repayment program.

The Senate amendment contains no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

TITLE III—FEDERAL FAMILY EDUCATION—LOAN PROGRAM

SECTION 301. GUARANTY AGENCY COLLECTION RETENTION

The House bill (Sec. 116) reduces the percentage which guaranty agencies shall be allowed to retain from payments made through collections on defaulted loans from 23 percent to 16 percent.

The Senate amendment (Sec. 302) contains the same provision.

The Conferees adopt the language of the identical provisions in both the House and Senate.

SECTION 302. ELIMINATION OF EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMER STATUS FOR LENDERS

The House bill (Sec. 114) eliminates the provision that allows lenders designated as "exceptional performers" to receive 99 percent insurance on defaulted loans if they are in full compliance with due diligence requirements.

The Senate amendment (Sec. 303) also eliminates the provision that allows lenders designated as "exceptional performers." The Senate amendment makes the change effective October 1, 2007, except that lenders designated as exceptional performers as of that date shall be allowed to continue such designation for the remainder of the year for which the designation was made.

The House recedes.

In a July 26, 2007 report concerning the exceptional performer designation, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that the designation has not materially affected loan servicing, and that default claims have not declined as a result. In addition, GAO found that providing an extra 2 percent reimbursement rate for default claims serviced by exceptional performers is not in the fiscal interest of the federal government, because lenders are being paid a premium to perform due diligence activities that are already required of all lenders. Accordingly, GAO recommended that the exceptional performer designation be eliminated. The Conferees concur with the GAO recommendation and adopt the Senate amendment.

SEC. 303. REDUCTION OF LENDER INSURANCE PERCENTAGE

The House bill (Sec. 115) reduces the insurance rate from 97 percent to 95 percent of the unpaid principal of such loans.

The Senate amendment (Sec. 301) maintains the level of insurance paid by the Federal government on defaulted loans guaranteed under title IV, currently set at 97 percent.

The House recedes with an amendment to reduce the lender insurance rate in 2013 to 95 percent. The Conferees adopt the Senate amendment as amended by the House.

SECTION 304. DEFINITIONS

Economic hardship

The House bill (Sec. 134) changes the definition of economic hardship to create a uniform definition that applies to all borrowers, based on income less than 150 percent of the poverty level for the borrower's family size.

The Senate amendment (Sec. 304) changes part of the definition of economic hardship to income less than 150 percent of the poverty level for the borrower's family size.

The Senate recedes.

Eligible not-for-profit holder

The House bill (Sec. 118) defines a not-for-profit holder for the purposes of determining which lenders qualify for the elimination of the origination fee. As such not-for-profit holders are defined as any holder that is a unit of a state or local government or a non-profit private entity; and is not owned in whole or in part by, or controlled, by a for-profit entity.

The Senate amendment (Sec. 304) establishes a definition of eligible not-for-profit holder for the purposes of determining the special allowance payment for which a lender is eligible. Eligible not-for-profit holder means an eligible lender that is a State, or a political subdivision, authority, agency or other instrumentality thereof, or an entity with not-for-profit status under the tax code, or a trustee acting as an eligible lender on behalf of one of these entities; The amendment establishes that no eligible not-for-profit holder shall be owned or controlled, in whole or in part, by a for-profit entity, and that if an eligible not-for-profit holder sells loans on which the Secretary is paying the higher special allowance payment designated for eligible not-for-profit holders described in Section 305 of the Senate amendment, to a for-profit entity or an entity that is not an eligible not-for-profit holder, such loans shall from the date of sale instead receive the special allowance payment designated for other such lenders, as described in Section 305. The Senate amendment requires that the Secretary promulgate regulations implementing this provision no later than one year after the date of enactment.

The House recedes with an amendment (1) clarifying that an eligible not-for-profit holder will not be considered to be owned or controlled by a for-profit entity if an eligible lender trustee merely holds the loan in trust for the eligible not-for-profit holder and does not receive any benefit from the loan beyond reasonable and customary fees; and (2) specifying that a not-for-profit entity on whose behalf a trustee is acting as an eligible lender will not be deemed owned or controlled by a for-profit entity, as a result of granting a security interest in, or otherwise pledging as collateral, loans or the income from a loan to secure a debt obligation in the operation of the trustee relationship. The amendment also specifies that an eligible not-for-profit holder must have been in operation and serving as an eligible lender on the date of enactment of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, and that a trustee, in order to be an eligible not-for-profit lender, must be a trustee acting on behalf of such an eligible lender. The amendment specifies that a state may elect to waive this requirement for a new eligible not-for-profit holder determined by the State to be necessary to fill a public purpose, except that a State may not waive any of the requirements related to trustees.

The Conferees adopt the Senate amendment as amended by the House.

SECTION 305. SPECIAL ALLOWANCES

Reduction of lender special allowance payments

The House bill (Sec. 113) reduces the special allowance payment rate for lenders, which is currently set for student loans at the Commercial Paper (CP) lending rate plus 1.74 percent while borrowers are in school or in a grace period, and CP plus 2.34 percent while borrowers are in repayment, and is currently set for PLUS loans at CP plus 2.64 percent, and for consolidation loans at CP plus 2.64 percent (less the 1.05 percent annual rebate fee). The House bill reduces these payment rates by 0.55 percentage points (or 55 basis points) for loans held by all lenders and equalizes the special allowance payment rate for Stafford and PLUS loans.

The Senate amendment (Sec. 305) reduces these payments for loans held by for-profit lenders by 0.50 percentage points (or 50 basis points), and by 0.35 percentage points (35 basis points) for loans held by not-for-profit lenders and equalizes the SAP rate for Stafford and PLUS loans.

The House recedes with an amendment that reduces the SAP payments by 40 basis points for non-profit lenders and by 55 basis points for all other lenders. The amendment

also equalizes the SAP rate for Stafford and PLUS loans. The Conferees adopt the Senate amendment as amended by the House.

Increased loan fees from lenders

The House bill (Sec. 118) increases the fee the Secretary shall collect under Section 438(d) of title IV on each loan disbursed from 0.50 percent to 1 percent for certain for-profit lenders. The fee is eliminated for non-profit lenders and small lenders, defined as those that collectively hold the lowest 15 percent of total loan volume.

The Senate amendment (Sec. 305) increases the fee the Secretary shall collect from all lenders under Section 438(d) of title IV on each loan disbursed from 0.50 percent to 1 percent.

The House recedes.

SECTION 306. ACCOUNT MAINTENANCE FEES

The House bill (Sec. 117) reduces account maintenance fees from 0.1 percent to 0.06 percent.

The Senate amendment (Sec. 402) changes the method by which account maintenance fees are calculated from a calculation based on the total amount of loan principal to a per-loan basis.

The Senate recedes.

TITLE IV—LOAN FORGIVENESS

SECTION 401. LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES

The House bill (Sec. 132) amends the current Income-Contingent Repayment program in the Direct Loan program to provide loan forgiveness for public sector employees. The change provides that the Secretary shall forgive the remaining loan balance on a loan under part D of title IV for a borrower who has been employed in a public sector job and has made payments on such loan for a period of ten years.

The Senate amendment (Sec. 401) creates a new loan forgiveness plan for public service employees. The plan provides that the Secretary shall forgive the remaining loan balance for a borrower who has been employed in a public sector job and has made payments on such loan for a period of ten years (which need not be consecutive). Such borrowers shall be eligible to have $\frac{1}{10}$ of the remaining loan balance forgiven for each of the ten years in which the borrower earned \$65,000 or less.

The House recedes with an amendment to modify the definition of public service employees and eliminate the \$65,000 income cap.

The Conferees adopt the Senate amendment as amended by the House.

TITLE V—FEDERAL PERKINS LOANS

SECTION 501. DISTRIBUTION OF LATE COLLECTIONS

The House bill (Sec. 141) provides \$100 million per year for the Perkins Loan Federal Contribution program for fiscal years 2008–2012.

The Senate amendment (Sec. 501) postpones the date on which institutions must return late collections on Perkins loans to the Secretary to September 30, 2012. The House recedes.

TITLE VI—NEED ANALYSIS

SECTION 601. SUPPORT FOR WORKING STUDENTS

The House bill (Sec. 102) includes provisions to increase students' eligibility for student aid, including the Pell grant, through phased-in increases in the Income Protection Allowance for all students. The protected income for unmarried independent students without dependents will be \$6,690 by 2009. For dependent students the protected income will be \$3,750 by 2009. These amounts will increase by 10 percent each year until 2012.

The Senate amendment (Sec. 601) also increases the Income Protection Allowance in

the following ways: (1) for dependent students, it increases the amount of the income protection allowance to \$3,750 for the 2009–2010 academic year; \$4,500 for the 2010–2011 academic year; \$5,250 for the 2011–2012 academic year; and \$6,000 for the 2012–2013 academic year; (2) for independent students without dependents other than a spouse, who are single, separated, or married with both spouses enrolled, it increases the amount of the income protection allowance to \$7,000 for the 2009–2010 academic year; \$7,780 for the 2010–2011 academic year; \$8,550 for the 2011–2012 academic year; and \$9,330 for the 2012–2013 academic year. For independent students without dependents other than a spouse, who are married and whose spouse is not enrolled, it increases the amount of the income protection allowance to \$11,220 for the 2009–2010 academic year; \$12,460 for the 2010–2011 academic year; \$13,710 for the 2011–2012 academic year; and \$14,690 for the 2012–2013 academic year. For independent students with dependents other than a spouse, it increases the amount of the income protection allowance as specified by the tables contained in this section, for a total increase of 50 percent over four years. Under this section, for all students, the income protection allowance reverts to current law after the 2012–2013 academic year.

The House recedes with an amendment to continue the changes beyond the 2012–2013 academic year. The Conferees adopt the Senate amendment as amended by the House.

SECTION 602. SIMPLIFIED NEEDS TEST AND AUTOMATIC ZERO IMPROVEMENTS

Simplified needs test

The House bill (Sec. 103) extends the time that an individual who has participated in a federal means-tested benefit program can qualify for a simplified needs test to 24 months from 12 months, and allows dislocated workers to be eligible for the simplified application form.

The Senate amendment contains no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Automatic zero

The House bill (Sec. 103) increases the family income level under which a student is automatically eligible for the maximum Pell grant, or the "auto-zero," from the current level of \$20,000 to \$30,000 and indexes this level to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The Senate amendment (Sec. 602) also increases the family income level under which a student is automatically eligible for the maximum Pell grant to \$30,000.

The Senate recedes.

SECTION 603. DISCRETION OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS

The House bill (Sec. 104) allows financial aid administrators to use discretion in calculating the expected student or family contribution in cases where a family member is a dislocated worker (as defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998).

The Senate amendment (Sec. 603) clarifies and expands the conditions under which financial aid administrators may use discretion in calculating the expected student or family contribution to include an independent student's loss of employment or a change in a student's housing status that results in homelessness. The Senate amendment (Sec. 605) authorizes and appropriates \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 to pay for the estimated increased cost in the Pell program for award year 2007–2008 resulting from the amendments made by sections 603 and 604.

Both the House and Senate recede with an amendment to change the effective date to July 1, 2009. The Conferees concur and adopt the amendment as proposed by the House and Senate.

SECTION 604. DEFINITIONS

The House bill (Sec. 104) clarifies definitions for dislocated workers and means-tested federal benefits. The House bill amends the provisions concerning untaxed income and benefits in current law. Specifically, the bill excludes TANF (welfare benefits), Earned Income Tax Credits, and Social Security from the income calculation in the needs analysis. The House bill clarifies the asset calculation in this section of the bill to ensure that 529 plans are counted as the asset of the parent for independent students.

The Senate amendment (Sec. 604) makes changes to the definition of independent student. It expands the definition of independent students to include: individuals in foster care anytime after age 13; emancipated minors or individuals in legal guardianships as determined by an appropriate court in such an individual's State of legal residence; and any individual who has been adequately verified as an unaccompanied youth who is a homeless child or youth, as defined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. It clarifies that financial aid administrators may make determinations regarding a student's independent status based on a documented determination of independence by another financial aid administrator in the same year.

Both the House and Senate recede with an amendment clarifying that foster students do not lose their independent student status during non-school terms with regard to housing and other benefits. The Conferees concur and adopt the amendment as proposed by the House and Senate.

TITLE VII—COMPETITIVE LOAN AUCTION PILOT PROGRAM

SEC. 701. COMPETITIVE LOAN AUCTION PILOT PROGRAM

The House bill (Sec. 119) requires a study by the Secretaries of Education and Treasury with the Congressional Budget Office, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Government Accountability Office to identify and select among the best mechanisms for a loan auction.

Based on the information from the study, a pilot program shall be implemented by the Secretary of Education using 10 percent of loan volume under Part B in the first year of the pilot study and 20 percent the second year of the pilot study.

The Senate amendment (Sec. 801) establishes a new competitive loan auction pilot program. The Secretary is directed to carry out a pilot program to establish a mechanism for the auction of all eligible PLUS loans. Such loans are loans made to parents of dependent students. The Secretary shall administer one auction for each state, in which eligible lenders shall compete to originate all eligible PLUS loans at institutions of higher education within the state.

The House recedes.

The Conferees believe this loan auction pilot should be closely evaluated by the Secretary of Education in consultation with the Secretary of Treasury, the Office of Management and Budget, the Congressional Budget Office, and the Comptroller General. Additionally, the Conferees believe the evaluation should consider the extent of the savings generated through the pilot program; the number of lenders participating in the pilot program and the extent to which the pilot program generated competition among lenders; and the effect of transition to and operation of the pilot program on the feasibility of using other market mechanisms to operate the loan programs.

The Conferees intend to include an evaluation of the loan auction and other market mechanisms during reauthorization of the Higher Education Act which we are committed to moving forward in this session.

TITLE VIII—PARTNERSHIP GRANTS
SECTION 801. COLLEGE ACCESS CHALLENGE GRANTS

The House bill (Sec. 411) establishes “College Access Challenge Grants,” which leverage federal funds to increase the number of students from underserved populations who enter and complete college through matching grants to philanthropic organizations. The federal government will provide a 2 to 1 match for private and other public funds for these purposes. The philanthropic organizations will work with states, institutions of higher education, and local education agencies and other organizations to raise funds and provide outreach and student support programs.

The Senate amendment (Sec. 801) establishes a College Access Partnership Grant program, to make payments to States to assist them in carrying out specified activities to increase college access for low-income students in the state. The federal share of the matching grant is $\frac{2}{3}$ and the state share is $\frac{1}{3}$. Activities may be carried out under this grant by state agencies or not-for-profit organizations that the state designates, including not-for-profit lenders, and must be made available to all qualifying students in the state, with priority given to students and families living below the poverty line. The amendment provides that authority to carry out this section shall expire on September 30, 2009.

The House recedes with an amendment changing the name of the program to “College Access Challenge Grants” and incorporating a House provision allowing philanthropic organizations to apply to the Secretary for a grant in the case where a state does not meet the matching requirements or chooses not to apply for a grant. The Conferees adopt the Senate amendment as amended by the House.

The Conferees intend that states, entities, or organizations providing activities under the College Access Challenge Grants program created by this Act coordinate such activities with existing state partnership programs designed to increase college access, particularly the state’s Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership program (LEAP) under title IV, Part A, Subpart 4, if a state has such a program.

SECTION 802. INVESTMENT IN HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS

The House bill (Sec. 401) provides a total \$500 million over the next five years to the following designated institutions with the following amounts:

\$200 million to Hispanic-Serving Institutions to be distributed to the institutions in the same competitive manner as is done under title V of the Higher Education Act, and for uses under title V with priority to those applications that will increase the number of low-income students attaining degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering, or math and to applications that develop model transfer articulation agreements.

\$170 million to Historically Black Colleges and Universities to be distributed for use through some of the activities described in section 323(a) of the Higher Education Act including the purchase of laboratory equipment, the funding of instruction, the purchase of materials, and the establishment or enhancement of a teacher education program. Additionally, funds may be used in a manner consistent with the institution’s comprehensive plan and designed to increase the institution’s capacity to prepare students for careers in the physical and natural sciences, math, computer science, information technology, engineering, language instruction and other specified areas.

\$30 million to Predominately Black Institutions to award 50 grants of \$600,000 for programs in the fields of science, technology, engineering, health education, teacher education, or programs that improve the educational outcomes of African American males.

\$60 million to Tribal Colleges and Universities to be distributed in the manner that the funds are used under current law in section 316 of the Higher Education Act including the purchase of laboratory equipment, the funding of instruction, the purchase of materials, or the establishment or enhancement of teacher education and outreach programs.

\$30 million to Alaska/Hawaiian Native Institutions to be distributed in the manner that the funds are used under current law in section 317 of the Higher Education Act including the purchase of laboratory equipment, the funding of instruction, the purchase of materials, and the creation of academic tutoring programs.

\$10 million to Asian American and Pacific Islander Institutions to be distributed to institutions as defined in this section, and used in a manner that may include the purchase of laboratory equipment, the funding of instruction, the purchase of materials, and the creation of tutoring programs.

The House bill defines the following for the purposes of distributing funds:

Predominately Black Institutions as institutions that have an enrollment of financially needy undergraduate students; an enrollment of undergraduate students at least 40% of whom are Black; and, that has at least 1,000 undergraduate students of whom not less than 50% enrolled at the institution are low-income or first generation and registered in a BA or AA program leading to a degree.

Asian and Pacific Islander-serving institution as institutions that have an enrollment of undergraduate students that is at least 10% Asian American and Pacific Islander and has a significant enrollment of financially needy students.

The Senate amendment contains no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that \$255 million shall be authorized in each of 2008 and 2009, for a total investment of \$510 million. The amendment adds \$10 million for Native American Serving, Nontribal Institutions to be distributed to institutions as defined in this section, and used in a manner that may include the purchase of laboratory equipment, the funding of instruction, the purchase of materials, and the creation of tutoring programs. The Conferees agree to the House bill as amended by the Senate.

The amendment defines Native American Serving, Nontribal Institutions for the purposes of distributing funds at institutions that have an enrollment of undergraduate students that is at least 10% Native American and is not a Tribal College or University.

These institutions, which serve groups who were historically denied access to postsecondary education because of discrimination, have an important role in higher education. They help to preserve cultural traditions and to ensure a diverse pool of qualified professionals in the nation’s economy. At the same time, they offer affordable, high quality college education to thousands of students as well as provide much needed job training. These institutions also provide crucial support services and add hope to communities that have high rates of poverty and unemployment. Today, a high quality education greatly depends on the technology and resources available to students. The Conferees recognize that HBCUs, HSIs, and other Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) do not

have sufficient financial ability to provide these opportunities and satisfy the unique needs of these schools without Federal assistance.

MSIs have an important role in providing equal educational opportunities to qualified minority students. According to the Institute for Higher Education Policy, approximately 2.3 million students, or about one-third of all African Americans, American Indians/Alaska Natives, and Hispanics in all higher education institutions in the United States and Puerto Rico, were enrolled at HBCUs, HSIs, TCUs, Alaska and Hawaiian Native institutions. These numbers have grown rapidly in recent years—in fact, enrollment at these institutions accelerated by 66 percent from 1995 to 2003, compared to only 20 percent at all postsecondary institutions.

The importance of these unique institutions is underscored by the fact that they provide postsecondary educational opportunities specifically tailored to students who traditionally have been denied access to adequately funded elementary and secondary schools, especially low-income, educationally disadvantaged students. The Conferees believe that this section offers an opportunity to help these institutions fulfill their missions to assist students to meet their educational goals.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XXI

Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, this conference report contains no congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI.

GEORGE MILLER,
ROBERT E. ANDREWS,
BOBBY SCOTT,
RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
JOHN F. TIERNEY,
DAVID WU,
SUSAN A. DAVIS,
DANNY K. DAVIS,
TIMOTHY BISHOP,
MAZIE K. HIRONO,
JASON ALTMIRE,
JOHN YARMUTH,
JOE COURTNEY,

Managers on the Part of the House.

TED KENNEDY,
CHRIS DODD,
TOM HARKIN,
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI,
JEFF BINGAMAN,
PATTY MURRAY,
JACK REED,
HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON,
BARACK OBAMA,
BERNARD SANDERS,
SHERROD BROWN,
MICHAEL B. ENZI,
LAMAR ALEXANDER,
ORRIN G. HATCH,

Managers on the Part of the Senate.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2007.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 633 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2786.

□ 1121

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2786) to reauthorize the programs for housing assistance for Native Americans, with Mr. HOLDEN in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This is a reauthorization, and I believe with the initiative of the gentleman from New Mexico, which I hope the House will adopt, will extend the Federal program that responds to the economic needs of the Native Americans. It also has a provision reauthorizing the Native Hawaiian legislation.

The program primarily provides funding, subject, of course, to appropriation, to the recognized tribes for housing. Members will be aware, if they represent areas where the tribes are and if they have visited those areas, that inadequate housing is a serious social problem for many of our Native American residents. And this is a bill that provides money to them to help them meet that need.

Now, the program is changed in three ways: First, as I said, it has not yet been changed but we expect it to be. Our committee has unanimously expressed its support for an amendment that was drafted by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE), who will be offering it, which creates an economic development program to go along with the housing program, and we do believe adequate housing and economic development go hand in hand.

Secondly, at the request of the tribes, the Indian Housing Council, we have added in this a provision for a reserve fund and we have also provided funding for a self-determination program. So this bill comes before us strongly supported by the broad range of the tribes and it continues Federal support to help the tribes themselves build housing and will, I hope, also now have a component for economic development.

There is one item of some controversy which I think all of us in-

volved here regret but we cannot ignore. The gentleman from North Carolina will be offering an amendment which says that no funding under this bill, including the housing program and the, I hope to be adopted, economic development program to the one tribe, the Cherokees, who have recently decided that the descendants of the slaves that the tribe had in the 19th century will be excluded from tribal benefits despite a treaty obligation to the contrary, we hope in the end that will never be necessary. In fact, I believe we will see an amendment that will make it clear that the amendment will only apply as long as the tribe maintains that position and there is pending litigation in the tribal court to change it. We hope it is changed. That's, as I see, the only controversy that applies to the program itself. I take it back. I know there will be an amendment to strike the Native Hawaiian program, and we will very vigorously oppose that. We have had that debate before. This is a program that works well, that is overwhelmingly supported in the State of Hawaii, and we believe should be allowed to continue.

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

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

I rise to offer support for H.R. 2786, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act.

Chairman FRANK has described it very well. Basically, we are trying to see that the plight of Native Americans in their housing can be improved. It is basically fairly simple.

As home to many Native American tribes, New Mexico sees this problem up close. The lack of standard housing, the availability of substandard housing, the lack of economic development opportunities, the lack of infrastructure such as water and wastewater treatment facilities all continue to plague people who are trying to make the tribal grounds their home and their place of habitation.

So I am pleased to be an original co-sponsor of the bill and appreciate the hard work of Representative KILDEE, Chairman FRANK, and Chairwoman WATERS in drafting a bill that begins to address these problems.

One of the things that I think is most important is the flexibility and self-determination that begins to work its way into the legislation. Washington has never been the right place to make decisions for either local, State, or tribal governments, and in this bill we begin to send more of that autonomy, to send more of the decision-making power back to the tribes, which I think is an excellent opportunity for them to begin to find their way to self-sufficiency.

We have had one of my good friends come and testify on the bill. That was the president of the Mescalero Apaches, Mark Chino, who came here

during the Financial Services Committee's consideration of the bill and gave his insights on why the program is needed. And, again, I would just like to commend each one of the tribal leaders throughout not only New Mexico but throughout this country for really doing their job to begin to see that tribes deal with the problems that face them, not waiting for the Federal Government to come around and not waiting for BIA, not waiting for any of the agencies. And this bill, in its block grant program, begins to do that.

Another one of the significant things of this bill is that it allows tribes to take loans out, to incur indebtedness, to issue bonds in order to get infrastructure on the tribal grounds. I know that the Mescaleros do not have their own wastewater treatment facility. They instead work with the local communities of Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs to deal with the wastewater treatment. But as tribes across the country are allowed to incur indebtedness for these solutions, then I think that is going to be extraordinarily important.

Some of the tribes have used their housing money, for instance, to go to FEMA where many of the trailers that were bought and put there for Hurricane Katrina victims ended up not being needed or used, and different tribes, which the Mescaleros were, I think, the first in the Nation to go take advantage of some of those trailers, move them into their native grounds. And it represents a significant improvement over what some of the families already had. So we are beginning to see those roots and those seeds of self-determination already make a difference in the lives of Native Americans. And with this reauthorization, we will be able to continue to see those seeds of local progress, local input becoming the way that we do business.

I support the bill and look forward to the discussion.

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

□ 1130

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, there are issues in which a number of Members of the House are recognized as leaders. There are sometimes issues where one particular Member, by the force of his commitment, by the intellectual powers he brings to bear, by the length of that commitment, really stands out as a leader. And on this particular issue, the issue of Native Americans in general, that is our colleague from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) dating back from his days in the State legislature in Michigan, when he represented a district with no Native Americans. They named cars in his district after Native Americans, but they're the only ones with those names that lived there. And just out of a concern that America honor its commitment in this area, which we haven't always done, he has been for many years a champion of the cause of Native Americans.

I am delighted to have worked with him on this bill, he is the sponsor of the bill, and I yield him such time as he may consume.

Mr. KILDEE. I thank the gentleman for his kind words.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2786, a bill to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act. I am proud to be the sponsor of this very important legislation.

NAHASDA, enacted in 1996, was the first piece of comprehensive housing legislation directed solely to Native American and Alaskan Native people. It has become the basic program aiding Native Americans in tribal areas with affordable housing development, including homeownership, rehabilitation, infrastructure development, and other affordable housing assistance.

The success of NAHASDA is clear. Since its enactment, thousands of housing units have been constructed or are in development. Despite this record, however, there is still a substantial unmet need for housing units, a need that continues to grow for one of the fastest growing population groups in the country.

This bill, which is based largely upon the recommendations made by the Native American Indian Housing Council, has bipartisan support. I want to thank my colleagues, Chairman BARNEY FRANK and Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS and Mr. PEARCE, who has been a very, very active supporter of this legislation and other legislation affecting our Native Americans.

Its primary objective is to improve housing conditions in Indian country. Building upon the basic framework of NAHASDA, the bill will give tribes greater flexibility in meeting the housing needs of the tribal citizens. To that end, the bill creates a self-determination program which authorizes tribes to set aside 15 percent of its annual NAHASDA grant funding, up to \$1 million, for the acquisition, construction or rehabilitation of housing. A year before the next NAHASDA reauthorization in 2011, HUD would report to Congress the results of this program.

Among other revisions, the bill will make certain that tribes can compete for Home Investment Partnership Act funds, removes competitive procurement rules and procedures for purchases and goods under \$5,000, makes Federal supply sources through the GSA more accessible to tribes, recognizes tribal preference laws in hiring and contracting for NAHASDA activities, allows tribes to carry over NAHASDA funds to a subsequent grant year, and permits tribes to establish a reserve account up to 20 percent of the tribe's annual NAHASDA grant.

Mr. Chairman, this authorization bill will build upon the success of NAHASDA over the past 11 years by providing more housing development on our Nation's Indian reservations.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Chairman, I would compliment the gentleman from Michigan for his work on this legislation. He has been tireless in his support of and the working of the legislation to get it to this point on the floor.

In my district we have several tribes, including Laguna, Acoma, Zuni, Mescalero, Isleta, the Ramah Navajo chapter, Tohajiilee Navajo chapter and the Alamo Navajo chapter, and each are faced with different difficulties. That's the reason that the flexibility is so important that is offered in this legislation.

Flexibility and autonomy are the beginning points, and accountability then is kind of the finishing point. Given the opportunity to solve their own problems, given the resources to solve their problems holds the tribes accountable. And I have not found one that finds this distressing in any way.

Too often I think that the Federal Government has been looked at as the caretaker of entire cultures, and literally that's not possible that the caretaker of the culture has to be the cultural members themselves. We see significant advances and capabilities in these areas. And, again, I am happy to be a part of this particular effort in this particular extension of flexibility and accountability.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 2786, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2007. I was proud to vote in favor of this legislation today.

H.R. 2786 will provide housing assistance for those Native Americans who are impoverished and living in dire conditions. It reauthorizes block grants under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) on behalf of Indian tribes for carrying out affordable housing activities.

Included in this important legislation is the authorization of the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant and Loan Guarantee Program, which funds infrastructure development and homeownership assistance for Native Hawaiians. The loan guarantee program also helps eligible Native Hawaiian families obtain mortgages. I was proud to vote in favor of this stand alone legislation in July, which was sponsored by my good friend and colleague, Representative NEIL ABERCROMBIE, and I was happy to see it included into H.R. 2786 today.

As a proponent of NAHASDA and the Native American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC), I also sponsored report language in the FY2008 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill which expects HUD to continue to provide resources to the NAIHC, if authorized. The NAIHC is an excellent program which assists tribes and tribal housing entities to provide culturally relevant, safe, sanitary, and quality affordable housing for Native people in American Indian communities and Alaska Native villages. Its importance must not be underscored, as it is the only national housing organization working on behalf of tribes and tribal housing entities across the United States.

With the passage of H.R. 2786 today, we have taken an important step towards the re-

authorization of NAHASDA and NAIHC and to providing this community with the necessary federal assistance to help achieve the American dream of owning a home.

Providing this assistance to Native Americans is in the best interest of our nation. I look forward to continuing to work to advance the cause of Native Americans, as well as the NAIHC.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the reauthorization of H.R. 2786, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA). However, I want to register my strong opposition to two amendments which were accepted during today's floor consideration: the Watt and Boren amendments.

Both of these amendments would prohibit NAHASDA funds from going to the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma until it fully recognizes all Cherokee Freedmen and their descendants as citizens of the Cherokee Nation. The status of the Freedmen descendants under the 1866 Treaty is a complex legal issue with a long history. Currently, it is being addressed before the Tribal Courts system. I think it would be premature for Congress to intervene before the courts have had a chance to examine the legal issues surrounding this case.

I also believe these amendments would set a bad precedent for the basic constitutional values of due process and the role of the judicial branch in resolving legal disputes.

NAHASDA is intended to provide housing assistance to low-income families on Indian country. These amendments are not only non-germane; they would harm the most vulnerable members of the Nation. I urge my colleagues to wait on the courts to rule on this case before legislating.

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I also yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

No amendment to the bill is in order except those printed in the portion of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD designated for that purpose and pro forma amendments for purpose of debate. Amendments printed in the RECORD may be offered only by the Member who caused it to be printed or his designee and shall be considered read.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. WATT

Mr. WATT. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 6 offered by Mr. WATT:
Page 3, line 9, strike the quotation marks and the last period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:
“(1) LIMITATION ON USE FOR CHEROKEE NATION.—No funds authorized under this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, or appropriated pursuant to an authorization under this Act or such amendments, shall be expended for the benefit of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma until the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma is in full compliance with the Treaty of 1866 and fully recognizes all Cherokee Freedmen and their descendants as citizens of the Cherokee Nation.”

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Chairman, I am offering this amendment not proudly, unfortunately, but because of circumstances that have arisen that I will describe briefly and create the context for the amendment.

In 1866, after the Cherokee Nation, which at that time also owned slaves, had gone through tremendous imposition by the United States and forced off of their land, including the people that they owned as slaves, the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma entered into a treaty with the United States under which it agreed to make not only the Indians who were Cherokees, but their slaves, members of the Cherokee Nation. Unfortunately, in March of 2007, the Cherokee Nation decided that it would, in violation of the 1866 treaty, take action to, in effect, rescind the citizenship of the descendants of the African Americans who had been their slaves, the so-called "Cherokee Freedmen." That has created a tension between the African American community and the Cherokee Nation, which can best be described as unfortunate because there is so much common heritage there between the Cherokee Nation and African Americans, and common experience. And this has created a divide which we hope will soon be repaired and restored.

I'm in the unique position of understanding both sides of this because I understand when the Cherokee Nation says that in order to be a Cherokee, one has to have some Cherokee blood. And that is a position that is not a racist position. It is a position of establishing their ancestry, their blood lineage; and I have respect for that.

And I'm in the unique position of having a great-great-grandmother who was a Cherokee. I'm also in the unique position of being an African American and understanding that the fact of what the Cherokee Nation has done would be exactly the same as if the United States of America, having imported black people from Africa and enslaved them, once slavery had ended, had taken the position that slaves could not be citizens of the United States.

So I understand both sides of this argument. And I have tried to walk down the middle of it, but there is no way to reconcile those two positions. And so I reluctantly offer this amendment that would have the effect of denying funds that may be appropriated pursuant to the provisions of this bill, to the authority that is given under this bill, it would deny those funds from the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma until such time that they recognize the Freedmen as citizens of the Cherokee Nation.

With that, that's the essence of the amendment, and I will yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Chairman, I would claim time in opposition, though I may not speak in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from New Mexico is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PEARCE. I thank the chairman and I thank the gentleman for his amendment.

This is the same amendment that was offered to a freestanding piece of legislation that was offered in the Financial Services Committee. At that point, I commended the gentleman, Mr. WATT, for his work on justice, equality and fairness, and recognize that. I also favor loud and extremely clear messages, and this language is that.

My concern on the day that we accepted this amendment as a part of our freestanding bill was that the underlying bill addresses some of the most needy, most impoverished rural areas in our Nation, and I would just hate for some of those areas to be disadvantaged simply because they are caught in this particular fight.

There is pending litigation on the subject. And I wonder if it would not be better for us to let that litigation run its course. There is always opportunity for us, as a freestanding body, to come back and address this issue with legislation if it does not clear up in the court case.

So, again, I compliment the gentleman for the clear and concise message that he is delivering. I am not opposed to the message. In fact, I support the message of justice and fairness and equality, but would continue to wonder out loud if this is the proper vehicle.

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

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BOREN TO THE AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. WATT

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment to the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. BOREN to the amendment offered by Mr. WATT:

Page 1 of the amendment, line 1, insert "(a)".

Page 1 of the amendment, after line 9, insert the following:

(b) CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.—The Congress hereby finds that—

(1) the Cherokee Freedmen have appealed the March 3, 2007, vote of the Cherokee Nation to rescind their tribal membership and it is currently in litigation in tribal courts;

(2) on May 14, 2007, Cherokee Nation District Court Judge John Cripps issued a temporary injunction requiring reinstatement of citizenship for the Cherokee Freedmen, pending appeal of the constitutionality of the March 3, 2007, tribal election rescinding membership; and

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall not have any effect—

(1) during the period that the temporary injunction issued on May 14, 2007, and referred to in subsection (b)(2) remains in effect; and

(2) if the Cherokee Freedmen prevail upon final judgment in the pending appeal referred to in subsection (b)(2) regarding rescinding membership or a settlement agreement regarding such appeal is entered into, at any time after entrance of such judgment or such settlement agreement.

Mr. BOREN (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Chairman, I offer this second-degree amendment because, while I respect the efforts of the gentleman from North Carolina to protect the tribal membership and rights of the Cherokee Freedmen, we must consider the fact that this issue is currently being addressed in the tribal court system. Pursuing congressional action before these citizens have their day in court would be acting prematurely.

Earlier this year, the tribal courts approved a stay, which had the effect of reinstating the Freedmen to full citizenship status, including benefits and voting rights. This reinstatement applies to all Freedmen descendants who had previously been citizens and will last until the Cherokee Nation District Court reaches a decision.

Because the Freedmen are current members of the Cherokee Nation, cutting off funding for the Cherokee Nation today would have the effect of cutting benefits to the Freedmen, the very people this amendment attempts to protect.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment would allow the courts to uphold their responsibility in hearing this case and ruling before this disallowment of funding to the Cherokee Nation can be put into place.

In this country, we have judicial processes in place that should be honored before Congress steps in to act. My amendment is a reasonable approach, and I remain committed to protecting the rights of my constituents, the Cherokee Nation members, which currently includes the Freedmen.

My amendment would not end debate on this issue.

□ 1145

After the courts render a decision, Congress can examine this issue if necessary. Congressional action may not be necessary. So let's stop trying to find a legislative solution to a problem that does not currently exist. My amendment allows us to wait on the courts to rule before making a rash decision to cut funding for thousands of my constituents.

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

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Chairman, I want to associate myself very much with the remarks that my good friend from Oklahoma (Mr. BOREN) made and certainly will be supporting his secondary amendment.

I also want to tell my good friend from North Carolina that I certainly recognize his motives and his seriousness, because I think it is a serious

issue, and I think he is to be commended for approaching it that way, and thoughtfully, and I know he has done so.

But I, too, share the opinion of my friend from Oklahoma that we are acting precipitously here. This is a matter in which, frankly, most of this body is not well informed. There are court cases underway in both the Federal and the tribal systems that ought to be allowed to play out. And if we are going to address this issue, we ought to do so in normal order through the committee fashion.

As Mr. BOREN so ably pointed out, the unintended, and I know unintended, consequences of this amendment would be to actually deny benefits to people that are currently receiving them. And to begin a process, quite frankly, that has profound implications for everybody in Indian Country and for all tribal governments is one we ought to think about, I think, very, very deeply before we embark on it. But, again, that, in no way, leads me to question the motives of my good friend from North Carolina or the seriousness of the issue he raises. I very much accept that.

A final point I want to say on behalf, not on behalf, it is not my place to do that, but certainly I want to recognize that from the Cherokee Nation standpoint, they are the most racially diverse tribe in North America. There are thousands of African American Cherokees. In fact, there is every other race in that particular tribe. They see this as a tribal sovereignty issue. They do not see it as a racial issue. I certainly understand why some of my friends would have a different point of view. But I think, again, the matters involved here are so important and so deep that they deserve full consideration first in the courts and then in an appropriate legislative process in Congress.

Mr. Chairman, I want to conclude by thanking my friend from Oklahoma for arriving at what I think is a very reasonable surmise.

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I agree that the amendment is a useful one, and I support it. The gentleman from Oklahoma, who is a member of the Financial Services Committee, has been a very able advocate for Native Americans on a variety of issues, as well as on others. I think this is an example of his constructive approach. But I do want to take some exception with the reasons for it. And we can do things for somewhat different reasons. I don't think what the gentleman from North Carolina was doing was rash.

In terms of what is best for the tribes, what we are doing here is trying

to enforce a treaty. Frankly, I think the tribes have suffered more from violations of treaties than they have been the violators of treaties. I think that, in fact, it is a national embarrassment that this Federal Government has historically been the one that has initiated breaches of treaties and ignored treaties. So I am glad to say this is a sign here, not simply on the merits of including the Freedmen, but a reaffirmation by this Congress that we will hold everybody to those treaties. I do believe by establishing that principle, we will be doing the Native Americans in the end some good, as well.

Beyond that, in terms of timing, I understand this is in the courts. But let's be clear what is in the courts. The issue here is whether a decision taken by the tribe to exclude the Freedmen, I believe, in violation of the treaty should be upheld or not. At any minute, the tribe could resolve this by saying, okay, we will abide by the treaty. So it is not that they need judicial permission to do that. They don't have to await the outcome.

Given all that, I do agree if the court decision, the tribal court as I understand it, upholds the right of the Freedmen, if the current status of the Freedmen is maintained, then the amendment wouldn't be necessary, and, in fact, if that had been the case, the gentleman from North Carolina wouldn't have offered it.

As all the Members have said, this is a very agonizing issue for many of us. None of us wants to be put to this kind of a test. But the principle of adhering to the treaties, I think, governs. The gentleman from Oklahoma has proposed a useful amendment. As I understand it, he cooperated with the gentleman from North Carolina. They worked together on this. And what this says is if the resolution comes either by a court decision that says the Freedmen must be continued as tribal members or by a decision by the Cherokees, and again, they aren't bound by a decision by the court not to do this. They could always do it. So from the standpoint of cutting off, you know, they say when people are in civil contempt they have the keys in their pockets. The Cherokees have the cash here. It is entirely up to them as to whether or not the benefits continue to flow. Nothing in the gentleman from North Carolina's amendment would in any way impede the flow of funds to the Cherokees unless they are found to be by us, I think very clearly, in violation of the treaty.

So if the Cherokees, either because of the tribal court or of their own volition, decide to continue what has been the status quo of the Freedmen, then there is no cutoff. So I do not believe it can fairly be said that this will penalize them. It leaves it in their hands.

Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased that the gentleman from North Carolina and the gentleman from Oklahoma, we have had the cooperation from Members on the other side, I think we have

come to as good a resolution to a difficult situation as possible. I hope both amendments are adopted.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Chairman, I am not going to oppose the amendment to the amendment that I have offered. I do want to make a couple of points. First of all, some question has been raised about the timing of my offering of the underlying amendment. I did not choose the timing of this. This bill is on the floor today. And if my amendment is not on the bill, who knows when there will be another opportunity to deliver this message and to create an impediment pending the outcome of the litigation.

So I am perfectly content with the current status of the events in the sense that the court has said to the Cherokee Nation in a temporary injunction that you cannot exclude the Freedmen from the Cherokee Nation. As long as that court order stays in effect, I consider that we are at the result, which is the appropriate result. But if by chance 6 months down the road, 3 months down the road, 2 months down the road, a contrary set of circumstances exist, either the court withdraws its temporary restraining order or rules in a way that I don't think with any kind of justification it can rule against the Cherokee Freedmen, then this language will be in the bill and would appropriately have been put in the bill today. I can't come back 6 months from now and put it in the bill that is passed today.

So I didn't choose the timing of this. I am having to do this in the time frame that this bill is moving. So in a sense, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BOREN) has served a very useful purpose here to basically codify everyone's agreement that as long as the court retains the status quo, allows Cherokee Freedmen to be citizens of the Cherokee Nation, that is an appropriate outcome for the case. And if that ceases to be the case, then this language would then take effect in the bill.

Mr. Chairman, for that I think we are indebted to Mr. BOREN for clarifying that. I appreciate him and will not oppose the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BOREN) to the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT).

The amendment to the amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT), as amended.

The amendment, as amended, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. PEARCE

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 3 offered by Mr. PEARCE:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 9. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM FOR GUARANTEED LOANS TO FINANCE TRIBAL COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—To the extent or in such amounts as are provided in appropriation Acts, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) may, subject to the limitations of this section and upon such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, guarantee and make commitments to guarantee, the notes and obligations issued by Indian tribes or tribally designated housing entities (as such term is defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103)) with tribal approval, for the purposes of financing activities, carried out on Indian reservations and in other Indian areas, that under the first sentence of section 108(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 are eligible for financing with notes and other obligations guaranteed pursuant to such section 108.

(b) **LOW-INCOME BENEFIT REQUIREMENT.**—Not less than 70 percent of the aggregate funds received by an Indian tribe or tribally designated housing entity as a result of a guarantee under this section shall be used for the support of activities that benefit low-income Indian families (as such term is defined for purposes of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996) on Indian reservations and other Indian areas.

(c) **FINANCIAL SOUNDNESS.**—The Secretary shall establish underwriting criteria for guarantees under this section, including fees for such guarantees, as may be necessary to ensure that the program under this section for such guarantees is financially sound. Such fees shall be established in amounts that are sufficient, but do not exceed the minimum amounts necessary, to maintain a negative credit subsidy for such program, as determined based upon risk to the Federal Government under such underwriting requirements.

(d) **TERMS OF OBLIGATIONS.**—Notes or other obligations guaranteed pursuant to this section shall be in such form and denominations, have such maturities, and be subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by regulations issued by the Secretary. The Secretary may not deny a guarantee under this section on the basis of the proposed repayment period for the note or other obligation, unless the period is more than 20 years or the Secretary determines that the period causes the guarantee to constitute an unacceptable financial risk.

(e) **LIMITATION ON PERCENTAGE.**—A guarantee made under this section shall guarantee repayment of 95 percent of the unpaid principal and interest due on the notes or other obligations guaranteed.

(f) **SECURITY AND REPAYMENT.**—

(1) **REQUIREMENTS ON ISSUER.**—To ensure the repayment of notes or other obligations and charges incurred under this section and as a condition for receiving such guarantees, the Secretary shall require the Indian tribe or housing entity issuing such notes or obligations to—

(A) enter into a contract, in a form acceptable to the Secretary, for repayment of notes or other obligations guaranteed under this section;

(B) demonstrate that the extent of such issuance and guarantee under this section is

within the financial capacity of the tribe; and

(C) furnish, at the discretion of the Secretary, such security as may be deemed appropriate by the Secretary in making such guarantees, including increments in local tax receipts generated by the activities assisted by a guarantee under this section or disposition proceeds from the sale of land or rehabilitated property, except that such security may not include any grant amounts received or for which the issuer may be eligible under title I of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996.

(2) **FULL FAITH AND CREDIT.**—The full faith and credit of the United States is pledged to the payment of all guarantees made under this section. Any such guarantee made by the Secretary shall be conclusive evidence of the eligibility of the obligations for such guarantee with respect to principal and interest, and the validity of any such guarantee so made shall be incontestable in the hands of a holder of the guaranteed obligations.

(g) **TRAINING AND INFORMATION.**—The Secretary, in cooperation with Indian tribes and tribally designated housing entities, shall carry out training and information activities with respect to the guarantee program under this section.

(h) **LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF GUARANTEES.**—

(1) **AGGREGATE FISCAL YEAR LIMITATION.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and subject only to the absence of qualified applicants or proposed activities and to the authority provided in this section, to the extent approved or provided in appropriations Acts, the Secretary may enter into commitments to guarantee notes and obligations under this section with an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

(2) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR CREDIT SUBSIDY.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to cover the costs (as such term is defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974) of guarantees under this section such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

(3) **AGGREGATE OUTSTANDING LIMITATION.**—The total amount of outstanding obligations guaranteed on a cumulative basis by the Secretary pursuant to this section shall not at any time exceed \$1,000,000,000 or such higher amount as may be authorized to be appropriated for this section for any fiscal year.

(4) **FISCAL YEAR LIMITATIONS ON TRIBES.**—The Secretary shall monitor the use of guarantees under this section by Indian tribes. If the Secretary finds that 50 percent of the aggregate guarantee authority under paragraph (3) has been committed, the Secretary may—

(A) impose limitations on the amount of guarantees pursuant to this section that any one Indian tribe may receive in any fiscal year of \$25,000,000; or

(B) request the enactment of legislation increasing the aggregate outstanding limitation on guarantees under this section.

(i) **REPORT.**—Not later than the expiration of the 4-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Congress regarding the utilization of the authority under this section by Indian tribes and tribally designated housing entities, identifying the extent of such utilization and the types of projects and activities financed using such authority and analyzing the effectiveness of such utilization in carrying out the purposes of this section.

(j) **TERMINATION.**—The authority of the Secretary under this section to make new

guarantees for notes and obligations shall terminate on October 1, 2012.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from New Mexico is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer this amendment to H.R. 2786, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2007. While NAHASDA continues the great practice of giving tribes more flexibility to develop housing, I believe that we can do more.

We all know that economic development and infrastructure needs are acute in Indian Country. My amendment allows Native Americans to receive the same opportunity for economic development that States, cities and other units of local government across the United States enjoy without an increase in direct appropriations.

Representative RENZI from Arizona, a good friend, has similar stand-alone legislation, the Tribal Economic Development and Infrastructure Support Act of 2007. I appreciate his hard work on this important issue.

Currently, communities that receive direct funding from the Community Development Block Grant program may borrow or issue bonded debt for up to five times their actual CDBG allocation. This is the section 108 loan guarantee program and it encourages economic development, housing rehabilitation, public facilities, and large-scale physical development projects.

Title 6 of NAHASDA is similar to the section 108 statute and allows tribes to borrow or issue bonded debt up to five times their annual NAHASDA allocation for housing purposes only. The title VI program has been underutilized in part because the eligible projects are limited to low-income activities that do not generate sufficient income to pay back these loans.

□ 1200

My amendment gives to tribes the same access to vital economic and infrastructure resources that non-tribal communities currently use.

Specifically, my amendment authorizes a demonstration program administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide for guarantees to loans for housing-related economic infrastructure and development on tribal lands. The demonstration project embodied in this bill will build not only better neighborhoods, but also build the economic infrastructure to support those communities, especially in our most rural and impoverished sections of America. The demonstration program is limited, so that at least half of the title VI program authority will remain exclusively for housing.

Also, in order to be approved by the Secretary, an applicant must demonstrate that 70 percent of the benefit of the proposed projects will go to the low-income Indian families on Indian reservations and other tribal areas.

This is similar to the CDBG program which requires that 70 percent of a project's benefit be for low- and moderate-income families. Nothing in this amendment changes the use of appropriated funds, but it will encourage private money from banks or bond investors to be used for economic development purposes.

In June, I visited the Pueblo of Zuni, where it rained and snowed, leaving standing, muddy water throughout the community. Most of the streets in the historic plaza do not have gutters to control water runoff, nor do the roofs of most houses have the gutters. The water began to flow and residents were literally surrounding their homes with bath towels to absorb the melting snow and to prevent their homes from being flooded. This is an example where NAHASDA dollars should be eligible for infrastructure to help these low-income families build gutters in their neighborhoods and protect their homes.

My amendment will help Native Americans build stronger, better communities all across America by encouraging economic development. I believe this is the right step to help Indian Country build and improve their communities.

I hope that you will join me in supporting this important amendment.

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN (Mr. COSTA). The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I want to express my strong support for the amendment and my appreciation and admiration for the gentleman from New Mexico. This is a very important piece of this.

We try to do this in our committee increasingly. We tried to do it with regard to the recovery from the hurricane as well. It is housing and economic development. They are both necessary, and they go together. If you don't have decent housing that is affordable, you are going to have a hard time filling the jobs. But if you don't have economic development, then housing without it is somewhat sterile.

The gentleman from New Mexico has come up with a very thoughtful approach here. It is very logical to make this part of this program. There was some original talk about it being separate, but I think from the standpoint of making sure this survives all the way through the process, it is better to link the two, because the underlying housing program is going to expire and, frankly, putting them together this way gives us more assurance that it will ultimately be signed and not caught up in some unrelated controversy.

So both procedurally and substantively, the gentleman from New Mexico has made the right choices, and

I join in hoping the amendment is adopted.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

The amendment was agreed to.

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from South Dakota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts, Chairman FRANK, for his leadership in advancing the reauthorization of this important act, and the distinguished gentleman from Michigan, Mr. KILDEE, for introducing the legislation to do so.

Like many Members of this body, I have the honor of representing a significant Native American population in my district. In fact, South Dakota is home to nine Lakota, Dakota and Nakota Sioux tribes, each of them adding an immeasurable contribution to our State's rich and varied cultural landscape.

Tragically, however, many reservation communities in South Dakota and across the country suffer from extreme poverty. This poverty manifests itself in many challenges, including access to adequate health care, education, and, as we are discussing today, housing.

Indeed, tribal leaders and tribal housing officials from across the State of South Dakota report a consistent and urgent message: there is a desperate need for more and better housing in Indian Country, and we owe it to the elders, children and their families to help do more to fulfill this most basic of needs.

Historically, there has been inadequate funding provided for housing programs and unnecessary obstacles to growth. This has led to situations, such as on the Pine Ridge Reservation, home to the Oglala Sioux tribe in southwest South Dakota, where it is not uncommon to have 25 individuals or more living in one housing unit.

It is worth noting that in my State and many Northern Plains States, temperatures can reach negative 25 degrees Fahrenheit or colder in the winter. Yet there remain barriers to accessing Native American Housing Grant funds which, if removed, would help families in Indian Country to improve their living situations.

So I urge strong support of H.R. 2786, which would reauthorize, clarify and improve the Native American Housing Assistance Self-Determination Act, and help ensure that all Americans, including the first Americans, have fair and equal access to adequate housing, a basic necessity of life.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. WESTMORELAND

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 7 offered by Mr. WESTMORELAND:

Page 18, strike lines 1 through 6.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Chairman, as I listen to the debate on this bill, and I agree with the majority of this bill, I heard the word "tribe" used over and over, and I think that was the intent of this, for Native American tribes to be recognized and be given the housing assistance and also the infrastructure assistance and all the things that they need. And I think it is very important that we recognize exactly who these tribes are.

What this amendment does, it strikes the section about the Native Hawaiians. Native Hawaiians share none of the unique characteristics possessed by recognized tribes in this country. Native Hawaiians never exercised sovereignty over Hawaiian lands or lived as a separate, distinct, racially exclusive community. All Hawaiians were subject to the same monarch in the late 1800s, regardless of race.

Native Hawaiians have never exercised inherent sovereignty as a native indigenous people, and our Constitution seeks to eliminate racial separation, not promote it. How can we promote equality while separating our people?

Tribes seeking recognition after statehood must adhere to a process established by the Federal Government. To be formally recognized, a tribe must demonstrate it has operated as a sovereign entity for the past century, was a separate and distinct community, and had a preexisting political organization. The Native Hawaiian people cannot meet these criteria.

The time for Native Hawaiians to establish themselves as an Indian tribe has since passed. When Hawaii was considering statehood in 1959, there was no push to establish a tribe. In fact, 94 percent of the people in 1959 supported statehood with no mention of being a tribe.

The Supreme Court ruled in 2000 in Rice that Native Hawaiians are an ethnic group and that it is illegal to give anyone preferential treatment on account of their membership in that group. It is unconstitutional to give one ethnic group a special preference over another ethnic group, and the oath of office that we took was to uphold the Constitution.

Therefore, I think it is appropriate, and I would ask all Members, to vote to take the Native Hawaiians out of this very important bill.

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

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Hawaii is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. HIRONO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the amendment offered by Mr. WESTMORELAND to eliminate section 811 of H.R. 2786 which reauthorizes the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant and Loan Guarantee programs.

This block grant is used to carry out affordable housing activities for Native Hawaiian families who are eligible to reside on Hawaiian homelands which were established in trust by the United States in 1921 under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act.

Due to a variety of factors, including lack of program funding, only 8,000 individuals currently hold leases and reside on Hawaiian homelands. Approximately 23,650 remain on a waiting list, and many of our elderly, our kupuna, have died waiting to achieve the dream of homeownership.

This block grant supports the dreams of homeownership for Native Hawaiians, not just in Hawaii, but across our Nation, as 2,712 Hawaiian homeland applicants currently reside outside of Hawaii. In fact, 21 Native Hawaiians who live in Georgia, the home State of the author of this amendment, have applied for this very program he has not once, but twice, tried to eliminate.

Many of you may remember that this past July the gentleman from Georgia offered an amendment that would eliminate funding for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant program in the fiscal year 2008 Transportation-Treasury-Housing appropriations bill. This body rejected that amendment in a bipartisan vote of 116 yeas to 307 nays.

These amendments are really just the latest in a pattern of challenge to programs that focus on benefiting American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian people. An earlier failed challenge to the previously uncontroversial Native American Housing Act, H.R. 835, was the first apparent salvo against Native American programs. Then there was an attempt to strike funds for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions in the fiscal year 2008 Department of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill.

These actions raise the concern that all programs benefiting indigenous people will be subjected to attack.

Like other indigenous groups, such as American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Native Hawaiians have a special trust relationship with the United States. It has been well settled that Congress has clear plenary power to fulfill its obligations to indigenous people who once had sovereign governing entities before the establishment of the United States and whose lands are currently within the borders of the United States.

Like American Indians and Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians suffered the loss of their sovereignty and their lands to the United States. Congress has an obligation to Native Hawaiians, whose sovereign government was over-

thrown with the aid of the United States military under the direction of the U.S. minister.

Congress has demonstrated this special relationship by enacting over 150 laws specifically benefiting Native Hawaiians since 1900. None of the laws Congress has enacted benefiting Native Hawaiians have ever been successfully challenged as unconstitutional.

The U.S. Supreme Court decision of *Rice v. Cayetano* has been bandied about today by supporters of this amendment. I was a member of the Cayetano administration as Lieutenant Governor in Hawaii and sat in the court when arguments in the *Rice* case were heard. It may interest some of you to know that one of the lawyers arguing for the State of Hawaii's case was John Roberts, who is now Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Nothing in the *Rice* decision holds that programs that benefit Native Hawaiians are unconstitutional. The majority decision did not call into question the trust relationship between the United States Government and Native Hawaiian people. It did not strike down the Office of Hawaiian Affairs or any other program benefiting Native Hawaiians as unconstitutional.

America has a moral and legal obligation to support programs that provide housing, education and other important services for Native Hawaiians. Helping Native Hawaiians achieve and advance is in the best interests of all of the people of our Nation.

I would like to add that it is totally inaccurate and an insult to the Native Hawaiians that they are characterized as not having had a sovereign government. They certainly did.

In closing, I ask that my colleagues join me once again in fighting these unconscionable attacks and vote "no" on the Westmoreland amendment.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, to begin with, I implore Members of the House not to give in to this effort to invoke judicial activism, to cancel the vote of the people's elected Representative.

My friends on the Republican side are very selective in their denunciation of judicial activism. From time to time, they complain, if the courts uphold some fundamental constitutional right, that our ability as elected officials to make public policy has been trifled with. Here the shoe is very much on the other foot, and I think the foot on which the shoe is in the mouth.

This is an effort to overrule the overwhelming decision of the people of Hawaii through their elected officials to create these programs. There are few things in Hawaii that are as broadly supported as this housing program.

There are controversial aspects of some of what goes on in Hawaii. We are aware of none here. This has been

fiercely defended by everyone who is representing Hawaii who has been here since I have been here, and this Congress is voting on it.

What are we told? What is the argument? Well, the Supreme Court doesn't think you should do that. What happened to the objection to judicial activism? What happened to the will of the people?

In fact, as the gentlewoman from Hawaii has pointed out, there is no clear-cut Supreme Court decision here. There is room for us to make choices. But I am struck at the ease with which some of my conservative colleagues invoke this principle of popular rule against judicial activism in such a selective fashion.

This harms no one. This isn't excluding anyone from anything. It is providing housing for people who need it. The gentlewoman from Hawaii has given a very good explanation of the history.

I do not understand, Mr. Chairman. This is a fairly small program affecting a fairly small number of people in Hawaii. It is overwhelmingly supported by the people of Hawaii.

Mr. Chairman, what motivates Members of this house to get up and interfere with the arrangements that the people of Hawaii have arrived at? What drives them? What angers them that the arrangement has been reached that says this to the Native Hawaiians? And no one disputes the history that our friend from Hawaii has given. The United States came in and overthrew the government. That is very well documented.

What drives people at this point to continue to battle against this effort to help these Native Hawaiians and to invoke the courts to say we don't care what the votes were in Hawaii. We don't care about an overwhelming vote in the U.S. House.

This is a very reasonable effort by the polity of Hawaii, the Native Hawaiians and others, to meet a very real need. No one is saying the program is badly run. No one is saying it is corrupt. No one is saying it is unnecessary.

□ 1215

There is some hyper-abstract, ideological objection to people reaching out to their fellow residents in need. And while it is overwhelmingly supported, what we have is an ideological objection, the nature of which I cannot understand. No one has told me what harm is done by this. I don't understand who this hurts. But somehow, people are motivated to attack this program which helps this particular, fairly small minority of people. And then, absent any rational arguments in my judgment, they invoke the principle of judicial supremacy, which they so often scorn in other contexts. I hope this amendment is defeated.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment brought by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND).

Perhaps I will work backwards through this from what I have heard during this debate. One of them would be the decision that was made in *Rice v. Cayetano* in the year 2000 that Native Hawaiians are an ethnic group and that it is unconstitutional and in violation of the Civil Rights Act to provide special protected status and privileges to people based upon their ethnicity. To raise that issue as an argument here on the floor isn't railing against judicial activism. To bring an amendment here to the floor of the United States Congress and ask the people's House to provide a majority vote on whether or not to authorize funds to go to Native Hawaiians, it isn't a conflict with judicial activism; to the contrary, it calls upon the people through their elected representative to make that decision. I think it is very consistent with our Constitution. It isn't railing against judicial activism; it simply recognizes the case and recognizes the Constitution.

With regard to Chief Justice Roberts making the argument in favor of the Hawaiian side of this argument, if my recollection is correct, and I believe it is, that was then private sector attorney John Roberts who made that decision who was under the employment of people who had hired him to make the best argument he could make. But I don't remember him saying he had won the argument. So we know that when attorneys are in private practice, they take on clients and they do the best job they can of making that argument. The attorneys that argued in *Rice v. Cayetano*, the prevailing side was the side of the Constitution and the side of the people.

I have represented two reservations now for 11 years in either the Iowa Senate or the United States Congress. I have had good relations with the people there on the reservations in my district, and it echoes across the Missouri River into Nebraska. I am not without some sense of experience and sensitivity when it comes to these issues that have to do with tribes, reservations and ethnicity.

But I am concerned about a consistent and constant effort to balkanize America, to encourage Americans to divide themselves into groups and identify themselves based upon their ethnicity and the national origin of their ancestors.

I listen and I hear there are 2,100 Native Hawaiians living in Georgia. Why can't we just call them Georgians? Why can't we call them Americans? Why can't we, as the voice of the people, encourage each other to remember our history and remember the legacy and remember the cultures that come, but focus on being Americans and erase the lines between us rather than drawing continually brighter and brighter lines, further balkanizing America, encour-

aging people to gather together as ethnicities in enclaves.

And I am going to be one who will be, if the day comes that this Hawaiian legislation, the big bill comes to this floor, I will be opposing it as well, Mr. Chairman, because that divides Americans and it sets a new standard that has not been set and that is recognizing ethnicities as tribes. If that happens, any ethnicity that can gain the political leverage to gain a majority vote here on the floor of Congress, here in the House and in the Senate, can then be raised to the same level that we have set aside for Native Americans that we are dealing with here in this bill.

So this slipped in. This authorization slipped in in the year 2000 without a lot of opposition. I agree with the gentlelady's position there. It should have been opposed. I think it was a mistake by Congress, and it brought about a \$9 million appropriation in 2007. It is probably a \$25 million appropriation obligation through about the year 2012.

This is where we draw the line. This is where we have to take the stand on what is really the Constitution and what is right. Ethnicities can't be granted special status.

I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND).

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I thank my friend from Iowa for yielding.

Let me say that the chairman of the committee mentioned the overwhelming vote on an amendment, or the gentlelady from Hawaii did. I remind the House that on Wednesday, March 21, H.R. 835, the Hawaiian Homeownership Act of 2007, was defeated in this House. So I wanted to bring that to the attention of everybody.

The gentleman from Iowa said \$25 million over the 4 years, and it is actually about \$50 million. You know, I will be glad to work with the chairman of the committee or the delegation from Hawaii if they want to let Congress pass something to make them a recognized tribe, but they are not a recognized tribe.

All the discussion I have heard today, everything in this bill is about tribes, recognized tribes by this country. So I just ask that you support the amendment and then we will work out any problems that we can after that.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Hawaii is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Chairman, once again I find myself on the floor wishing that I had an opportunity to perhaps discuss the issue that is raised in the amendment. I wish really honestly that the courtesies would be extended on this to one another, not just on this issue but on any issue where it affects individuals.

Let me explain for a moment if I can to you and some others who may be listening in, Mr. Chairman. Here is a list

of votes on Native issues. There are 52 Members, 52 Members who have tribes in their districts, some multiple. Some of them are Republican Members who are sponsors of this bill. Each of them has unique questions and problems that have to be dealt with. It goes to Republicans, it goes to Democratic districts.

I find it distressing that this is becoming more and more a partisan issue for some folks in the Republican Conference. I can't comprehend it exactly.

As I say, here is 52. Here are some of the votes that were taken, Minority-Serving Institutions, Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Act, 59 votes against it all from Members of the Republican Conference.

Motion to amend the Small Business Act to expand and improve assistance provided by small business development centers to Indian tribe members, Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiians, 73 members of the Republican Conference. I am not quite sure why this is happening.

I don't understand why Native issues and issues having to do with indigenous people and minorities find now an increasing number in the Republican Conference who are voting "no" on it. I wish we could get a dialogue established in some way to try and understand why Native people are being attacked.

In this particular instance, Mr. Chairman, I bring to your attention and the Members' attention the Admission Act that brought Hawaii into the Union. The Admission Act requires that we address questions such as those in the present bill that is before us.

Now if someone wants to attack the Admission Act, I suggest they go to court and do that. All we are doing here and all that is being requested in this bill that is before us is that which is required of us by law in order to accomplish the task at hand. If someone is opposed, and I invite once again the Members here who have this amendment, why attack us? Why attack our people for trying to implement the law? Attack the law. Change the law if that is what you want to do, if that is what you think is necessary.

We have 200,000 acres set aside for the betterment of Native Hawaiians. That is what the law says we are supposed to do. That is what the Admission Act which brought us into the United States says is required of us.

I can quote: Any such lands income, therefore, shall be held by the said State as a public trust for the support of the public schools and other public educational institutions and for the betterment of the conditions of Native Hawaiians for the development of farm and home ownership, as widespread a basis as possible, and for making public improvements and provisions of lands for public use.

That is what the Admission Act says we are supposed to do, for the betterment of Native Hawaiians. That is what this is about.

If one is opposed to that for everybody, for all of the tribes and so on, I guess we can take it up with the other Members and so on. I don't know. But I don't think here on the floor in any bill that is a consequence of trying to fulfill our obligations constitutionally is the way to go about it. Take it to court. Put in a bill to do that, but don't hurt us today.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I just want to give a little more information than we got in the last intervention from the gentleman from Georgia.

He disappointed me when he decided to inform us that the bill had been defeated in March. Yes, it was defeated. It was "defeated" by a vote of 272 "yes" and 150 "no." It lost because it required two-thirds.

But I must say, Mr. Chairman, to refer to a bill having been defeated to refute the notion that it was widely supported and to neglect to mention that in fact it got a 122-vote majority and simply failed by 10 votes to get two-thirds, is a very incomplete reporting of the facts.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. KING OF IOWA

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 2 offered by Mr. KING of Iowa:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 9. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.

No amounts made available pursuant to any authorization of appropriations under this Act, or under the amendments made by this Act, may be used to employ workers described in section 274A(h)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(h)(3)).

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is one that everybody in this body has seen before. It is an amendment that I brought to a number of the appropriations bills, and at least three times has been adopted by a bipartisan effort. In fact, I don't believe it has come to a recorded vote at any time.

What it does is it limits the use of the funds that might be authorized by

this bill. It says no amounts made available pursuant to any authorization of appropriations under this act or under the amendments made by this act may be used to employ workers described in section 274A of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

What this amendment does is it ensures that as funds are appropriated under this authorization, that they will not be used to hire people that cannot lawfully work in the United States. That would include those who are here illegally and those who are here legally without work authorization.

I would point out that our Federal Government, by the statistics that have been produced by the inspector general of the Social Security Administration is likely, and I say "likely," I don't think they say "likely," the largest employer of nonauthorized workers in the United States.

We issued millions of Social Security numbers over the years going back into the 1990s to people who were not authorized to work but they needed a Social Security number for one reason or another, a list of benefits which I also don't agree with nor comprehend. We slowed that down dramatically, and I don't know that that practice continues to exist.

□ 1230

But those Social Security numbers have been used to gain employment and to gain employment with the Federal agencies. They monitored seven Federal agencies, seven State agencies and three local governments; and out of that came a number that about 44 percent of those non-work Social Security numbers had been used to gain employment. Even though those cards will say on them non-work, and even if you run the numbers through the Social Security Administration database, they all come back and say not authorized to work, we still have those people working for government at all levels and especially the Federal Government.

And so if we are ever to clean up our act, if we're ever to compel private employers to no longer hire those who are illegally present in the United States, the least we can do is ensure that the employees of government are lawful employees.

And so this amendment says that none of these funds that are authorized may be used to hire those people who are not legal to work in the United States. This would include illegal aliens. It would include non-work Social Security numbers, and to give a broader definition of this, those that are here on student visas without authorization to work, those who are here on visitors visas, those kind of lawfully present as well as unlawfully present people are not authorized to work in the United States. These funds would be prohibited from being utilized for that purpose.

This is a step down the path, I believe, Mr. Chairman, that we need to

continue to take. We have a consensus that we need to turn up the pressure on employers. Well, government's the largest employer, and in fact, all of government in the United States has over 21 million employees. Out of 300 million people, over 21 million employees, and of those 21 million employees, a significant number are those that are not authorized to work in the United States. That means that whatever they might be doing, under this act they should be lawful employees.

They can use the basic pilot program which now we call e-verify and run those Social Security numbers through there. I've sat and run it myself. It's pretty easy. The longest delay I could create by giving it a confusing message was 6 seconds. It's instantaneous analysis.

We also need the Social Security Administration to run their database against the Department of Homeland Security's database. They would flush out most of these non-work Social Security numbers. The administration has to have conviction on this issue. This is a way to bring them towards more conviction on this issue. They've been reluctant.

I would urge adoption of this amendment. This is something that, again, three times has passed this floor, and it's something I believe that's common sense that the American people strongly support, and I would urge its adoption.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Hawaii is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Chairman, I have a New Yorker cartoon that I have pasted to the wall of my office to try to remind me of my position in life and sometimes the irony of history.

It pictures some Native Americans in tribal garb standing on a promontory gazing out on a bay in which a ship, strangely akin to the Mayflower, appears to be sitting. And some people in a boat wearing kind of quaint hats and cloaks with breeches seem to be rowing into shore. And the one Native American says to the other, Doesn't look like they have their documentation in order to me.

Now, I don't know if that is anything other than perhaps mildly amusing, but perhaps it does make a point. I'm not sure that we're in any position to say to Native American tribes in this country that everybody ought to have their documentation in order. I wonder if those of us who are proposing that have our documentation in order.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, as I understand this amendment, it is to make illegal what is already illegal, and since it was offered I

guess to the appropriations bill, it is to make apparently for the second time illegal what is already illegal, but the gentleman from Iowa explains why it is necessary.

It is that as we approach the next to the last year of an 8-year term for President Bush, his administration is still unable and apparently, according to the gentleman, unwilling to enforce that law.

The gentleman says the Federal Government, headed of course by President Bush, is the largest employer of people who are here illegally and not able to work; and he says that they lack conviction.

Mr. Chairman, I'm prepared to take on various responsibilities as chairman of the committee. Defending the President against the gentleman from Iowa is not one of the things I'm prepared to do today.

The gentleman from Iowa believes it's important for us for the third time to pass a law that he said the administration wouldn't enforce. I suppose the House could do that. I don't see any reason to think that they're going to enforce it any more this time than the other two times it was binding.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. PRICE OF GEORGIA

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 5 offered by Mr. PRICE of Georgia:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 9. REQUIREMENT OF OFFSETS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—No authorization of appropriations made by this Act, or by the amendments made by this Act, or any other provision of this Act that results in costs to the Federal Government, shall be effective except to the extent that this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, provide for offsetting decreases in spending of the Federal Government, such that the net effect of this Act and such amendments does not either increase the Federal deficit or reduce the Federal surplus.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the terms “deficit” and “surplus” have the meanings given such terms in the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.).

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer this commonsense amendment to H.R. 2786.

This bill, as you know, would reauthorize the Native American and Na-

tive Hawaiian Block Grant programs, and the CBO, the Congressional Budget Office, estimates that appropriation of the amounts necessary to implement this bill will cost approximately \$2.2 billion over the 2008–2012 period of this reauthorization.

This bill originally was authorized, or passed, in 1996 and then reauthorized in 2002, and the reorganization of the system of Federal housing assistance to Native Americans was accomplished by eliminating several separate programs of assistance and replacing them with a single block grant program.

In addition to simplifying the process of providing housing assistance, the purpose of this is to provide Federal assistance for Indian tribes in a manner that recognizes the right of Indian self-determination and tribal self-governance.

Now, Mr. Chairman, equally as important I would suggest is fiscal responsibility. We've all come back from a month in our districts, working and listening to our constituents, and I heard repeatedly from my constituents that they continue to appeal to us to be more fiscally responsible. Many of my colleagues on our side of the aisle have attempted to offer amendments and bring about that kind of fiscal responsibility. This is another one of those amendments.

This amendment will not prohibit funds from being spent on this program, but it will protect taxpayers by applying the principle of pay-as-you-go to the spending that's authorized by this legislation by requiring that any new spending as a result of this legislation must have a specific offset before the legislation can take effect.

Now, if there is to be a taxpayer subsidy, as good stewards of the American hard-earned taxpayer money, we should provide a specific spending decrease to offset any new spending that would be required by this legislation.

To be sure, this is important legislation, and I want to commend Congressman PEARCE for his hard work on the legislation, ensuring its consideration on the floor. It's a testament to his hard work that he does every day for his constituents back home.

But fiscal responsibility isn't something that we ought to just trump out during campaigns. We heard a lot about it during the last campaign; but I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that it is way past time that we act in this responsible manner.

I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment for PAYGO for authorization of the appropriations that will come as a result of this bill, and I ask for a “yes” vote on the amendment.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, this is an amendment that does not make a great deal of sense, even in its own terms.

First of all, the PAYGO principle applies in the appropriations process. Authorizations are authorizations. The Appropriations Committee balances the various authorizations. Nothing is committed to be spent by this bill.

What it says, however, is really quite striking. It says no authorization or appropriation shall be effective except to the extent that this act or the amendments made by this act provide for offsetting decreases. In other words, if you thought that it was important to provide housing for the Native Americans who live in such desperate straits in so many places and make up for that elsewhere in the Federal budget, you couldn't do that.

This says if you want to help the housing needs of American Indians, then you better reduce housing somewhere else. For the disabled? For the elderly? It does not allow for there to be offsetting decreases elsewhere.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

This language was taken directly from your side's PAYGO language in the rule. So what I'm attempting to do is to try to provide individuals with something which they hopefully have seen before. This is the PAYGO language from the PAYGO rules.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Well, I will take back my time to say the gentleman has just stood up and said, look, I don't understand this language; I just borrowed it from you. Well, don't borrow things if you don't know how to use them. I mean, don't lend your car to someone who can't drive.

The fact is that the gentleman apparently didn't understand the implications of what he borrowed because the way this goes now, PAYGO in general has broader application. In this particular case, what it says is within this act. So if you want to spend more money on Indian housing, you have to in the same act, under this act, find offsets elsewhere. This is an example of how he misunderstands the process.

I would also say by the way there's a selectivity to this because we don't get this amendment on every spending bill. Maybe it was offered on some of the other bills, the Ag bill, the space authorization. I don't see it all the time. I didn't see it on the Defense bill. Are we going to get this on the Iraq supplemental? I mean, I don't know how much we're going to spend here, but whatever we spend here, we spend in about, what, a week in the Iraq supplemental. I don't see it coming there. Somehow this becomes particularly important when we are trying to help people in dire straits; but even there, it's not logical.

Nothing in here will break PAYGO. PAYGO applies in an overall basis at the appropriations process.

If the gentleman wants me to yield, I'll be glad to yield.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I appreciate the gentleman yielding again.

The amendment's pretty simple. It says that if we're going to spend more money out of this Congress for this appropriation that we ought to find money elsewhere to make certain that we're not taking more hard-earned taxpayer money—

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. No, that's not what it says.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. That's exactly what it says, precisely what it says.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I will take back my time to say the gentleman hasn't read his amendment. Here's what it says: to the extent that this act or the amendments made by this act provide for offsetting decreases in spending of the Federal Government.

Now, the rules of the House are such that you could not here offset other programs. You have germaneness rules. So under the terms of this amendment, you would have to make reductions in this same act subject to the same act.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. No, because the gentleman keeps repeating his error.

The fact is that PAYGO applies in a broader context. That's the problem. If you want to do PAYGO, you want to be able to say at the appropriations process, we'll shut this down here and we will increase it there.

Again, as I said, it's very selectively applied. The amendment does not have any real effect on PAYGO, except if it were adopted it would apparently require us in this very bill, in which we authorize more money for Indian housing, to reduce, I don't know, Indian housing or something else because it's internal to this.

You couldn't say that a Mars space shot was wrong or that we're spending too much money in the farm bill. It would be internal to this act. That's the problem with taking the general PAYGO principle and trying to microapply it.

The fact is that the Indian housing program is a very important one. To single this out for this kind of restrictive approach beyond the general PAYGO principle would victimize people who are very much in need. So I hope the amendment is defeated.

□ 1245

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Price amendment.

One of the things I wanted to speak to was the list that was read to us earlier about Native American issues that show growing numbers of Republicans that voted "no" on appropriations or authorizations for Native American issues, the 50-some that went to 70-some that was presented by the gentleman from Hawaii, whose judgment

and opinion and spirit and personality certainly I appreciate here. I make nothing but complimentary comments with regard to that.

But I would submit that voting "no" on a bill that increases spending or expands authorization and considering that to be somehow a vote against a Native American tribe or against an ethnicity, protecting the American taxpayers and protecting the Constitution is a vote for Americans. That's what we have to be first. That was a point I made earlier.

I just wanted to have that opportunity to speak to that issue, that voting "no" on appropriations and authorizations because they have something in their title that sounds good that has to do with our collective national history or heritage doesn't mean that it's against the descendants of the ones that earned that reputation.

What it does mean is that we defend the Constitution, we defend the appropriations process, the taxpayer, fiscal responsibility and PAYGO. That's what I am standing here now and endorsing, promoting and asking adoption of the Price amendment because it defends PAYGO.

I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I thank the gentleman from Iowa and I appreciate his support.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the vigor with which the other side opposes this amendment, because I think it sets up a clear distinction. The vigor and the enthusiasm with which they oppose responsible spending is clear. It's clear to us. It will be made clear to the American people repeatedly over the next number of months, and then the American people will decide.

The enthusiasm that the gentleman has voiced in opposition to this, which clearly states that if any new spending, any increase in spending occurs because of this bill, then there must be offsets elsewhere. The gentleman clearly knows, the gentleman clearly knows the rules are germane. This requires that that's the way this be written, clearly.

We can start at this point being fiscally responsible, or we can never start. But it's clear that what we desire and my colleagues desire to do is to begin that fiscally responsible move now and support this amendment.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Georgia. Again, Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Price amendment and PAYGO.

PAYGO often, in this Congress, includes finding new ways to collect revenue from people that didn't owe it before. That was never my idea of PAYGO. My idea of PAYGO was we would limit our spending to stay within the constraints of the revenue stream that's coming in.

So the day is going to come when the American taxpayers rise up. They understand what's going on here. They are seeing that a lot of the effort to ig-

nore PAYGO is resulting in increased taxes and increasing the revenue stream of the United States at the expense of our businesses.

We know that businesses don't pay taxes. It's the consumers that pay taxes, businesses tack the tax onto the retail prices.

We need to slow down this appetite for spending. We need to slow down this appetite for expanding authorizations and appropriations and the services of the Federal Government. You can go with one of two equations, and one of those equations is government can be all and do all and become the complete nanny state, or you can ask for more personal responsibility. That means less government, it also means less taxes, and the bottom line is, more freedom.

The Price amendment endorses PAYGO, holds us to those guidelines that we have agreed to here, and, in the end, it yields more freedom, more personal responsibility and less tax burden.

I urge adoption of the Price amendment.

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILDEE. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I thank the gentleman.

The gentleman from Georgia misunderstands my view.

What I want is fiscal discipline. What I object to is the very selective application of that to people who are in need. The gentleman from Iowa says we are going to restore freedom.

I don't think the freedom of Navajo children that live in inadequate housing is something worth defending. I am especially struck by the fact that we are about to ask the President to spend tens of billions more where we spent hundreds of billions in the war in Iraq.

I offered an amendment a year ago to restrict spending on a manned space shot to Mars. I lost on the floor of this House.

I don't know how every Member voted. I do know a majority of the Republican Party voted against me because the President wanted to send a man to Mars.

I voted against the Agriculture bill. I voted for an amendment that would have cut the spending there. But to be accused of being careless with the taxpayers' money by people who have supported this enormous corruption-ridden expenditure of hundreds of billions in Iraq is like being called silly by the Three Stooges.

Now, back to the gentleman from Georgia. He says well, don't blame me. The gentleman says he just borrowed the amendment from other people. It's germane to its rules. The gentleman could be more creative than that.

Here's the point. This is why you don't do the PAYGO in this restrictive fashion program by program, selectively by program by program.

When you like a program that spends a lot of money, in some areas you don't do it. If you don't like the program, you do it, and you claim it's just the neutral principle of fiscal responsibility. But PAYGO is sensibly applied over the whole budget, over the whole appropriations process. You can say, you know, we need more in the environmental area, we need more in the housing area, we need more in the transportation area. Let's reduce it in the manned space shot to Mars.

The way this is written, the only way you could have this pass and be valid would be if you cut within this program. The gentleman says, well, those are the rules of germaneness. Yes, that's why you do PAYGO on a broader scale.

To say you can only do Indian housing if you cut other things that are germane to this bill is precisely to shield the manned space shot to Mars, it's to shield expensive military spending, it's to shield cotton subsidies beyond what ought to be, and then say, you know what, if you're going to interfere with the freedom of these Navajo children to live in squalor, then we're going to have to make you cut back on money elsewhere.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Hawaii is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Just a couple of notes. My good friend from Iowa was complimentary to me, and I am appreciative of that. I want to indicate to him, perhaps he misunderstood my intention in citing just a couple of instances where the vote was taken by himself and others with regard to minorities, with regard to Native Alaskans and tribal members and Native Hawaiians.

The reason that I cited it was not because I was trying to look for something for them that they did not deserve or would not prove useful to them, but let me explain why I cited them, because I thought it was undermining the principles that were cited by our friend from Georgia and our friend from Iowa, initiative, working yourself up the economic and social ladder of success.

Take the two bills. First, the Minority Serving Institutional Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Act. If you go into the bill itself, what it is is to try to assist in the areas where minorities are at issue, with trying to increase their capacity to do business, to increase their abilities to deal with wireless technology, digital technology today, as the keystone to economic opportunity and economic success. It's to give people the opportunity to increase

their ability to pay their taxes to participate in the American foundation of American economic opportunity so that they could actually increase their capacity to succeed economically.

The same with the other bill, which is why I cited it. I thought that these were the kinds of things that we could all get behind, improve and expand the small business development centers. I know, out in Hawaii, for a fact the small business development centers have been crucial to getting small businesses under way to aiding and assist people who need not just a handout but a hand up, and to give them the technical skills not ordinarily available to them, to give them some of the institutional references that they need to make in order to be able to apply for loans to succeed in achieving, getting the loans to get started, particularly microloans and so on.

I can't speak for you, but I am sure you, as well, are familiar with small business development centers. What we are trying to do here, in the area of Indian tribe members, Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiians is to extend that helping hand so they can participate even further and achieve the very goals my good friend from Iowa and my good friend from Georgia have cited as being worthy of pursuit, not just by way of legislation, but by way of the everyday activities of constituents as they try to partake in the American Dream.

That's all this is about. We want to give people the opportunity legislatively to take advantage of the small business development centers, to take advantage of the new wireless technology in a way that might not have been available to them otherwise.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia will be postponed.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I noted in the list of amendments submitted there was a second amendment that the gentleman from Georgia had on the question of illegal immigrants being in the program.

I was wondering whether that was going to be offered.

I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

No, I have no plan to offer that at this time.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I appreciate that. I was struck by the gen-

tleman offering it. I thought it was dangerous for the gentleman to offer this amendment to a Native American housing program which cracked down on illegal immigrants, because I think the Native Americans' response would have been, why didn't we think of that? So it was probably good for all of us that he decided prudence overruled his decision to offer it.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 7 by Mr. WESTMORELAND of Georgia.

Amendment No. 2 by Mr. KING of Iowa.

Amendment No. 5 by Mr. PRICE of Georgia.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. WESTMORELAND

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 112, noes 298, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 856]

AYES—112

Akin	Duncan	Marchant
Bachmann	English (PA)	McCarthy (CA)
Bachus	Everett	McCauley (TX)
Baker	Feeney	McCotter
Barrett (SC)	Flake	McHenry
Bilbray	Forbes	McKeon
Bilirakis	Fossella	Mica
Blackburn	Fox	Miller (FL)
Blunt	Franks (AZ)	Miller, Gary
Boehner	Garrett (NJ)	Moran (KS)
Boozman	Goode	Musgrave
Brady (TX)	Goodlatte	Myrick
Broun (GA)	Granger	Neugebauer
Brown (SC)	Graves	Paul
Brown-Waite,	Hastings (WA)	Pence
Ginny	Hayes	Petri
Buchanan	Heller	Pitts
Burgess	Hensarling	Poe
Burton (IN)	Herger	Price (GA)
Buyer	Hoekstra	Pryce (OH)
Camp (MI)	Hulshof	Putnam
Campbell (CA)	Inglis (SC)	Radanovich
Cannon	Issa	Ramstad
Cantor	Jordan	Rogers (AL)
Castle	Keller	Rohrabacher
Chabot	King (IA)	Roskam
Coble	Kingston	Ryan (WI)
Conaway	Kline (MN)	Sali
Crenshaw	Lamborn	Schmidt
Culberson	Latham	Sensenbrenner
Davis, David	Linder	Sessions
Deal (GA)	Lungren, Daniel	Shadegg
Diaz-Balart, L.	E.	Shuster
Diaz-Balart, M.	Mack	Smith (NE)
Drake	Manzullo	Smith (TX)

Stearns
Thornberry
Tiberi

Walberg
Wamp
Weldon (FL)

Westmoreland
Wilson (SC)
Wolf

NOES—298

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Bonner
Bono
Bordallo
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyd (KS)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Calvert
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castor
Chandler
Christensen
Clarke
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson

Velázquez
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters

Andrews
Carter
Davis, Jo Ann
Faleomavaega
Gohmert
Hastert
Hastings (FL)
Hinojosa
Hooley

Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker

Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth

Emerson
English (PA)
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Issa
Johnson (IL)
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Keller
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn

Sanchez, Loretta
Shimkus
Tancredo
Terry
Visclosky
Watson
Weller
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—27

□ 1325

Messrs. BOYD of Florida, BERRY, MELANCON, CUMMINGS, PICKERING, BARTON of Texas, ALTMIRE, BARTLETT of Maryland, JONES of Ohio, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, and Ms. KILPATRICK changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Messrs. WELDON of Florida, SMITH of Texas, FRANKS of Arizona, BURGESS, LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, and BRADY of Texas changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. KING OF IOWA

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 263, noes 146, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 857]

AYES—263

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Arcuri
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Berkley
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono

Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyd (KS)
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carnahan
Carney
Castle
Chabot
Chandler

Lampson
Latham
LaTourette
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Manzullo
Marchant
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCauley (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Melancon
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Mitchell
Moore (KS)
Moran (KS)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam

Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Roskam
Rothman
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Saxton
Schiff
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Skelton
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Tanner
Taylor
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Udall (CO)
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf

NOES—146

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Baca
Baldwin
Becerra
Berman
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bordallo
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carson
Castor
Christensen
Clarke
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson

DeLauro
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dingell
Doyle
Ellison
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fortuño
Frank (MA)
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hatch
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Keller
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn

Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowe
Maloney (NY)
Matsui
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McNulty
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon

Ortiz
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky

Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Snyder
Solis
Stark
Sutton
Tauscher
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns

Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth

Gingrey
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Johnson (IL)
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Nunes
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Latham
LaTourette
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel
E.

Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mitchell
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich

Ramstad
Regula
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Roskam
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (SC)
Wolf

Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires

Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)

NOT VOTING—28

Andrews
Calvert
Carter
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Lincoln
Doggett
Faleomavaega
Gohmert
Hastert
Hastings (FL)

Hooley
Jindal
Johnson, Sam
Kucinich
Markey
McCarthy (NY)
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Royce
Sanchez, Loretta

Shimkus
Tancredo
Terry
Visclosky
Watson
Weller
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

□ 1333

Mr. HARE changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”
So the amendment was agreed to.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. PRICE OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 184, noes 228, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 858]

AYES—184

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Bachmann
Bachus
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)

Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Castle
Chabot
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Boehner
Crenshaw
Cubin
Bono
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Dent

Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fortuño
Fossella
Foss
Fox
Culberson
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrist

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bordallo
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyd (KS)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castor
Chandler
Christensen
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell

Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchev
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Cohen
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Klein (FL)
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin

NOES—228

Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebach
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeke (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Norton
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor
Payne
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Price (NY)
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger

NOT VOTING—25

Andrews
Carter
Davis, Jo Ann
Faleomavaega
Gohmert
Hastert
Hastings (FL)
Hooley
Hunter

Jindal
Johnson, Sam
Kucinich
McCarthy (NY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Sanchez, Loretta
Shimkus

Tancredo
Terry
Visclosky
Watson
Weller
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

The Acting CHAIRMAN (during the vote). Members are advised that 2 minutes remain on this vote.

□ 1342

Ms. GIFFORDS changed her vote from “aye” to “no.”
Mr. SHUSTER changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ISRAEL) having assumed the chair, Mr. COSTA, Acting Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2786) to reauthorize the programs for housing assistance for Native Americans, pursuant to House Resolution 633, he reported the bill back to the House with sundry amendments adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.
The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 333, nays 75, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 859]

YEAS—333

Abercrombie Engel
 Ackerman English (PA)
 Aderholt Eshoo
 Alexander Etheridge
 Allen Everett
 Altmire Fallin
 Arcuri Farr
 Baca Fattah
 Bachmann Ferguson
 Baird Filner
 Baldwin Forbes
 Barrow Fortenberry
 Bartlett (MD) Frank (MA)
 Bean Frelinghuysen
 Becerra Gallegly
 Berkley Gerlach
 Berman Giffords
 Berry Gilchrest
 Biggert Gillibrand
 Bilbray Gingrey
 Bilirakis Gonzalez
 Bishop (GA) Gordon
 Bishop (NY) Graves
 Bishop (UT) Green, Al
 Blumenauer Green, Gene
 Blunt Grijalva
 Bonner Gutierrez
 Bono Hall (NY)
 Boozman Hare
 Boren Harman
 Boswell Hastings (WA)
 Boucher Hayes
 Boustany Herseth Sandlin
 Boyd (FL) Higgins
 Boyda (KS) Hill
 Brady (PA) Hinchey
 Brady (TX) Hinojosa
 Braley (IA) Hirono
 Brown, Corrine Hobson
 Buchanan Hodes
 Butterfield Holden
 Calvert Holt
 Camp (MI) Honda
 Capito Hoyer
 Capps Hunter
 Capuano Inslee
 Cardoza Israel
 Carney Issa
 Carson Jackson (IL)
 Castle Jackson-Lee
 Castor (TX)
 Chabot Jefferson
 Chandler Johnson (GA)
 Clarke Johnson (IL)
 Clay Johnson, E. B.
 Cleaver Jones (NC)
 Clyburn Jones (OH)
 Cohen Kagen
 Cole (OK) Kanjorski
 Conyers Kaptur
 Cooper Keller
 Costa Kennedy
 Costello Kildee
 Courtney Kilpatrick
 Cramer Kind
 Crenshaw King (NY)
 Crowley Kirk
 Cubin Klein (FL)
 Cuellar Kline (MN)
 Cummings Knollenberg
 Davis (AL) Kuhl (NY)
 Davis (CA) LaHood
 Davis (IL) Lampson
 Davis (KY) Langevin
 Davis, Tom Lantos
 Deal (GA) Larsen (WA)
 DeFazio Larson (CT)
 DeGette Latham
 Delahunt LaTourette
 DeLauro Lee
 Dent Levin
 Diaz-Balart, L. Lewis (CA)
 Diaz-Balart, M. Lewis (GA)
 Dicks Lewis (KY)
 Dingell Lipinski
 Doggett LoBiondo
 Donnelly Loeback
 Doolittle Lofgren, Zoe
 Doyle Lowey
 Dreier Lucas
 Edwards Lungren, Daniel
 Ehlers E.
 Ellison Lynch
 Ellsworth Mahoney (FL)
 Emanuel Maloney (NY)
 Emerson Markey

Simpson
 Sires
 Skelton
 Slaughter
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)
 Smith (WA)
 Snyder
 Solis
 Souder
 Space
 Spratt
 Stark
 Stupak
 Sutton
 Tanner
 Tauscher

Akin
 Bachus
 Baker
 Barrett (SC)
 Barton (TX)
 Blackburn
 Boehner
 Broun (GA)
 Brown (SC)
 Brown-Waite,
 Ginny
 Burgess
 Burton (IN)
 Buyer
 Campbell (CA)
 Cannon
 Cantor
 Coble
 Conaway
 Culberson
 Davis, David
 Drake
 Duncan
 Feeney
 Flake
 Fossella

Andrews
 Carnahan
 Carter
 Davis, Jo Ann
 Davis, Lincoln
 Gohmert
 Hastert
 Hastings (FL)

□ 1400

Mr. BRADY of Texas changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”
 So the bill was passed.
 The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.
 A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 6, 2007, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation.
 I request that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect that had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:
 Rollcall No. 854: “Yea”. On approving the journal.
 Rollcall No. 855: “Yea”. On agreeing to the resolution.
 Rollcall No. 856: “No”. On agreeing to the amendment.
 Rollcall No. 857: “No”. On agreeing to the amendment.
 Rollcall No. 858: “No”. On agreeing to the amendment.
 Rollcall No. 859: “Aye”. On passage of H.R. 2786.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, on September 6, 2007, I was unable to be present for all rollcall votes due to a family medical emergency.
 If present, I would have voted accordingly on the following rollcall votes:
 Roll No. 854—“nay”; Roll No. 855—“nay”; Roll No. 856—“aye”; Roll No. 857—“aye”; Roll No. 858—“aye”; Roll No. 859—“no”.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 2786, NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 2786, to include corrections in spelling, punctuation, section numbering and cross-referencing, and insertion of appropriate headings.
 The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?
 There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

CHINA ACTING MORE LIKE AN ENEMY THAN A FRIEND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. TIM MURPHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.
 Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, what I am about to say may not be politically correct and it may not make folks in the White House or some of my colleagues in Congress happy, but every time I go home to my district, people ask me, when are we going to get serious about dealing with China?

For a long time, China has acted more like an enemy than a friend. Over and over again, they have sold our families harmful and contaminated products, they have spied on us, and now we find out they are shipping weapons to our enemies in the Middle East to kill our soldiers. This is not the behavior of an ally, but the behavior of an enemy.
 They hurt our children. We have found toys containing lead paint and bibs and vinyl lunch boxes containing lead. Just this Wednesday, toy manufacturer Mattel announced it is recalling 700,000 Chinese-made toys because they contain excessive amounts of lead paint. This is the third recall of Chinese-made toys by the company in the past month.
 On August 1, Mattel’s Fisher-Price announced it was recalling 1.5 million

preschool toys, including nearly 1 million in the U.S. And then on August 14, the company announced a worldwide recall of 19 million toys. We all know the dangers caused by lead paint, which is why it is not used in American-made toys or homes. As a child psychologist, I can tell you firsthand exposure to lead paint can lead to attention deficit disorders, brain damage and medical ailments in children and in later life.

China has continuously sent us products that are harmful to our families, and even our pets. Their harmful products sold to Americans include contaminated pet foods, used chop sticks, tires that have caused fatal accidents, diapers containing a fungus, lipstick containing carcinogens, juices with unsafe color additives, baby bottles with ingredients that can alter a child's hormones, pacifiers containing chemicals linked to cancer, and teething rings with toxic chemicals.

In addition, China has systematically manipulated its currency to create an unfair trade advantage over the United States and other global competitors. They have repeatedly allowed their workers to counterfeit American products and steal our patents, costing us billions of dollars of trade each year, thus destroying American manufacturing jobs.

They have built power plants with cheaper outdated technology, causing excessive pollution and environmental hazards throughout the world, including the United States, and they have stolen national secrets from our U.S. energy labs.

Congress and the White House have allowed China to continue its blatant disregard for our country; and as a result, China has become more and more emboldened. They have now begun to directly and indirectly attack our military, actions that have taken the lives of American soldiers.

Beijing appears to be the culprit of a cyberattack launched against the Pentagon this past June. While this attack was not with missiles or guns, it is nonetheless an attack on our sovereignty that should not be unchecked.

Now we learn that China is supplying our enemies with weapons and ammunition being used to kill our soldiers. These weapons have included large-caliber sniper rifles; rocket-propelled grenades; improvised explosive devices, or IEDs; and shoulder-fired rockets. Millions of rounds of ammunition have also been linked to China. And many of these weapons are finding their way into the hands of the Taliban and insurgents in Iran. As U.S., Iraqi, and coalition forces try to prevent weapons from coming into Iraq, China has been directly aiding and abetting our enemies.

For far too long, China has been harming our children, our families, and our economy. Now they are killing our soldiers.

Well, enough is enough. China must be held accountable. If Congress can't

act, the American people can, and Americans are saying no to China. From our food, to our clothes, to household goods, Americans are saying they will stop buying Chinese products.

Unless China stops its practices that hurt Americans, kill our soldiers and kill our jobs, I believe the American people will continue to stop buying Chinese-made goods. But Congress must also demand that if China does not stop these practices that hurt our soldiers and hurt our citizens, Congress, too, must act, and do so quickly.

SUPPORT H.R. 933, THE WITNESS SECURITY AND PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the deeply troubling issue of terrorism right here in our own backyard. It is a problem that is endangering our children, threatening our families, and plaguing our neighborhoods. I am talking about the brazen acts of violence, fire bombings and shootings that are preventing the good people in our communities from testifying to the crimes that they have witnessed. Who can blame them, when they are sitting targets for those who have no shame?

In cities across America, people are murdered in broad daylight and their killers are walking free because we cannot adequately address the issue of witness intimidation. We have all heard the news reports regarding the "anti-snitching" campaigns that have appeared in so many of our communities, but few of us are aware of what these efforts really mean to the people on the ground. But all around us, evidence of these campaigns' impact is present. Murder rates are at a record-breaking high this summer in my hometown of Baltimore City and indeed in communities across the country where criminals have persistently evaded law enforcement.

In order to combat this problem, I introduced H.R. 933, the Witness Security and Protection Act of 2007. Upon enactment, this legislation authorizes \$90 million per year over the next 3 years to assist State and local law enforcement with witness protection, while fostering Federal, State, and local partnerships.

Priority will be given to prosecuting officers and States with an average of at least 100 murders during the immediate past 5 years. However, smaller entities will also have a chance to receive funding. State and local prosecutors will also be able to use these funds to provide witness protection on their own or to pay the costs of enrolling their witnesses in the short-term State Witness Protection Program to be created within the United States Marshals Service's office.

The U.S. Marshals Service has a wealth of expertise and experience that

will assist State and local entities in developing more comprehensive programs. In over 30 years under the Federal Witness Security Program, not a single witness that followed security procedures has been harmed while being protected by the program. More to the point, cases involving the testimony of these participants have an 89 percent conviction rate. In contrast, State witness protection programs are severely underfunded and enjoy virtually no Federal support.

While there has been tremendous support for this initiative in Congress, the lack of support from the administration has certainly been startling. On April 24, 2007, the House Judiciary Committee held a hearing on the Witness Security and Protection Act. During that time, the Department of Justice official opposed this legislation based on the claim that it does not have the capacity or the will to implement a grant program. DOJ officials argued that running a grant program distracts from its ability to carry out its mission. Since when has inconvenience been an excuse for shortchanging justice in America?

On May 24, 2007, I met with officials from the DOJ and the U.S. Marshals Service to discuss my concerns. I left the meeting feeling optimistic about a compromise. However, this has not been the case. I have even given DOJ staff the opportunity to come up with a counterproposal to achieve the same goal as the Witness Security and Protection Act of 2007, that is, the goal of strengthening State and local witness protection programs without a grant program. Unfortunately, DOJ officials have not been able to come up with a compromise, or even an alternative, to H.R. 933.

In light of DOJ's failure to cooperate, it is extremely disappointing to learn that it has no problem supporting efforts in other countries, while dodging our efforts to set up similar programs in places such as Maryland and Washington.

The U.S. Marshals Service, Mr. Speaker, has been assisting about a dozen countries, including Colombia, Israel, Italy, Brazil and Thailand, with the creation of witness protection programs in response to increasing threats against key figures in foreign prosecutions.

International demand for the program is so great that Interpol, the world's largest law enforcement organization, is hosting a conference this month with the Marshals Service at Interpol's headquarters in France to address the needs of foreign governments. It is so very tragic that we can assist those abroad, but we will not fight terrorism right here in our backyards.

Mr. Speaker, improving protection for State and local witnesses will move us one step closer toward alleviating the fears and threats of prospective witnesses and help to safeguard our communities from violence.

I want my constituents in Maryland's Seventh Congressional District and the people across this great Nation to know that they are not alone. This is a priority issue for me, and I will not stop until this issue is addressed. This is why I am calling upon all of my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 933.

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 addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PRAISING THE RESCUE EFFORTS OF HORIZON LINES

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, when most Americans think of open-seas rescue operations, they think rightly about the United States Coast Guard. Our Nation's Coast Guard has a distinguished history of search and rescue missions dating back 217 years. They recently celebrated their one-millionth rescue, and I want to commend the bravery and service of this time-honored branch of our Armed Forces.

But it turns out the Coast Guard isn't the only one assisting seafarers in distress these days. North Carolina-based Horizon Lines, a leading domestic ocean shipping company, came to the rescue of 22 Chinese crew members on a 420-foot log ship this summer. The log ship was transporting a load from Papua New Guinea to China, when it encountered the 70-mile-per-hour winds and 24-foot seas of a typhoon. The rough seas apparently caused the log ship's cargo to shift and eventually led to the loss of the vessel.

The ship, the *Hai Tong*, had sunk in the very rough seas and the survivors had been adrift in the ocean 375 miles from Guam for 2 days when the Horizon Lines container ship, the *Horizon Falcon*, arrived. The *Horizon Falcon* was the first vessel to arrive on the scene after the log ship's crew alerted the Coast Guard to the *Hai Tong's* distress.

When the *Horizon Falcon* arrived, it found survivors in the water surrounded by an oil slick and debris from the sunken ship. With the U.S. Coast Guard on the way, the Horizon Line's vessel immediately began a search and rescue operation amidst treacherous 30-foot swells and 40-mile-an-hour winds.

The *Horizon Falcon's* captain, Tom McDorr, navigated through the heavy seas filled with the log ship's cargo and managed to get the huge 722-foot container ship within range of a rescue mission using one of the ship's lifeboats. His brave crew took the small lifeboat into the heavy seas, which still threatened their lives with 20-foot

waves, and began searching for survivors of the wreck.

Due to the distance of the nearest Coast Guard vessels, at this point there were not yet any Coast Guard rescuers on the scene. The lifeboat, crewed by three of the *Horizon Falcon's* seamen and under the command of Chief Mate Kevin McCarthy, fought its way through the massive waves and managed to locate and take one survivor aboard with waves crashing down on the vessel from literally every direction.

I cannot say enough to commend the bravery of these men who risked their lives to save someone with whom they had no connection. Their selfless act was a demonstration of profound humanity in the face of extreme danger.

The danger was so great that as they returned to the ship with a survivor in the lifeboat they were forced to abandon the damaged lifeboat, to the heavy seas. The crew and the rescued seaman managed to climb to safety up the container ship's 40-foot pilot's ladder.

The heroic actions of the *Horizon Falcon's* crew continued as another survivor was rescued by able-seaman J. Dacaug. He was secured to the pilot's ladder and went back to the ocean after the additional survivors. He managed to attach a grappling hook to a Chinese sailor even as he was battered by the huge swells and occasionally was submerged completely in the heavy seas. His bravery resulted in another life saved when both men were winched back to the safety of the container ship.

The *Falcon* continued to search through the night for more survivors with the help of additional commercial ships and by the light of flares from a Navy airplane based in Japan. As the *Falcon* began to run low on fuel, it was relieved by a Coast Guard vessel that joined the search. The Coast Guard finally suspended the search 2 days later after 13 survivors had been rescued.

Working against time and the power of nature, the captain and crew of the *Horizon Falcon* risked their own lives so others might emerge from a disastrous shipwreck to sail another day. Chuck Raymond of Horizon Lines put it well. "Ever since man has been going to sea, there has been danger. But there also has been and will ever be brotherhood at sea that crosses any boundary. This rescue effort is a shining example of that."

The Coast Guard also praised the heroic actions of the *Falcon's* crew saying that their efforts were to be "commended and do not go unnoticed." I completely agree. We live in a time when it is easy to pass up opportunities to help someone in distress with the assumption that someone else will take care of it. But in the spirit of the Good Samaritan, the crew of the *Falcon* proved that ordinary people can do extraordinary good if given a chance. They deserve to be commended for reaching out across boundaries of language and culture and helping people in dire need.

I wish to extend my thanks to all the people at this fine North Carolina company for a job well done. They have shown what they value most, which is to protect human lives at all cost and to reach out to those in need. I hope other companies take notice and follow their lead in this exemplary deed.

□ 1415

THE ADMINISTRATION'S FAILURE IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISRAEL). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, over the past 5 years, the Bush administration has repeatedly asked the American people to put their faith and their judgment in the judgment of the White House, especially as it pertains to our position in Iraq.

But as we have seen, and we have seen it time and time again, that judgment is based on ignoring voices of dissent and the reality on the ground in favor of a stay-the-course mentality.

When General Petraeus presents his report on Iraq next week, we cannot allow the voice of the American people to be ignored. We watched this administration relaunch its public relations campaign to sell "the escalation" to the American people, and now they insist that the escalation is working. All this in spite of the Iraqi Government's failure to achieve most of its key benchmarks for military and political progress and the dramatic increase in American and Iraqi casualties since the escalation began.

The administration continues, Mr. Speaker, to resist all attempts supported by the overwhelming majority of Americans to bring our troops home. In essence, we are in the middle of another PR campaign, this one to stifle the will and undermine the judgment of the American people again.

Today Congress is again faced with the choice of trusting its own judgment or the claims of the Bush administration. Unfortunately, the past miscalculation and failed predictions of the administration have resulted in tragic consequences.

In 2003, the administration insisted that an invasion force of 130,000 troops would be enough to secure Iraq and restore peace after the invasion. They claimed Saddam Hussein was amassing weapons of mass destruction to use against our country. They promised that we would be greeted as liberators, and in May 2005 we were told that the insurgency in Iraq was in its last throes. Time after time, they have been wrong, wrong, wrong.

Earlier this year when Congress passed the emergency spending bill for Iraq, the Bush administration argued that benchmarks are the only way to measure progress in Iraq. As a result, the Government Accountability Office

released a report this week showing that Iraq has failed 11 out of 18 benchmarks. And those seven that did not fail were barely, barely worked upon at all. In response, the administration now claims that these benchmarks should no longer be used to measure progress. It is clear that the administration will never accept the reality about Iraq. The only way to end the violence is to fully fund a safe and orderly redeployment from Iraq.

The shallow fortune-telling of the Bush administration cannot replace what every American knows: The only right course in Iraq is to bring our troops home by fully funding a safe redeployment of our troops and military contractors. The American people want bold leadership, and they have called on the Congress to take action, action now. The occupation has been a total failure and the American people will not accept taking a wait-and-see attitude. They know that the only sensible moral and responsible course is to fully fund the redeployment of our American troops and military contractors. And they want us to get started on it now.

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.)

PLANNED DEFEAT BY WITHDRAWAL?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. "Never, never believe any war will be smooth and easy, or that anyone who embarks on the strange voyage can measure the tides and hurricanes that he will encounter. The statesman must realize that once the signal is given, there are unforeseeable and uncontrollable events."

Winston Churchill's statement many years from the past indicates the truism of war. It is hard. It is always hard.

Next week, General Petraeus will be reporting to this Congress what progress has been made in achieving security and stability in Iraq. No doubt the report will offer mixed results, signs of progress and probably setbacks.

In the midst of all of this review, Mr. Speaker, the question is: Now what?

Regardless of what anybody thought about going into Iraq, we are there. Right now our military personnel are risking their lives every day in Iraq and Afghanistan to protect our interests at home and abroad. In my opinion, there are far too many people focusing on where we have been and how we got there rather than making decisions about the future and our involvement in Iraq.

The way I see it, Mr. Speaker, we just have two options. We can stay in

Iraq and keep fighting for the American interest and what we believe is right, or we can turn our back and leave. There is not a third option.

To those who think we ought to leave Iraq and bring our troops home, what will happen if we withdraw before the job is done? The answer is chaos and more bloodshed. Without a stable Iraq, the power vacuum will inevitably entice more civil war like we haven't begun to imagine and, most likely, a regional conflict that will lead to serious security risks for those nations and the United States.

Congress is making the outcome of this war the same as the planned failure in Vietnam. That war lasted 10 years. The media didn't like the war. The American public got war weary and Congress then cut the funding and started bringing troops home. The results: We left before the mission was accomplished. We abandoned our friends, and when the communists gained control, they killed thousands of people because we lost our way.

Our enemies today believe we will abandon Iraq in the same way, and they hope we do. They feel we don't have the stomach for war. Our enemies believe they are more committed to their cause of killing in the name of religion than we are for our cause of life and liberty.

Abandonment and retreat is not a strategy. We stay because it is in America's best interest to stay and secure a victory before we turn the country over to the Iraqis. We stay because there are men and women laying down their lives for the cause of America. Twenty-one courageous men and women from my area in southeast Texas have died in Iraq and Afghanistan. What would the retreat crowd tell those families about their kids who died on the altar of freedom? War got too hard so we left? We don't quit because war is hard. War is always hard. We stay, Mr. Speaker, because we know that we are fighting a global enemy who doesn't intend to stop war. They want to destroy us. Success, Mr. Speaker, has never come from withdrawal; it never will.

General George Patton in World War II told his troops in 1944, he said, "Sure, we want to go home. We want this war over with. The quickest way to get it over with is to get the ones who started it. The quicker they are whipped, the quicker we can go home. You must always do your finest and win."

That is the only option. And yes, Mr. Speaker, Patton and his boys successfully finished that war.

And that's just the way it is.

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 PRESIDENT'S WAR ASSESSMENT

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, when the President arrived in Australia the other day, he told the prime minister, quote, "We're kicking ass" in Iraq. It is a clear sign that he intends to keep a massive U.S. military force in Iraq as long as he remains in office. And he will make it official administration policy next week. "We're Kicking Ass in Iraq" might be the headline of the report the White House is writing for General Petraeus to deliver to the Congress next week.

It is supposed to be an objective military assessment, but the President has declared it will be a White House spin document, as usual. Here's what the President's "kick ass" assessment translates to on the ground: 10 U.S. soldiers killed this week; 793 U.S. soldiers killed so far this year; 3,752 U.S. soldiers killed since the beginning of the war; and 27,186 U.S. soldiers wounded since the beginning of the war. And, 71,000 documented Iraq civilian deaths since the beginning of the war, although the actual number is much higher.

As the Times of India newspaper said today, Iraq is getting worse day after day. We don't even know how bad things really are.

The ACLU filed a lawsuit the other day demanding the U.S. release military documents concerning the number of innocent civilians killed by the U.S. forces. They fear the government is hiding the human cost of war. We don't know, but reliable information does exist.

There is plenty of factual information for the President to rely on, but he won't. An independent commission of retired U.S. generals released a report today that concludes that the Iraqi national police force is so corrupt the force should be disbanded. These U.S. military experts concluded that Iraq's Army over the next 18 months, "Cannot yet meaningfully contribute to denying terrorists safe haven."

The GAO released its own independent study showing the Iraq Government has reached only three of the 18 benchmarks established as part of the U.S. continuing to fund the war. In case anyone thinks that achieving three of 18 isn't too bad, let me tell you what they are.

The first benchmark we achieved was passing a law that legally protects the rights of minority parties in Iraq. Except the minority Sunni population remains outside the political situation totally. The other two benchmarks the Iraqi Government achieved was setting up security and public relations offices to support the military escalation. But the White House will use the military brass to paint a much rosier picture next week in its report to the Congress.

Besides the kick-ass assessment by the President, there have been recent reports trying to bolster the administration's position. I enter into the RECORD at this point a story appearing in today's Washington Post. It's on page 16, but it ought to be on page 1. The headline is: "Experts Doubt Drop in Violence in Iraq. Military Statistics Called Into Question." I urge everyone to read this important news story. The only conclusion one can reach is, here we go again.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 6, 2007]

EXPERTS DOUBT DROP IN VIOLENCE IN IRAQ—
MILITARY STATISTICS CALLED INTO QUESTION
(By Karen DeYoung)

The U.S. military's claim that violence has decreased sharply in Iraq in recent months has come under scrutiny from many experts within and outside the government, who contend that some of the underlying statistics are questionable and selectively ignore negative trends.

Reductions in violence form the centerpiece of the Bush administration's claim that its war strategy is working. In congressional testimony Monday, Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, is expected to cite a 75 percent decrease in sectarian attacks. According to senior U.S. military officials in Baghdad, overall attacks in Iraq were down to 960 a week in August, compared with 1,700 a week in June, and civilian casualties had fallen 17 percent between December 2006 and last month. Unofficial Iraqi figures show a similar decrease.

Others who have looked at the full range of U.S. government statistics on violence, however, accuse the military of cherry-picking positive indicators and caution that the numbers—most of which are classified—are often confusing and contradictory. "Let's just say that there are several different sources within the administration on violence, and those sources do not agree," Comptroller General David Walker told Congress on Tuesday in releasing a new Government Accountability Office report on Iraq.

Senior U.S. officers in Baghdad disputed the accuracy and conclusions of the largely negative GAO report, which they said had adopted a flawed counting methodology used by the CIA and the Defense Intelligence Agency. Many of those conclusions were also reflected in last month's pessimistic National Intelligence Estimate on Iraq.

The intelligence community has its own problems with military calculations. Intelligence analysts computing aggregate levels of violence against civilians for the NIE puzzled over how the military designated attacks as combat, sectarian or criminal, according to one senior intelligence official in Washington. "If a bullet went through the back of the head, it's sectarian," the official said. "If it went through the front, it's criminal."

"Depending on which numbers you pick," he said, "you get a different outcome." Analysts found "trend lines . . . going in different directions" compared with previous years, when numbers in different categories varied widely but trended in the same direction. "It began to look like spaghetti."

Among the most worrisome trends cited by the NIE was escalating warfare between rival Shiite militias in southern Iraq that has consumed the port city of Basra and resulted last month in the assassination of two southern provincial governors. According to a spokesman for the Baghdad headquarters of the Multi-National Force-Iraq (MNF-I), those attacks are not included in the military's statistics. "Given a lack of capability

to accurately track Shiite-on-Shiite and Sunni-on-Sunni violence, except in certain instances," the spokesman said, "we do not track this data to any significant degree."

Attacks by U.S.-allied Sunni tribesmen—recruited to battle Iraqis allied with al-Qaeda—are also excluded from the U.S. military's calculation of violence levels.

The administration has not given up trying to demonstrate that Iraq is moving toward political reconciliation. Testifying with Petraeus next week, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan C. Crocker is expected to report that top Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish leaders agreed last month to work together on key legislation demanded by Congress. If all goes as U.S. officials hope, Crocker will also be able to point to a visit today to the Sunni stronghold of Anbar province by ministers in the Shiite-dominated government—perhaps including Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, according to a senior U.S. official involved in Iraq policy. The ministers plan to hand Anbar's governor \$70 million in new development funds, the official said.

But most of the administration's case will rest on security data, according to military, intelligence and diplomatic officials who would not speak on the record before the Petraeus-Crocker testimony. Several Republican and Democratic lawmakers who were offered military statistics during Baghdad visits in August said they had been convinced that Bush's new strategy, and the 162,000 troops carrying it out, has produced enough results to merit more time.

Challenges to how military and intelligence statistics are tallied and used have been a staple of the Iraq war. In its December 2006 report, the bipartisan Iraq Study Group identified "significant underreporting of violence," noting that "a murder of an Iraqi is not necessarily counted as an attack. If we cannot determine the sources of a sectarian attack, that assault does not make it into the data base." The report concluded that "good policy is difficult to make when information is systematically collected in a way that minimizes its discrepancy with policy goals."

Recent estimates by the media, outside groups and some government agencies have called the military's findings into question. The Associated Press last week counted 1,809 civilian deaths in August, making it the highest monthly total this year, with 27,564 civilians killed overall since the AP began collecting data in April 2005.

The GAO report found that "average number of daily attacks against civilians have remained unchanged from February to July 2007," a conclusion that the military said was skewed because it did not include dramatic, up-to-date information from August.

Juan R.I. Cole, a Middle East specialist at the University of Michigan who is critical of U.S. policy, said that most independent counts "do not agree with Pentagon estimates about drops in civilian deaths."

In a letter last week to the leadership of both parties, a group of influential academics and former Clinton administration officials called on Congress to examine "the exact nature and methodology that is being used to track the security situation in Iraq and specifically the assertions that sectarian violence is down."

The controversy centers as much on what is counted—attacks on civilians vs. attacks on U.S. and Iraqi troops, numbers of attacks vs. numbers of casualties, sectarian vs. intrasect battles, daily numbers vs. monthly averages—as on the numbers themselves.

The military stopped releasing statistics on civilian deaths in late 2005, saying the news media were taking them out of context. In an e-mailed response to questions last weekend, an MNF-I spokesman said that

while trends were favorable, "exact monthly figures cannot be provided" for attacks against civilians or other categories of violence in 2006 or 2007, either in Baghdad or for the country overall. "MNF-I makes every attempt to ensure it captures the most comprehensive, accurate, and valid data on civilian and sectarian deaths," the spokesman wrote. "However, there is not one central place for data or information. . . . This means there can be variations when different organizations examine this information."

In a follow-up message yesterday, the spokesman said that the non-release policy had been changed this week but that the numbers were still being put "in the right context."

Attacks labeled "sectarian" are among the few statistics the military has consistently published in recent years, although the totals are regularly recalculated. The number of monthly "sectarian murders and incidents" in the last six months of 2006, listed in the Pentagon's quarterly Iraq report published in June, was substantially higher each month than in the Pentagon's March report. MNF-I said that "reports from un-reported/not-yet reported past incidences as well as clarification/corrections on reports already received" are "likely to contribute to changes."

When Petraeus told an Australian newspaper last week that sectarian attacks had decreased 75 percent "since last year," the statistic was quickly e-mailed to U.S. journalists in a White House fact sheet. Asked for detail, MNF-I said that "last year" referred to December 2006, when attacks spiked to more than 1,600.

By March, however—before U.S. troop strength was increased under Bush's strategy—the number had dropped to 600, only slightly less than in the same month last year. That is about where it has remained in 2007, with what MNF-I said was a slight increase in April and May "but trending back down in June-July."

Petraeus's spokesman, Col. Steven A. Boylan, said he was certain that Petraeus had made a comparison with December in the interview with the Australian paper, which did not publish a direct Petraeus quote. No qualifier appeared in the White House fact sheet.

When a member of the National Intelligence Council visited Baghdad this summer to review a draft of the intelligence estimate on Iraq, Petraeus argued that its negative judgments did not reflect recent improvements. At least one new sentence was added to the final version, noting that "overall attack levels across Iraq have fallen during seven of the last nine weeks."

A senior military intelligence official in Baghdad deemed it "odd" that "marginal" security improvements were reflected in an estimate assessing the previous seven months and projecting the next six to 12 months. He attributed the change to a desire to provide Petraeus with ammunition for his congressional testimony.

The intelligence official in Washington, however, described the Baghdad consultation as standard in the NIE drafting process and said that the "new information" did not change the estimate's conclusions. The overall assessment was that the security situation in Iraq since January "was still getting worse," he said, "but not as fast."

We're kicking ass is the kind of assessment you'd hear at a football game, and the PR game is clearly on by this President and his minions. They will claim progress next week and tease the American people with talk of token U.S. troop reductions. But because it's coming from this White

House, the only thing certain about next week is that it will be their latest attempt to try to mislead us into believing there are enough bullets and bombs, money and U.S. blood to prevail in Iraq.

The best military in the world is being run into the ground by this President. That's the only truth the evidence supports. Don't believe anything else. The American people had it right in November, and they still have it right today.

The U.S. must end its occupation. There is no other choice for this country, except to continue to shed the blood of our people and waste the resources of this country in Mr. Bush's failure.

□ 1430

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to refrain from using vulgarity.

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.)

STATUS REPORT ON CURRENT SPENDING LEVELS OF ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FY 2007 AND FY 2008 AND THE 5-YEAR PERIOD FY 2008 THROUGH FY 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I am transmitting a status report on the current levels of on-budget spending and revenues for fiscal years 2007 and 2008 and the five-year period of fiscal years 2008 through 2012. This report is necessary to facilitate the application of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act. This status report is current through September 5, 2007.

The term "current level" refers to the amounts of spending and revenues estimated for each fiscal year based on laws enacted or awaiting the President's signature.

The first table in the report compares the current level of total budget authority, outlays, and revenues for the fiscal years 2007 and 2008, and the five-year period of fiscal years 2008 through 2012 with the aggregate levels set by S. Con. Res. 21, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008. This, comparison is needed to enforce section 311(a) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the budget resolution's aggregate levels. The table does not show budget authority and outlays for years after fiscal years 2007 and 2008 because appropriations for those years have not yet been considered.

The second table compares the current levels of budget authority and outlays for spending by each authorizing committee with the section 302(a) allocations made under S. Con. Res. 21 for fiscal years 2007 and 2008 and fiscal years 2008 through 2012. This comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the section 302(a) allocation of new budget authority for the committee that reported the measure. It is also needed to implement section 311(c), which exempts committees that comply with their allocations from the point of order under section 311(a).

The third table compares the current levels of discretionary appropriations for fiscal years 2007 and 2008 with the section 302(b) suballocations of discretionary budget authority and outlays among Appropriations subcommittees. The comparison is also needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act because the point of order under that section equally applies to measures that would breach the applicable section 302(b) suballocation.

The fourth table gives the current level for fiscal years 2009 and 2010 of accounts identified for advance appropriations under Section 206 of S. Con. Res. 21. This list is needed to enforce the budget resolution, which prohibits advance appropriations that are: (i) not identified in the statement of managers or (ii) would cause the aggregate amount of such appropriations to exceed the level specified in the resolution.

REPORT TO THE SPEAKER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET—STATUS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2008 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ADOPTED IN S. CON. RES. 21

[Reflecting action completed as of September 5, 2007—On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars]

	Fiscal years		
	2007	2008 ¹	2008–2012
Appropriate Level:			
Budget authority	2,255,570	2,350,357	n.a.
Outlays	2,268,649	2,353,992	n.a.

REPORT TO THE SPEAKER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET—STATUS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2008 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ADOPTED IN S. CON. RES. 21—Continued

[Reflecting action completed as of September 5, 2007—On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars]

	Fiscal years		
	2007	2008 ¹	2008–2012
Revenues	1,900,340	2,015,841	11,137,671
Current Level:			
Budget authority	2,255,570	1,422,249	n.a.
Outlays	2,268,649	1,766,864	n.a.
Revenues	1,904,516	2,050,418	11,313,523
Current Level over (+) / under (–) Appropriate Level:			
Budget authority	0	–928,108	n.a.
Outlays	0	–587,128	n.a.
Revenues	4,176	34,577	175,852

n.a. = Not applicable because annual appropriations Acts for fiscal years 2009 through 2012 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.
¹ Pending action by the House Appropriations Committee on spending covered by section 207(d)(1)(E) (overseas deployments and related activities), resolution assumptions are not included in the appropriate level.

BUDGET AUTHORITY

Enactment of measures providing any new budget authority for FY 2007 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 2007 budget authority to exceed the appropriate level set by S. Con. Res. 21.

Enactment of measures providing new budget authority for FY 2008 in excess of \$928,108,000,000 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 2008 budget authority to exceed the appropriate level set by S. Con. Res. 21.

OUTLAYS

Enactment of measures providing any new outlays for FY 2007 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 2007 outlays to exceed the appropriate level set by S. Con. Res. 21.

Enactment of measures providing new outlays for FY 2008 in excess of \$587,128,000,000 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 2008 outlays to exceed the appropriate level set by S. Con. Res. 21.

REVENUES

Enactment of measures resulting in revenue reduction for FY 2007 in excess of \$4,176,000,000 (if not already included in the current estimate) would cause FY 2007 revenue to fall below the appropriate level set by S. Con. Res. 21.

Enactment of measures resulting in revenue reduction for FY 2008 in excess of \$34,577,000,000 (if not already included in the current estimate) would cause FY 2008 revenue to fall below the appropriate level set by S. Con. Res. 21.

Enactment of measures resulting in revenue reduction for the period of fiscal years 2008 through 2012 in excess of \$175,852,000,000 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause revenues to fall below the appropriate levels set by S. Con. Res. 21.

DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS FOR RESOLUTION CHANGES REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2007

[Fiscal years, in millions of dollars]

House committee	2007		2008		2008–2012 total	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Agriculture:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Armed Services:						
Allocation	0	0	–50	–50	–410	–410
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	50	50	410	410
Education and Labor:						
Allocation	13	4	–150	–145	–750	–742
Current Level	13	4	0	5	0	8
Difference	0	0	150	150	750	750
Energy and Commerce:						
Allocation	–1	–1	134	132	89	87
Current Level	–1	–1	134	132	89	87

DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS FOR RESOLUTION CHANGES REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2007—Continued

[Fiscal years, in millions of dollars]

House committee	2007		2008		2008–2012 total	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial Services:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foreign Affairs:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homeland Security:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	-425	0	-500
Difference	0	0	0	-425	0	-500
House Administration:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Judiciary:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Natural Resources:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oversight and Government Reform:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Science and Technology:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small Business:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transportation and Infrastructure:						
Allocation	0	0	125	0	1,525	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	-125	0	-1,525	0
Veterans' Affairs:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ways and Means:						
Allocation	0	0	-38	-38	-98	-98
Current Level	0	0	-38	-38	-98	-98
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0

DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 302(A) ALLOCATION AND APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE 302(B) SUBALLOCATIONS

[in millions of dollars]

Appropriations Subcommittee	302(b) suballocations as of Sept. 5, 2007 (H. Rpt. 110–182)		Current level reflecting action completed as of Sept. 5, 2007		Current level minus suballocations	
	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA	18,569	19,356	0	0		
Commerce, Justice, Science	51,950	52,236	51,950	52,236	0	0
Defense	489,519	499,510	489,519	499,510	0	0
Energy and Water Development	30,296	29,882	30,296	29,882	0	0
Financial Services and General Government	19,488	20,360	19,488	20,360	0	0
Homeland Security	33,962	41,195	33,962	41,195	0	0
Interior, Environment	26,411	27,569	26,411	27,569	0	0
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education	144,766	145,567	144,766	145,567	0	0
Legislative Branch	3,774	3,950	3,774	3,950	0	0
Military Construction, Veterans Affairs	49,752	46,889	49,752	46,889	0	0
State, Foreign Operations	31,358	35,186	31,358	35,186	0	0
Transportation, HUD	50,471	107,765	50,471	107,765	0	0
Unassigned (full committee allowance)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total (Section 302(a) Allocation)	950,316	1,029,465	950,316	1,029,465	0	0

DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATION AND APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE 302(b) SUBALLOCATIONS

[In millions of dollars]

Appropriations subcommittee	302(b) suballocations as of Sept. 5, 2007 (H. Rpt. 110–236)		Current level reflecting action completed as of Sept. 5, 2007		Current level minus suballocations	
	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA	18,817	20,027	7	5,437	-18,810	-14,590
Commerce, Justice, Science	53,551	55,318	0	20,389	-53,551	-34,929
Defense ¹	459,332	475,980	45	163,831	-459,287	-312,149
Energy and Water Development	31,603	32,774	0	13,178	-31,603	-19,596
Financial Services and General Government	21,434	21,665	80	4,323	-21,354	-17,342
Homeland Security	36,262	38,247	0	17,112	-36,262	-21,135
Interior, Environment	27,598	28,513	0	11,198	-27,598	-17,315
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education	151,748	148,174	19,151	100,179	-132,597	-47,995
Legislative Branch	4,024	4,042	0	606	-4,024	-3,436
Military Construction, Veterans Affairs	64,745	54,832	-2,414	14,260	-67,159	-40,572
State, Foreign Operations ¹	34,243	33,351	0	16,400	-34,243	-16,951
Transportation, HUD	50,738	114,528	4,193	71,015	-46,545	-43,513
Unassigned (full committee allowance)	0	1,646	0	0	0	-1,646
Total (Section 302(a) Allocation)	954,095	1,029,097	21,062	437,928	-933,033	-591,169

¹ Change from previous report for current level reflects reallocation of \$7 million in prior year outlays to correct committee of jurisdiction.

FY2009 AND 2010 ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS UNDER SECTION 206 OF S. CON. RES. 21
[Budget authority in millions of dollars]

	2009	2010
Appropriate Level	25,558	25,558
Accounts Identified for Advances:		
Corporation for Public Broadcasting	400	0
Employment and Training Administration	0	0
Education for the Disadvantaged	0	0
School Improvement	0	0
Children and Family Services (Head Start)	0	0
Special Education	0	0
Vocational and Adult Education	0	0
Payment to Postal Service	0	0
Section 8 Renewals	0	0

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, September 6, 2007.
Hon. JOHN M. SPRATT, Jr.,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2007 budget and is current through September 5, 2007. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of S. Con. Res. 21, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, as approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Pursuant to section 204(b) of S. Con. Res. 21, provisions designated as emergency re-

quirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the enclosed current level report excludes these amounts (see footnote 1 of the report).

Since my last letter to you, dated June 11, 2007, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues for fiscal year 2007: An act to extend the authorities of the Andean Trade Preference Act until February 29, 2008 (P.L. 110-42); and a bill to provide for the extension of Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) and the Abstinence Education Program through the end of fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes (P.L. 110-48).

Sincerely,
ROBERT A. SUNSHINE
(For Peter R. Orszag, Director).

Enclosure.

FISCAL YEAR 2007 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT AS OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2007

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Enacted in previous session:			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	1,904,706
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,350,273	1,299,295	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	1,477,616	1,540,849	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	-571,507	-571,507	n.a.
Total, enacted in previous session	2,256,382	2,268,637	1,904,706
Enacted this session:			
U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 110-28) ¹	-794	9	-166
An Act to extend the authorities of the Andean Trade Preference Act until February 29, 2008 (P.L. 110-42)	0	0	-24
A bill to provide for the extension of Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) and the Abstinence Education Program through the end of fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes (P.L. 110-48)	12	3	0
Total, enacted this session	-782	12	-190
Entitlements and mandatories:			
Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	-30	0	0
Total Current Level ^{1,2}	2,255,570	2,268,649	1,904,516
Total Budget Resolution ³	2,380,359	2,300,575	1,900,340
Adjustment to budget resolution for emergency requirements ⁴	-124,789	-31,926	0
Adjusted Budget Resolution	2,255,570	2,268,649	1,900,340
Current Level Over Adjusted Budget Resolution	0	0	4,176
Current Level Under Adjusted Budget Resolution	0	0	n.a.

Notes.—n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

1. Pursuant to section 204(b) of S. Con. Res. 21 the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. The amounts so designated for fiscal year 2007, which are not included in the current level totals, are as follows:

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 110-28)	120,803	31,116	n.a.

2. Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget.

3. Periodically, the House Committee on the Budget revises the totals in S. Con. Res. 21, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution.

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Original Resolution Levels	2,380,535	2,300,572	1,900,340
Revisions:			
To reflect the difference between the assumed and actual nonemergency supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2007 (section 207(f))	-188	0	0
For extension of the Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) program (section 320(c))	12	3	0
Revised Resolution Levels	2,380,359	2,300,575	1,900,340

4. S. Con. Res. 21 assumed \$124,789 million in budget authority and \$31,926 million in outlays from emergency supplemental appropriations. Such emergency amounts are exempt from the enforcement of the budget resolution. Since current level totals exclude the emergency requirements enacted in P.L. 110-28 (see footnote 1 above), budget authority and outlay totals specified in the budget resolution have also been reduced (by the amounts assumed for emergency supplemental appropriations) for purposes of comparison.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, September 6, 2007.
Hon. JOHN M. SPRATT, Jr.,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2008 budget and is current through September 5, 2007. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of S.

Con. Res. 21, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, as approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Pursuant to section 204(b) of S. Con. Res. 21, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the enclosed current level report excludes these amounts (see footnote 1 of the report).

Since my last letter to you, dated June 11, 2007, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues for fiscal year 2008: An act to extend the authorities of the Andean Trade Preference Act until February 29, 2008 (P.L. 110-42); a bill to

provide for the extension of Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) and the Abstinence Education Program through the end of fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes (P.L. 110-48); a joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, and for other purposes (P.L. 110-52); and Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-53).

Sincerely,
ROBERT A. SUNSHINE
(For Peter R. Orszag, Director).

Enclosure.

FISCAL YEAR 2008 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT AS OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2007

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget au- thority	Outlays	Revenues
Enacted in previous session:			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	2,050,796
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,450,532	1,390,018	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	0	419,862	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	-575,635	-575,635	n.a.
Total, enacted in previous session	874,897	1,234,245	2,050,796
Enacted this session:			
U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 110-28) ¹	1	42	-335
An act to extend the authorities of the Andean Trade Preference Act until February 29, 2008 (P.L. 110-42)	0	0	-41
A bill to provide for the extension of Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) and the Abstinence Education Program through the end of fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes (P.L. 110-48)	96	99	0
A joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, and for other purposes (P.L. 110-52)	0	0	-2
Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-53)	0	-425	0
Total, enacted this session	97	-284	-378
Entitlements and mandatories:			
Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	547,255	532,903	0
Total Current Level ^{1,2}	1,422,249	1,766,864	2,050,418
Total Budget Resolution ³	2,496,125	2,469,736	2,015,841
Adjustment to budget resolution for emergency requirements ⁴	-606	-49,990	n.a.
Adjustment to the budget resolution pursuant to section 207(d)(1)(E) ⁵	-145,162	-65,754	n.a.
Adjusted Budget Resolution	2,350,357	2,353,992	2,015,841
Current Level Over Adjusted Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	34,577
Current Level Under Adjusted Budget Resolution	928,108	587,128	n.a.
Memorandum:			
Revenues, 2008-2012:			
House Current Level	n.a.	n.a.	11,313,523
House Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	11,137,671
Adjusted Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	11,137,671
Current Level Over Adjusted Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	175,852
Current Level Under Adjusted Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Note.—n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

1. Pursuant to section 204(b) of S. Con. Res. 21 the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. The amounts so designated for fiscal year 2008, which are not included in the current level totals, are as follows:

	Budget au- thority	Outlays	Revenues
U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 110-28)	605	48,639	n.a.

- 2. Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget.
- 3. Periodically, the House Committee on the Budget revises the totals in S. Con. Res. 21, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution:

	Budget au- thority	Outlays	Revenues
Original Resolution Levels	2,496,028	2,469,636	2,015,858
Revisions:			
To reflect the difference between the assumed and actual nonemergency supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2007 (section 207(f))	1	1	-17
For extension of the Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) program (section 320(c))	96	99	0
Revised Resolution Levels	2,496,125	2,469,736	2,015,841

4. S. Con. Res. 21 assumed \$606 million in budget authority and \$49,990 million in outlays from emergency supplemental appropriations. Such emergency amounts are exempt from the enforcement of the budget resolution. Since current level totals exclude the emergency requirements enacted in P.L. 110-28 (see footnote 1 above), budget authority and outlay totals specified in the budget resolution have also been reduced (by the amounts assumed for emergency supplemental appropriations) for purposes of comparison.

5. Section 207(d)(1)(E) of S. Con. Res. 21 assumed \$145,162 million in budget authority and \$65,754 million in outlays for overseas deployment and related activities. Pending action by the House Committee on Appropriations, the House Committee on the Budget has directed that these amounts be excluded from the budget resolution aggregates in the current level report.
Source: Congressional Budget Office.

REAUTHORIZATION OF NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, with all the various important issues that we have been debating on the floor, we should remember one very important issue dealing with education of our children that will be considered here in the House very soon, and, most specifically, that deals with the reauthorization of NCLB, No Child Left Behind.

So I come to the floor tonight to address some of the concerns and problems with NCLB and offer a possible solution. That solution, by the way, is the legislation I have submitted, H.R. 3177, the LEARN Act, the Local Education Authority Returns Now, allowing States and parents and local communities to regain control of their edu-

cation and not have it be here in Washington, DC.

As we're all aware, NCLB is really simply a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Act, that's ESEA, from the 1960s. What I've done is I've looked back over the past reauthorizations of ESEA, and I've noticed a very troubling trend. With every single reauthorization, new problems are always found for America's schools, and with every new problem, the solution is always more Federal involvement.

You know, all the way back in 1983, almost a quarter of a century ago, a famous report came out. It was called, "A Nation at Risk," and it said that America had fallen dangerously behind the rest of the world in education; but, today, new studies are saying much the same thing.

According to the National Center for Education Science, in 2003 U.S. fourth graders were outperformed by their peers in eleven other countries, includ-

ing four Asian countries and seven European countries. U.S. eighth graders were outperformed by their peers in nine countries, including five Asian and four European.

Yet, today, as a percentage of GDP after NCLB, we are still spending more money on education now than at any time in U.S. history. We have increased the paperwork, the requirements for the teachers, more taxpayer dollars, increased administration's burden; but we've decreased the flexibility for the teachers and the power in the classroom.

So let me just present two charts, and I would like to thank the work of Dr. Anthony Davies of the Donahue Graduate School of Business of Duquesne University, to make this point. If we look at this chart, the chart shows noninstructional spending and instructional spending in our schools. The top is eighth graders. The bottom is fourth graders.

The first chart is noninstructional spending. That is the spending that we use for the buildings, the transportation and the like. You would think that with all these reforms that we have done, that with the increase in spending, you would see an increase in performance. Well, what does the chart actually show? Well, the top chart, again, is eighth graders, and what it's showing is, as you see at the left-hand side of the chart, \$3,000 per pupil; on the far side of the chart, \$6,500 per pupil. But the performance of the students stays basically the same, regardless of how the dollars coming from Washington are spent.

The next color, the red dots, are fourth graders, exactly the same thing. Regardless of whether we're spending around \$3,000, \$4,000, \$5,000 or \$6,000, the instructional value of those dollars coming out of these programs, the numbers stay essentially the same.

The next chart you look at confirms the same point. This is instructional spending. These are the dollars that actually make their way into the classroom. This is for the books. This is for the teachers. This is what you really think of when you think of education. Same thing: top is eighth graders, bottom is fourth graders. It starts at \$2,500 and goes up to \$7,500. You would think that with these reforms of NCLB, you would think that with additional dollars going into the classrooms you would see an increase actually in the performance for these grades. But what do we actually see on the chart?

Well, for the top, the eighth graders, starting at \$2,500, up to \$5,000, up to \$7,500, the numbers for them for the performance on these scores, under the NAEP score standards, and that's the national standards of assessments for kids, the numbers are even right across the chart. Likewise, on the bottom part of this chart, that's the fourth graders, the red little squares. Again, we're looking in the same dollar values, \$2,500 up to \$7,500, middle it's around \$5,000. How do we look at the NAEP scores? How do they change? Basically, not at all. It's in a range here of between 420 and 480 for all those students regardless of the spending of the dollars.

So the point of these two charts, and, again, I appreciate the work of Anthony Davies for compiling this information, is to show that throughout history the Federal Government looks to say that there's a problem with Americans' education. We say we're going to be the solution for our children in this country, and the solution is going to be what? Well, last time it was NCLB, No Child Left Behind, and now it's going to potentially be a reauthorization of that. I suggest no.

And I would conclude by saying that the solution is not more work on the Federal level, but more control by the parent and the local school board for the raising of their own children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR 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 Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ELLISON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE ENERGY FUTURE OF AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an issue that's not talked about enough in Washington, and on a warm sunny afternoon, where it's not real hot, it's not cold, not a lot of energy's being used. Not a lot of Americans are talking about energy, but it should be on the minds of Americans.

I was disappointed last night as we listened collectively to the Presidential debate. Now, the candidates don't get to talk about what they want to talk about unless they squeeze it in on the side. They get to answer the questions; and last night, not one question was asked about the energy future of America.

We've been a very successful Nation. We've been the leader of the world because we have had cheap, affordable energy. That has all changed. We now have expensive energy, and we have short supplies on every hand.

When I talk to the biggest employers in America, when I talk to the people that I know understand this country and the manufacture of goods and the process of goods and trade around the world, I say, should energy be a top issue? And they said, it is for us. To remain an employer in America, energy is our number one challenge.

Just to give you an example, Dow Chemical, the largest chemical company in the world, located in America, thousands of good jobs in America, their costs of energy went from \$8 billion on natural gas alone in 5 years to \$22 billion. That's almost tripling the costs of their major use of energy, natural gas.

Now, we have some energy bills moving, and we would hope that they would increase supply because when you increase supply, you decrease prices. A lot of us have struggled to understand the energy markets, but this is how I understand it in basic terms. They are not set by energy companies. They're set by Wall Street traders who look at availability of that form of energy, and they run the price up or down by the hour.

In the last few days, oil prices have been rising a dollar-something per day, and I checked about 1 o'clock and oil was approaching \$77 a barrel, almost the highest price ever, and had been increasing hourly all week. So the price of energy is not set by the sellers of energy. It's set by the Wall Street traders on their view of the availability and the affordability.

Now, the bills before us, we'll look at them a little bit, I find somewhat disappointing. They cut off production from the Roan Plateau, a huge clean natural gas field in Colorado that was set aside as the Naval Oil Shale Reserve in 1976 because of its energy-rich resources. This means that nine trillion feet of natural gas, more than all the natural gas in the OCS bill that was passed last year, will be put off limits.

The Roan Plateau had already gone through all the NEPA studies. Now, those are yearlong studies that say whether it's environmentally appropriate to produce it. They passed that test.

This provision was not in the original Resources Committee bill and had been added at the request, we think, of leadership because it wasn't in the original bill. This bill will make it harder to produce energy from Alaska's natural petroleum reserve which was set aside in 1923 to help America meet our energy needs in the long term. Additions of tens of trillions of cubic feet of natural gas and millions and millions of barrels of oil in Alaska's natural petroleum reserve which would have increased the likelihood of the construction of the gas pipeline that could bring 4 to 6 billion cubic feet of clean green natural gas from Alaska every day has not yet been built.

The bill effectively repeals language that I put in the energy bill in 2005 that took out redundant NEPAs. NEPA is a comprehensive, complicated study that you have to go through to make your environmental assessments.

Now, what was happening in the West, where a lot of our energy is, NEPA studies were being used redundantly. In other words, you have a study for your original plot. You have a study for the road. Each of these studies takes a year. You have a study for each well location. You have a study for everything you were going to do. And so I had people who said they had leased land 6 and 7 years prior and still hadn't been able to drill a hole in the ground and produce the energy for America.

So we did a simple amendment that said you do a NEPA, you do it on all of those things collectively and you go ahead and proceed. Well, the bill we have moving now takes away those redundant NEPAs and allows them to go back to multiple NEPAs. The provision alone adds red tape that will stop 18 percent of the future on-shore natural gas production and oil and hurt those least able to pay their energy bill.

The bill doubles the time it takes to get government approval for offshore

energy projects at a time when China is drilling within 50 miles of our shore, along with Cuba.

Now, also, we have portfolio standards in the bill that says 15 percent of renewable energy must be a part of all electric production. Now, that's a great goal. I don't have any quarrel with the goal. But we mandated it by 2020, and some States with their natural resources can meet that, some can't.

We also, with the limit of what can be renewable energy, I know we already had the Pennsylvania law which used more items in their renewable portfolio package, and so the Federal one-size-fits-all mandate, we should have had a carrot approach, where we put a carrot out there, where we encourage, we assist, we help. But this mandate will make it very difficult for States who do not have the right sources of energy available to them because it will make it very difficult for them to produce electricity and meet that mandate.

□ 1445

We have an interesting issue in every appropriations bill this year that's a mandate that CFL light bulbs be used in every building. Now that sounds good. Those are highly energy-efficient light bulbs, the little ones my wife and I fight about because I bought them and put them in, and she takes them out because they buzz and make noise and don't give quite the quality of light we are used to with our incandescent bulbs. We have had that discussion ongoing, but we have mandated them in government buildings.

The sad part of the story is they are all made in China. We do not produce one in America.

The Senate had severe changes in CAFE standards in their bill, which I think would be part of the discussion when we have a conference committee, if we have a conference committee on energy. Many Members of the House, bipartisanly, are concerned that the mandates in the Senate bill will be harmful to the American auto industry.

That's another issue, that we need to have more fuel-efficient cars. Nobody argues, we need to. I think we may have been a little too easy on the auto industry in America, because it seems like every time we have an energy spike, they are never ready for it, and they lose a piece of the market share. Because Americans have chosen to purchase cars that were not fuel efficient, energy prices would go up, and we would buy more fuel-efficient cars, and energy prices would come down, and we would go back to buying high gas users again.

We need to have a more fuel-efficient auto available to us, and we need to use our energy as wisely and conservatively as possible. But hopefully, in the end, we will have a CAFE standard that will not disadvantage the American automakers.

Now, one that bothered me the most, I guess, was the \$15 billion to \$16 bil-

lion tax increase on energy production. Now, I know what that's about; it's about the hatred of the big oil companies and their big profits.

Well, someone said to me one day, well, how come they have made such profits? Big oil companies over the years purchase the ability and the rights to oil all over the world, including in our country. They purchase those rights, assuming that \$25 or \$30 would be the price they would receive for their oil.

Well, we don't have \$25 or \$30 oil anymore, and when you sell \$75 oil and you were going to be profitable at \$30 oil, you are going to make a lot of money. Why do we have high oil prices and energy prices in America? Because this government and this administration have not opened up energy supply.

When you don't open up energy supply and you help create a world shortage, you force prices up. It's the traders in Wall Street, again, who determine adequacy of natural gas or oil or other commodities to the marketplace.

Now, in oil, it gets quite confusing because you will have an oil price set by Wall Street and you will have a gasoline price that sometimes doesn't make any sense. This spring we had gasoline prices higher than they should have been, as a result of 60-some dollar oil, but it was because there was a shortage of gasoline in the world. Fifteen percent of our gasoline now comes from Europe, and when Europe didn't have the gasoline for us, we had a shortage on gasoline. So our gasoline market went higher than it normally would have.

So it's interesting that these Wall Street players run up the price because there is a shortage in the world.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. I would be glad to yield to my clean natural gas friend from Hawaii.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Would the gentleman agree then that part of the issue that we have to face here then is supply?

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. That's correct.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Are we going to have an adequate supply of energy so that we can come to grips with the question of price, and, in turn, the question of how much production will cost us and whether we will be able to continue as a manufacturing nation?

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Yes. The issue should be, the number one issue in the Presidential debate, how do we secure adequate affordable energy for America to compete in the global economy?

See, we have never had to compete before, but we have countries like China and India that are stocking up on energy, all kinds of energy, acquiring all kinds of access to energy, building all kinds of power plants and hydrodams and acquiring oil and gas rights around the world, and we are sort of here sitting on our hands saying we can do it with renewables.

Now, I am for all the renewables, all we can get of them, but they are growing very slowly, and there has not been the willingness in this Congress and in this administration to say how do we acquire adequate energy supply.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. If the gentleman would further yield on that point, isn't it a fact that there is not a world price, as there ostensibly might be for gasoline, a world price, now, even though the price of a gallon of gasoline may fluctuate because of the factors that the gentleman has indicated, but, nonetheless, at least there is some benchmark against which you can measure that gasoline price.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Yes.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. But when it comes to energy like natural gas, there is, in fact, not a world price. In the context that the gentleman has just outlined, isn't it true that the rest of the world is finding a natural gas foundation as part of the alternative to a petroleum fuel and able to meet the requirements that each of these nations may have, including China, at a price commensurate with production available to them and that the United States, because it does not have that same access, is actually paying a much higher price, and that, in fact, no world price exists for natural gas?

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. That's absolutely correct. We produce about 83 percent of our own natural gas. We import a lot from Canada and about 2 percent of LNG, which is liquefied natural gas, from the same area as we get our oil from.

Natural gas is not a world price, and a lot of Members of Congress and a lot of people in America don't understand that. Oil is a world price. The gasoline prices can vary. That's a portion of the oil. If you have an excess of gasoline in your country or in Europe, their price drops; if you have a shortage, their price goes up the same as ours. They operate off of the Wall Street market, and their markets.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. The gentleman has mentioned China. Is it not a fact, then, that as we confront this dilemma of a lack of energy supply at a reasonable price in America, the Chinese are presently going about the world securing oil rights, petroleum rights, natural gas rights, energy rights of one kind and another all over the world to supply the burgeoning manufacturing and development boom that they have going on there?

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. They have a partnership with Cuba 50 miles from our Florida coast, and we can't drill within 150 miles of the Florida coast. No, we can't drill off the Florida coast at all. It's all closed at the moment.

No, you are absolutely right. We as a country do not have an energy supply plan. We just are kind of riding along, I guess, hoping things will get better, but we do not have a plan. The gentleman from Hawaii is absolutely correct.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. May I conclude then that I commend him for his leadership on this issue. I am pleased to join with him and want to indicate to you and to those who may be listening to us today, and, more particularly, to the presentation that you are making, that unless and until we have a comprehensive energy independence plan in this Nation, our security, economic, social, military, in fact, our leadership in the world is at stake.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Absolutely. I have not talked to a CEO of a major corporation employer in America who either produces energy or uses a lot of energy like Dow Chemical, U.S. Steel, Pittsburgh, PPG, all the big users of energy, and I said to them, I believe that available, affordable energy equals terrorism and a challenge to America's future. They said, you are absolutely right. Every one of them.

I have never had a person in that kind of a position or people that have understood this issue and have worked on it all their life and understand it who didn't agree with that. But for some reason, they don't say it publicly. I have been one of the few, and my friend from Hawaii has been one of the few who have been willing to say, hey, clean, green, natural gas can be our renewable, our bridge to the future. We need to realize that we must produce it, more of it.

We will take a moment here and look at American energy production. We currently are 40 percent oil, 23 percent natural gas, 23 percent coal, 8 percent nuclear, 2.7 percent hydroelectric, 2.4 percent biomass, and that's woody waste materials, geothermal, wind and solar. I guess the thing that's concerning is this is where all of our emphasis is, and ethanol.

I haven't talked about ethanol, but one of the other things that's in the bills is a mandate of 35 billion barrels of ethanol, and we are currently producing 7 billion barrels, mostly from corn.

Now, corn has been controversial because corn has gotten expensive, \$1.80 corn per bushel is now \$3.50 a bushel, has been as high as \$4 a bushel. I am not opposed to it. The manufacturing of ethanol, 95 percent of the plants that produce ethanol use a huge amount of natural gas.

In fact, ethanol is sort of a swap. Some say it's a winner by a little bit. There are those who say it actually takes more energy to make ethanol, but it's American, it has given our farmers a market for grain. But using the food supply has its long-term problems. If we would become huge ethanol producers much more than today and would have a short corn crop for a bad season, food prices have already increased measurably because hog farmers and beef farmers and poultry farmers now are paying much more for their feed to feed their animals because of corn prices, and also organizations that feed the poor around the world have always used American corn because it

was so cheap and are now having to pay twice as much for it as they did before.

So using food for fuel is not, I am saying, bad, but it has its challenges. And the other problem with ethanol is that it's corrosive and cannot be put in our pipeline system. And the cheap way to move energy around the country is in pipelines. We can't use ethanol in the pipeline; we have to blend it on surface and either bring it in tankers blended or blend it at the station.

Now, ethanol has its limitations. We will kind of move into the next portion here and talk a little bit about ethanol and cellulosic ethanol. The amount of importation of oil, every year our dependence on foreign, unstable countries for petroleum increases about 2 percent. Every year, that's just constant. It just keeps going up.

The energy bill we have before us will put another spike out here because it's going to tax energy production. It's going to make major energy fields off limits, and so we will have to do more imports. So with the energy bills that are before us, we are going in the wrong direction as far as energy production.

Now, let me get the other chart there on foreign dependence, or the deficit, the trade deficit, huge percentage, \$293 billion is the importation of oil.

Now, anything we can do to lessen dependence on foreign and the purchase of foreign oil helps the trade balance for America. It's a major portion. In fact, it's about a third of our trade imbalance. When the price goes up, this number expands very quickly.

We are at \$76, almost \$77 oil today. We have not had a major storm in the gulf. A major storm in the gulf can raise prices \$10 to \$20 a barrel in a day or two. Here is what happened when Katrina hit. That was Katrina. We have not had a storm in the gulf since Katrina.

When a major storm hits the gulf, why does it increase prices? It shuts down refineries, it shuts down pipelines, it shuts down the rigs. We stop producing for months because we have to go back in and repair the system that produces it, the pipeline systems, the cleaning systems, the refineries. All that has to be rebuilt because those storms are immense.

Last year was the first year in a long time we had a major storm in the gulf. This year we seem to be in a major series of storms right now. We have been lucky. The last two have been south of our gulf. There is one coming now that may hit the East Coast.

But when they hit the gulf with \$75 oil, we could easily have \$90 oil. That means gasoline pump prices of \$3.50, \$3.75. Also at the current time, here is where America is in trouble. We are dependent on no storms in the gulf for a stable price, or a high price, stable price without further spikes, and we are dependent on no country in the world that ships our oil, most of them are unstable governments, not having a governmental collapse or a takeover or

a military coup where we lose millions of barrels of oil per day.

We have to pray, I guess, that we have good weather, that it doesn't interrupt the gulf and that we don't have a major country producing oil topple its local government.

Here is the problem. This is a picture of America. We produce a fair amount of energy in the middle. We could produce more, and we talked about some of that earlier, but we are the only country in the world that doesn't produce immense amounts of oil and gas offshore.

□ 1500

Every country in the world: Canada, Great Britain, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, New Zealand, Australia. I mean, these are all green countries. These are countries with records of being environmentally sensitive.

Offshore is from 3 miles to 200 miles. That's controlled. The States control the first 3 miles. The next 197 miles is controlled by the Federal Government. We've had it locked up for 26 years. We've said, we don't need that. I disagree with that.

Now, we will have argument that, oh, we can't have clean beaches. All those countries have clean beaches. Oil and gas production today is not the threat to the environment it was many years ago. In fact, the last major oil spill offshore was in Santa Barbara in 1966, I believe. That's a long time ago.

And everybody talks about the ship, I can't think of the name of it now, the *Valdez* up in Alaska. That was a ship. In fact, everybody who knows offshore says that we're more in danger with ships hauling oil, which they do every day, than we are from producing it.

Now, what's been interesting here is I have promoted and many of my colleagues have promoted the production of clean green natural gas. They say, well, that will pollute our beaches. Well, there has never been a gas well that's ever polluted a beach.

In fact, 11 miles is the sight line, and if you go 25 miles offshore, nobody will ever see it, even from a tall building. It's out of sight. And clean green natural gas, it's a gas, and it bubbles into the air naturally from fissures in the ocean floor every day. And even on land, natural gas finds its way out of the reserves, through pressure and works its way.

In fact, I come from the original oil patch, Titusville, Pennsylvania, first oil well drilled by Colonel Drake. It was 68 feet deep. They drilled there, actually it was a dug well because they didn't have the drilling; I guess they couldn't get a driller to come in so they actually dug the well and lined the side with stone like you do a water well, and caught oil at 68 feet. Because oil had been oozing up out of the ground and that stream called Oil Creek had oil on it before we ever drilled an oil well because it naturally oozed out of the ground because that gas sand was very close to the surface,

and so they produced it there. And so I've been around it all my life.

And it's interesting that we've also had the argument on this floor and across the country that you just can't drill for natural gas. So we've been promoting just natural gas, hoping, because natural gas is our biggest need. Natural gas is what we heat 60 percent of our homes with, 70 percent of our businesses, and is a major ingredient in the production of fertilizer. Nitrogen fertilizer, 70 percent of the cost of making it is natural gas, and we have tripled the price in a very short period of time.

Petrochemicals, every chemical you buy at the hardware store, every chemical you buy at the grocery store is made with natural gas as an ingredient, 55 percent of the cost of petrochemicals, on average. So petrochemical companies in America are in trouble because we're paying more to make them than other countries.

Polymers and plastics, 45 percent of the cost of producing polymers and plastics is natural gas because it's used to heat and it's also used as an ingredient.

We all know that making steel and bending steel is a huge cost, and most of it's done with heating by natural gas. The furnaces are run by natural gas. So our steel industry has paid a tremendous price with natural gas, and will continue to pay a tremendous price.

In fact, the president of U.S. Steel told me a year or so ago, JOHN, if you don't get a handle on natural gas prices, we won't have a steel industry in America. PPG Industries said the same: if you don't get a handle and stop this escalation of natural gas prices, we won't be in America.

And I'm sorry to say that if we don't get a handle on natural gas prices and stop the next peaks, where gas gets just unaffordable, we will be buying bricks and glass from South America, which has natural gas prices a fraction of ours, like \$1.25 a thousand, when we are currently at about seven and many times on a winter's average it's about 12 to 13 when you pay retail price.

So Russia, China, India, all of our competitors have natural gas prices that are a fraction of ours. And so we believe that we need to produce clean green natural gas offshore.

And I'm pleased that a friend of mine from Virginia Beach, from Virginia, THELMA DRAKE, has come to join us on the floor; and we'd welcome her comments.

Mrs. DRAKE. Well, thank you to the gentleman from Pennsylvania inviting me to be here with you today. This is such a critical issue, and one that I truly appreciate your leadership in the time that I've served in the House of Representatives, that this has been your passion. It shows to America today, but it's something that is a critical need, for our country, for our economic and for our national security. And I really want to thank you for the explanation that you give to America.

And I heard you talk just a few minutes ago about Cuba and China, and I think that's when America is going to demand of elected leaders, why are we blocking the deep sea drilling of natural gas off America when Cuba is going to be doing it and selling it to China, right off the coast of our Nation? And I really want America to watch that and to remember that you've been talking about that for all this time.

One of the things that was painful for me that I learned in working with you on your bill this year is the story of Dow Chemical and how a company founded in Michigan in 1897 has lost 7,000 jobs since 2002. But they're now doing a \$30 billion expansion, and 10,000 jobs that should be right here in America are going to countries like Saudi Arabia and Libya because of the price of natural gas. You can't pay that \$14 you just showed us if you can pay 85 cents in Saudi Arabia. And that was a real driver in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Virginia has really made a name for herself nationally on the issue of energy because of a study that was introduced by Senator Frank Wagner to look at manufacturing in Virginia. And what that study showed right away was that an absolute problem was the cost of natural gas in Virginia, and that was causing us to lose our manufacturing base. And I don't think that we've put that together into our discussions about energy.

But I certainly agree with you, there has to be a comprehensive approach to energy. I brought something today to show you that I'm very proud of, and I hope you can see it. This is the work of Old Dominion University in the Second District of Virginia in Norfolk, Virginia. And this is a sample of a bio-diesel that's created from algae. They are working with our sewage treatment plants; they're using that algae. But think about it even in the terms of agriculture and the run-off that we don't want in our rivers and in our streams and in our bays, that those nutrients, those fertilizers could be used to spur the growth of algae to be used in a product like this. So there are so many exciting things there, and that's part of what we need to focus on in your bill, in the NEED Act, which does make designated revenue streams for alternative energies for those future technologies that we need as we move into the future. But we also have to think about the needs of today and the economy of today.

And sometimes I wonder, people who fight your initiatives, if they understand the impact that it has on our economy. And I just have to question that they don't understand the problem that they're creating for us in America.

But the other things, that you have fixed royalties that will go into environmental restoration projects, in addition to renewable energy, weatherization and energy assistance, gives us

funding for that, and royalties back to our local governments and to our States.

In Virginia we all know our number one issue right now is transportation and how we fund that. This would give us a designated stream that wouldn't put an additional burden on our taxpayers.

And critically important to us in the Second District is that the legislation will target 5 percent, roughly \$20 billion, of funds that would go towards the restoration of the great natural resource of our Chesapeake Bay. That fully funds the estimate we've had from our Chesapeake Bay Commission for what it would take to restore the bay.

And what's interesting is that this is gas only. We need to make sure that we have that discussion. You mentioned *Exxon Valdez*. My numbers are that you're 13 times more likely to have a spill moving product in by tanker.

But we're talking about natural gas. We're talking about nothing that would have an impact on our environment, but would have a huge impact on our economy and our national security.

It also puts our States in control. So thank you for that, that States would make the decision of, during that first 100 miles, of whether to be in or out of this program.

So I want to thank you for letting me join you. I want to thank you for your leadership. I want to thank you for continuing to be the voice that says this is a crisis in America. We can no longer continue to be dependent on foreign sources of energy. With the technologies that exist today, we need your legislation; and thank you for telling America about it.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Let me just ask you a question: Weren't you surprised in the debate last night that the media didn't ask one energy question, as if energy is not an issue?

Mrs. DRAKE. I am surprised. I think it is one of the top five issues in America, and that's energy, and I was very surprised by that.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. As we look at the chart that we have in front of us, it's called the NEED Act: \$150 billion will go to producing States, with an incentive for them; \$100 billion will go in the U.S. Treasury, \$32 billion for renewable energy research. Now, that's real money for renewable energy research: \$32 billion for carbon capture and sequestration research, which is the big issue of the day, unfortunately, getting more play than energy availability and affordability. And I'm going to say this: if carbon sequestration is a bigger issue in this Congress than energy availability and affordability, this country will not compete. We have to have available, affordable energy. And the advantage of clean natural gas is it has a fraction of the carbon of the other fossil fuels. It's the clean green fuel. It's about a third of the carbon of all the other fuels. So clean green natural gas. But it has to become affordable and stably priced.

For the Chesapeake Bay, \$20 billion, \$20 billion for the Great Lakes restoration, \$12 billion for the Everglades, \$12 billion for the Colorado River, \$12 billion for the San Francisco Bay, and \$10 billion with LIHEAP and weatherization. Weatherization of course is an important component there because it helps poor people make their homes energy efficient.

We're joined by the lady from Tennessee. We're delighted to have you with us today.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank you for the work on the House Energy Action Team and the leadership that you have provided there on this issue, and for your consistent message that I think most Americans share with us. They understand that fuel sources are abundant in this Nation. The problem is they're restricted. And there is so much regulation and so much red tape that you have to go through in order to arrive at a utilization point for those fuel sources.

Now, we've just come past the second remembrance of Katrina. And as we have done that, and as I spent some time down in the gulf coast region during August, so many people would say, you know, it's amazing to me that the Federal Government has not made significant changes in putting refineries, in opening other resources. We're still centered around here, and the hurricane season is coming. And that causes people to say, I question you for what you have not done. And we hear that from our constituents. And I question you about the price at the pump, because they now understand that a lack of refinery capacity in this country, overregulation of refineries, restricted access to fuel sources, yields a higher price at the pump for transportation fuels. It yields a higher mark on the bill when they get it for their home heating oil, for gas for their home, for electricity for their home. They understand this. And I fully believe that the liberal leadership in this House will have to answer to the American people for the high cost to consumers.

□ 1515

And that's the first point that I want to touch on today. As you look at what was passed in the energy bill they brought forward that really has no energy production in it, it just deals with all these global warming measures or conservation measures at some point but not really with energy. Just looking at the cost of government-mandated efficiency, now, if I have ever heard an oxymoron, that is probably is it. Government-mandated efficiency. It's not driven by consumers, it's not driven by innovators, but by the government saying reach this mark.

What we are seeing is that the new appliance efficiency standards have raised the cost of a good top-loading washing machine, which is the kind I still have in my house. The kind I choose to use is a top loader. They

have raised that to over \$900. And that is not according to you or me or the Congressional Budget Office. That is according to Consumer Reports. And we know that if the Senate had their way, then it would cost even more. So on our appliances, the mandated efficiency standards are going to end up costing our consumers more when they go to make that purchase.

So the gas to get in the car is going to cost them more. The electricity to power the computer is going to cost them more in order to get to the purchase point for that appliance that is going to cost them more.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Reclaiming my time, it's interesting. Here I have a chart in front of me that I have not seen before but I found very interesting today. Twenty percent of our electricity now is produced by natural gas, and that has been the big user of natural gas that has really forced natural gas prices up because we changed that about 12 years ago. Prior to that you were not allowed to use natural gas to make electricity, only for peak power in the morning and evening when you have this surge. A gas generator you can turn off and on, but a coal plant you can't. A nuclear plant you can't.

But here is the current cost of electricity: Nuclear electricity costs \$13.54 a megawatt hour. Coal costs \$20.80 a megawatt hour. Natural gas, \$49.51 a megawatt hour. Nonhydro, which would be wind and solar, costs \$68 a megawatt hour. And the reason for that is that we all wish that wind and solar would produce a lot more energy than they do, but the wind doesn't always blow and the sun doesn't always shine, and when it doesn't shine and it doesn't blow, you have to have another system that you've paid for like a gas generator that you can turn on or turn off as the wind blows or doesn't blow and the sun shines or doesn't shine, because we have not yet been able in batteries to store this energy, or in some sort of a heat tank, to where we use it later. We have researched with billions of dollars and we will continue to research, but those are very expensive forms of electricity.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. The gentleman is exactly right on that. They are expensive forms of energy and electricity. And one of the other components to that, in our Select Committee on Environment and Global Warming today, we had a hearing dealing with carbon emissions and carbon offsets and the cap and trade system that Europe is currently involved in to meet their Kyoto protocols. Well, the interesting point of this is if you were to enact some of the sequestration encaptured for CO₂ emissions, what we are seeing and what we are hearing from some research is that this could end up raising a household electric bill \$40 a month.

Now, what we do know is we have a lot of Americans that would not take kindly to seeing government mandates increase their electric bill every month

while we are still not sure if our CO₂ emissions are causing the Earth to warm or if it's cyclical. Is it just part of a natural scientific cycle that our wonderful world goes through? We have times of cooling and times of warming.

So there are lots of questions that are around this issue, and before we make hasty decisions, one thing we need to do is be certain that we tend to what we know is on our plate; that we tend to, first of all, address lowering the restrictions on our domestic sources of energy, making certain that we can avail ourselves of the oil, of the gas, of the coal that we have domestically, making certain that we are doing the right type of research and looking for alternative sources, making certain that nuclear is available for our power generation. As you said, the least expensive, the cleanest form of electric power generation is the new nuclear. And I will ask the gentleman to reiterate those statistics.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Yes. The cost for nuclear is \$13.54, and there is a new nuclear. Coal, \$20.80; natural gas, \$49.51; and nonhydro, \$68. Now, we need them all for the portfolio, but we have to have affordable, available energy or Americans won't have jobs. In my view, energy costs are the biggest job killer in America and have been this decade. We blame it on other things, but the cost of energy since it has spiked has stayed there, and we now are at a high plateau where future spikes are coming. We just need a storm, we just need a country to topple, and we'll have \$100 oil. And we know \$100 oil would be \$4 or more for gasoline. We understand that.

I yield to the gentlewoman.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I thank the gentleman for yielding. And he is exactly right about the cost and comments about the portfolio. And I think that many of our colleagues would be interested in seeing what the balance is in our portfolio as to where we are pooling our energy sources. And you are right. A well-balanced and appropriate portfolio is going to have many different components to it. Just as with trade, we are going to see many different components in that. We are going to have an opportunity to look at how trade affects this.

And you have just put a poster up about our trade deficit, and we certainly can see where we are fitting in here with some of our natural gas and our petroleum and petroleum products and what that means to our trade balance. And at the same time as we look at trade, we look at the portfolio that we have stateside and look at what is contained in that portfolio, and you are exactly right to bring those issues forward.

I will just say I thank the gentleman again for yielding. I do think that as we look at this issue, the cost to consumers and the effect on our GDP has to be considered as well as moving forward. The gentlewoman from Virginia mentioned a biodiesel alternative,

algae, and we know that for carbon capture, sometimes that is used to help spur the growth of that algae that is then turned into biodiesel. So you are using an unwanted byproduct to create an item that can be the genesis for an alternative fuel, making certain that we open up American energy resources for American energy solutions. Our domestic energy supply is abundant. And then in order to capitalize, to be resourceful and utilize that, making certain that we are spurring American innovation to find those solutions.

And, again, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentlewoman from Tennessee for her comments and for coming down and sharing today.

I think the number one issue we need in America is to have a strategy to open up the Outer Continental Shelf for natural gas first, and, further on out, hopefully down the road, oil, because we need both.

Natural gas, though, is a clean, green fuel that is low in carbon emissions. It's not a nitrous oxide problem. It's not a sulfuric acid problem. It's a clean, green fuel. And why we have not utilized it as the bridge I find hard to understand. We have had a presidential moratorium and a congressional moratorium for 26 years. The only country in the world to do that.

We talk a lot about Brazil's ethanol. Ethanol is part of their portfolio, but Brazil also opened up their Outer Continental Shelf and are now producing lots of natural gas and lots of oil offshore, so they are energy self-sufficient, with ethanol being a piece of it.

Now, they make their ethanol out of sugarcane, which is far less costly because we have a two-step process. We have to change the starch in corn to a sugar and then we change it to alcohol, which is the fuel. So we have a dual process, and it takes twice as much energy to do that. The production of ethanol is a high-energy consumer, probably as much energy as we produce, but it is trading foreign imports for American made, so I support it.

Now, the push at the White House has been for cellulosic ethanol, which I am in support of too, but it is still, unfortunately, in the test tube. The President was here on the floor talking about it last February, and a few days later I was told that he asked to go see a plant and, unfortunately, there wasn't one. He had to go to two laboratories to where it is being studied. And cellulosic ethanol will be made out of any plant life that is decaying. It could be garbage from our garbage stream. It could be grass like switch grass and other kinds of grass. It could be cornstocks or peapod waste or any kind of waste stream from our food supply, or it could be cellulose from wood, any kind of woody waste. And you then make alcohol as you ferment that. Now, hopefully, that is going to be more cost-effective and will not be competing with our food supply. And I

commend the President for producing that, but I think we need to do a number of things.

First, we need to expand the conservation wise use of energy. If Americans were told up front where we are with energy availability and affordability, I think each and every American will do something to conserve and more wisely use energy. But I don't think Americans have been adequately informed. I think the press have been very negligent. But, of course, Congress and the White House have been negligent about talking about this issue. The press certainly have not had it on their agenda and have not often asked it in the presidential debates, and we hope that will change. We mustn't waste energy.

Recently here in the House we had an initiative that the Capitol complex would be less heated by coal and more by gas, and that was a carbon statement. That bothered me a little because if everybody in the country, if every government does that, all Federal agencies do that, State governments do that, universities, and some universities have already done that, if they all switch from coal to gas, we are going to put more pressure on natural gas and increase the shortage of natural gas and increase the price. What disappointed me was that was the first initiative to have a wiser energy use for Congress and the complex we house, all the buildings we work in. But every window in all of these buildings is still a single-pane, leaky window. Not one energy-efficient window has been put in. It seems like we ought to keep the heat in and the cold out before we change fuels.

We need to assist companies and individuals who use a lot of energy with using energy more wisely. That is a government educational process. We need to open up the OCS. We need to open up the Outer Continental Shelf for the production of energy, specifically natural gas. We need to open up more of Alaska and more of the West for oil production.

The President has funded six pilot plants for cellulosic ethanol. I have been urging them to fund six pilot plants that take coal and make liquid fuels. That is a German process. When we blockaded Germany during World War II, they made their fuel out of coal. The fissure tropes process, several other processes that have been developed in this country, there are ways to do that. You can make natural gas out of coal. But for some reason, there has been a reluctance in this Congress and a reluctance in this administration to use coal, our most abundant fuel, for liquids and for natural gas, thus lessening our dependence on foreign, unstable countries.

We need to figure how we speed up nuclear energy. Nuclear energy is safe. France is, I think, approaching 80 percent nuclear energy for their country, the production of electricity. We had a process here that took, I think, 10

years for a permit. We downsized that in the energy bill to 4 years to permit and 4 years to build, so we now have an 8-year process to build a nuclear plant.

□ 1530

One of the problems we're having is that many of the components that are needed in the energy plant have to be bought from foreign countries because in America we don't make the castings to make a nuclear power plant any longer. We're buying those from Japan. I'm told a lot of the other portions are coming from Germany. We no longer have the technology in-house. I find that scary.

We must expand the use of clean coal technology. We have the fluidized bed process that we use in Pennsylvania to burn waste coal, the dirtiest, nastiest coal, and burns it cleanly. And if you burn good coal with the fluidized bed process, and if you incentivize the building of new plants to replace the old plants, but it's almost impossible in America to permit a new coal plant. We have put coal off limits. So we're not going to use it for liquids, we're not going to use it to make gas and we're not going to use it to make electricity. And we're not going to open up the Outer Continental Shelf for oil.

Folks, we cannot conserve our way out of the energy crisis in America. We need to conserve. We need to use energy very wisely. But if we don't have an energy plan for available, affordable energy for America, I will guarantee you that within a decade, we will not be the superpower of the world; we will not be a front-runner nation. We will be a second-rate nation.

We have huge competitors today. America has never had Chinas and Indias nipping at their heels taking away business every day. Those companies have energy plants. They're building nuclear plants. They're building hydro plants, dams. They're building coal-to-liquid plants. They're doing it all. They're acquiring rights to oil fields that have historically been ours. They have a plan for energy availability and affordability.

Yes, Americans must conserve and use energy wisely. But Congress and this White House must have an energy policy that says we're going to have available, affordable energy. And in my view, at the front of the pack should be clean green natural gas. And our bill, the NEED Act, opens up the Outer Continental Shelf after 50 miles. We give the States control of the first 50. The second 50 will be open to natural gas only. And the States will have the right, with their legislature passing a bill to say they don't want it open. The second 100 miles will be open for natural gas only. That gives the States control of the first 100 miles for clean green natural gas. We think we ought to be producing more than that, but we're struggling to get clean green natural gas.

So we say offshore should be our first initiative. We should have coal-to-liquid plants being built online so we can

refine that process. We need to be promoting more nuclear. We need to have all the renewables that we can produce; but, unfortunately, there are only a little bit over a percentage today. And many people are holding that out as the answer. I wish that was the answer; I would be all for it. But those that are telling us that we can conserve and renewables will be our energy portfolio are not being honest with the American public.

Just to show you, just a few months ago a bill was introduced in this body that said, if a bird or a bat is found at the foot of a windmill, it would be a criminal act. And that same day I think the Wind Association, and God bless them, I'm for them, but they stated that we would be at 20 percent of the energy portfolio in a very short time, I think in 10 years. I wish that was true, but it's not true. We can't get there that quick. The wind only blows a portion of the time, and we have not been able to store the energy and keep it and use it later. It only blows part of the time. We have to have a redundant source, clean green natural gas, and a complete portfolio for America so we can have jobs in America, so Americans can heat their homes, run their businesses, and compete in the world economy. We can compete with anybody if we're given a fair shake; but we must have available, affordable energy if America is going to continue to be a leader of the world.

THE TIME IS NOW TO SUPPORT HEROES OF 9/11

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. I thank the Speaker from the great State of New York for yielding me this time on this incredibly important issue.

And, Mr. Speaker, as we approach the sixth anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, I appreciate the opportunity to speak today about one of the most important issues facing my district, my hometown of New York City and our Nation.

I am so proud to be here today with my colleague and good friend from Manhattan, JERRY NADLER, who has been a tireless advocate for everyone who has become sick from the toxins of 9/11. His district includes Ground Zero, and our work together on this issue can truly move this forward.

I want to note that a number of New Yorkers will be with me today, Congressman FOSSELLA, YVETTE CLARKE, JOHN HALL, ELIOT ENGEL. AND STEVE ISRAEL, if he was not in the Chair being the Speaker, he would be down here on the floor talking about the six men and women from 9/11 who need our help, and possibly Chairman PALLONE.

Mr. Speaker, the death toll from 9/11 is still growing, and the nightmare of

that day has continued for thousands of our fellow Americans who are suffering with illnesses and injuries caused by the attacks, but are not getting the help they need.

When people hear that the men and women who rushed in to save the lives of others on that terrible day, who worked to clean up the site, who worked in construction, I remember that day there were signs everywhere, "iron workers, report for duty," retired workers, all workers to the site. These men and women rushed to the site thinking of others, not of themselves; and many of them are sick and they need our help now.

The collapse of the World Trade Center towers took nearly 3,000 lives in an instant and released a massive cloud of asbestos, pulverized concrete and other poisons. These toxins have sickened thousands and have killed at least eight, but likely dozens more Americans, in the years since 9/11.

On 9/11, 500 of my neighbors and constituents lost their lives. That was more than any other district. We lost up to 3,000 people, but thousands and thousands more lost their health; and we need to be there to help them now.

The gray dust that billowed through Lower Manhattan that day is said to have been as caustic as drain cleaner. It settled in the homes of Lower Manhattan, in downtown schools, playgrounds and parks, and in the lungs of tens of thousands of Americans. These forgotten victims of 9/11 either lived or worked downtown, courageously volunteered for rescue and recovery operations at Ground Zero, or merely happened to be in Lower Manhattan, a school child, a worker, on one of the worst mornings our country has ever known. And right now, more than 6,500 responders, truly the heroes and heroines of 9/11, are being treated for 9/11-related health problems through the federally funded World Trade Center Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program. And more than 5,000 have been referred for mental health care, often for conditions like post-traumatic stress syndrome. Every month, another 500 to 1,000 responders sign up for health monitoring, and those coming in are more sick than ever before.

In all, more than 70,000 Americans reported to the World Trade Center Health Registry, and they were near Ground Zero in the days following 9/11 and have serious concerns about their health.

As you would expect, the majority of those registered are from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. But what many people may not know is that more than 10,000 Americans from outside the tri-state area have also signed up for the registry. Amazingly, every single State and 431 of the 435 congressional districts nationwide have someone in the World Trade Center Registry in New York City. This is a health emergency on a national scale, and it requires a strong Federal response.

This Saturday at Ground Zero, many of us on the floor here this afternoon

will be joining the working men and women of New York City's labor movement in a rally to send a message loud and clear that the time is now to support our heroes of 9/11. Six years is long enough.

Along with the New York State AFL-CIO, the New York City Central Labor Council and the Building and Construction Trades Council, we will be showing honor, support and respect for the contributions and sacrifices of the heroes and heroines of 9/11. And we will be rallying for action from the government to care for the thousands of people who have become sick because of the toxins of Ground Zero.

With the strong support of the AFL-CIO, Representative NADLER and I are preparing to introduce, along with Congressman FOSSELLA and many others, new comprehensive legislation to do just that. The 9/11 Health and Compensation Act will ensure that everyone exposed to the Ground Zero toxins has a right to be medically monitored, and all who are sick as a result have a right for treatment.

It will build on the expertise of the Centers for Excellence, which are currently providing high-quality care to thousands of responders and ensuring an ongoing data collection and analysis, expanding care to the entire exposed community.

The bill also includes care for area residents, workers, and school children, as well as the thousands of people that came from across the country to assist with recovery and clean-up efforts.

Finally, it provides compensation for economic damages and loss by reopening the September 11, 2001 Victims Compensation Fund. I have been working for years to make this happen, along with all of the members of the New York delegation. And I am very proud to be working with Representative NADLER, with the strong support of the New York AFL-CIO, to move this comprehensive, bipartisan bill through Congress.

We are united as a delegation; we are united with labor; we are united at the various levels of government, and we are truly committed. We will not stop, and we will continue to work every single day and hour to make sure that this happens. Six years, six long years is long enough for the men and women who are sick because they rushed into burning buildings to save the lives of others, to work on a deadly pile where the toxins infected their lungs.

Once again, the 9/11 health crisis is a national emergency that was caused by an attack on our country. Only the Federal Government has the resources and the reach to properly address the health and compensation needs of thousands of Americans from across this Nation whose health was compromised by the World Trade Center attacks.

I must say that we would not have moved forward as we have with some funding and some help without the complete support of the Democratic

leadership. Chairman OBEY, who has put money in the appropriations bill, Speaker NANCY PELOSI, who has met with the sick and injured workers many, many times here in the Capitol, along with Majority Leader STENY HOYER and others. This is a united Democratic and Republican effort to help the sick people that are sick because of the attack on America.

The solutions I have outlined this afternoon are neither easy nor inexpensive, but they are part of our country's moral obligation. As the wealthiest country in the world, it is our duty to care for those who responded to an act of war. These were the first veterans of the act of war. They are veterans; they should be treated with health care. We must take care of the people who took care of us following 9/11. Many risked their lives, and many, many more risked their health. It is the least we can do as a grateful Nation. The time to act is now. Six years is long enough.

I would now like to recognize my colleague and dear friend from the Lower East Side who has been a tireless advocate for everyone who has become sick from the toxins. His district includes Ground Zero. And our work together on this issue can truly move this issue forward.

Congressman NADLER is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 1545

Mr. NADLER. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I must say that I am from the Upper West Side, not the Lower East Side, although my district does cover part of the Lower East Side, and that is certainly no insult.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. We are all in it together, East Side, West Side, all around the town. All around the Nation, really.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I do thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I want to thank her for her leadership on this issue. I am pleased that we will soon be introducing legislation together to provide long-term health care to all the first responders, residents, area workers and students who have become sick as a result of the collapse of the World Trade Center. Our legislation will build on the efforts of the Centers of Excellence of New York City and will extend to people who came from all over the country to aid in the massive rescue and recovery effort after 9/11.

When the World Trade Center collapsed on that sunny morning 6 years ago, a plume of poisonous dust blanketed lower Manhattan, and not just Lower Manhattan, but parts of Brooklyn and possibly Jersey City, too. The cloud was a toxic mixture of lead, dioxin, asbestos, mercury, benzene, PCBs and other hazardous contaminants that swirled around the site where the World Trade Center once stood. The cloud blanketed the area as rescue and recovery workers worked around the clock. Many did so without adequate or without any protective

gear. Thousands of first responders inhaled this poisonous dust before it settled onto and into countless homes, shops and office buildings in the area.

For the past 6 years, we have demanded that the EPA fulfill its legal mandate to protect the public health by telling the truth about post-9/11 air quality and by implementing a scientifically sound testing and cleanup program to address indoor contamination. They have absolutely failed on both fronts.

While America watched these brave men and women working fearlessly at the World Trade Center site, their government failed them and continues to fail them. As the Nation and the world united in solidarity, our government, this administration, put politics over science and safety.

Federal law mandates that when there is a terrorist attack in which toxins are released into the air, both the Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration have specific responsibilities. EPA is charged with the cleanup and is the lead agency to deal with the pollution. The American public deserves to know why and how that did not happen. We are getting some answers though, painstakingly.

As Chair of the Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, I chaired a hearing in June on the failures of the Federal Government in responding to the environmental crisis that resulted from the World Trade Center attacks. Senator CLINTON held a companion hearing in the Senate. At the hearing we heard for the first time from Christine Todd Whitman, the former administrator of the EPA, who said her agency did nothing wrong, that they were honest with the public and that they listened to their scientists. But we know that EPA lied and to this day continues lying. We know that early tests revealed high levels of asbestos and other toxins and that EPA in statements vetted through the White House misled the public with their assurances that the air was safe to breathe. Independent scientists who testified in the hearing said that no amount of asbestos should be considered safe and that everyone knew that those buildings contained asbestos, hundreds of thousands of pounds of it before the buildings collapsed and released it into the air.

Indeed, there is no doubt that thousands of people are sick as a result of the contamination at the World Trade Center. Thousands of people are sick who would not be sick today if they had not been lied to by their own government and worked without protection on the pile for 13 and 14 and 15 weeks.

A study by Mount Sinai Hospital found that 70 percent of the more than 9,000 first responders who were studied suffered health problems related to their work at Ground Zero. These health problems include things like chronic obstructive pulmonary disease,

interstitial lung diseases and reactive airway disease.

A recent New York Times article highlighted the clear link between the World Trade Center dust and life-threatening diseases. The article cited the report from doctors from the Fire Department of New York and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, which again confirms what we have known for years, that we are facing a major health crisis as a result of September 11.

These studies do not even address the students at Stuyvesant High School and the Borough of Manhattan Community Colleges, schools that sat near piles of debris from the Towers, the nearby residents' apartments still contain poisonous dust or the thousands of people that work in offices that were never properly cleaned. These factors combined present an unprecedented challenge to public health not just to New York City but across the country.

In the days and weeks after 9/11, workers and volunteers came from across the country to help. The great citizens of this country came together, but the Federal Government has failed in its obligations. To this day there has been no comprehensive testing and cleanup of the affected areas, and to this day, there is no adequate provision for long-term monitoring of health care of the people who suffered in the aftermath of the World Trade Center disaster.

Now we are making, finally, small strides in providing health care to those who became ill. The emergency supplemental appropriations bill passed earlier this year because of the efforts of Mrs. MALONEY and myself and other members of the New York delegation included \$50 million for 9/11 health needs. The 2008 House Labor-HHS appropriations bill includes \$50 million for the World Trade Center monitoring and treatment program.

I was also extremely pleased to learn from Senator CLINTON that the Senate appropriations subcommittee has included \$55 million in their version of the labor appropriations bill. The Senate version of the bill includes funding for residents, offices of commercial workers, volunteers and students. I hope the House will follow suit in making Federal funding available for residents too.

But much more remains to be done. The estimates of the costs are not \$50 million a year but starting at \$198 million and expanding to \$400 million a year as more people become sick in the next few years. And we need to develop a comprehensive approach to 9/11 health that includes residents, nonfirst responder workers and school children. We need to secure funding that is not subject to the yearly appropriations battle. We must commit ourselves to act and to help all of those who are still waiting. That is why we are going to introduce the bill that Mrs. MALONEY referred to a few minutes ago to provide a long-term comprehensive

funding source, a bill that I hope this House will consider.

But in addition, there's a second cover-up. I have always said there are two cover-ups conducted here. One about the health care disaster that followed 9/11; that cover-up has unraveled. In the last year with the revelations of the Mount Sinai study, the New York Daily News reports and other reports that have come out, now everybody recognizes that first responders and residents are suffering, thousands and thousands of them, because of the air pollution after 9/11, because of the government lying to them and saying that the air was safe to breathe and therefore they didn't use respiratory equipment or they were there in the first place when they shouldn't have been, not the first responders, but residents who could have gone elsewhere. But that was one cover-up that has now unraveled, and we have been talking about what to do about it and how to provide long-term medical monitoring and long-term care for it, and that is the legislation we are talking about.

But there was and is a second cover-up, and that cover-up is the fact that the indoor spaces that were polluted were never properly cleaned up. A GAO report, which Senator CLINTON and Mrs. MALONEY and I unveiled yesterday, pointed out that the EPA to this day cannot guarantee that any single building, except for its own building which it cleaned up properly at 290 Broadway, other than that, they cannot guarantee that any single building in Lower Manhattan is clean today and does not contain toxins that are slowly poisoning people on and on.

The EPA never properly cleaned up, nor did the City of New York, indoor spaces. Nature cleans up the outdoor spaces. The rain washes the stuff away. The wind blows the toxins away. Nothing cleans up indoor spaces. The EPA Inspector General reported in 2003, it is 4 years ago already, that the so-called cleanup the EPA conducted in 2002 was a phony, that it didn't clean up anything adequately. And they said that what had to be done, the EPA Inspector General, was that the EPA should inspect several hundred indoor spaces, apartments, residences in concentric circles going out from the World Trade Center to find out where the contamination is, maybe 3 blocks in one direction, maybe 3 miles in another. And wherever they found the contamination, they had to go in and clean up every single building in those areas. That may cost money, but until that happens, the babies crawling on the rug 10 years from now or today will be poisoned. The people living in those apartments, working in those spaces, will be poisoned, and we will reap the bitter harvest 10 and 15 and 20 years from now with thousands of unnecessary and preventable cases of mesothelioma and lung cancer and asbestosis.

Mr. Speaker, it is our job to do two things. If we are going to be true to what we have said to the heroes and

about the heroes of 9/11, we must do two things. We must provide legislation and funding for long-term monitoring and health care such as that that Mrs. MALONEY and I and others have been talking about in the legislation that we are introducing. We must also prevail upon the administration, by legislation if necessary, to do the proper indoor testing the way the EPA Inspector General said, and then to do proper cleanup. Not a cleanup that the EPA's own scientific advisory panel says is a joke and a fraud, not the cleanup that the EPA's Inspector General says is a joke and a fraud, a proper cleanup that does the entire building, that looks at all pollutants, not just asbestos, that is not limited geographically to below Canal Street, but wherever the contamination went as scientifically determined.

These are what we must do. If we do these things, we are true to the survivors and the heroes, and we will learn so that, God forbid, when there is another disaster, natural or manmade, we will do it properly and we will not have thousands of people with preventable illnesses and shortened lives as a result of our malfeasance or carelessness.

So I thank Mrs. MALONEY for arranging this special order. I thank her for her leadership and in bringing to all our attention the struggle and the continuing health problems caused by 9/11 and in helping to craft legislation to deal with it.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. I thank the gentleman for his leadership and for his moving statement.

Mr. Speaker, the New York Daily News editorial board won the Pulitzer Prize for its groundbreaking series of editorials entitled "9/11, The Forgotten Victims" which documented the growing medical fallout from the World Trade Center attacks. Since this is really about the sick heroes and heroines of 9/11, not about legislation or legislators, I would like to share an excerpt from this award-winning series. This is from part 1 of the series entitled, "Abandoned Heroes," which was originally published in 2006.

I quote, "They cough, they wheeze, their heads and faces pound with the pressure of swollen sinuses. They lose their breath with minor exertion. They suffer the suffocation of asthma and diseases that attack the very tissues of their lungs. They endure acid reflux, a painful indigestion that never goes away. They are haunted by the mental and emotional traumas of having witnessed horror. Many are too disabled to work. And some have died."

Mr. Speaker, I now yield 5 minutes to my colleague and friend from the other side of the aisle, the gentleman from New York, VITO FOSSELLA, who has worked very hard to get funding for the heroes of 9/11, including \$25 million in the President's budget.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and I thank her for her efforts to date on being one of the strongest and one of the most vocal ad-

vocates for ensuring that the people who, regrettably, either are not known about or too often are forgotten, those are the folks that have been represented so well by Mrs. MALONEY and mentioned by Mr. NADLER, people who are suffering today.

There is one thing I know about the American people. If they know that their fellow citizens are suffering, especially those who responded to that tragedy on 9/11, they will be willing to help. So I think it is part of our job, a very important role here is that we continue to inform not just the Congress, but really, by extension, the American people that there are thousands of people who need our help.

As we approach the sixth anniversary of 9/11, it is time to reaffirm our commitment of never forgetting. As was mentioned, we may forget too much here in Washington. All of those who worked, lived and went to school in Lower Manhattan, who breathed in the toxic air created by the destruction of the Towers, many of them are suffering tragically from health effects. A New York City Health Department study shows an increased incidence of asthma for those that worked at the pile. A Department of Health and Human Services study shows that illnesses that are a result of exposure to 9/11 toxins are definitely on the rise. As this problem grows, progress on coming to a solution can be measured only in small steps rather than giant leaps as critical needs continue to be unmet after 6 years. In fairness, in the last 2 years or so, we have had some progress: \$125 million from the Federal Government, of which \$75 million went for treatment, that was for the first time, working with Mrs. MALONEY in particular; getting the creation of a health czar by the name of Dr. John Howard to help coordinate and minister the Federal response.

□ 1600

As was mentioned, there was \$50 million in the appropriations bill. But so much more needs to be done, and I think a stronger Federal response is appropriate. We fought across party lines. After all, this is not a Democrat or Republican issue; this is just about people coming together to help our Federal citizens to ensure that an adequate Federal plan is put into place.

We have a step in the right direction, and we need to keep the momentum going. That is why we are working to help draft legislation that addresses several key areas to help our heroes who are sick today, as well as anyone who falls ill in the future. One of the alarming trends that we see is that according to anyone you talk to with knowledge, it is beyond anecdotal. We can all tell stories of individuals who we know, young firefighters who ran a 6-minute mile in their thirties and forties and now have trouble walking up a flight of stairs.

The clinic that deals with the fire department in the City of New York that

sees on a regular basis firefighters has already evaluated more than 14,000 firefighters. That is 14,000 firefighters. That doesn't include the more than 55,000 people on the registry.

As we speak, there are 3,000 firefighters who are seeking mental health counseling and 2,000 who go for regular check-ups for their physical well-being, pulmonary problems, respiratory problems, the World Trade Center cough, asthma. The list goes on, not even to go into the cancer-related illnesses that we think may spring up in the future. I say that because many illnesses will not manifest themselves for another 15 or 20 or 25 years.

Is it the right thing to do for America to turn its back on young men and women who really gave their all on that day, who ran into burning buildings to try to save others, who stayed on the pile week in and week out? Are we really doing the right thing by saying they might not get to see their grandchildren or their kids go to school or to graduations or weddings?

I don't think it is the right thing to do, which is why I think this legislation is so important. When you think about the number of people on the registry, 71,000, maybe not all of them are sick, but let's suppose half of them are. That is larger than many small towns and cities and villages across the United States. They are actively under review for health care problems.

We know the Department of Health and Human Services revealed that 6,500 responders, and I mentioned within the fire department, but in total 6,500 responders are currently being treated for 9/11-related health problems through the federally funded World Trade Center Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program, and another 500 to 1,000 additional responders are signing up each month.

I know we have a wonderful gift in this country to be compassionate, to take care of those in need. I think our roles here, with my colleagues Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. NADLER, so many across the New York delegation, I just think it is our role to speak loudly, convincingly, working with the AFL-CIO in New York.

We will be getting together Saturday at Ground Zero to call attention once again and to reaffirm our commitment never to forget.

On a very personal level, I know too many people across Staten Island and Brooklyn who were willing to risk their lives. I know many who risked their lives and gave their lives on September 11. But the untold story, and it will be told for years and years to come, are so many young people who stayed there for the recovery and rescue effort and now need our help. This Federal legislation that we are proposing and soon to be introducing will help them give a degree of certainty.

Finally, we mentioned the new clinic alone on Staten Island that will make it more convenient for firefighters. How important it is for treatment and

monitoring to go hand-in-hand. It is one thing to give these individuals a level of assurance that the treatment will be there. Another is the financial implications. It is not unusual for a firefighter to have copayments for prescription medication, not available in generic, of \$2,600 a year because of having to respond to Ground Zero after 9/11.

Two thousand six hundred dollars is a lot of money, especially to a firefighter. We should be there to help offset that cost. And the monitoring is important because of the fear and the concern, the fear and the concern that the more debilitating, more severe illnesses will manifest themselves. I talk of leukemia or blood illnesses or cancers.

That is why it is so essential that we get this plan put in place and that the Federal Government and the United States of America not turn its back on the thousands of people who need our help.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that we are now approaching the sixth anniversary and there are a number of committees here in the House that will be looking closely at this issue.

I want to thank Chairman PALLONE of the Health Subcommittee on Energy and Commerce for holding a very important hearing on the health effects on the day of the anniversary. Many of his constituents rushed down to Ground Zero in the aftermath of 9/11, and they are now very sick. In fact, one of the Centers of Excellence providing monitoring and treatment to sick workers is located in Congressman PALLONE's district.

There will be no greater champion, no one more important for the sick workers of 9/11 than FRANK PALLONE and Chairman DINGELL. I thank them for their hard work.

Also, Chairman TOWNS, my dear friend from Brooklyn, will be holding a field hearing in New York City on Monday in his Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Management. This is the third hearing this year that the chairman has held on making sure that everyone exposed to the deadly toxins is monitored and everyone who is sick is treated. His dedication to helping the residents, area workers and schoolchildren and those who came from across the country to help is tremendous.

Last, our friend and true leader in the Congress, Chairman MILLER of the Education and Labor Committee, is delving into why workers were not protected while working at and around Ground Zero. On Wednesday of next week his full committee will hold an important hearing, the first in a series, with the second focusing on why workers were not protected after Hurricane Katrina. I thank my dear friend for his ongoing focus and support for this issue.

It is clear that this Congress will not allow the heroes of 9/11 to go longer

without the care they need and deserve. Six years is long enough.

We now have one of our other distinguished colleagues from New York, STEVE ISRAEL. He serves on the Appropriations Committee. Along with Chairman OBEY, he worked to secure \$100 million in this year's budget for the sick workers. We thank him for his commitment and support.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my dear friend and colleague from the State of New York, Congressman ISRAEL.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished friend and partner in this critically important project, and I thank her for her leadership on this legislation. I know that she has been so dedicated and so devoted to this cause.

Mr. Speaker, on September 11, the President of the United States spoke to the Nation, and here is what he said: "The American people have faced other grave crises in their history—with American courage, and with American resolution. They will do no less today."

I am not talking about President Bush saying those words on September 11. Believe it or not, Mr. Speaker, I am talking about President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who said those words on September 11, 1941, 60 years before the attacks on our Nation.

We have witnessed that resolution and that courage all around us since September 11. We witness it almost every day in our own interactions with the rescue workers, with the first responders, with those who could have fled and gone in another direction, but instead showed up and said that they wanted to help.

I know of an ironworker, Mr. Speaker, his name is John Sferazo. John Sferazo went to Ground Zero to help. He refused to leave. Today, John Sferazo's voice sounds like gravel. His breathing is labored. His chest hurts him. I know that my friend is well aware of John Sferazo.

John Sferazo contracted some very serious medical problems at Ground Zero. He probably knew then that he would have these problems. But still he didn't leave. He stayed there. And as a result of his courage and his commitment, his resolution and his determination, today his breathing is labored, it is difficult for him to speak. Our obligation to John Sferazo is to make sure we take care of him, to monitor his health, to improve his quality of life, to take care of him, because when the time came, he was there to take care of us.

I know of another worker, Mr. Speaker. I met him at a Ground Zero workers conference in my congressional district at the State University of New York at Farmingdale. I met him about a year ago.

I was a speaker at that conference; and as I was leaving, he stopped me in the lobby, and this is what he said. He said, Congressman, I am not sure I am going to be here next year. I am embarrassed to say, Mr. Speaker, that I thought he was saying that he wasn't

sure he could attend the conference next year.

I said, Well, I am sure that you will be able to come back. He said, No, you don't understand. I'm not sure I am going to be alive next year, is what he said. He said, What I am supposed to do with my family? Who is going to take care of them?

It may sound melodramatic, Mr. Speaker, but these are real people. Can you imagine doing what you thought was the best thing you could do, serving your country, serving your colleagues, going to Ground Zero, sacrificing yourself, and now you are not sure you are going to be around a year from now?

What is our obligation to these people? Our obligation is to take care of them and to take care of their families. Our obligation is to make sure that they get the health care that they need. Our obligation is to let them know that we will not forget them.

I will close by suggesting that next week many of us in Congress will attend 9/11 ceremonies. I plan after votes to fly home to be at Commack High School in my district for a 9/11 vigil. We are going to light the candles, and we are going to talk about what a grievous day that was and our commitment to having a strong Nation.

But, really, we should not think about these people just on 9/11. This should not be an anniversary commemoration. The legislation that the gentlewoman has introduced with my friends from New York will make sure that this is not just an annual commemoration, but that every single day, those workers who were there on 9/11 at Ground Zero get the health care that they need and that we are securing their future.

We had faced a crisis that day, a national crisis. They face a crisis every day, a personal crisis; and it is up to us to help and to secure their future.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman again for her leadership.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for raising the issue of his two constituents with whom he has worked. It brings a personal face on the tragic horror that many people confront.

I also want to particularly commend him for his work on the Appropriations Committee. In addition to the comprehensive legislation that we are jointly putting in as a delegation, Mr. ISRAEL and others on the Appropriations Committee have taken a lead in providing funding. In recent months, because of his efforts and those of others, we have passed appropriations bills to make sure that federally financed 9/11 health clinics, including those run by Mount Sinai and the New York City Fire Department, do not have to shut their doors because of lack of funding.

We included \$50 million for 9/11 health clinics in the recent war supplemental spending measure and the House-passed Labor-HHS appropriations bill. This was done by Mr.

ISRAEL's committee. I mentioned a moment ago that this included another \$50 million for 9/11 health needs. In the Senate version of the Labor-HHS bill, Senators CLINTON, SCHUMER and others have gotten \$55 million into the Senate bill. So when this appropriations bill gets signed into law, we in Congress will have provided at least \$100 million for 9/11 health needs this year alone.

This is a very good start. Thank you so much, STEVE. It is a testimony to the leadership not only of STEVE, but of the two Senators, our entire New York delegation, our Democratic leadership, and I would say very importantly, I would say Congressman OBEY, for his leadership in this battle for funding. We will continue the fight to ensure that the heroes of 9/11 have access to the health care that they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to my distinguished colleague and friend, JOHN HALL, of New York's Nineteenth District. He represents the Hudson Valley. He has just been elected to Congress, but he is fighting just as hard as all of us who have suffered from 9/11 to make sure that the health care needs of the wounded are taken care of. I thank him for joining me in this Special Order and for his hard work.

Mr. HALL of New York. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and my colleagues from New York for carrying this important legislation forward.

Mr. Speaker, Tuesday marks the sixth-year anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. September 11 is truly a dark day in America's history and a personal tragedy for those who lost family and friends in the attacks.

□ 1615

But out of that dark day, however, we saw the spirit of the American people. Immediately following the attack, people around the country lined up to donate blood and raised money for the victims' families. Every congressional district and every State saw people, first responders and just ordinary citizens, get on planes and get in cars to rush to Ground Zero to help work on the remains of the World Trade Center.

In New York, first responders, many of whom lived in my district, rushed into the burning World Trade Center towers to save whomever they could. Immediately after the attacks, we saw firefighters, police and volunteers line up and work 24-hour shifts sorting through the rubble looking for survivors.

And when it was clear that no one would come out of that rubble alive, those responders remained at the scene determined that no one would be left behind in the rubble.

Whenever a body was removed, the stirring sight of everyone coming to a stop and honoring and showing their respect to the flag-covered body as it was removed is an image that will stay with all of us as we move forward through our history.

Slowly we came to realize that those magnificent people who worked at

Ground Zero were being exposed to harmful toxins, with significant risks to their health. Despite the heroic acts of our first responders, National Guard reservists and even volunteers, the Federal Government has failed 6 years later to provide comprehensive medical screening and medical care to those who were injured in service to our country at Ground Zero. We have failed to provide a comprehensive plan to monitor and treat those who lived and work in the immediate areas around Ground Zero even after we realized that the air they were breathing might be toxic.

Earlier this year I had graduates of Stuyvesant High School in New York City come and ask for my support in providing health care for themselves and their classmates because of the medical problems they had encountered after 9/11.

Despite assurances that their school was safe and the air was clean, when they returned less than a month after the attacks, multiple students from Stuyvesant have faced serious health care issues, including Amit Friedlander, who was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease and has been battling the cancer.

The Federal Government made a serious mistake and exposed these children and young adults to dangerous toxins. It is well past time that we correct this mistake and provide the care these children and volunteers need.

That is why I am proud to say I will be an original cosponsor of the Maloney-Nadler-Fossella 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. This bill will take a vital step towards providing the care those affected at 9/11 deserve. It is my hope and belief that the New York delegation will unite around this bill and the House of Representatives will unite to act on its passage.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his statement and for his cosponsorship and his leadership on this very important issue. I know that your district also includes men and women who rushed to the site to help others. Thank you so much.

I am now proud to yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER) who has been a tireless advocate, along with JERRY NADLER and others, for everyone who has become sick from the toxins of 9/11.

Mr. WEINER. I thank the gentlelady for this time and for her leadership. This is an issue that you would think, from around the country when people gaze upon the memorials that will take place on September 11, for most Americans to realize how many people who responded that day are not being cared for, they would be stunned and surprised.

We have a great many ideological debates that go on in this Chamber. We have a great many arguments about philosophy and what government should or should not do.

It should be the source of no contention, it should be the source of no real

debate, that people who rushed to help their fellow citizens on that day, whether they be at Ground Zero or the fields of Pennsylvania, whether they be at the Pentagon, those people should be honored, of course, but they also should be cared for.

And yet years later, day by day, victims of September 11 are dying. It is easy for us to remember, those of us from New York, about how that day was such a heart-wrenching day and how it was also uplifting to see how many Americans, like the gentlelady said earlier, people drove from miles around. The West Side Highway was largely closed, and parked on the sides of the roads were license plates from all around the country of people who said I am going to go and try to help.

What that help consisted of in the weeks after September 11 was standing on a pile of rubble with buckets and paper masks and people lifting large pieces of stone and the rubble trying desperately to find anyone who could be saved.

If we fast-forward to today, you realize many of those people are dying. They are dying difficult deaths. It has been argued by some that we don't know exactly what the cause of those deaths are. Well, that is not true. A lot of the monitoring has been done. A lot of the studies that have been done by medical experts in New York City and the hospitals in the area, we know with some certitude what happened, and the things we are finding in the lungs of those that are dying is very clear that it came from that horrific day.

We also have heard from some who say we don't know how expensive this could be. It could be untold millions and millions of dollars. Well, the first thing is to try to get some sense of responsibility, and I believe it is largely a Federal responsibility, and I think that debate, frankly, belittles the strength of the Federal Government and the idea that this was an attack on our Federal Government.

But we do have some sense of what the costs are going to be. Now we need to start to say one final thing. We know what the cost is to some degree. We know what the cause is with near certitude. We are going to accept the responsibility to take care of these people. It seems to me intuitive, and yet here we are 6 years later still having this discussion. And I think, as I said earlier, we can have large discussions about how you provide health care in this country, and I am willing to engage in that. We can have discussions about how we should make our country safer so we don't have a September 11 again. We should have those types of discussions.

But as long as we can all embrace the idea this is the responsibility of government to take care of these people because they did not run to that pile waving their Blue Cross/Blue Shield card or waving their Medicare card or waving their union membership, they just showed up and did what they were

asked to do. Sometimes they did much more than they were asked to do.

I firmly believe that many of those who are dying today, even if they knew that if they did it again they would die, they would still do it. That was the kind of sense, that was the kind of pathos that existed that day. People were so eager to do whatever they could, they were willing to make sacrifices.

But the question becomes: Should we let them pay that price? Should we let them, day by day, as we just saw yesterday, two more police officers died from 9/11-related diseases, should we let it happen? And the answer is "no."

I want to end the way I began, by offering my congratulations and thanks to the gentlelady from New York.

This is a difficult issue, because as much as people would like to say that they are doing everything to honor those victims of September 11, we know in this Chamber that there are some people who are steadfastly pushing back every single day. And Mr. NADLER and the gentlewoman from New York, and many members of the New York delegation, but none more than the two of them, have fought every day to keep this on the front burner.

Every year now on September 11, we are going to cast our memory time immemorial back to September 11, 2001. Let this be the last year we have to mark this day by pointing out the shoddy treatment of those who rushed to Ground Zero to volunteer.

I know that the gentlelady has communicated this to Speaker PELOSI and she has been very supportive of this. Let's hope we can find the type of bipartisan consensus that is truly reflected in this country in paying honor to the memory of those that were lost and paying honor to the sacrifice of those still with us.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. I thank the gentleman very much for his leadership not only on this bill but on many others that help the 9/11 survivors. He has been a leader on the Judiciary Committee on the 9/11 immigration bill which will be on the floor on 9/11 and hopefully will pass.

It is now my pleasure to yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE). YVETTE CLARKE was elected to the New York City Council the year of 9/11 where she served as the Chair of the Women's Committee and held many important positions. She now represents the 11th Congressional District representing central Brooklyn. Thank you for being here today and for your statement.

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I want to start by thanking the gentlelady from New York for her relentless efforts on behalf of the victims, heroes and heroines of the World Trade Center attack and aftermath. I am joining my colleagues on the floor in pursuit of justice for the second-generation victims of the wicked attack of our Nation in New York City on September 11 and to demand basic health care support and

services for those whose physical well-being was adversely and irreparably impacted by the horrific attack on the World Trade Center.

As was stated by the gentlelady from New York, I was elected to the New York City Council the year our dear city was attacked. I became Chair of the Committee on Fire and Criminal Justice Services, as well as a member of the Health Committee where we examined year after year what the impact of the aftermath, the work that our first responders, the residents of the area were feeling as a result of having been misguided, misled by our own Federal Government through the leadership, or lack of leadership some would say, of the administration through the Environmental Protection Agency which said to New Yorkers that the air we were breathing was okay and that we would be fine, only to find out that today many are diseased.

I also watched as a very close friend, a very best friend and companion of mine, rushed out on September 11 to the pile, a member of Local 79, who heard the call. And as I speak with him each and every day, I am reminded that he is one of the lucky ones. But every now and then when he coughs, I wonder could this be the advent of a serious health crisis that was precipitated by his heroism on that day.

I cannot fathom why on the advent of the 6th anniversary of this most tragic event in our history this administration has not seen fit to do right by its most courageous citizenry. This is a problem that not only affects many thousands of people throughout the New York region, but also countless thousands throughout the country who bravely came to New York City and helped my hometown in our time of need.

Immediately following the attack and imminent collapse of the World Trade Center, first responders, construction workers and volunteers from across every economic sector and walk of life converged upon what we know as Ground Zero to perform search and rescue missions.

From the outset, these heroic individuals went in without a second thought about their own personal well-being. They just wanted to save anyone who might have been buried alive and/or to help recover the bodies of those who had perished, heroes and heroines, without whose efforts New York City and our Nation never could have recovered as quickly as it did.

Later, many of these same workers went through the lengthy process of cleaning up the demolished site. At the time, the EPA declared the air to be safe to breathe, a statement we now know to have been false. Because of their efforts in helping our country to recover, these men and women ingested vast amounts of toxic dust and harmful chemicals. The result is a plague of debilitating and deadly diseases, some of which are rarely seen in nature. Only now, 6 years later, are many of these

diseases and complications showing themselves. In fact, many of the people who spent time near the site may not show any problems until several years further down the line. Even the best experts have no clue just how many of these individuals will actually fall ill of long-term complications from the exposure.

Of course we cannot change the past so there is nothing anyone can do about exposure that already took place. All we can do now is make sure that these victims receive the medical treatment they deserve. Bureaucratic red tape and legal challenges have left these second generation victims overwhelmed by deteriorating health as well as a lack of meaningful financial support from a grateful Nation. Many are going bankrupt under the weight of escalating health costs and the loss of income to their homes and families. And what about the families?

Furthermore, there has been no assistance offered to the many non-responders who worked on the scene and the area residents who breathed the tainted air that entered their homes. These people are also victims of the attacks, and require support for health problems that are only now manifesting.

This is why I am compelled to add my name and wholehearted support behind the Maloney-Nadler-Fossella 9/11 Health Compensation Act. This comprehensive bill establishes programs to monitor and treat everyone exposed to the dangerous toxins found at Ground Zero.

Whether you are a police officer or firefighter, construction worker, area resident, government employee or anyone else who spent significant time at the scene, you are entitled to treatment for any disease that doctors find is linked to your work immediately after the attacks.

Some of my colleagues from outside the New York region may wonder why they should support such a bill. They say it does nothing for their own States or districts, so why bother voting for it.

□ 1630

I feel the reasons could not be clearer. The diseases being developed by victims of Ground Zero are horrid. Already well over 100 deaths have been partially attributed to toxins from the site. Not long ago, a 34-year-old detective collapsed and died while playing with his young daughter due to complications from exposure. There are victims requiring double lung transplants because of damage caused from dust and chemicals. Others develop rare cancers

These people are heroes to the Nation. They went in and helped resuscitate not just a city but an entire country that had been shocked, frozen, traumatized and unsure of how to react. It should be a matter of national honor to help these victims who have rushed in where we all rushed out.

I wholeheartedly support the Maloney-Nadler-Fossella bill as a co-sponsor, and I look forward to joining my colleagues and the AFL-CIO this weekend at the World Trade Center site as we rally in support of fulfilling victims' long-term health care needs.

I thank the gentlewoman from New York for her extraordinary leadership with regards to this matter, and I look forward to pursuing what is right and what is just on behalf of our fellow New Yorkers, fellow Americans and their families.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. I thank the gentlewoman for her really very eloquent and moving statement, and in closing, we must not forget the firefighters, police officers, EMTs and other first responders who bravely rushed down to the save the lives even as everyone else was running in the other direction, as my colleague so eloquently stated.

We must not forget the rescue, recovery and cleanup workers who stayed on for months at Ground Zero in service to our country.

And we must not forget the residents, area workers and school children who lived, worked and studied through deadly toxins and have now become sick.

Once again, I stand on the floor of Congress to pledge that I will not stop fighting until everyone exposed to the deadly toxins is monitored and everyone who is sick gets the treatment they deserve.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my colleagues have 5 days to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YARMUTH). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

PATENT REFORM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is a critical day for America. Tomorrow, the House will consider legislation that will dramatically diminish a constitutionally protected right that has served this Nation well. We are talking about fundamentally altering the laws governing the ownership of technology in our country. America's patent system is on the line.

In short, if H.R. 1908, the bill in question, passes, there will be a tremendous negative, long-term consequence not just for America's inventors but for our country as a whole.

It is American technology that has made all the difference in our country's security and our people's way of life.

Those patriots who laid the foundation for our country wrote into the Constitution a provision they firmly believed as a prerequisite to progress and freedom.

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution states in part that, quote, Congress shall have the power to promote the progress of science and useful arts by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries, end of quote.

Our Founding Fathers obviously held the right of owning one's ideas, creations and inventions as equal to the rights of speech, religion and assembly. In fact, in the body of the Constitution, the word "right" is only used in reference to patents and copyrights. The Bill of Rights was added later.

In short, we have had since our country's founding the strongest patent protection in the world, and that is why in the history of mankind there has never been a more innovative and creative people. It has been no accident that Americans have been the world's great inventors, scientists, and technologists. Black Americans, in particular, have excelled in the creation of new technologies. This was no accident. It was a result of the protections that we put into our law to secure for all people the right of ownership for their inventions and their creations.

Americans were the inventors of technology that produced more wealth, with less labor, and thus elevated the standard of living of all people which, in turn, opened the doors of opportunity for all people.

Let us understand that it was not raw muscle, nor was it the hard work of our people that built this country. There are people who work hard all over the world. They work hard and they use their muscles and they struggle; yet, they live in abject poverty. So it's not just the use of one's physical strength that will change the world and make it a better place. It was not our vast territory and our natural resources that gave us a standard of living of which we are so proud. No, it was not these things. It was our ingenuity, our intelligence and, yes, the legal system that was established to protect ingenuity and creativity that brought us the joys of freedom and the benefits of freedom.

We treated intellectual property rights, the creation of new technologies, as we treated property, personal and other political rights, and that is what America has been all about. Every person's rights were to be respected and protected; and as I have just demonstrated, the idea of the right to own one's creation was fundamental to this concept of the American Dream that was laid in the constitutional foundation of our country by our Founding Fathers.

Today, we face a great historic challenge, and this challenge comes exactly at the time when our country faces economic threats from abroad as never

before. We must prevail over our economic competitors who are at war with the well-being of the American people. We must win or our country and our people will lose. If we lose this battle, our people will suffer. It is as simple as that.

Future generations could well see their standard of living decline, and there is evidence of that already. We can see their standard of living decline, and they may well see the safety and the strength of our country compromised, to which the security of their families will be in jeopardy, which all leads us to the legislation that we will consider tomorrow.

Let's be clear and specific. The legislation in question, H.R. 1908, will dramatically weaken the patent rights of ordinary Americans and make us even more vulnerable to outright theft of American-created technology and innovative ideas. This legislation represents a slow-motion destruction of our patent system.

And, yes, there are some real problems that need to be solved with our patent system. We need patent legislation that speeds up the examination process and the issuance process and makes it more accurate. We need patent legislation that provides training and compensation for our patent examiners. Patent examiners are overworked; they're undertrained. They need to have higher pay to make sure we keep the good patent examiners on the job.

We need patent legislation that helps us protect our inventors against theft, especially from foreign theft. We need legislation aimed at fixing these problems, and it would be justified and it would be welcome, but the legislation on the floor tomorrow does not fix the system. It simply weakens the protection of American inventors using these festering problems as a cover.

Some people might even suggest that the reason that these problems with our patent system have been permitted to fester was so that people could use them as an excuse to undermine the very basis of the patent system itself. Unfortunately, what we are witnessing is a replay of the strategy used in the illegal immigration debate of just a few months ago.

The American people have been crying out for protection against a huge invasion of illegal immigrants into our country, one that is affecting their standard of living, their safety as a people, and their economic well-being. Special interests who benefited by this flood of illegals tried to push through a bill that would have made the situation worse. That's right, a bill in the name of stopping the illegal immigration flood that would have actually made it worse.

To confuse the public, they kept calling it a comprehensive bill, as if it was designed to fix the problem. Instead, the purpose of that comprehensive bill, as we all are aware, was to give amnesty to all those who are in our coun-

try illegally, and that of course, would have attracted tens of millions of more illegals. It would have made a bad situation worse, and its only intent was amnesty. Yet, with a straight face, they kept using the phrase comprehensive reform, implying there was a fix.

Well, that same strategy seems to be used by those behind this effort to undermine or destroy America's patent system as it has worked since the founding of our country over 200 years ago. Instead of arguing their case that we need to move away from the patent protection-type situation, they are simply calling their legislation a comprehensive bill. Instead of attacking the small inventor, instead of saying we're going to have a bill that actually restricts the rights of our citizens in this area because we believe that the small inventors are abusing the system, instead, they're calling it a comprehensive bill to make it sound like they are fixing some problems within the system.

This bill, let's remember, H.R. 1908, is not new. This is very similar to legislation that we barely beat back 10 years ago. I called that the Steal American Technologies Act; and guess what, we beat them but they're back.

So this could be called, and it would be accurate to call H.R. 1908, the Steal American Technology Act Part 2. By the way, those of us who mobilized opposition to the 1997 patent legislation negotiated a compromise that passed in 1999 and then became law in the year 2000. This legislation on the floor tomorrow represents a negation of all the compromises that we worked out in 1999.

So those of us, Mr. MANZULLO who will be with us in a moment, MARCY KAPTUR and myself and others who insisted on certain things for that patent bill in 1999 and were given compromises in that legislation, we now face a bill that negates all of those compromises. I don't know if that's meaningful to those people who are examining this process, but it suggests the level of the attack on our patent system that we are experiencing.

Even at this late moment, we are not certain what will be exactly in that bill because, at this moment, as we speak, there are changes being made in that bill that we are being told about, and we don't know exactly what those changes will be until tomorrow when it hits the floor because deals are being made as we speak.

So first and foremost, no matter what the details, because we probably won't have a chance to look at all the details, let it be noted that H.R. 1908, which will be on the floor tomorrow, was specifically designed to weaken the patent protection of the American inventor. This was the purpose of the bill.

We supported and will support any real reforms of the patent system, but those proposed in H.R. 1908 will cause the collapse of the patent system that has sustained America's wealth, our

prosperity and, yes, our national security for over 200 years.

The negative impact of the totality of this bill is reflected in the wide spectrum who are in opposition who have mobilized against it.

For the record, I would submit, Mr. Speaker, the list of those companies and those organizations and those individuals, prominent individuals and companies and universities who are now fervently opposed to H.R. 1908 and begging us not to pass this legislation, and I would place it in the RECORD at this point.

ORGANIZATIONS AND COMPANIES WHICH HAVE RAISED OBJECTIONS TO PATENT LEGISLATION (H.R. 1908)

Organizations and Companies Raising Objections to H.R. 1908, the Patent Reform Act of 2007: 3M, Abbott, Accelerated Technologies, Inc., Acorn Cardiovascular Inc., Adams Capital Management, Adroit Medical Systems, Inc., AdvaMed, Advanced Diamond Technologies, Inc., Advanced Medical Optics, Inc., Advanced Neuromodulation Systems, Inc., Aero-Marine Company, AFL-CIO, African American Republican Leadership Council.

Air Liquide, Air Products, ALD NanoSolutions, Inc., ALIO Industries, Allergan, Inc., Almyra, Inc., AmberWave Systems Corporation, American Conservative Union, American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA), American Seed Trade, Americans for Sovereignty.

Americans for the Preservation of Liberty, Amylin Pharmaceuticals, AngioDynamics, Inc., Applied Medical, Applied Nanotech, Inc., Argentis Pharmaceuticals, LLC, Arizona BioIndustry Association, ARYx Therapeutics, Ascenta Therapeutics, Inc., Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM).

Asthmatx, Inc., AstraZeneca, Aware, Inc., Baxa Corporation, Baxter Healthcare Corporation, BayBio, Beckman Coulter, BIO—Biotechnology Industry Organization, BioCardia, Inc., BIOCUM, Biogen Idec, Biomedical Association, BioOhio, Bioscience Institute, Biotechnology Council of New Jersey.

Blacks for Economic Security Trust Fund, BlazeTech Corporation, Boston Scientific, Bridgestone Americas Holding, Inc., Bristol-Myers Squibb, BuzzLogic, California Healthcare Institute, California Healthcare Institute (The), Canopy Ventures, Carbide Derivative Technologies, Cardiac Concepts, Inc., CardioDynamics, Cargill, Inc., Cassie-Shipherd Group, Caterpillar, Celgene Corporation, Cell Genesys, Inc., Center 7, Inc., Center for Small Business and the Environment, Centre for Security Policy, Cephalon, CheckFree, Christian Coalition of America.

Cincinnati Sub-Zero Products, Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform, Coalitions for America, CogniTek Management Systems, Inc., Colorado Bioscience Association, Conceptus, Inc., CONNECT, Connecticut United for Research Excellence, Cornell University, Corning, Coronis Medical Ventures, Council for America, CropLife America, Cryptography Research, Cummins Inc., Cummins-Allison Corporation.

CVRx Inc., Dais Analytic Corporation, Dartmouth Regional Technology Center, Inc., Declaration Alliance, Deltanoid Pharmaceuticals, Digimarc Corporation, DirectPointe, Dow Chemical Company, Dupont, Dura-Line Corporation, Dynatronics Co., Eagle Forum, Eastman Chemical Company, Economic Development Center, Edwards Lifesciences, Elan Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Electronics for Imaging, Eli Lilly and

Company, Ellman Innovations LLC, Enterprise Partners Venture Capital, Evalve, Inc., Exxon Mobile Corporation, Fallbrook Technologies Inc., FarSounder, Inc. Footnote.com.

Gambro BCT, General Electric, Genomic Health, Inc., Gen-Probe Incorporated, Genzyme, Georgia Biomedical Partnership, Glacier Cross, Inc., GlaxoSmithKline, Glenview State Bank, Hawaii Science & Technology Council, HealthCare Institute of New Jersey, HeartWare, Inc., Helius, Inc., Henkel Corporation, Hoffman-LaRoche, Inc.

iBIO, Imago Scientific Instruments, Impulse Dynamics (USA), Inc., Indiana Health Industry Forum, Indiana University, Innovation Alliance, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)—USA, InterDigital Communications Corporation, InterMolecular, Inc., International Association of Professional and Technical Engineers (IAPT), Invitrogen Corporation, Iowa Biotechnology Association, ISTA Pharmaceuticals, Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Johnson & Johnson, KansasBio, Leadership Institute, Let Freedom Ring, Life Science Alley, LITMUS, LLC.

LSI Corporation, Lux Capital Management, Luxul Corporation, Maryland Taxpayers' Association.

Masimo Corporation, Massachusetts Biotechnology Council, Massachusetts Medical Device Industry Council (MassMEDIC), Maxygen Inc., MDMA—Medical Device Manufacturer's Association, Medical College of Wisconsin, MedImmune, Inc., Medtronic, Merck, Metabasis Therapeutics, Inc., Metabolex, Inc., Metacore (USA), Inc., MGI Pharma Inc., MichBio, Michigan Small Tech Association, Michigan State University, Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Milliken & Company, Mohr, Davidow Ventures, Monsanto Company.

NAM—National Association of Manufacturers, NanoBioMagnetics, Inc. (NBMI), NanoBusiness Alliance, NanoInk, Inc., NanoIntegrus, Inc., Nanomix, Inc., Nanophase Technologies, NanoProducts Corporation, Nanosys, Inc., Nantero, Inc., National Center for Public Policy Research, Nektar Therapeutics, Neoconix, Inc., Neuro Resource Group (NRG), NeuroNetics, Inc., NeuroPace, New England Innovation Alliance, New Hampshire Biotechnology Council, New Hampshire Department of Economic Development, New Mexico Biotechnical and Biomedical Association, New York Biotechnology Association.

Norseman Group, North Carolina Biosciences Organization, North Carolina State University, North Dakota State University, Northrop Grumman Corporation, Northwestern University, Novartis, Novartis Corporation, Novasys Medical Inc., NovoNordisk, NUCRYST Pharmaceuticals, Inc. NuVasive, Inc., Nuvelo, Inc., Ohio State University, OpenCEL, LLC.

Palmetto Biotechnology Alliance, Patent Café.com, Inc., Patent Office Professional Association, Pennsylvania Bio, Pennsylvania State University, PepsiCo, Inc., Pfizer, PhRMA—Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, Physical Sciences Inc., PointeCast Corporation, Power Innovations International, PowerMetal Technologies, Inc., Preformed Line Products, Procter & Gamble, Professional Inventors' Alliance, ProRhythm, Inc., Purdue University, Pure Plushy Inc., QUALCOMM Inc.

QuantumSphere, Inc., QuesTek Innovations LLC, Radiant Medical, Inc., Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Research Triangle Park, NC, Retractable Technologies, Inc., RightMarch.com, S & C Electric Company, Salix Pharmaceuticals, Inc., SanDisk Corporation, Sangamo Biosciences, Inc., Semprius, Inc., Small Business Association of Michigan—Economic Development Center,

Small Business Exporters Association of the United States.

Small Business Technology Council, Smart Bomb Interactive, Smile Reminder, SmoothShapes, Inc., Solera Networks, South Dakota Biotech Association, Southern California Biomedical Council, Spiration, Inc., Standup Bed Company, State of New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development, Stella Group, Ltd., StemCells, SurgiQuest, Inc.

Symyx Technologies, Inc., Tech Council of Maryland/MdBio, Technology Patents & Licensing, Tennessee Biotechnology Association, Tessera, Inc., Texas A&M, Texas Healthcare, Texas Instruments, Three Arch Partners.

United Technologies, University of California System, University of Illinois, University of Iowa, University of Maryland, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, University of New Hampshire, University of North Carolina System, University of Rochester, University of Utah, University of Wisconsin-Madison, US Business and Industry Council, US Council for International Business.

USGI Medical, USW—United Steelworkers, Vanderbilt University and Medical Center, Virent Energy Systems, Inc., Virginia Biotechnology Association, Visidyne, Inc., VisionCare Ophthalmologic Technologies, Inc., Washington Biotechnology & Biomedical Association, Washington University, WaveRx, Inc.

Wayne State University, Wescor, Inc., Weyerhaeuser, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF), Wisconsin Biotechnology and Medical Device Association, Wyeth.

□ 1645

I would submit for the RECORD a letter dated September 5, 2007, from the Communication Workers of America, who are coming out against and are very, very specific in their opposition to H.R. 1908, and there is a rumor going around right now that the unions have now decided not to be opposed to H.R. 1908, but, instead, are neutral on the issue of H.R. 1908.

COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS
OF AMERICA,

Washington, DC, September 5, 2007.

Hon. PATRICK LEAHY, *Chairman*,
Hon. ARLEN SPECTER,
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee,
Hon. JOHN CONYERS, *Chairman*,
Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LEAHY, RANKING MEMBER SPECTER, CHAIRMAN CONYERS, AND RANKING MEMBER SMITH: We are writing you to express our concerns regarding the current U.S. patent system and the potential negative impact of H.R. 1908 and S. 1145 on this system.

The American economy relies on the ingenuity and imagination of inventors who help drive our economy and job creation. Without a fair patent system that rewards inventors, both job creation and ingenuity will suffer. Our union members work in the technology and manufacturing sectors, both of which will be affected by these pieces of legislation. We want to see a system that solidifies our leadership in innovation and helps the American economy produce the jobs and products of the future.

The National Academies of Sciences (NAS) have suggested a set of improvements to the patent system. However, the Patent Reform Act of 2007, while offering some needed changes, does not reflect the body of im-

provements suggested by NAS. We are concerned that two sections of the proposed legislation, the post-patent review process and apportionment of damages, will have a negative impact on innovation and research.

The courts already follow a multipoint system for the appropriate consideration for damages. This should remain intact rather than constricted so as to limit damage settlements. The post-patent review process adds a third step to the two existing review processes available. This third one opens the process to serial patent challenges. For some, this can become a business strategy of continual reviews designed to elicit settlement. For the firms facing challenges, they can decide it is easier to outsource their products to a vendor rather than deal with the legal process. In a system that is already overwhelmed meeting the review needs of current patent filings, this is an unnecessary step.

At a time when the rampant piracy of intellectual property by our global competitors is being continuously challenged, Congress should not give these competitors yet another advantage over American workers. We hope to work with you in your effort to improve the current patent system without disadvantaging American workers and stifling American innovation. We appreciate your leadership on this issue and we look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Sincerely,

JEFF RECHENBACH,
Executive Vice President.

Let me note that only one union has changed its position and become neutral on 1908, but, instead, all the other unions, the wide swath of unions in this country, are just heavily opposed to H.R. 1908. So why are all these people, unions, universities, the biotech industry, pharmaceuticals, and, of course, especially small business, why are these people so opposed to this bill, H.R. 1908, which I call the Steal America's Technology Act No. 2.

Number one, let's look at some of the requirements of the bill. What will it do? Number one, it will require that all patent applications be published 18 months after the application is filed.

By the way, we negotiated this. We are joined right now by Mr. MANZULLO, who is beside us. Mr. MANZULLO and I fought hard in 1999 to ensure that the average right of the American inventor, to keep confidential his patent applications until that patent was issued, would be maintained.

In that legislation, they said, if an American inventor does not want to have his patent published for the whole world to see, his patent application, even before the patent is issued, he can opt out of a requirement that would require him to have his patent application disclosed.

This opting-out feature was a compromise. Now, those who negotiated with us, and long hard negotiations, have negated their compromise. That's the type of integrity that we are up against here, negating someone after you have actually made honest compromises? How can we trust what's in this bill if that is the basis of the organization of the structure of the bill?

H.R. 1908 removes the opt-out provision that was put into the law by our negotiations back in 1999. Now, let's

note that last year 20,000 inventors, three-quarters of all the small businesses who applied for patents, chose to keep their inventions secret and to opt out of the provision that once you apply for a patent, that after 18 months, whether or not you have the patent, it will be put on the Internet for every thief in the world to see. No wonder why these 20,000 inventors decided to opt out of that.

The thieves and infringers overseas are licking their chops, waiting to pounce on their new ability to get the details about American technology. Just look at this quote that Mr. MANZULLO showed me from the Economic Times of India, dated July 23, 2007. "A crucial bill making its way through the U.S. Congress is set to give a new inexpensive option for Indian drug makers to attack the patents that give monopoly rights to the top-selling MNC [multinational corporations] brands in the largest pharmaceutical market."

What that means is the Indian people who are involved with stealing our technology and copying it, especially those technologies in the pharmaceutical area, are getting ready for the changes that will be brought about by this legislation so that by the time our pharmaceutical companies are ready to go on the market with their goods, the Indian copiers will have already stolen the product of all of their research and development and turned it in to the market in India and elsewhere.

This is horrendous. This is right up front, they are telling us. We are getting ready to steal hundreds of millions of dollars, if not billions of dollars, worth of information that was based on the research, the investment that we made in research in the United States of America, to benefit their companies.

Well, it has been estimated that the U.S. economy loses \$250 billion a year at this time from global intellectual property theft. If this bill passes, that number will triple or quadruple as a result of the passage of this legislation.

Number 2, this bill opens up new avenues of attack before and after a patent has been issued. New attacks are now available in the pre-grant to the opposition, to someone who would like to try to make it more difficult for an inventor to get his patent in the first place and to hold up the issuance of his patent. Section 9, part B of H.R. 1908 says any person may submit for consideration an inclusion in the record of a patent application any patent, published patent application or other publication of potential relevance to the examination of the application.

This means we are opening up the process so people can argue against the issuance of the patent, where before that was kept very confidential, and confidential for a purpose. Because if you have people arguing at that level, what happens is the patent is delayed. What do they want to do if it's delayed? They want to publish it for the whole world to see.

Pre-grant opposition allows for outside folks like China or other countries

who may have people they have hired here, people, I might add even domestic corporate scavengers, to look at applications and then dig up damaging concepts and, perhaps, ideas that would cloud the issues at hand and submit it to the patent examiners in order to defeat or to delay an application. Not only the examiner, but the whole world will be looking at these applications if those who wrote H.R. 1908 have their way. So China can steal our technology and defeat our patent applicants even before they get their patents.

Another thing this bill does, of course, is afterwards it gives a post-grant review, a new system to post-grant review, to challengers to prove that the patent is not valid, and it changes the standards of validity and how that validity is to be determined.

The standard is being changed from a preponderance of evidence, and this will be replaced, and that a preponderance of evidence will replace the current clear and convincing evidence, which is the current standard.

Now, why are they changing these standards? They are not changing the standards to make it more difficult for people to challenge someone who owns a piece of technology, to make it easier for our inventors to defend themselves. It makes it more difficult for our defenders, for our inventors to defend themselves.

Why are they changing that criteria? It's not aimed at helping the inventors, the innovators. It's aimed at helping the scavengers.

Number 3, and in one moment I am going to ask Mr. MANZULLO to join me, H.R. 1908 constricts the options available to rightful patent owners. So there are restrictions on what the actual patent owners, the people who have been issued the patents can do, especially in the area of which courts will be deciding their issues; limits on, as I say, limits on court venue, where either party resides, and where the Defendant has committed an alleged act of infringement, has established this, of course, will place incredible new challenges for our inventors. These are, again, aimed at trying to put restrictions on the inventors and give leverage to those who would steal that technology.

It requires the court to break down the value of individual components of a product and calculate the damages based on the value. That's not the way right now it works. If someone infringes on someone's patent, that person who owns that property who has been wronged can sue that company.

But it's not just based on how much that one component is worth. It is how much that person who owns that technology would have charged that company if it had been an honest contract and an honest negotiation.

Again, what we are doing is restricting and making it more difficult for the inventor to protect his interest.

In the end, this change alone will mean that the large corporations will

be able to steal from the little guy and the foreign corporations will be able to steal from the other guy and just say, well, come at me. It's going to cost you more money to actually attack us in court and to fight us in court than you will be able to get out of it if you attack us in court.

That change alone is going to undermine the rights of the inventors to control their inventions and creativity. That's the purpose of the bill.

Patents would be awarded, again, and this is one of the more dramatic changes. In our country's history, we have always had a system that patents were awarded not to those who would have been the first to file for a patent, but, instead, to those who actually invented and could prove that they had invented a piece of technology. That has worked well for our country, and it is different in other countries.

Japan and Europe have had different systems. This system is aimed at helping the big business rather than the small inventor, because big business can issue, can apply and pay for patent after patent application after patent application. Make one little step forward, and then you apply for a patent based on that step forward, rather than on a completed invention or a completed project.

That change is fundamental to our system. We have always been recognizing the person who has invented the technology, not the company who can pay the lawyer to arrive at the patent office first.

Well, number seven, and, finally, this bill creates a new proceeding to determine the inventor with the right to file an application on a claimed invention. The patent trial and appeal board would be established in this case, which, again, would so complicate this system. This is a whole new addition that will so complicate this process. It is not aimed at simplifying and making our system more effective. It's aimed at undermining the validity of this system.

This change would flood the patent system, making it more expensive to get a patent. In short, every promise in H.R. 1908 is anti-inventor. Every single one of the provisions of 1908 that have been added are aimed there to undercut the inventor. Every provision weakens the rights of the inventor and undermines his ability to protect his or her rights as the inventor.

This bill will only double or triple the losses that we have in terms of intellectual property theft overseas. Our own technology will be taken away from us, will be stolen, and it will be used to destroy us, as foreigners will have all the information they need about our advances, about our research, and then they will put that information to work to destroy us, to out-compete us, to put us out of business.

H.R. 1908 would open up the doors for attack both before and after a patent is issued. So before a patent is issued, the

inventory will have to go through more hoops, and after the patent is issued, the inventor will go through more hoops.

What we have got here is a piece of legislation that will go against the whole purpose that our law was established and the Founding Fathers put into the Constitution so many years ago, that inventors and writers and other creators, that their rights will be protected.

I now would like to ask Mr. MANZULLO if he would like to join me and share with us a few of his thoughts. Let me note that in 1997, Mr. MANZULLO and MARCY KAPTUR and myself and JOHN CAMPBELL of California, there were just a few of us, fought a battle. We were up against the most powerful forces in the world, these multinational corporations who were trying to sneak this through, and we were able to defeat them with the mobilization of the public behind us.

This time, at least, we do have the major universities with us. This time we have the biotech industry and the pharmaceutical industry and the labor unions behind us. But we need to make sure that the American people understand what's going on here tomorrow and the vote and the significance of that vote tomorrow.

I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

□ 1700

Mr. MANZULLO. May I ask how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ELLISON). Thirty-two minutes.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition of H.R. 1908. Mr. MICHAUD and I just came from the Rules Committee a few minutes ago, which is in the process of preparing the rule under which the bill would be brought to the floor tomorrow. And we showed up at the hearing, which was set for 3:00, found out that an 18-page manager's amendment had been filed at 2:47, and during the course of our testimony before the Rules Committee, another manager's amendment consisting of 18 pages was filed at 3:50 p.m. So the Rules Committee was taking a look at still further amendments to a bill, not even knowing what the final form of the bill would be at the time we were there to testify either in favor of it or against it.

Anytime you have a bill that presents a fundamental change in law, it should be a consensus bill; and there's a reason for that.

Why hurt anybody on something so basic and so important as a patent bill?

Why can't you protect the holders of patents, both large and small, the universities that have a stake in it, the labor unions whose people are employed by manufacturers who hold patents? Everybody really has the same stake here, and the stake is to have the United States be pre-eminent in research and engineering and to use the patent system as a means to further re-

search and development and manufacturing in this country.

But this bill that's being presented has a very interesting split of people in favor and people against, and that's what's disconcerting about the entire bill.

In fact, the last patent bill that was passed and signed into law never even made its way to the Senate. We passed it here in the House, and it was tacked on to an omnibus appropriations bill. The Senate never even read it or considered it. It got tucked into a massive multi-, hundred-page bill. It's a good thing that we had come up with a good bill by the time it passed here.

And now we are hearing proponents of this bill say, just a second, we didn't use the subcommittee process to refine it, and we didn't use the committee process to refine it. This is a work in action that we continue to work on it as we go. And that's how we end up with bad law, when Members of Congress do not really have the opportunity to examine and to know what they're voting on.

And I don't know anything as complicated as patent law. I've been here several terms; so has Mr. ROHRABACHER. I look at patent laws through the eyes of a piece of machinery. I've spent my life in Congress involved in manufacturing. I have one of the most industrialized congressional districts in the country. One out of four people is directly employed in manufacturing.

And I spend time on the floors, I've visited hundreds of factories in the United States, Europe, China, given speeches all over. I go to forums that deal with manufacturing processes and try to keep up on the latest in manufacturing so I can share those, not only with my constituents, but with my colleagues who are in Congress, on a bipartisan basis. In fact, we formed the Manufacturing Caucus for the purpose of making sure that the latest in manufacturing techniques is shared with Members so as to strengthen our manufacturing base to make us more competitive in this world.

But this bill's opposed by the National Association of Manufacturers. Those are large and small manufacturers, the little guys and the big guys. And the reason they're concerned is that the manufacturers are the ones that make things, make things with their hands. They make the exotic machines, and they're very much concerned about international piracy already going on and the fact that this will actually, this bill will actually lend itself to that.

And I met this morning with people from the pharmaceutical industry, the biotech industry, the food industry, people concerned that processes involved in food preparations would be protected. And it was the most incredible group of people that I've ever seen come together on an issue in opposition.

And one of the reasons that they're so opposed, and I'm just going to speak

on one of those, it's on the damage issue, because there are so many other issues that are extremely important.

We just found out that the administration now opposes H.R. 1908 because, again, it limits the courts' discretion in determining the damages for infringement. Now, that's the damage issue. And I'm glad they came out with that, and that's important. And let's explain why.

H.R. 1908 will reduce the value of U.S. patents because patent holders will no longer be able to receive the fair market value of their patent when infringed upon. It mandates this apportionment of damages be the pre-eminent factor and exclusion of all the other market factors considered in infringement cases.

Current law, the law that's used today, states that juries should consider 15 factors, many of which are based on market forces and competitive pricing which allow the patent holder to receive the market value of the invention that was infringed upon. And that's always been the standard of damages. What is the value?

They'll take a look at its incorporation into the device. What value does it add to it? What price would the holder of the completed product have paid for this?

It has been established over a period of years of long series of judicial decisions, and it's not the legislature abandoning our role in this issue, but it's allowing the courts' working their way through technology changes to say these are the factors that we should take a look at.

The change of law requires a judge to determine the economic value of the invention by subtracting the value of prior art. That means subtracting the value of other existing components in the invention. And this complex economic analysis is not something we want to leave the district court judges. Even Judge Michael, chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, agrees.

But what's dangerous about this provision is that the bill allows a new set of damages, a new standard when it's never been tested. It's nothing more than a theory.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. I would ask the gentleman, isn't it very clear when you're looking at that change, and there are about, as I was going through, six or seven changes, what was the purpose? What was in the mind of those people who wrote this into law and pushed for this change to be made?

Mr. MANZULLO. The purpose was to diminish the value of the patent holder whose patent had been infringed upon. That's the problem.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. There it is. The bottom line is, you go through this bill and there are about 20 different provisions like the damage provision that you're talking about, and each and every one of them is designed to weaken the protection and hurt the person who's the innovator.

And what has been our greatest asset in the United States of America? Is that we protected those innovators.

If the gentleman would yield for one moment, we do have a gentleman with us from Maine who would like to say a few words, and I would yield whatever time you would consume to Congressman MICHAUD from Maine.

Mr. MICHAUD. Thank you very much, Congressman ROHRBACHER. I really appreciate both yours and Congressman MANZULLO's leadership on this patent issue. It's definitely an issue that's very important.

Tomorrow, the House is expected to consider the Patent Reform Act of 2007. I strongly oppose this bill. It's fundamentally flawed.

There are nearly 300 large, small businesses, associations, universities, and labor unions from a wide diversity of industry and perspectives that have raised serious concerns about this legislation.

H.R. 1908, the Patent Reform Act of 2007, as you heard earlier, has been described as, I quote from one of the quotes, "the most sweeping changes in America's patent system since 1952."

Yet, the House Judiciary Committee reported H.R. 1908 to the floor of the House after holding only one public hearing this Congress and despite bipartisan and widespread cross-industry opposition.

At a time when America's innovators, manufacturers, and laborers need strong patent protection to compete internationally, the net effect of this bill will be to weaken patent protection by making patents less reliable, easier to challenge and cheaper to infringe.

H.R. 1908 is a severe threat to American innovation, American jobs and American competitiveness, and ought to be opposed.

Hundreds of companies and organizations around the United States have written to Congress to raise serious objections about this legislation. And you heard some of them earlier: manufacturers, organized labor, biotech, nanotech, pharmaceuticals, small businesses, independent inventors, universities, economic development organizations, and the list goes on.

Foreign companies are watching this legislation, and the reason why they are watching and eagerly looking at this legislation is they want to attack U.S. patents, as evidenced by the recent article in the Economic Times, India's second largest newspaper.

We are compromising many of our industries by passing this legislation. Many stakeholders of the United States patent system have complained about the process surrounding the Patent Reform Act.

Only one hearing has occurred on this bill in this Congress. Tomorrow we are prepared to vote on this bill without ample time to review the two manager's amendments designed to address some of the complaints that have been raised about this. And this actually is

violating the pledge made at the beginning of this Congress to allow Members ample time to review legislation.

Patent legislation is very complicated. It's very technical, and we need that ample time to review it. So at this point in time I would urge my colleagues to defeat the bill tomorrow and send it back to the Judiciary Committee, because we do have to make some changes in patent reform. I'm not ultimately opposed to it. We have to make changes. But this legislation is not the way to go.

So with that, I want to thank the good gentleman for yielding time to me and, hopefully, we'll be able to get the problems corrected with this patent reform law.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. I appreciate the support of the gentleman from Maine for this position. It lets us know that this is as bipartisan an issue as any one that I have ever been on. From day one it was MARCY KAPTUR and others who have played a major role in this fight.

We have unions who are traditionally supporting the Democratic Party who are very deeply involved in this fight, right alongside small businesses, which quite generally have been Republicans. So this goes across the board. This is an issue, because it is the American people who are going to suffer the consequences.

We need to ask ourselves, if all of these groups are against it, who the heck is for this bill?

And this is a power grab. This is a classic power grab, and it's being headed by companies that are basically controlled by billionaires from the electronics industry.

Now, let's take a look at the electronics industry. What do they want to do?

The electronics industry has a product that they have to include various elements that are created by innovators and by inventors. This isn't like the pharmaceutical industry or a small business person or the biotech industry or the nanotech industry. Usually, what we've got with those industries, we've got one new invention or one creative improvement that serves as the basis for their profit.

No, when you're in the electronics industry you have a computer or some other type of piece of electronics that has three or four elements in it, and if an inventor comes up with something new, they either have to include it in their product, or they will be non-competitive.

□ 1715

Mr. MANZULLO. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROHRBACHER. I certainly will.

Mr. MANZULLO. Which means that you manufacture, then you worry about the legals. You manufacture and sell; then you worry about the legals, whether or not you have infringed upon somebody's patent.

And what this bill will do is this will encourage infringing because it greatly limits the damages to which the inventor would be entitled.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Right. So what we have got is the electronics industry knows that if there are new ideas that improve things, they will have to include it in their product in order to remain competitive. They just don't want to buy those new ideas. They don't want to pay for it. They want to be able to steal those ideas and minimize the consequences of that theft. That's the ultimate purpose for what is going on here.

The electronics industry is different than these other industries. And as you can see by the wide scope and breadth of the opposition to this bill, the other industries know that this will be dramatically harmful to them. But it will permit the electronic industry billionaires to increase their profit.

And, by the way, what does the electronics industry do now? They are the ones who, of course, go to China and build their factories in China and increase the technology capabilities of that country, which is, of course, run by a regime that is the world's worst human rights abuser. These are electronics companies, some of which have gone to the dictatorship in China and helped them sort of restructure their computer systems so they can track down religious dissidents who are trying to use the Internet. This is the type of people who are behind this bill.

This power grab of the electronics industry would send even more technology to China and India. It would permit the people in Korea and Japan and others to be able to basically beat our inventors into the ground. And it has been our creative genius that has protected our country against these types of regimes in the past.

In fact, as Americans, we don't match people man for man. We don't match our competition with muscle power and sweat. We can beat the competition in this modern world by making sure our people have a technological edge over their competitors. The working people in those other countries may work for a pittance, but American workers should have the competitive edge.

People in the electronic industry who are behind this bill don't care one iota about those American workers or America's long-term competitiveness because they consider themselves multinational corporations.

Well, I am here to say that the coalition of Democrats and Republicans on the floor of the House opposing this bill do not consider ourselves multinationalists or globalists. We consider ourselves patriotic Americans, and we have got to watch out for the interests of the American people.

Mr. MANZULLO. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Yes, I will.

Mr. MANZULLO. I appreciate that. We were with a company called

QUALCOMM today, 11,000 employees. They are opposed to the bill. It's just an interesting mix. And it appears that a lot of the people in favor of the bill have been some of the biggest infringers, and that is why some have called this the "Infringers' Bill of Rights." I don't know if I would go that far.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. I think that's a good description.

Mr. MANZULLO. But I would like to just bring up one thing. The proponents of the bill are saying this is tort reform. And how could this be tort reform when the National Association of Manufacturers are on the other side, oppose it? It is not really tort reform. It is an all-out assault upon awarding reasonable damages to the inventor. That is done in two ways. One is through extreme limitation of damages, and the second is finding a way to lengthen the process of litigation.

Now, another portion of this bill says, well, you shouldn't be able to shop for venue. And in America it has always been the tradition that you can bring a suit in any area, any county, any State where damage has occurred, and with a widely distributed product, you should be able to bring a lawsuit really wherever you want. And now, of course, the proposed reform says, well, you can't bring it in certain areas unless you have a certain nexus.

Here's the problem: If you bring this in Chicago, the little guy, it's 5 years. If you bring it in Washington, D.C.'s "rocket docket," it's called, you get it there in 1 year. Well, who is to gain by taking litigation and lengthening the time of it? It's the big guys versus the small guys. And if there had been a problem in these rocket dockets, and there are three or four across the country where you can move something fast, but if there had been a problem such as in Madison County, Illinois, which has been known for abuse of class action lawsuits, we would know it. But the judges in these rocket dockets willingly take the case because they have become experts on patent law. People trust their judgment, and they have come down in favor of the inventor as many times as they have come down opposed to the inventor.

Thank you for your leadership.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. I appreciate that.

I think that we need to understand that there are so many parts of this bill, as Mr. MANZULLO has pointed out, whether we are talking about damages or whether we are talking about challenges before and after the patent can be filed and hoops to be jumped through, each and every one of them designed basically to thwart the little guy, thwart the inventor. And, as I said, the group behind it, the electronics industry, their purpose, I believe, is to be able to promote the theft.

But what do they say? What do the people who are the proponents of this legislation say is their motive? They claim that we have to have this patent

reform in order to harmonize the patent laws of the United States with those of the rest of the world. Harmonization.

Well, we have had the strongest patent protection of any country on this planet, which has guaranteed the success of our country and the high standard of living of our people. That is what we got from the strongest patent protection because we considered that strong protection of our rights the same protection that we would give for speech or freedom of religion or the other rights that we hold sacred.

Well, if we have the strongest patent rights in the world, patent protections in the world, and if we want to harmonize them with the rest of the world, that means we are going to decrease the protection of our citizens.

What would happen if we told our citizens in order to have harmony with the rest of the world's laws, we are going to meld them all together and harmonize our laws of freedom of speech and religion with the rest of the world and we would be told, well, maybe we could enjoy the freedoms now at the level of the people of Singapore or someplace like that? Well, there would be a revolt in this country if we tried to diminish the protections of our people to harmonize it with the rest of the world. But that is what they are doing for the economic freedom that we are talking about today. The economic rights of our people are being harmonized in terms of their ownership of their creation, their patents and innovations. They want to harmonize that with the rest of the world.

Well, if there should be one standard for the rest of the world, let them harmonize with our laws. Let us bring up their standards. The Japanese and the Europeans do have a different standard on this, and that is why the Japanese are incapable of creating new technologies. They just take what we have and try to improve it.

The fact is we have had the strongest patent protection rights in the world and we have thus had more innovation and a higher standard of living of any other people of the world. The common man here has had the opportunity that common people in other parts of the world do not have because of American technological superiority. We can't let those who profit already by setting up factories in China and other dictatorships that are totally contrary to our way of life to tell us they want to make even more money to be able to steal even the technology and the new ideas so that those factories over there will be able to produce the newest and cutting-edge technologies coming out of our innovators even before our innovators are able to commercialize it in the United States.

Well, perhaps if you are a corporate elitist, the idea of harmonizing our rights with the rest of the world and harmonizing our property and bringing down certain levels of protection makes sense. If you are a corporate

leader who lives behind a gated community and you are not affected by the fact that American workers are becoming less competitive because we are sending our technology overseas, no, you don't understand that because you are in the corporate boardroom. But the American people understand that. And that is why the unions are against this bill. That is why we have a broad coalition of Democrats and Republicans against H.R. 1908.

What we have is a disguised destruction of the fundamental patent system that has been in place in our country for a long time, for over 200 years. As I read, it was part of our own Constitution.

Well, this attempt to steal the little guy's creation is not new to our country. Even with our patent protection, it has been a rough haul for our inventors.

There is a statue in the Capitol of the United States. There are many statues in the Capitol. My favorite statue is right downstairs. It is the statue of Philo Farnsworth. Anyone visiting the Capitol, I would suggest, should go see the statue of Philo Farnsworth. It's there with the rest of the heroes of freedom and a bunch of politicians who have made statues to themselves. Philo Farnsworth was the quintessential American inventor, individual inventor. He was a poor person, of course, but had limited education, probably a master's degree. I'm not really sure what his education level was. But he came from a rural area in Utah, and through his own creative instincts and his understanding of physics and other theories and electronics, he was able early in the last century to fully understand how to create a picture tube. He was actually the "father of television."

RCA at that time had spent hundreds of millions of dollars, hundreds of millions of dollars investigating, doing research, trying to find the secret of how you could turn radio waves into a television tube. They never were successful.

He discovered it. He was the one who had the breakthrough idea of how it could be done. Philo Farnsworth. And he wrote to RCA and said, I have discovered this. I understand you are doing a lot of research. I know how to do it.

And the head of RCA's research department came out all the way on a train to see Philo, and he went through his small laboratory and showed him what he had discovered. And it was with an understanding that Philo, perhaps a very naive understanding, was going to work with RCA and develop this picture tube so all of the American people would have now a whole new way of life with the television set. And television has changed our way of life.

The guy from RCA took all the notes, and he sped away on the train back to New York, saying, "We're going to get right back to you so we can get moving on the development of this technology."

Well, Philo waited and he waited, and there never was a phone call from New York. And guess what. He read in the paper a few months later that RCA had made a huge discovery, and it was the discovery of how to produce the television picture tube and how they had had this incredible breakthrough in their laboratories.

Philo Farnsworth fought for 20 years to get recognition that he was indeed the inventor of the picture tube. It was an incredible fight. David Sarnoff, an arrogant head of RCA, a corporate leader who could give a darn about little guys like Philo Farnsworth, ended up doing what? Instead of paying royalties and recognizing and giving credit to this wonderful inventor, he decided to smash him like a bug, decided to fight him and use every bit of the treasure that was available to RCA to beat this guy into submission, this little guy who thought he had the right to challenge the great David Sarnoff.

□ 1730

It went all the way to the Supreme Court. And God bless America, the Supreme Court decided for little Philo Farnsworth against one of the great arrogant corporate giants in America, David Sarnoff.

Unfortunately, Philo Farnsworth, by that time most of the patent time had run out, he never made much money from his great discovery that changed the world we live in. But I will tell you, today, as you go through the Nation's Capitol, you can take a look at the statue of Philo Farnsworth right here and you can understand that we pass laws here to make sure the rights of the little guy are protected, even when that little guy is in a fight with a powerful interest like RCA. David Sarnoff does not have a statue in this Capitol. So let us note this, that in this Capitol is the statue to the little guy and to the rights of the little guy.

Tomorrow we will face a bill, H.R. 1908, that is designed to smash down the little guys, the inventors, so that arrogant corporate giants can steal their technology, corporate giants who do business overseas who consider themselves globalists and multi-nationalists taking American technology overseas. That's what is at hand. That is the issue that is being discussed.

Mr. Speaker, I would call on my colleagues to join me and MARCY KAPTUR and members of the Democrat Party and Republican Party who are watching out for the little guy tomorrow. Join with the universities and the unions and other corporate interests and manufacturers in the United States who are trying to protect intellectual properties so they can compete overseas. Join us in defeating the Steal American Technologies Act II, H.R. 1908.

And with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1908, PATENT REFORM ACT OF 2007

Mr. ARCURI, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-319) on the resolution (H. Res. 636) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1908) to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2669, COLLEGE COST REDUCTION AND ACCESS ACT

Mr. ARCURI, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-320) on the resolution (H. Res. 637) providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2669) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 601 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to ponder a hypothetical. Imagine for a moment that a small town in your district, whether you represent a rural or urban district or suburban district you can imagine this hypothetical, but it's an unimaginable concept to many of us in the United States. Imagine if a town in that district was hit by a rocket, just landed out of the sky, launched from a neighboring town, or if you're near the border, launched from a neighboring country. Imagine for a moment how you would react as an elected official in that town, imagine for a moment how you would act as a parent of people in that town, imagine how you would act if you were government from that town.

Well, for one small town in the southern part of Israel, it's not something they need to imagine. Let me show you a map of Israel and point to a small town called Sderot. It's right down here near the Negev, right along the border of the Gaza Strip.

Sderot is a town of 24,000 people. It is not a wealthy town; it's basically a working class town. Like I said, not very big. But in the last 5 years, not one, not two, but 2,000 rockets have landed on that town, all of them launched from the Gaza Strip.

Now, as you ponder what it is that you would do, let me tell you a little bit about the effect it has had to the people of Sderot. Eight people have

been killed as these qassam rockets have fallen. What is a qassam rocket? A qassam rocket is a fairly primitive rocket that is made out of basically a plumbing pipe with four stabilizers and filled with about a pound or so of shrapnel, that when it explodes, it blows the shrapnel all around.

This is a picture of some of the qassam rockets that have landed in Sderot over the last 5 years. This is what the back of the local police station looks like. They keep them all and they mark it when they land. Now, eight people have been killed by these rockets, three of them children, dozens have been wounded. There have been 155 of these rockets landing in this town just since June, when Hamas was elected as the representative party of the people of the West Bank, and some would argue Gaza as well. You see this small strip of land? That's the Gaza Strip. Lobbed one by one by one into this town of Sderot. Well, as you think about how your citizens might deal, let me tell you a little bit about how the citizens of Sderot have dealt.

For one thing, when there is any kind of notice that they get, and they have a rather primitive system of lasers that detect when there is heat out in the desert that seems extraordinary, a notice goes to the local police department and then they send out tzeva adom, tzeva adom, which just means "code red." Then you have about 15 seconds. That's how much time the people of Sderot have to respond. They can do a couple of things. They can run into these concrete shells that have been built all throughout town. The way we might have phone booths in our towns, they have concrete structures that are called life shields. They are supposed to pull over or stop their car where they are and run to a building or wall. It's the only part of Israel where it's illegal to wear your seat belt because you have to be able to run out of your car as quickly as possible to avoid the rocket attacks.

And kids, of course, they're taught the old 1950s-era American idea of "duck and cover," except when it comes to the children of Sderot, it would be more aptly described as "duck and suffer." One in three children in that town suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. It is not coincidental or accidental that seven rockets landed in that town on the first day of school this past Sunday. There was a rocket attack today.

It is hard to find pictures that truly can express what it is like when a rocket falls on an elementary school; but this is a picture that was taken during a rocket attack last year, children essentially cowering in a corner of their school and holding their heads for their lives.

You know, it is easy to describe in dry terms what you're supposed to do when a rocket lands on your town, and thank God many of us will never know what that is like. But imagine what it is like when there are hundreds of

them, and now thousands of them over the course of the last couple of years.

Now, we here in Washington, we frequently think of things through the lens of what should the government response be. Well, what would your town's government response be if it was attacked by a foreign power day after day after day with rockets? Well, unfortunately for the people of Israel, there isn't a great deal that they can do, particularly since the international community has shown very little concern about the matter. The United Nations, perhaps we can urge them to pass a resolution of condemnation. They've been unwilling to do anything. You might try to figure out what ways you can make your residents more safe. The Israeli Government sent 200 soldiers to this town of 24,000 people to escort their hundreds of kids to school. You might want to try to figure out where they're getting the artillery necessary to be launching these attacks. As you can see here, the border is only with one other country, and that's Egypt. Time and time again there have been found tunnels that lead into the Gaza Strip providing weaponry. You might want to crack down on Egypt to make sure that they stop providing the artillery.

But one thing for sure is you would do something. And sooner or later, I think it's fair to say that all of us, if we were put in this circumstance where there was one or even two or three at most rockets falling in our districts, we would demand that something be done. Well, I believe that it is time for those of us in the United States to realize that terrorism falls in all kinds of ways every day that barely gets a notice.

When several of these rockets fell in Sderot on the first day of school, you might have missed it in your neighborhood newspaper because it is so commonplace. It should never be, in 2007, commonplace for one nation to lob missiles down on the other.

Now, it comes as little surprise that just in the several months that Hamas took over control of the Gaza Strip that there has been an escalation in the number of rockets. But I also think that we need, as a country that is in solidarity with Israel and the many things that they're trying to do, you know, it's not the purpose of this map, but you can see that this is a nation that is surrounded with enemies. On the northern border they face Hezbollah, which declared war across the international border and lobbed weapons upon them in the Lebanese war.

You see here they're dealing with problems in the Gaza Strip. Now, I should point out that much of the escalation has happened in the period since Israel withdrew unilaterally from the Gaza Strip. There are no Israeli forces there anymore. Since the Israeli forces left, the rocket attacks have gone up.

So what can the Israelis do? Well, I guess they could reoccupy the Gaza

Strip, and you can imagine the public condemnation and hue and cry that might occur if that happened. I guess they could try as best they could to track where these rockets are being fired from and try to go in as quickly as possible and counterattack. Well, it's not a very practical thing to do, perhaps they would argue. But one of the things they are considering doing is saying, look, we're going to cut off the power and supply to the Gaza Strip; we're going to make the citizens of Gaza Strip make a choice whether they're going to have terrorists in their midst or not.

Well, one thing that we can do, as far away from the front of the Sderot conflict as we are, is we could make it very clear that if we were in the same position, we would not be calling upon ourselves to show great restraint. We would try to figure out how do we solve this problem.

And so we, as the United States of America and the State Department, when they call upon Israel, show restraint, show restraint, don't retaliate, maybe that's a reasonable argument after one or two or 10 rockets. Now, I think we have to realize that what Israel is engaged in, what this tiny town is engaged in is playing defense in the war on terrorism every single day without much support and without much help.

So I take the floor today with my good friend from Nevada to say that, while we are not being asked to live in a town like Sderot, we should be mindful of the idea that such towns exist in Israel, that it is not just the province of people who live along the Lebanese border that are facing terrorism, it's not just the province of people who drive along the roads even in the inner country of Israel who find themselves being under attack. It's a daily attack on this tiny town.

Now, they don't have C-SPAN; I doubt they have C-SPAN in Sderot. But they do listen very carefully when the United States of America, when the Secretary of State, when the President, when elected officials stand up and say, listen, we don't envy the situation that Israel is in, but we understand it. And we understand that retaliation is sometimes a difficult thing to contemplate, but sometimes it's necessary. We know that if we were put in the same position and suddenly the good folks in Canada started lobbing missiles over the New York border, I would be demanding that we respond. If the folks who live in Arizona or Texas started getting attacked with missiles coming over the border, certainly none of us would be saying, show forbearance.

If these children were being forced to cower at rocket attacks day after day after day in any town in the United States, we would understand perfectly well that something needed to be done to stem the tide. But there are other things we can do. We can say we are not going to continue to be a supporter of Egypt, as we have, if they continue

to allow their nation to be essentially a wide open font for terrorist activities. We are going to understand that, while it was every right, and sometimes I'm criticized for making this image, it's every right of the people of the Palestinian territories to choose to elect Hamas as their leaders, but it is also the right of the international community to say that this is what we expected would happen. We would have an increase in the international terrorism that emerged from the Gaza Strip, and now it has happened. And if we had a terrorist government in Canada, we wouldn't hesitate for a moment to see it as a threat to our security.

We can also understand that the people of Sderot's fight is all of our fight. When the United Nations is, resolution after resolution, condemning Israel for its heavy hand in this or its heavy hand in that, when it convenes a conference to talk about the plight of the Palestinians, putting aside the plight of the Israelis, they do a disservice to the basic common sense about who it is that is doing the attacking, who it is that is launching the missiles and who it is that is on the other side.

□ 1745

The other thing that we can do is make sure that weapons like this are never armed with high-tech guidance systems. Right now, the administration is putting the final touches on a plan to present to the United States Congress that would sell missile guidance systems, \$20 million worth, to Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia has been one of the foremost advocates for Hamas in the world. They fund them. They support them. They provide them aid and comfort.

Imagine for a moment if these missiles weren't being lobbed relatively indiscriminately in the direction of schools, hospitals, shopping centers and synagogues, but imagine if they had laser guidance systems provided to the Saudis and then leaked to them, because that is what happens in that part of the world. Imagine this number of rockets that are hitting people and installations and churches, well, synagogues and not just falling to the Earth.

We can stop that sale. We in Congress can stop that sale. And we should do everything we can to do so. Ms. BERKLEY and I circulated a letter that over 115 Members of Congress signed onto saying this is a bad idea to be selling weapons, high-tech weapons, to the foremost exporter of terrorism in the world. But tonight when we lay down our heads, we should know that not far away, 2,000 miles away in Sderot, children are going to be walking to school, and most likely if tomorrow is like today was, they are going to hear a siren go off. They are going to hear a voice over the loudspeakers saying in Hebrew, "condition red, condition red" which meant that they have to go find cover somewhere. Imagine raising your child in that kind of environment.

Imagine the outrage that you would feel as a parent or resident of that town.

We should never forget that we are not going to be safe just because we don't have rockets falling on us every single day. So long as there are entities in the world that find comfort in being able to do that day in and day out, we all suffer. We admire Israel for what it does. It is probably the last remaining country besides the United States of America that every day is trying to fight terrorism. Our friends in Europe turn it on and turn it off as they might be willing to. Frankly, it is the United States and Israel every day.

But as much as we fight and as much as we invest in resources, as much as we honor the men and women of the armed services, 150,000 fighting for us in Iraq and Afghanistan, imagine if every single day we weren't having to go out and fight that fight, but it was landing in our community. That should be the lens that we look at this conflict through. There are complications. It is a nuanced and difficult thing. It is difficult trying to persuade people who are democracies in Lebanon, democracies in the West Bank and Gaza, that they shouldn't be voting for people whose campaign slogan is "I want to drive Israel into the sea." It is discouraging.

It is complicated when you have a nation like Jordan for whom many of these people would consider their home country and have them take little responsibility for those people who are in the West Bank, as well as for those people who are in Gaza. It is a difficult, complicated part of the world. But there are some things that are immutable. And I would hope that we would all agree that one of the immutable things is that under no circumstance should any country have to withstand tens and tens, and hundreds, eventually thousands of rocket attacks on its land just because it is a small town and just because most people have never heard of it. My colleague, Congressman WEXLER, and I had a long debate about how to pronounce it. He said "Sderot." I said "Sderot." It is unclear. It was written originally in Hebrew. It probably appears in the Bible somewhere. Perhaps we can find an authority on that.

These are not the most influential people even in Israel. But it is troubling to me. I think I speak for my colleague, Ms. BERKLEY, that day in and day out these attacks happen, and none of us even notice any more. Well, the children and the adults and the people of that community notice. They notice. They are traumatized by it. I think it is our obligation as citizens of the world to say that while you can have different viewpoints about where borders should be and you can have different viewpoints about the relative gripes of the Palestinians or the gripes of Hamas or who should prevail, Fatah or Hamas, or whether or not the Egyptians are doing enough, or whether or

not the Syrians are doing enough, or whether or not they are all just exporting terrorism in one form or the other, I would hope that we could agree that it is an international abomination that this is allowed to happen.

I would be glad to yield to my colleague from Nevada.

Ms. BERKLEY. I want to thank my good friend from New York, ANTHONY WEINER. As usual, I am not sure that my presence is needed here. You have done such an eloquent job explaining the situation as it is. I am afraid I have to agree with our colleague, Mr. WEXLER, and pronounce the little town the way he does, but the sentiment is the same.

I wish you were with us, Mr. WEINER, 3 weeks ago when there was a congressional trip to Israel. We had the opportunity to go to Sderot and see for ourselves firsthand exactly what you are speaking of. I want to share with you my impressions. I have been to Israel 15 times, but that was the first time that I had ever gone to that little border town and met the people, heard what they had to say, but I did. I am glad that I had the opportunity so I could share it with you and our colleagues now.

We met in a strategic area of Sderot where we were able to look into the Gaza. It is less than a mile away. They live Palestinian and Israeli next door to one another. We met with a family who has lived there for a number of years and has endured the 2,000 rocket attacks that have taken place, that have been perpetrated against the citizens of this community for the last 5 years, 2,000 rocket attacks. The last one, as you said, happening as late as today as children were going to school.

Now, Hamas and Islamic jihad have the timing down pretty well if they don't have the accuracy, because the rocket attacks, the missile attacks, on this small Israeli town take place in the morning hours when children are headed to school and parents are headed to work. Then there's a lull. If there is going to be another attack, it is usually when people are coming home from work and their children are coming back from school.

We met a family from Sderot, a wife, a mother and her children. I listened to this mother tell us what it is like on a daily basis, the fear she has every time she sends her children out to walk to school, how they can't go outside and play for fear that there will be an incoming missile that might indiscriminately hit any one of them on any given day. The very inaccuracy of these rockets make them something to fear. After the last attack that she told us about, she grabbed her child, and she fell on him in an effort to save him. When it was over, the little boy looked at his mommy. He said, "Mommy, don't ever fall on me to save me again. Because if anything was going to happen to you, what would I do without you?"

□ 1800

The children of this little town are suffering in more ways than you and I can possibly imagine. While it is true that of the 2,000 attacks in the last 5 years, eight people have died, and I have been told only eight people is not so bad, three of those eight were children, if you are one of the eight, or their families, it is not bad, it is devastating. And if you are the parent or grandparent of one of those three children, whose only crime was being an Israeli child walking to school one day, it is a horrible, horrible thing to endure.

So the fact that there hasn't been the mayhem and the injuries that are visible to the eye doesn't make this any worse because of the psychological damage to the people of this community and to their children, many of who suffer from PTSD.

I sit on the Veterans' Affairs Committee. We listen to testimony of our troops coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan suffering from PTSD. As horrible as that is, we understand it. We expect it. It is going to happen. But as a 5, 6, 7 year-old kid, to be suffering from PTSD, from not being able to sleep at night for fear that there is going to be a rocket attack on their home, afraid to go to school, afraid to sit in your classroom, parents losing their jobs because they can't stay at work when they hear that siren go off, they want to rush to the school where they know that their children are studying, for the hope that if, God forbid, anything happens, they can save their child, that is not a way to live. Nobody should live that way.

The reason that the Congressional delegation met with this family and others in this little town was because they wanted to share with us what was going on because they feel they have been forgotten, not only by their own government, but they wanted their government and the United States, their most reliable ally, and the people of this world community to recognize what is going on, and to help them, help them in some way. They implored us to do something to stop these rocket attacks.

Now, you mentioned the fact that about 2 years and 3 weeks ago on August 15th Israel unilaterally disengaged from the Gaza. It became untenable to secure 7,000 settlers from 1.4 million Palestinians, so the Israelis made a decision in the name of peace to unilaterally disengage from the Gaza.

The hope was this, Mr. WEINER. The hope was that the Palestinian people in the Gaza would recognize they had a golden opportunity to demonstrate to the world that they were capable of governance and they would use this opportunity to repair the infrastructure, build schools, start healing their economy, build housing and hospitals for the Palestinian people, make it possible for 1.4 million Palestinians to have a future, a dream of their own that wasn't mayhem and killing and corruption.

Unfortunately, we have not seen that. What we have seen, and it is more and more with each passing day, is that Hamas is using the Gaza and the Palestinian people as a human fortress as they continue to and increase lobbing rockets and missiles into Israel from strategic locations in the Gaza.

Why do the Palestinian people have to continue to suffer and live under these conditions? Are there no Palestinian leaders willing to step up and say this is not what I want for my children, it is not what I want to do to Israeli children? We have an obligation to be so much more than a launching pad against Israeli border towns like Sderot.

What are the Israelis expected to do? The people of Sderot are demanding that the Israeli government do something, that they stop this carnage, this mayhem, this indiscriminate killing and damage.

Well, we can examine the options of the Israelis. They can go back into Gaza, as you stated. I don't think that is a viable option. The Israelis don't want to reoccupy the Gaza. They can launch strategic attacks against those locations that the Kassam rockets are being launched from. But, as you know, they can be launched very quickly, and the perpetrators disappear within moments. And if they do that and accidentally hit an innocent Palestinian family, there would be hell to pay for that. So that isn't the best possible option either.

So, what is left? The Israelis provide the water and the sewage system and the electricity and power to the Gaza for 1.4 million Palestinians to enjoy some quality of life. They can cut those services off and 1.4 million Palestinians can suffer, because Hamas and Islamic Jihad have used their fellow Palestinians as nothing more than a cruel shield behind which they launch indiscriminate attacks against innocent Israeli civilians, men, women and children, and then they use the Palestinian people as buffers to protect them from any retaliation that the Israelis may wish to do in order to protect their own people.

Mr. WEINER. Reclaiming my time, I think you have raised the essential question, why is it that people are attacking Sderot? What is the great political fight that is going on that leads people to be launching missiles out of Gaza into Sderot?

There was once upon a time a conflict over whether or not Israel should be occupying this territory. They are not. What is it now that the fight is over? What is it, now that Hamas has been elected and there has been this dramatic increase in them, what is the objective of those people who are committing these acts of terrorism? It is no longer a border dispute. The Gaza strip, the Israelis have said okay, it is yours. Take it. Take it and control it, govern it, be responsible for it on your own.

It also raises another question. Hamas was elected in the West Bank

and Gaza. This notion that they only control the Gaza, the West Bank is under someone else's control, remember now, this is a new government under a democracy, and I largely have agreed with the President when he has said, you know, democracy is a virtue that we should try to encourage throughout the world.

Well, while there is a lot of complaints you can make about the people that they chose, this was a pretty free and clear election. No one has accused them of cooking the books or stealing the election. If anything, Fattah was in control of more of the apparatus, they should have won.

So now Hamas has been elected and there has been a dramatic increase of attacks. These are the numbers just since June. Every week, 7, 14, 12. This is a week. This is not over the course of a month, this is just over the course of each week how much there has been. And the question has to be, what is now the fight over? What is it that the terrorists, what is it that Hamas, what is it the people here are trying to do?

Well, could it be could it be that the people here in Gaza are always going to attack the citizens of Israel. What is then the logical extension our policy? It is fine to say, all right, let's try to figure it out. The Saudis have put forth this plan and said let's return the country to the 1967 borders. Maybe that is the solution.

Well, the Lebanese border is no longer under contest. The United Nations decided where the line should be. Israel said you are wrong, but we are going to observe your line.

The Palestinians said the Gaza Strip is ours. The Israelis said, well, we don't believe you can secure it and it won't be safe for us to leave, but we are going to leave anyway. So now you have people crossing over from Lebanon and taking prisoners and declaring war. You have the Palestinians electing a terrorist organization and increasing the amount of attacks.

What is it they want? This is not, my colleagues, a basic border dispute any more. Now you can only conclude if they are attacking a small town of 22,000 people just because they can, that their objective is going to be under every circumstance, whenever given the opportunity, they are going to attack.

Now, I don't say that to drag us into a larger discussion about what the ultimate solution to this challenge is, except to say for many Americans who look at this part of the world and don't see the nuances, they say can't they just work something out there? Just kind of find a border that works for everyone.

Well, Sderot is nowhere near the border here. It has never been under Palestinian control, ever.

Ms. BERKLEY. It is not in dispute.

Mr. WEINER. Unless you believe, which some people may, that all of Israel should be under Arab control. Then you don't believe in this existen-

tial sense that Israel should believe at all.

Ms. BERKLEY. Of course, Hamas' charter says exactly that, that Israel does not have a right to exist. They refuse to recognize Israel's right to exist. So if Israel doesn't exist then the Israelis don't exist, and they can do anything they want in their minds when it comes to the people of Sderot.

Mr. WEINER. And I think the gentlewoman is right, except in her pronunciation, which was confirmed with the embassy earlier today that there is no T and it is Sderot. But that is another whole conversation, which is why I would never get elected to the Knesset from that district.

Ms. BERKLEY. Or to the First Congressional District in Nevada.

Mr. WEINER. That is probably right. But the point is, to be serious here, we have heard a great deal here recently about the upcoming meetings that are going to be going on with foreign secretaries to try to resolve and prop up Abu Mazen, who is the leader of the Fattah faction that lost the election, but who many people in the United States, and many people in the world community, feel is kind of a better choice than Hamas.

Whether or not he is or isn't or whether or not he speaks for anyone or not, it is beyond dispute that Hamas holds sway in the Gaza Strip. It is also beyond dispute that they won for reasons that can be explained a lot of different ways. They won. They are the representative people of the Palestinians. We may like Abu Mazen more, but he doesn't seem to speak for as many people.

But before I yield to the gentlewoman, I just want to point out that for people who say well, maybe if Israel left the Gaza Strip to Palestinian control, this would be resolved. As the gentlewoman from Nevada pointed out, been there, done that. And, remember, many people argued that it would be a mistake for the Israelis to acquiesce to the Palestinians' request because they would just use this as a launching ground for terrorism.

Well, those people turned out to be right, and, unfortunately, rather than saying okay, we are going to accept this as our Nation and we are going to show that we can sustain ourselves and not be a hostile neighbor, it has instead led to this, which is a dramatic increase in the amount of attacks that have gone on since the Palestinians took over the province of their own area.

Ms. BERKLEY. There are a few points that I would like to make in response to what you said. You know, when the Saudis come with this plan, and look, any peace plan is better than no peace at all, but let us keep in mind, in addition to the fact that Israel is no longer in Lebanon, and, remember, Hezbollah supposedly was created in an effort to get the Israelis out of Lebanon. The Israelis have been out of Lebanon now for 8 years and it doesn't

seem to matter. Hezbollah is thriving. They are arming and attacking Israelis on the Israeli side of the border.

You quite rightly said the Israelis unilaterally got out of the Gaza. When it comes to the 1967 borders, let us remember, when Israel made peace with the Egyptians in that very historic moment of opportunity in the Middle East, the Israelis gave back the Sinai to the Egyptians that they had acquired in the 1967 war. They gave it back with all the oil and everything else. They said peace is more important to us than this land. You can have it.

Remember prior to the 1967 war? The West Bank was part of Jordan. Jordan controlled the West Bank. It was Jordanian territory. And then after a number of years, the Jordanians gave it to the Israelis. They didn't want to deal with the problems. So when we are talking about 1967 borders, does that mean that Jordan is going to take back the West Bank and deal with the problems that currently exist in the West Bank?

There was a reason that the Palestinian people turned to Hamas. They had a corrupt leader, a murderer, a terrorist in the name of Yasser Arafat. The billions and billions of dollars that the Europeans gave to the Palestinians through Yasser Arafat, that the Americans gave, in an effort to improve the lives of the Palestinian people, did not go to help the Palestinian people. Not one child got educated. Not one person's wounds or one person's illness was cured in a new hospital. Not one road was built. Not one business was created.

That money went into bank accounts that Arafat's widow is now living on, and rather nicely, I would say. Out of desperation for the corruption of Yasser Arafat's political party, Fattah, the people, the Palestinian people looked to Hamas, a terrorist organization, to get their basic rights met, their basic needs met. Hamas was providing social services, unemployment benefits to the unemployed, clothing to those that were not clothed, food to those that were hungry, instead of the legitimate Palestinian Authority. There is no wonder that the Palestinian people turned to Hamas.

But what we see in Hamas is a terrorist organization that refuses Israel's right to exist, that rains terror on border towns like Sderot, only because they can't get to the bigger towns because of the security and that security fence that the entire world condemned Israel for building in an effort to protect its own citizens from terrorist attacks.

So, now we are at a crossroads. The Palestinian people don't have to continue to support Hamas. Right now, the Gaza is a no-man's land. What few Christians are left in the Gaza are being subjected to forced conversions. Hamas is indiscriminantly walking the streets shooting at point-blank range any former member of Fattah. And the

Palestinian people are caught in the crossfire.

It is time for the international community to speak as one voice in an effort to bring peace to the Palestinians and to the people of Israel, and the place to start is in Sderot.

Mr. WEINER. Let me just reclaim my time briefly and just make one or two points.

When I posited in the introduction to this special order the idea, well, what would you do if you were faced with this kind of challenge? Well, imagine, if you can, that you were able to build a wall tall enough into the sky to intercept any of those rockets. You would say jackpot. We figured out a way to do it. It is not pleasant, it is not nice, but we figured out a way. Or a giant net to catch them all.

Well, they didn't have indiscriminate missile attacks coming from this part of the Palestinian territories. They had human beings who had strapped armaments around their waist filled with ball bearings and nails, and they had them walk into cafes and walk into discotheques and blow themselves up and everyone near them.

So Israel, after trying to detect them as best they could and stop them as best they could, and having remarkable success as doing that, found that, you know, what, we don't like doing this, but let's build a wall, a fence in some cases, a wall in other parts of it, to stop people from just walking across.

Well, it is the equivalent of trying to catch those missiles, and it makes a certain amount of common sense. It is a terrible message and a terrible sign and you hate to do it for your neighbor, just the same way if you were living next door to someone to build a high concrete wall between you and your neighbor. You would never want to do it, unless they started walking across into your lawn and blowing you and your family up.

So they went and they constructed this wall. Do you know, I say rhetorically, because I know the gentlewoman from Nevada knows, the amount of international hue and cry that went on, how outrageous it was for the Israelis? Even our government said they were opposed to the idea of building this security fence.

Well, it has been successful. They have figured out a way, albeit not the best possible way. The best possible way is to say the people of the West Bank, the people of Gaza, you want your own state. We want you to have your own state. The United States does. The Israeli government does. A recent poll showed that 87 percent of the population of Israel said we want the Palestinians to have their own state. But if every time you cede more responsibility to the territories it leads to more violence, it makes you long for a solution.

□ 1815

So what is the solution? Well, the most ideal solution is for the Palestin-

ians, as you say, to stand up and say, look, we have high-rises here in Gaza City. We are living not very good lives here. We have been cut off from the international world because the source of our economic activities is being good neighbors to everyone else in the world. Israel and Egypt both went up economically the moment they signed the Camp David Accords because they realized that international cooperation, although not a great love, but international cooperation leads to benefits for everyone.

So the people of Gaza have to say, look, what is it that it is getting us? We are terrorizing our neighbors, but to what end? Eventually the Israelis are going to have to say something. The Israelis are deliberating now on what steps to take. Can you blame them if they say, we are going to cut off all electricity to the city until it stops? Can you blame them if they say, we are going to close off all border crossings until it stops? You can't possibly blame the Israeli Government for whatever they do to protect the people of Sderot.

But the objective should not be what kind of defensive, and you know that the Israelis are now experimenting with not one but two antimissile systems to try to stop them. It is billions of dollars.

When I visited Israel last week, the defense minister was saying, I am not satisfied with having one antimissile system. We may need to have two of them to protect them both from the Lebanese border and from the rockets coming in on Sderot.

But the real solution is for the Palestinian people and the international community to say, look, if you want to live side by side as a two-state community, let's get to talking about how to do that. If your objective is to have nonstop violence, then you act the way you are, the way Hamas and their supporters are acting in Gaza. You just keep doing acts of war over and over again. The Israeli people, God bless them, whenever there is a hint of a possibility of a chance of some kind of a negotiated settlement, they pursue it.

Ms. BERKLEY. When I was part of this congressional delegation a few weeks ago, and maybe last week you heard the same thing, it was the Israeli Government that was promoting providing resources for the Palestinians. They want the American Government to support Abu Mazen. They want us to prop up the Palestinian people because they know this might be the last opportunity they have for peace.

And you brought up a really good point. I can't say that the Egyptians and the Israelis love each other and sing Kumbiya by the camp fire. The same thing with the Jordanians. This is not a warm peace; it is a peace. You don't have to love thy neighbor, but you can live side by side in peace. I think that is what we should be going for.

If I thought for a minute these indiscriminate attacks on Sderot and other

border towns was an effort to create a Palestinian state, maybe I could understand that, as addled as that is. But this has nothing to do with creating a Palestinian state; this has everything to be the elimination, dare I say extermination, of the State of Israel. That is what strikes fear in my heart.

Mr. WEINER. And then the question has to be raised, as much good intention as Secretary of State Rice and the administration may have here, having sit-downs and negotiations with Mahmoud Abbas and trying to present him with aid and trying to make his government or the idea that his thoughts or actions would be better for the Palestinian people, does that bring us one inch closer to stopping the attacks on Sderot? Does it do anything to truly enforce the idea that Gaza is under control? And the people voted for them. And by the way, this notion that they just carried, this is not like an electoral college map, they just carried Gaza, they have broad support throughout the West Bank as well.

Ms. BERKLEY. Well, Fatah's corruption permeated the entire Palestinian Authority.

Mr. WEINER. But I have to say to the gentlelady, this notion that it was a response to corruption, when someone campaigns and gives you a flyer, vote for me and I am going to wipe out the State of Israel, and then the moment they get in, they increase the amount of attacks going on, at a certain point you have to say this is not about who is going to fix the potholes. They are doing exactly what they said.

It might be true that message took hold in an environment where Fatah was corrupt, but I think we in some ways let them off the hook a little bit. They did campaign on the idea of driving Israel into the sea.

Ms. BERKLEY. And I would be the last one to disagree with you.

Mr. WEINER. But I think it is important to realize that we hear it just about every day out of the State Department, and this is true under Democratic administrations as well, Israel must show restraint. Every time there is an attack we hear that, Israel must show restraint.

Imagine if there were two attacks in New Jersey or in Pennsylvania. Imagine if there was one, and imagine if al Qaeda had just won the elections in Toronto and these attacks started, would any of us say we have to show restraint?

Ms. BERKLEY. Absolutely not.

Mr. WEINER. I believe that Israel has shown restraint the likes of which I don't think we have seen a nation on Earth ever show. If you think of the sheer number of attacks they have withstood over the course of time, putting aside the 2,000 or so in Sderot, forbearance has been the bottom line.

But I think if you want to truly solve this problem, first you have to let the Israelis do what they need to do to protect this tiny town.

Ms. BERKLEY. Yes.

Mr. WEINER. Also, you have to recognize when you look at these borders, no one, not even Hamas says the West Bank is still occupied. Israel left, and now there is no other explanation for the activity except to say that one of the things that they are doing is living up to their campaign promise.

This isn't the subject of rhetoric. Our colleague from Pennsylvania who has joined us saw this stockpile. This is the police station in Sderot. This is what they have in the back. You can see a little bit in the photographs, they mark taunts, Hebrew taunts on all of the rockets before they send them. This is essentially a pipe you can get down at a hardware store, four wings that stabilize it, and then there is essentially a pound and a half of armaments in the tip, just enough to kill and terrorize wherever it lands.

Ms. BERKLEY. We have one of our most esteemed freshmen here who was on the trip to Israel.

Mr. WEINER. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. ALTMIRE. It was my first trip to Israel, and I know the gentlewoman from Nevada has been there multiple times, countless times, in fact. For me to have seen firsthand what you are talking about today, there really is nothing like seeing it in person.

When we went to the border, and I know that the gentlewoman has talked about this tonight, we went to the border with Gaza and we looked at Sderot and we had families there that until recently lived in Gaza. The mother of course with the children, she pointed across to where she used to live. She said, "That used to be my house." She told her story about when she is getting her kids ready for school, the alarms will go off and they know that the bombs are starting to come in. She told this gut-wrenching story about her experience in a minivan with her kids getting ready to go to school and the alarm goes off. That really puts it in perspective that these are families that are just trying to get through the day, and this is what they have to deal with, not once as the gentleman from New York said, but repeatedly over and over again. These families have to endure the threat of that stockpile that he is talking about landing in their house, hitting their car and killing members of their family. These are things that we can't comprehend on a daily basis in this country, to have that threat every single day raining down upon you.

As the gentleman from New York described, in many instances these are primitive weapons that we are talking about. But in many instances these are weapons that have rained down on this community by the thousands, literally by the thousands. And we met with a gentleman that one of them had hit his house. Again, when you see firsthand the people that are affected by this and the children that are affected by this, it puts in perspective the fact that they are living right there on the border.

What struck me the most when we asked her the obvious question: Why don't you just move? I think that is what many of us might think about doing. And she said much more articulately than I can say tonight, but she said: "Look, this is where we live. This is our home. If we move, then we have lost. If we move, they are going to move up to where we happen to be at that moment. Then they will start again and we will have to move again. We are not going to do that. We are going to stay here. This is our home. We are under great threat, but we are not moving."

That really tells the tale of the type of people, the fortitude that we are talking about.

I had been watching the discussion and I couldn't sit back any longer. I had to tell my piece of the story having seen this firsthand, and what a magnificent thing it is to see the courage and the bravery of these people. But the threat that they live under is something that cannot be ignored.

Mr. WEINER. I thank the gentleman. It should also be pointed out that Sderot is becoming something of a ghost town, and more and more people are leaving the city. It is not a wealthy town. It doesn't have great industry. It was one of those places that makes Israel the nation that it is. A lot of North Africans have moved in there. It is a place of great diversity. You would be surprised seeing some of the faces that they are Israelis.

You also realize very quickly, one of the most stunning things to recent visitors, is what a tiny spit of land it really is. This neck of land, it is not far that you are going to be able to go.

When they had the Lebanese war, and Hezbollah had much more sophisticated weaponry, we had weapons that were going this far south. You have these that go this far north. There aren't too many places to go. There have been suicide bombings all throughout this area. There aren't too many places you can run.

So saying to the residents of Sderot, why don't you just leave, it ignores the fact that there aren't too many places. You essentially have one nation, as we all know, that is at war with 20 of her neighbors. This is not a peaceful neighborhood.

But the question arises, you don't get a chance to think about it when you are raising kids in that town and trying to figure out how to keep them safe. We spoke to a schoolteacher when I visited there a year ago, and that teacher tells the story of having 10-year-old kids having to take tranquilizers in the morning because it is a traumatizing experience to get up in the morning.

While there is some randomness to where the weapons hit, there is not a randomness to the time of day. They launch them during the mornings when the kids are on the way to school and in the afternoon when they are coming back from school, and they have a particular fondness for Sabbath and for

holidays. There was a synagogue that was blown up right after morning prayers on a Saturday morning.

What is it that we should learn from this about going forward what our strategy should be? Well, for one thing, this tiny tract of land is where the weapons are coming through. They are not coming through Israel or through the Mediterranean Sea; although, there were one or two cases in years past where boats were intercepted, but we have a pretty sophisticated understanding what goes on here. It is coming through tunnels from Egypt.

So we should be saying to Egypt, for a country that gets \$3.5 billion in aid every year, we should say to them, enough is enough. Until you show the ability to get control of this border, we are not going to provide any of our aid in the form of military. You want humanitarian assistance, that's fine.

Secondly, the last thing we want to have is for these to be tipped with laser-guided systems like the ones being proposed to that part of the world. We can't let that technology seep into the region so these now have precision guidance.

Finally, we have to say to the United Nations and to the international community: What more do you want the Israelis to do? They have left. They have left that part of the world. What is it that you are demanding they do?

I would say to the people who sponsor these resolutions in the United Nations condemning Israel, okay, picture yourself as being the chief administrative officer of a government who is getting attacked by thousands of rockets; what do you propose they do? A giant net in the sky? They tried building a wall and a fence here, and they were criticized for that.

From a policy perspective, and "restraint" is a nice and vague term, what we should be doing is saying to the Israelis, you need to protect yourselves, and we should be leading the charge at the United Nations to consider this international acts of war. They are a democracy. They are a free-standing government. These are acts of war. I think that the Israelis would be well within their rights to respond however they would like.

The final thing we have to do, and if some of my southern colleagues were here, they would come up with an interesting colloquialism on how to say this.

□ 1830

But I hate to be a fly in the ointment about this whole idea of propping up Mahmoud Abbas. If Mahmoud Abbas has any ability to stop these rockets from launching from Gaza into Sderot, let him start to do something about it today. We keep hearing about this international conference and coming up with agreements and giving him money. I don't understand what possible good it's going to do when Fatah has no authority and no control over this part of the world.

Ms. BERKLEY. As I said earlier, Hamas is walking around the streets indiscriminately shooting anybody that had anything to do with Fatah. They're consolidating their power, power to do what I haven't got the slightest idea.

But I wanted to tell my colleague, who we had a pleasure of sharing this experience that I think he will remember when we all got back on the bus, there were a lot of people that were misty-eyed. I think it was a shock to most of us to see what these people are going through on a daily basis.

And I looked around at our colleagues, and these are pretty sophisticated politicians. They've been in office for quite a while in different capacities, but I think everybody was taken aback and shocked and very touched by the families that we met and felt the pain that they go through on a daily basis. It was an important message for us to see.

Mr. ALTMIRE. That's right. We were touched by the pain, but we were also touched by the courage that they endure daily these attacks, and they stay and they don't have to do that, but they make the decision to be there. And when you see the story and you see the children firsthand, and again, when they point across in the Gaza and say I used to live in that house right there, that used to be my house.

Ms. BERKLEY. And we could see the house. I mean, they didn't have to go it's over there behind the mountain, no, no, there it was.

And I have to tell you something else. One of the ministers that we met with said this about the conferences, and again, the Israelis are pushing any type of peace and support that they can get with the Palestinians. But they said, they want us to meet, so we'll meet, but if they refuse to recognize Israel's right to exist, what are we meeting about? Will they allow us to exist? What compromise do you make with people that don't recognize your right to exist? Do you compromise that you could exist for 20 more years, 30 more years, 50 more years? There's no compromise to be made with people that don't recognize that you are a person with a right to exist.

Mr. WEINER. Well, in conclusion, our time is expired, but I want to thank the gentlewoman from Nevada and the gentleman from Pennsylvania for joining us here today, and I just would close with this.

There are big, complicated conflicts that are going on in that part of that world. They're not going to be easy to resolve. For years, we've been watching with some level of success but a great deal of failure, but just imagine the circumstances if tomorrow, when you dropped off your kids at school, a couple of times during the day they'd have to look like this rather than studying their school books. Imagine if an 8, 9, 10-year-old child had to be on tranquilizers in order to get through the day.

There are some things that just are without any political nuance, without

any varnish, and are just wrong. What's going on in Sderot is just wrong.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in great concern over the ongoing Qassam attacks on the southern city of Sderot, Israel. Sderot is a community that has been plagued with frequent and intense firing on its inhabitants and infrastructure since Hamas's takeover of Gaza. These Palestinian militants are attempting to destroy an entire population and bring everyday life there to a halt.

Even today, two Qassam rockets landed in the vicinity of Sderot. One of these rockets was aimed at and landed near a kindergarten, on the first week of the new school year. Imagine the dilemma parents in this region face—they don't know if their children on any given day are safer at school, or at home given the continued rocket firings.

These homemade rockets cannot aim solely at military targets because they do not have any degree of precision. They are primitive, short-range, home-made rockets that do not have the technical capability to be guided, and consequently, strike innocent civilians. They have indiscriminately destroyed the economy and physically and psychologically devastated family life.

The current situation is unacceptable—the terror organization Hamas is clearly violating Israel's sovereignty and overriding Israel's right over its land and people.

A city of no more than 24,000, Sderot is less than a mile from the border with Gaza, where Israel withdrew its troops in the summer of 2005. Since then, thousands of these rockets pummeled this city and terrorized men, women and children on a daily basis. Sderot citizens are unable to go about their normal lives and should not be expected to live under this permanent threat.

Israel has shown considerable restraint and patience in dealing with those terrorist firing, despite the severity of the situation and the casualties and injuries they have taken. However, Israel has the complete right to defend itself against these intolerable attacks. No belief, however misguided, can justify the victimization of innocent people.

I would like to express my solidarity not only with the citizens of Sderot, but with victims of terrorism around the world. We need to do everything we can to bring an end to this unjust situation and help create a lasting peace so that the citizens of Sderot can go about their lives.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. MATSUI (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today until 12:30 p.m. on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and the balance of the week on account of family illness.

Mr. CARTER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness in the family.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of medical 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. MCDERMOTT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

- Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.
 - Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
 - Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.
 - Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.
 - Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.
 - Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.
 - Mr. ELLISON, for 5 minutes, today.
 - Mr. SPRATT, for 5 minutes, today.
- (The following Members (at the request of Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)
- Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, September 13.
 - Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.
 - Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, for 5 minutes, today.
 - Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, today.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on August 1, 2007 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 1. To provide for the implementation of the recommendations of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States.

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on August 4, 2007 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 2272. To invest in innovation through research and development, and to improve the competitiveness of the United States.

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on August 6, 2007 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 1260. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6301 Highway 58 in Harrison, Tennessee, as the "Claude Ramsey Post Office".

H.R. 1335. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 508 East Main Street in Seneca, South Carolina, as the "S/Sgt Lewis G. Watkins Post Office Building".

H.R. 1384. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 118 Minner Avenue in Bakersfield, California, as the "Buck Owens Post Office".

H.R. 1425. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4551 East 52nd Street in Odessa, Texas, as the "Staff Sergeant Marvin 'Rex' Young Post Office Building".

H.R. 1434. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 896 Pittsburgh Street in Springdale, Pennsylvania, as the "Rachel Carson Post Office Building".

H.R. 1617. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 561 Kingsland Avenue in University City, Missouri, as the "Harriett F. Woods Post Office Building".

H.R. 1722. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 601 Banyan Trail in Boca Raton, Florida, as the "Leonard W. Herman Post Office".

H.R. 2025. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11033 South State Street in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Willye B. White Post Office Building".

H.R. 2077. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20805 State Route 125 in Blue Creek, Ohio, as the "George B. Lewis Post Office Building".

H.R. 2078. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14536 State Route 136 in Cherry Fork, Ohio, as the "Staff Sergeant Omer 'O.T.' Hawkins Post Office".

H.R. 2127. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 408

West 6th Street in Chelsea, Oklahoma, as the "Clem Rogers McSpadden Post Office Building".

H.R. 2309. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3916 Milgen Road in Columbus, Georgia, as the "Frank G. Lumpkin, Jr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 2563. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 309 East Linn Street in Marshalltown, Iowa, as the "Major Scott Nisely Post Office".

H.R. 2570. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 Boardwalk Drive in Fort Collins, Colorado, as the "Dr. Karl E. Carson Post Office Building".

H.R. 2688. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located 103 South Getty Street in Uvalde, Texas, as the "Dolph Briscoe, Jr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 2863. To authorize the Coquille Indian Tribe of the State of Oregon to convey land and interests in land owned by the Tribe.

H.R. 2952. To authorize the Saginaw Chipewewa Tribe of Indians of the State of Michigan to convey land and interests in land owned by the Tribe.

H.R. 3006. To improve the use of a grant of a parcel of land to the State of Idaho for use as an agricultural college, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3206. To provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through December 15, 2007, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3311. To authorize additional funds for emergency repairs and reconstruction of the Interstate I-35 bridge located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, that collapsed on August 1, 2007, to waive the \$100,000,000 limitation on emergency relief funds for those emergency repairs and reconstruction, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, September 7, 2007, at 9 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for speaker-authorized official travel during the first and second quarters of 2007, pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

(AMENDED) REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO NATO PARLIAMENTARIAN ASSEMBLY WINTER MEETING IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, FOLLOWED BY ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD) MEETING IN PARIS, FRANCE AND BILATERAL MEETINGS IN ROME, ITALY AND RAMSTEIN AIR FORCE BASE, GERMANY HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED FEB. 17 AND FEB. 25, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. John Tanner	2/17	2/20	Belgium		1,671.06		(9)				4,129.05
	2/20	2/22	France		1,069.03		(9)				4,129.05
	2/22	2/24	Italy		1,172.96		(9)				4,129.05
Hon. Melissa Bean	2/24	2/25	Germany		216.00		(9)				4,129.05
	2/17	2/20	Belgium		1,671.06		(9)				4,129.05
	2/20	2/22	France		1,069.03		(9)				4,129.05
Hon. John Boozman	2/22	2/24	Italy		1,172.96		(9)				4,129.05
	2/24	2/25	Germany		216.00		(9)				4,129.05
	2/17	2/20	Belgium		1,671.06		(9)				4,129.05
Hon. Ben Chandler	2/20	2/22	France		1,069.03		(9)				4,129.05
	2/22	2/24	Italy		1,172.96		(9)				4,129.05
	2/24	2/25	Germany		216.00		(9)				4,129.05
	2/17	2/20	Belgium		1,671.06		(9)				4,129.05

(AMENDED) REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO NATO PARLIAMENTARIAN ASSEMBLY WINTER MEETING IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, FOLLOWED BY ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD) MEETING IN PARIS, FRANCE AND BILATERAL MEETINGS IN ROME, ITALY AND RAMSTEIN AIR FORCE BASE, GERMANY HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED FEB. 17 AND FEB. 25, 2007—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Jo Ann Emerson	2/20	2/22	France		1,069.03		(3)				4,129.05
	2/22	2/24	Italy		1,172.96		(3)				4,129.05
	2/24	2/25	Germany		216.00		(3)				4,129.05
	2/17	2/20	Belgium		1,671.06		(3)				4,129.05
	2/20	2/22	France		1,069.03		(3)				4,129.05
Hon. Paul Gillmor	2/22	2/24	Italy		1,172.96		(3)				4,129.05
	2/24	2/25	Germany		216.00		(3)				4,129.05
	2/17	2/20	Belgium		1,671.06		(3)				4,129.05
	2/20	2/22	France		1,069.03		(3)				4,129.05
	2/22	2/24	Italy		1,172.96		(3)				4,129.05
Hon. Dennis Moore	2/24	2/25	Germany		216.00		(3)				4,129.05
	2/17	2/20	Belgium		1,671.06		(3)				4,129.05
	2/20	2/22	France		1,069.03		(3)				4,129.05
	2/22	2/24	Italy		1,172.96		(3)				4,129.05
	2/24	2/25	Germany		216.00		(3)				4,129.05
Delegation Expenses:											
Representational Functions									13,676.33		13,676.33
Miscellaneous									238.00		238.00
Committee total					74,318.91		43,237.74		13,914.33		131,470.98

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.

JOHN TANNER, Chairman, Aug. 3, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO ROME, ITALY, FLORENCE, ITALY, AND RAMSTEIN, GERMANY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAY 27 AND JUNE 1, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Shelley Berkley	5/27	5/30	Italy		239.00						717.00
	5/30	5/30	Italy		205.00						205.00
	5/30	6/1	Germany		459.00						459.00
Committee total											1,381.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

SHELLEY BERKLEY, Chairman, July 17, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO RUSSIA, SWEDEN, AND ESTONIA, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JUNE 30 AND JULY 7, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. John A. Boehner	6/30	7/3	Russia		1,819.68		(3)				1,819.68
Hon. Jo Bonner	6/30	7/3	Russia		1,819.68		(3)				1,819.68
Hon. Dave Camp	6/30	7/3	Russia		1,819.68		(3)				1,819.68
Hon. Dennis A. Cardoza	6/30	7/3	Russia		1,819.68		(3)				1,819.68
Hon. John Kline	6/30	7/3	Russia		1,819.68		(3)				1,819.68
Hon. Devin Nunes	6/30	7/3	Russia		1,819.68		(3)				1,819.68
Father Dan Coughlin	6/30	7/3	Russia		1,819.68		(3)				1,819.68
Dr. John Eisold	6/30	7/3	Russia		1,819.68		(3)				1,819.68
Wilson Livingood	6/30	7/3	Russia		1,819.68		(3)				1,819.68
Paula Nowakowski	6/30	7/3	Russia		1,819.68		(3)				1,819.68
Amy Lozupone	6/30	7/3	Russia		1,819.68		(3)				1,819.68
Greg Maurer	6/30	7/3	Russia		1,819.68		(3)				1,819.68
Jennifer Stewart	6/30	7/3	Russia		1,819.68		(3)				1,819.68
Hon. John A. Boehner	7/3	7/5	Sweden		1,118.08		(3)				1,118.08
Hon. Jo Bonner	7/3	7/5	Sweden		1,118.08		(3)				1,118.08
Hon. Dave Camp	7/3	7/5	Sweden		1,118.08		(3)				1,118.08
Hon. Dennis A. Cardoza	7/3	7/5	Sweden		1,118.08		(3)				1,118.08
Hon. John Kline	7/3	7/5	Sweden		1,118.08		(3)				1,118.08
Hon. Devin Nunes	7/3	7/5	Sweden		1,118.08		(3)				1,118.08
Father Dan Coughlin	7/3	7/5	Sweden		1,118.08		(3)				1,118.08
Dr. John Eisold	7/3	7/5	Sweden		1,073.32		(3)				1,073.32
Wilson Livingood	7/3	7/5	Sweden		1,073.32		(3)				1,073.32
Paula Nowakowski	7/3	7/5	Sweden		1,073.32		(3)				1,073.32
Amy Lozupone	7/3	7/5	Sweden		1,073.32		(3)				1,073.32
Greg Maurer	7/3	7/5	Sweden		1,073.32		(3)				1,073.32
Jennifer Stewart	7/3	7/5	Sweden		1,073.32		(3)				1,073.32
Hon. John A. Boehner	7/5	7/7	Estonia		618.76		(3)				618.76
Hon. Jo Bonner	7/5	7/7	Estonia		618.76		(3)				618.76
Hon. Dave Camp	7/5	7/7	Estonia		618.76		(3)				618.76
Hon. Dennis A. Cardoza	7/5	7/7	Estonia		618.76		(3)				618.76
Hon. John Kline	7/5	7/7	Estonia		618.76		(3)				618.76
Hon. Devin Nunes	7/5	7/7	Estonia		618.76		(3)				618.76
Father Dan Coughlin	7/5	7/7	Estonia		586.16		(3)				586.16
Dr. John Eisold	7/5	7/7	Estonia		586.16		(3)				586.16
Wilson Livingood	7/5	7/7	Estonia		586.16		(3)				586.16
Paula Nowakowski	7/5	7/7	Estonia		586.16		(3)				586.16
Amy Lozupone	7/5	7/7	Estonia		586.16		(3)				586.16
Greg Maurer	7/5	7/7	Estonia		586.16		(3)				586.16
Jennifer Stewart	7/5	7/7	Estonia		586.16		(3)				586.16
Committee total											45,693.24

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.

JOHN A. BOEHNER, Chairman, Aug. 3, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO EGYPT, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 3 AND JULY 3, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Betty McCollum			Egypt					(3)			
Hon. Lincoln Davis			Egypt					(3)			
William Harper			Egypt					(3)			
A. Brooke Bennett			Egypt					(3)			
Committee total											

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.

BETTY MCCOLLUM, Chairman, July 31, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO UKRAINE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 3 AND JULY 9, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Alcee L. Hastings	7/4	7/9	Ukraine		1,730.00		3,444.32				6,174.32
Hon. Steny Hoyer	7/5	7/7	Ukraine		692.00		2,593.60				3,285.60
Hon. Marcy Kaptur	7/5	7/9	Ukraine		1,384.00		(3)				1,384.00
Hon. Louise McIntosh Slaughter	7/5	7/9	Ukraine		1,384.00		(3)				1,384.00
Hon. Michael McNulty	7/5	7/9	Ukraine		1,384.00		(3)				1,384.00
Hon. Robert Aderholt	7/5	7/9	Ukraine		1,384.00		(3)				1,384.00
Hon. Mike McIntyre	7/5	7/9	Ukraine		1,384.00		(3)				1,384.00
Hon. Hilda Solis	7/5	7/9	Ukraine		1,384.00		(3)				1,384.00
Hon. G.K. Butterfield	7/5	7/9	Ukraine		1,384.00		(3)				1,384.00
Hon. Doris Matsui	7/5	7/9	Ukraine		1,384.00		(3)				1,384.00
Hon. Gwen Moore	7/5	7/9	Ukraine		1,384.00		(3)				1,384.00
Fred Turner	7/5	7/9	Ukraine		1,384.00		(3)				1,384.00
Orest Deychakiwsky	7/5	7/9	Ukraine		1,384.00		(3)				1,384.00
Janice Helwig	7/4	7/9	Ukraine		1,413.53		2,079.75				3,493.28
Marlene Kaufman	7/4	7/9	Ukraine		1,376.00		3,430.00				5,806.00
Lale Mamaux	7/5	7/9	Ukraine		1,362.00		(3)				1,362.00
Ronald McNamara	7/3	7/9	Ukraine		2,076.00		7,702.96				9,778.96
Daniel Redfield	7/5	7/9	Ukraine		1,358.00		(3)				1,358.00
Misha Thompson	7/5	7/9	Ukraine		1,327.00		3,383.96				4,710.96
Janice McKinney	7/5	7/9	Ukraine		1,384.00		(3)				1,384.00
Mariah Sixkiller	7/5	7/7	Ukraine		692.00		2,593.60				3,285.60
Gennell Brown	7/5	7/9	Ukraine		1,384.00		(3)				1,384.00
Amanda Sloat	7/5	7/9	Ukraine		1,384.00		(3)				1,384.00
Committee total											58,630.72

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.

ALCEE L. HASTINGS, Chairman, Aug. 6, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Senator Benjamin L. Cardin		4/21	United States				6,028.05				6,028.05
		4/22	Denmark	Kroner	397.11						397.11
Hon. Alcee L. Hastings		4/20	United States				6,021.05				6,021.05
		4/21	Denmark	Kroner	1,191.35						1,191.35
Fred L. Turner		4/21	United States				6,716.05				6,716.05
		4/22	Denmark	Kroner	794.23						794.23
Kyle Parker		5/8	United States				7,565.85				7,565.85
		5/9	Armenia	Dram	226.63						226.63
Fred L. Turner		5/22	United States				5,424.20				5,424.20
		5/23	Spain/Andorra	Euro	1,302.00						1,302.00
Marlene Kaufmann		5/25	United States				7,040.26				7,040.26
		5/26	Russia	Ruble	1,924.09						1,924.09
		5/30	Austria	Euro	420.00						420.00
Hon. Alcee L. Hastings		5/25	United States				7,545.78				7,545.78
		5/26	Poland		1,758.00		(3)				1,758.00
		5/29	Israel		692.00		(3)				692.00
		6/1	Jordan		409.00		(3)				409.00
		6/3	Kosovo		425.13		(3)				425.13
		6/5	Romania		1,420.00						1,420.00
Robert Hand		6/2	United States				6,818.33				6,818.33
		6/3	Kosovo	Dinar	275.13						275.13
		6/5	Austria	Euro	154.60						154.60
Mischa Thompson		6/4	United States				6,398.09				6,398.09
		6/9	Romania	Lei	1,420.00						1,420.00
Winsome Packer		6/11	United States				5,202.12				5,202.12
		6/12	Austria	Euro	2,972.90						2,972.90
Erika Schlager		6/24	United States				6,882.04				6,882.04
		6/25	Poland	Zlotys	610.00						610.00
		6/27	Austria	Euro	598.00						598.00
Janice Helwig		4/1	United States				6,192.45				6,192.45
		4/2	Austria	Euro	12,736.02						12,736.02
Committee total					29,726.19		77,834.27				107,560.46

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.

ALCEE L. HASTINGS, Chairman, July 26, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Jean Schmidt	5/27	5/29	Kuwait		371.00						371.00
	5/29	5/31	Pakistan		578.00						578.00
	5/31	5/31	Iraq								
	5/31	6/1	Afghanistan		25.00		9,055.53				9,080.53
	6/1	6/3	Panama		598.00						598.00
	6/3	6/5	Colombia		512.00		2,004.76				2,516.76
Hon. Earl Pomeroy	6/6	6/11	Mali				9,201.47				9,201.47
Committee total					2,084.00		20,261.76				22,345.76

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

COLLIN C. PETERSON, Chairman, Aug. 1, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Nita M. Lowey	4/5	4/7	Czech Republic		731.31						731.31
	4/7	4/8	Pakistan		339.00						339.00
	4/8	4/12	India		2,633.06						2,633.06
	4/12	4/13	Hungary		284.00						284.00
Misc. embassy costs										3,537.87	3,537.87
Hon. Ben Chandler	4/5	4/7	Czech Republic		731.31						731.31
	4/7	4/8	Pakistan		339.00						339.00
	4/8	4/12	India		2,653.05						2,653.05
	4/12	4/13	Hungary		284.00						284.00
Misc. embassy costs										3,536.87	3,536.87
Hon. Tim Ryan	4/5	4/7	Czech Republic		731.31						731.31
	4/7	4/8	Pakistan		339.00						339.00
	4/8	4/12	India		2,641.11						2,641.11
	4/12	4/13	Hungary		284.00						284.00
Misc. embassy costs										3,536.87	3,536.87
Hon. Adam Schiff	4/5	4/7	Czech Republic		731.31						731.31
	4/7	4/8	Pakistan		339.00						339.00
	4/8	4/12	India		2,653.05						2,653.05
	4/12	4/13	Hungary		284.00						284.00
Misc. embassy costs										3,536.87	3,536.87
Nisha Desai	4/5	4/7	Czech Republic		731.31						731.31
	4/7	4/8	Pakistan		339.00						339.00
	4/8	4/12	India		2,621.16						2,621.16
Misc. embassy costs										2,976.62	2,976.62
Commercial Aircraft							3,723.40				3,723.40
Craig Higgins	4/5	4/7	Czech Republic		731.31						731.31
	4/7	4/8	Pakistan		339.00						339.00
	4/8	4/12	India		2,621.16						2,621.16
Misc. embassy costs										2,976.62	2,976.62
Commercial Aircraft							3,723.40				3,723.40
Rob Blair	4/5	4/7	Czech Republic		731.31						731.31
	4/7	4/8	Pakistan		339.00						339.00
	4/8	4/12	India		2,621.16						2,621.16
Misc. embassy costs										2,976.62	2,976.62
Commercial Aircraft							3,723.40				3,723.40
Misc. Transportation Costs							60.00				60.00
Clelia Alvarado	4/5	4/7	Czech Republic		731.31						731.31
	4/7	4/12	India		3,119.16						3,119.16
	4/12	4/13	Hungary		284.00						284.00
Misc. embassy costs										2,720.87	2,720.87
Hon. Steve Israel	4/5	4/7	Czech Republic		731.31						731.31
	4/7	4/8	Pakistan		339.00						339.00
	4/8	4/12	India		2,641.11						2,641.11
	4/12	4/13	Hungary		284.00						284.00
Misc. embassy costs										3,536.87	3,536.87
Hon. Frank R. Wolf	3/30	4/1	Syria		500.00						500.00
	4/1	4/1	Jordan								
	4/1	4/3	Israel		794.00						794.00
Commercial Aircraft							9,176.00				9,176.00
Hon. Robert B. Aderholt	3/30	4/1	Syria		500.00						500.00
	4/1	4/1	Jordan								
	4/1	4/3	Israel		794.00						794.00
Commercial Aircraft							9,176.00				9,176.00
John Blazey	3/28	3/29	Kuwait		426.00						426.00
	3/29	3/30	Qatar								
	3/30	4/1	Afghanistan								
	4/1	4/2	Pakistan		339.00						339.00
	4/2	4/4	Jordan		1,024.000						1,024.000
Commercial Aircraft							7,855.76				7,855.76
Kristi Mallard	3/28	3/29	Kuwait		426.00						426.00
	3/29	3/30	Qatar								
	3/30	4/1	Afghanistan								
	4/1	4/2	Pakistan		339.00						339.00
	4/2	4/4	Jordan		1,024.000						1,024.000
Commercial Aircraft							7,855.76				7,855.76
Ann Reese	3/28	3/29	Kuwait		426.00						426.00
	3/29	3/30	Qatar								
	3/30	4/1	Afghanistan								
	4/1	4/2	Pakistan		339.00						339.00
Commercial Aircraft							8,238.66				8,238.66
Gregory Lankler	3/27	3/28	CA		490.10						490.10
	3/28	4/1	HI		735.10						735.10
	4/2	4/4	Japan		550.00						550.00
	4/4	4/5	Korea		391.00						391.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2007—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Commercial Aircraft											
Hon. Barbara Lee	4/13	4/15	Grenada		842.16		5,690.32				5,690.32
	4/15	4/16	Trinidad/Tobago								842.16
									(?)		
Sarah Young	4/1	4/7	Germany		1,040.46						1,040.46
Commercial Aircraft							6,302.64				6,302.64
Hon. Michael Honda	6/1	6/3	Panama		598.00						598.00
	6/3	6/5	Colombia		512.00						512.00
Commercial Aircraft							1,972.76				1,972.76
Hon. Betty McCollum	6/8	6/10	France		586.00						586.00
Commercial Aircraft							7,813.21				7,813.21
Gregory Lankler	6/14	6/19	France		824.00						824.00
Commercial Aircraft							7,376.30				7,376.30
Misc. transportation costs							150.00				150.00
Joshua Hartman	6/14	6/19	France		824.00						824.00
Commercial Aircraft							7,376.30				7,376.30
Misc. transportation costs							88.00				88.00
John Blazey	6/14	6/19	France		824.00						824.00
Commercial Aircraft							7,960.00				7,960.00
Misc. transportation costs							110.00				110.00
Committee total					50,349.53		98,372.79		29,336.08		178,058.40

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.

DAVID R. OBEY, Chairman, July 31, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS (SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS STAFF), HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1, AND JUNE 30, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES
 Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

DAVID R. OBEY, Chairman, July 31, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Visit to Guam, South Korea, Vietnam, China, March 30–April 11, 2007:											
Hon. Solomon Ortiz	3/31	4/2	South Korea		950.00						950.00
	4/2	4/5	Guam								
	4/5	4/7	Viet Nam		558.00						558.00
	4/7	4/10	China		1,017.00						1,017.00
Commercial Transportation							11,215.65				11,215.65
Hon. Madeleine Bordallo	3/31	4/2	South Korea		950.00						950.00
	4/2	4/5	Guam								
	4/5	4/7	Viet Nam		558.00						558.00
	4/7	4/10	China		339.00						339.00
Commercial Transportation							10,154.62				10,154.62
Hon. Joe Wilson	3/31	4/2	South Korea		950.00						950.00
	4/2	4/5	Guam								
	4/5	4/7	Viet Nam		558.00						558.00
	4/7	4/10	China		678.00						678.00
Commercial Transportation							12,809.15				12,809.15
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	3/31	4/2	South Korea		950.00						950.00
	4/2	4/5	Guam								
	4/5	4/7	Viet Nam		279.00						279.00
Commercial Transportation							5,202.46				5,202.46
Julie Unmancht	3/31	4/2	South Korea		950.00						950.00
	4/2	4/5	Guam								
	4/5	4/7	Viet Nam		558.00						558.00
	4/7	4/10	China		1,017.00						1,017.00
Commercial Transportation							12,475.65				12,475.65
Delegation Expenses	4/5	4/7	Viet Nam					745.22			745.22
	4/7	4/10	China					4,018.16			4,018.16
Visit to Thailand, Qatar, Kuwait, Italy, April 6–10, 2007:											
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	4/6	4/7	Thailand		268.00						268.00
	4/7	4/8	Kuwait		155.00						155.00
	4/8	4/10	Italy		1,162.00						1,162.00
Commercial Transportation							4,442.58				4,442.58
Delegation Expenses	4/6	4/7	Thailand					243.39			243.39
	4/7	4/7	Qatar					41.67			41.67
Visit to Iraq, Kuwait, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bahrain, United Kingdom, April 5–13, 2007:											
Hon. Gene Taylor	4/6	4/7	Kuwait		155.00						155.00
	4/7	4/8	Iraq								
	4/8	4/9	Bahrain		324.00						324.00
	4/10	4/10	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
	4/11	4/12	Kuwait		155.00						155.00
Commercial Transportation							10,035.45				10,035.45
Hon. Brad Ellsworth	4/6	4/7	Kuwait		155.00						155.00
	4/7	4/8	Iraq								
	4/8	4/9	Bahrain		324.00						324.00
	4/10	4/10	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
	4/11	4/12	Kuwait		155.00						155.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2007—

Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Commercial Transportation											
Hon. Hank Johnson	4/6	4/7	Kuwait		155.00		10,055.45				10,055.45
	4/7	4/8	Iraq								155.00
	4/8	4/9	Bahrain		324.00						324.00
	4/10	4/10	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
	4/11	4/12	Kuwait		155.00						155.00
Commercial Transportation											
William Ebbs	4/6	4/7	Kuwait		155.00		10,055.45				10,055.45
	4/7	4/8	Iraq								155.00
	4/8	4/9	Bahrain		324.00						324.00
	4/10	4/10	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
	4/11	4/12	Kuwait		155.00						155.00
Commercial Transportation											
Joshua Holly	4/6	4/7	Kuwait		155.00		10,055.45				10,055.45
	4/7	4/8	Iraq								155.00
	4/8	4/9	Bahrain		324.00						324.00
	4/10	4/10	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
	4/11	4/12	Kuwait		155.00						155.00
Commercial Transportation											
Visit to Iraq, Kuwait with Codel Hage, April 22–16, 2007:							10,035.45				10,035.45
Hon. Joseph Sestack	4/13	4/15	Kuwait		396.00						396.00
	4/14	4/15	Iraq								
Commercial Transportation											
Visit to Afghanistan, Pakistan, United Kingdom, May 25–June 1, 2007:							10,027.08				10,027.08
Hon. Adam Smith	5/25	5/26	United Kingdom		518.00						518.00
	5/27	5/27	Pakistan								
	5/27	5/28	Afghanistan		25.00						25.00
	5/28	5/30	Pakistan		578.00						578.00
	5/30	5/31	United Kingdom		518.00						518.00
Commercial Transportation											
William Natter, III	5/25	5/26	United Kingdom		518.00		11,358.80				11,358.80
	5/27	5/27	Pakistan								518.00
	5/27	5/28	Afghanistan		25.00						25.00
	5/28	5/30	Pakistan		578.00						578.00
	5/30	5/31	United Kingdom		518.00						518.00
Commercial Transportation											
Visit to Iraq, Kuwait, Pakistan, Afghanistan, May 26–June 1, 2007							10,024.80				10,024.80
Hon. John Spratt	5/27	5/29	Kuwait		96.50						96.50
	5/28	5/28	Iraq								
	5/29	5/31	Pakistan		426.00						426.00
	5/30	5/31	Afghanistan		25.00						25.00
Commercial Transportation											
Hon. Joe Courtney	5/27	5/29	Kuwait		210.00		8,791.53				8,791.53
	5/28	5/28	Iraq								210.00
	5/29	5/31	Pakistan		578.00						578.00
	5/30	5/31	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
Commercial Transportation											
Hon. Joe Wilson	5/27	5/29	Kuwait		210.00		8,791.53				8,791.53
	5/28	5/28	Iraq								210.00
	5/29	5/31	Pakistan		578.00						578.00
	5/30	5/31	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
Commercial Transportation											
Gregory Marchand	5/27	5/29	Kuwait		210.00		9,444.53				9,444.53
	5/28	5/28	Iraq								210.00
Commercial Transportation											
John Wason	5/27	5/29	Kuwait		210.00		9,057.27				9,057.27
	5/28	5/28	Iraq								210.00
	5/29	5/31	Pakistan		578.00						578.00
	5/30	5/31	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
Commercial Transportation											
Visit to Panama and Colombia May 31–June 4, 2007:							9,055.53				9,055.53
Hon. Ike Skelton	5/31	6/3	Colombia		678.00						678.00
	6/3	6/4	Panama		254.00						254.00
Hon. Phil Gingrey	5/31	6/3	Colombia		678.00						678.00
	6/3	6/4	Panama		254.00						254.00
Paul Oostburg Sanz	5/31	6/3	Colombia		678.00						678.00
	6/3	6/4	Panama		254.00						254.00
Aileen Alexander	5/31	6/3	Colombia		678.00						678.00
	6/3	6/4	Panama		254.00						254.00
Committee total					26,190.50		183,088.43		5,048.44		214,327.37

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

IKE SKELTON, Chairman, July 31, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Mary Christina Anthony	4/2	4/5	Georgia		1,050.00		9,247.00				10,297.00
Hon. Adrian Smith	4/6	4/7	Kuwait		155.00						155.00
	4/7	4/8	Iraq								
	4/8	4/9	Bahrain		324.00						324.00
	4/10	4/10	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
Thomas S. Kahn	4/11	4/12	Kuwait		155.00		10,035.00				10,190.00
	5/27	5/28	Kuwait		210.00						210.00
	5/28	5/28	Iraq								
	5/29	5/30	Pakistan		578.00						578.00
	5/30	5/31	Afghanistan		75.00		8,772.00				8,847.00
Committee total					2,622.00		28,054.00				30,676.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

JOHN M. SPRATT, JR., Chairman, July 27, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAR. 30 AND MAY 21, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Joseph Pitts	3/30	4/1	Syria		500.00						500.00
Commercial airfare	4/1	4/3	Israel		794.00						794.00
Hon. Tim Murphy	3/31	4/3	Dublin, Ireland		754.00		9,176.00				9,176.00
	4/4	4/5	England		172.00				50.00		222.00
	4/5	4/7	Belfast, Ireland		318.00				100.00		418.00
Hon. Cliff Stearns	4/6	4/7	Czech Rep.		370.00						370.00
	4/7	4/8	Pakistan		339.00						339.00
	4/8	4/12	India		1,704.73						1,704.73
	4/12	4/13	Hungary		284.00						284.00
Hon. Lee Terry	4/27	4/27	Ireland		(³)						
	4/27	4/28	Kuwait		155.00						155.00
	4/28	4/29	Iraq		(³)						
	4/29	4/30	Paris, Fr.		503.00						503.00
Hon. J. Dennis Hastert	5/5	5/7	Colombia		522.00						522.00
Commercial airfare							1,382.70				1,382.70
Hon. Jane Harman	5/18	5/19	Iraq		(³)						
	5/19	5/20	Jordan		137.00						137.00
	5/20	5/21	England		231.00						231.00
Hon. Rick Boucher ⁵											
Committee total							20,558.70		150.00		17,492.43

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.
⁴ Stayed at embassy.
⁵ Codel Boucher will be filed on a supplemental report. Expenses have not been received from State Dept.

JOHN D. DINGELL, Chairman, July 31, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAY 25 AND JUNE 3, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. J. Dennis Hastert	5/25	5/28	Denmark		1,275.00		(³)				1,275.00
	5/28	5/31	Germany		1,398.00		(³)				1,398.00
	5/31	5/31	Belgium				(³)				
	5/31	6/3	England		1,704.00		(³)				1,704.00
Committee total					4,377.00						4,377.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.

J. DENNIS HASTERT, Chairman, July 25, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Steve Adamske	4/9	4/11	U.K.		1,084.00		(³)				1,084.00
	4/11	4/12	Belgium		407.60						407.60
Kevin Edgar	4/9	4/11	U.K.		1,094.00		(³)				1,094.00
	4/11	4/12	Belgium		407.60		(³)				407.60
Hon. Barney Frank	4/9	4/11	U.K.		859.00		(³)				859.00
	4/11	4/12	Belgium		407.60		(³)				407.60
Hon. Gwen Moore	4/9	4/11	U.K.		1,084.00		(³)				1,084.00
	4/11	4/12	Belgium		407.60		(³)				407.60
David Smith	4/9	4/11	U.K.		1,084.00		(³)				1,084.00
	4/11	4/12	Belgium		407.60		(³)				407.60
Jeanne Roslanowick	4/9	4/11	U.K.		877.00		(³)				877.00
	4/11	4/12	Belgium		407.60		(³)				407.60
Warren Tryon	4/9	4/11	U.K.		1,084.00		(³)				1,084.00
	4/11	4/12	Belgium		407.60		(³)				407.60
Hon. Maxine Waters	4/9	4/11	U.K.		1,084.00		(³)				1,084.00
	4/11	4/12	Belgium		407.60		(³)				407.60
	4/13	4/15	Grenada		832.00		(³)				832.00
	4/15	4/16	Trinidad & Tobago		392.00		(³)				392.00
Hon. Carolyn Maloney	5/17	5/21	Jordan		441.00		6,791.59				7,232.59
Lawranne Stewart	4/9	4/11	U.K.		964.00		(³)				964.00
	4/11	4/12	Belgium		307.60		(³)				307.60
Committee total											

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.

BARNEY FRANK, July 31, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAR. 31 AND JUNE 30, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Gary L. Ackerman	4/6	4/8	Egypt		557.00				4,201.33		758.33
	4/8	4/13	Israel		835.00				4,13,362.00		14,197.00
	4/6	4/13	Round Trip Airfare				9,113.17				9,113.17

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAR. 31 AND JUNE 30, 2007—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
David Adams	4/6	4/8	Egypt		557.00						557.00
	4/8	4/13	Israel		835.00						835.00
	4/6	4/13	Round Trip Airfare				7,015.66				7,015.66
Melissa Adamson	4/1	4/13	China		2,832.00						2,832.00
	4/11	4/15	The Philippines		796.00						796.00
	4/1	4/15	Round Trip Airfare				10,141.25				10,141.25
Manpreet Anand	4/5	4/8	Bangladesh		652.00						652.00
	4/9	4/12	Pakistan		1,219.00				458.79		1,277.79
	4/5	4/12	Round Trip Airfare				11,044.27				11,044.27
Doug Anderson	4/1	4/4	Kosovo		525.00						525.00
	4/4	4/5	Macedonia		230.00						230.00
	4/5	4/7	Serbia		680.00						680.00
	4/1	4/7	Round Trip Airfare				7,131.94				7,131.94
David Beraka	4/1	4/8	Russian Federation		3,257.00		8,248.84				11,505.84
Hon. John Boozman	4/1	4/3	Ethiopia		528.00		(3)				528.00
	4/3	4/4	Uganda		217.00		(3)				217.00
	4/4	4/5	Italy		221.00		(3)				221.00
	4/5	4/6	France		128.00		(3)				128.00
	6/2	6/5	Netherlands		1,250.00		6,436.38				7,686.38
Hon. Jim Costa	4/27	4/29	Belgium		420.00		(3)				420.00
Hon. William D. Delahunt	5/30	5/31	Venezuela		160.00		4,493.08				4,653.08
Erin Diamond	6/1	6/3	Panama		598.00						598.00
	6/3	6/5	Colombia		512.00						512.00
	6/1	6/5	Round Trip Airfare				1,916.76				1,916.76
Howard Diamond	4/8	4/13	Israel		835.00						7,884.37
Phaedra Dugan	4/9	4/11	Austria		349.00		7,049.37				349.00
	4/11	4/12	Hungary		284.00						284.00
	4/13	4/14	Serbia		390.00						390.00
	4/14	4/15	Kosovo		221.05						221.05
	4/15	4/16	Austria		349.00						349.00
	4/9	4/16	Round Trip Airfare				6,878.14				6,878.99
Hon. Eliot L. Engel	4/13	4/15	Grenada				832.80		425,354.19		26,186.99
	4/15	4/16	Trinidad & Tobago				(3)				
Hon. Eni F. H. Faleomavaega	4/3	4/13	China & Hong Kong		2,513.00		6,969.56		423,609.92		33,092.48
Hon. Luis G. Fortuño	4/27	4/29	Belgium		420.00		(3)				420.00
David Fite	4/2	4/4	Austria		598.00		4,757.24				5,355.24
Heather Flynn	4/4	4/11	South Africa		1,508.64		7,866.49				9,375.13
	5/28	5/30	Belgium		828.00						828.00
	5/30	6/1	United Kingdom		1,075.00						1,075.00
	5/28	6/1	Round Trip Airfare				8,872.19				8,872.19
Martin Gage	4/9	4/13	Egypt		798.00		6,567.28				7,365.28
Kirsti Garlock	6/1	6/5	Netherlands		1,250.00		6,436.41				7,686.41
Gene Gurevich	4/12	4/15	Saudi Arabia		894.00		9,465.15				10,359.15
Dennis Halpin	4/5	4/11	China		1,485.00						1,485.00
	4/11	4/15	The Philippines		796.00						796.78
			Round Trip Airfare				7,637.78				7,637.78
Hans Hogrefe	4/1	4/8	Russian Federation		3,257.00		8,248.84				11,505.84
Hon. Bob Inglis	4/10	4/11	Jordan		273.00						273.00
	4/11	4/12	Iraq								
	4/12	4/13	Qatar								
	4/13	4/14	Afghanistan								
	4/14	4/15	Qatar		75.00						75.00
	4/15	4/16	Turkey		110.00						110.00
	4/10	4/16	Round Trip Airfare				7,274.43				7,274.43
Hon. Sheila Jackson-Lee	4/13	4/15	Grenada				832.80		(3)		832.80
	4/15	4/16	Trinidad & Tobago				(3)				
	6/1	6/3	Panama		598.00						598.00
	6/3	6/4	Colombia		256.00						256.00
	6/1	6/4	Round Trip Airfare				2,031.20				2,031.20
Eric Jacobstein	4/13	4/15	Grenada				832.80		(3)		832.80
	4/15	4/16	Trinidad & Tobago				(3)				
	6/1	6/3	Panama		598.00						598.00
	6/3	6/5	Colombia		512.00						512.00
	6/1	6/5	Round Trip Airfare				2,497.76				2,497.76
Eric Johnson	5/29	6/4	Israel		2,394.00		6,722.67				9,116.67
Jonathan Katz	5/27	5/29	Turkey		606.00						606.00
	5/29	6/2	Israel		1,620.00						1,620.00
	5/27	6/2	Round Trip Airfare				8,121.91				8,121.91
David Killion	4/1	4/4	Kosovo		525.00						525.00
	4/4	4/5	Macedonia		305.00						305.00
	4/5	4/7	Serbia		680.00						680.00
	4/1	4/7	Round Trip Airfare				7,131.94				7,131.94
Vili Lei	4/3	4/13	China & Hong Kong		2,513.00		6,949.56				9,462.56
John Mackey	4/9	4/13	Colombia		904.00		2,250.70				3,154.70
	5/5	5/7	Colombia		502.00		1,992.87				2,494.87
	6/1	6/3	Panama		598.00						598.00
	6/3	6/5	Colombia		512.00						512.00
	6/1	6/5	Round Trip Airfare				2,111.76				2,111.76
Alan Makovsky	4/11	4/13	Egypt		406.00						406.00
	4/13	4/15	Saudi Arabia		611.00						611.00
	4/11	4/15	Round Trip Airfare				8,211.00				8,221.00
Pearl-Alice Marsh	4/4	4/11	South Africa		1,418.00		11,671.49				13,089.49
Greg McCarthy	4/2	4/3	Kuwait		155.00		3,626.00				3,781.00
	5/28	5/31	Israel		1,119.00		3,066.01				4,185.00
	5/31	6/2	Jordan		310.00		4,763.83				5,073.83
Hon. Gregory W. Meeks	6/1	6/3	Panama		598.00						598.00
	6/3	6/5	Colombia		512.00						512.00
	6/1	6/5	Round Trip Airfare				1,888.26				1,888.26
Francis Miko	4/2	4/6	Georgia		1,400.00						1,400.00
	4/6	4/7	Austria		190.00						190.00
	4/2	4/7	Round Trip Airfare				8,950.98				8,950.98
Jonathan Cobb Mixter	4/1	4/11	China		2,832.00						2,832.00
	4/11	4/15	The Philippines		796.00				42,716.86		3,512.86
	4/1	4/15	Round Trip Airfare				10,141.25				10,141.25
Hon. Mike Pence	4/2	4/3	Kuwait		155.00		3,626.00				3,781.00
Yleem Poblete	5/29	5/31	Israel		822.00		6,965.76				7,787.76
Hon. Ted Poe	4/10	4/12	Denmark		818.00						818.00
	4/12	4/13	Norway		322.00						322.00
	4/13	4/14	Sweden		479.00				42,269.56		2,748.56
	4/10	4/14	Round Trip Airfare				9,138.26				9,138.26
David Richmond	4/3	4/13	China & Hong Kong		2,513.00		6,969.56				9,482.56
Sheri Rickert	3/31	4/4	Israel		1,648.00		7,274.94				8,922.94
Hon. Dana Rohrabacher	4/10	4/12	Austria		349.00				4,943.28		1,292.28
	4/12	4/12	Hungary		284.00				4,295.07		579.07
	4/13	4/14	Serbia		347.37				4,649.00		996.37

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAR. 31 AND JUNE 30, 2007—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
	4/14	4/15	Kosovo		103.12						103.12
	4/15	4/16	Austria		349.00						349.00
	4/10	4/16	Round Trip Airfare				10,408.64				10,408.64
Robin Roizman	4/9	4/13	Egypt		650.00		6,547.28		4,111.00		7,308.28
Hon. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	5/5	5/7	Colombia		552.00		1,382.70				1,934.70
	5/29	5/31	Israel		822.00		7,893.76				8,715.76
Hon. Edward Royce	4/5	4/6	Czech Republic		370.00		(³)				370.00
	4/7	4/8	Pakistan		339.00		(³)				339.00
	4/8	4/12	India		1,704.73		(³)				1,704.73
	4/12	4/13	Hungary		284.00		(³)				284.00
Hon. Linda T. Sanchez	6/3	6/5	Colombia		512.00		2,386.76				2,898.76
Doug Seay	4/2	4/4	Austria		548.00		4,757.24				5,305.24
Tom Sheehy	4/5	4/6	Czech Republic		370.00		(³)				370.00
	4/7	4/8	Pakistan		339.00		(³)				339.00
	4/8	4/12	India		1,704.73		(³)				1,704.73
	4/12	4/13	Hungary		284.00		(³)				284.00
Hon. Christopher H. Smith	3/31	4/4	Israel		1,648.00		7,274.94				8,922.94
Cliff Stammerman	6/1	6/3	Panama		598.00						598.00
	6/3	6/5	Colombia		512.00						512.00
	6/1	6/5	Round Trip Airfare				1,916.76				1,916.76
Jason Steinbaum	4/13	4/15	Grenada		832.80		(³)				832.80
	4/15	4/16	Trinidad & Tobago				(³)				
Samuel Stratman	5/5	5/7	Colombia		552.00		1,992.87				2,544.87
Nien Su	4/3	4/13	China & Hong Kong		1,828.38		6,949.56				8,777.94
Mark Walker	4/13	4/15	Grenada		370.37		(³)				370.37
	4/15	4/16	Trinidad & Tobago		454.43		(³)				454.43
Hon. Diane E. Watson	4/3	4/13	China & Hong Kong		2,513.00		6,969.56				9,482.56
	6/5	6/5	Bermuda				1,395.45				1,395.45
David Weinberg	4/9	4/13	Egypt		747.00						747.00
	4/13	4/15	Saudi Arabia		520.00						520.00
	4/9	4/15	Round Trip Airfare				7,623.99				7,623.99
	5/28	5/31	Israel		920.00						920.00
	5/31	6/1	Jordan		233.00						233.00
	5/28	6/1	Round Trip Airfare				6,805.78				6,805.78
Kristin Wells	6/1	6/5	Netherlands		1,250.00		6,456.41				7,706.41
Hon. Robert Wexler	4/1	4/15	Israel		2,121.00		6,568.73				8,689.73
	5/29	6/4	Israel		2,394.00		6,722.67				9,116.67
Lisa Williams	4/3	4/13	China & Hong Kong		2,513.00		6,969.56				9,482.56
Committee total					97,129.22		381,533.40		69,571.00		548,233.60

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.
⁴ Indicates delegation costs.

TOM LANTOS, Chairman.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at the right to so indicate and return.

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

ROBERT A. BRADY, Chairman, July 31, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2007.

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. John Conyers, Jr	4/2	4/13	China		2,513.00		6,949.56				9,462.56
Ameer Gopalani	4/2	4/13	China		2,513.00		6,949.56				9,462.56
Committee total					5,026.00		13,899.02				18,925.02

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

JOHN CONYERS, JR., Chairman, July 23, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Kurt Christensen	4/10	4/13	Canada		965.79		1,717.50				2,683.29
Bonnie Bruce	6/9	6/16	Netherlands		1,062.43		6,436.48				7,498.91
Jean Flemma	6/10	6/15	Netherlands		758.88		6,436.48				7,195.36
Committee total					2,787.10		14,590.46				17,377.56

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

NICK J. RAHALL, Chairman, July 17, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR 1 AND JUNE 30, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Andrew Wright	3/31	3/31	England		222.00		8,966.14				9,188.14
	3/31	4/4	Pakistan		1,230.00						1,230.00
	4/4	4/5	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
A. Brooke Bennett	4/5	4/6	Jordan		273.00						273.00
	3/31	3/31	England		222.00		8,089.14				8,311.14
	3/31	4/4	Pakistan		1,230.00						1,230.00
Hon. Christopher Shays	4/4	4/5	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
	4/5	4/6	Jordan		273.00						273.00
	4/7	4/10	Israel		406.00		8,950.97				9,356.97
Lawrence Halloran	4/10	4/11	Jordan		223.00		7,274.43				7,497.43
	4/11	4/12	Iraq								
	4/12	4/13	Qatar								
	4/10	4/11	Jordan		223.00		7,274.43				7,497.43
	4/11	4/12	Iraq								
Stephen Glickman	4/12	4/13	Qatar								
	4/13	4/14	Afghanistan		25.00						25.00
	4/14	4/15	Qatar								
	4/15	4/16	Turkey		152.00						152.00
	4/10	4/11	Jordan		273.00		7,274.43				7,547.43
Hon. Peter Welch	4/11	4/12	Iraq								
	4/12	4/13	Qatar								
	4/13	4/14	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
	4/14	4/15	Qatar								
	4/15	4/16	Turkey		152.00						152.00
Hon. Todd Platts	4/10	4/11	Jordan		273.00		7,274.43				7,547.43
	4/11	4/12	Iraq								
	4/12	4/13	Qatar								
	4/13	4/14	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
	4/14	4/15	Qatar								
Mary Pritschau	4/15	4/16	Turkey		152.00						152.00
	4/10	4/11	Jordan		273.00		7,274.43				7,547.43
	4/11	4/12	Iraq								
	4/12	4/13	Qatar								
	4/13	4/14	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
Hon. Darrell Issa	4/14	4/15	Qatar								
	4/15	4/16	Turkey		152.00						152.00
	4/10	4/11	Jordan		15.50		11,100.00				11,251.50
	4/11	4/12	Iraq								
	4/12	4/13	Qatar								
Hon. Christopher Shays	4/13	4/14	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
	4/14	4/15	Qatar								
	4/27	4/29	Belgium		420.00						420.00
	4/27	4/29	Belgium		420.00						420.00
	5/17	5/21	Jordan		461.69		6,498.13				6,959.82
R. N. Palarino	5/21	5/22	Iraq								
	5/22	5/22	Israel								
	5/18	5/21	Jordan		354.00		6,512.70				6,866.70
	5/21	5/22	Iraq								
	5/22	5/22	Israel								
Hon. Peter Welch	5/26	5/29	Jordan		411.00						411.00
	5/29	6/1	Israel		519.00						790.00
	6/1	6/2	Italy		271.00		271.00				271.00
	3/31	3/31	England		222.00		10,711.14				10,933.14
	3/31	4/4	Pakistan		1,230.00						1,230.00
Hon. Betty McCollum	4/4	4/5	Afghanistan		7,500.00						7,500.00
	4/5	4/6	Jordan		273.00						273.00
	3/31	3/31	England		222.00		9,215.21				9,437.21
	3/31	4/4	Pakistan		1,230.00						1,230.00
	4/4	4/5	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
Patrick Henry	4/5	4/6	Jordan		273.00						273.00
	3/31	3/31	England		222.00		8,089.14				8,311.14
	3/31	4/4	Pakistan		1,230.00						1,230.00
	4/4	4/5	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
	4/5	4/6	Jordan		273.00						273.00
Committee total				21,587.19		100,226.86					137,873.33

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HENRY A. WAXMAN, Chairman, July 30, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAY 29 AND JUNE 9, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
David Goldenberg	5/29	6/2	Israel		692.00						692.00
	6/2	6/3	Jordan		137.00						137.00
	6/3	6/5	Kosovo		224.00						224.00
	6/5	6/9	Romania		592.00						592.00
	5/29	6/9	U.S.-Israel/Romania-U.S.				6,624.72				6,624.72
Committee total				1,645.00		6,624.72					8,269.72

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER, Chairman, July 31, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 3 AND MAR. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, July 31, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, July 31, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Ken Kellner	6/12	6/14	Haiti		570.00		788.20				1,358.20
Committee total					570.00		788.20				1,358.20

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. James Oberstar	4/1	4/3	Brussels		1,462.00	(3)					1,462.00
Hon. Jerry Costello	4/1	4/3	Brussels		1,462.00	(3)					1,462.00
Hon. Corrine Brown	4/1	4/3	Brussels		1,462.00	(3)					1,462.00
Hon. Jim Gerlach	4/1	4/3	Brussels		1,462.00	(3)					1,462.00
Hon. Candice Miller	4/1	4/3	Brussels		1,462.00	(3)					1,462.00
Hon. Daniel Lipinski	4/1	4/3	Brussels		1,462.00	(3)					1,462.00
Hon. John Duncan	4/1	4/3	Brussels		1,462.00	(3)					1,462.00
Hon. Mary Fallin	4/1	4/3	Brussels		1,462.00	(3)					1,462.00
Stacie Soumbeniotis	4/1	4/3	Brussels		1,462.00		6,297.57				7,759.57
Christa Fornarotto	4/1	4/3	Brussels		1,462.00		6,297.57				7,759.57
David Heymsfeld	4/1	4/3	Brussels		1,462.00		6,297.57				7,759.57
Holly Lyons Woodruff	4/1	4/3	Brussels		1,462.00		7,545.57				9,007.57
Suzanne Newhouse	4/1	4/3	Brussels		1,462.00		6,297.57				7,759.57
Jimmy Miller	4/1	4/3	Brussels		1,462.00	(3)					1,462.00
Hon. James Oberstar	4/3	4/6	France		1,809.00		142.00	(eurostar)			1,951.00
Hon. Jerry Costello	4/3	4/5	France		1,206.00		142.00				1,348.00
Hon. Corrine Brown	4/3	4/6	France		1,809.00		142.00				1,951.00
Hon. Jim Gerlach	4/3	4/6	France		1,809.00		142.00				1,951.00
Hon. John Duncan	4/3	4/6	France		1,809.00		142.00				1,951.00
Hon. Candice Miller	4/3	4/6	France		1,809.00		142.00				1,951.00
Hon. Daniel Lipinski	4/3	4/6	France		1,809.00		142.00				1,951.00
Hon. Mary Fallin	4/3	4/6	France		1,809.00		142.00				1,951.00
Stacie Soumbeniotis	4/3	4/6	France		1,809.00		142.00				1,951.00
Christa Fornarotto	4/3	4/6	France		1,809.00		142.00				1,951.00
David Heymsfeld	4/3	4/6	France		1,809.00		142.00				1,951.00
Holly Lyons Woodruff	4/3	4/6	France		1,809.00		142.00				1,951.00
Suzanne Newhouse	4/3	4/6	France		1,809.00		142.00				1,951.00
Jimmy Miller	4/3	4/6	France		1,809.00		142.00				1,951.00
Hon. Jerry Costello	4/4	4/5	England		518.00		761.60				1,279.60
Committee total					45,191.00		32,877.85				79,914.85

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.

JAMES L. OBERSTAR, Chairman.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APRIL 1 AND JUNE 30, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

BOB FILNER, July 11, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Michael Rogers	3/31	4/2	Africa		993.00						
	4/3	4/6	Africa		1,182.00						
Commercial Aircraft							9,048.61				11,223.61
George Pappas	3/31	4/2	Africa		993.00						

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2007—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Commercial Aircraft	4/3	4/6	Africa		1,182.00		7,747.57				9,922.57
Iram Ali	3/31	4/2	Africa		993.00						
Commercial Aircraft	4/3	4/6	Africa		1,182.00						
Hon. Silvestre Reyes	3/30	3/31	Middle East		1,017.00						1,600.00
	4/1	4/3	Middle East		273.00						1,600.00
	4/4	4/5	Middle East		273.00						
Hon. Darrell Issa	3/30	3/31	Middle East		310.00						
	4/1	4/3	Middle East		1,017.00						
	4/4	4/6	Middle East		546.00						1,873.00
Hon. Rush Holt	3/30	3/31	Middle East		310.00						
	4/1	4/3	Middle East		1,017.00						
	4/4	4/5	Middle East		273.00						1,600.00
Michael Delaney	3/30	3/31	Middle East		310.00						
	4/1	4/3	Middle East		1,017.00						
	4/4	4/5	Middle East		273.00						1,600.00
Jeremy Bash	3/30	3/31	Middle East		310.00						
	4/1	4/3	Middle East		1,017.00						
	4/4	4/6	Middle East		546.00						1,873.00
David Abruzzino	3/30	3/31	Middle East		310.00						
	4/1	4/3	Middle East		1,017.00						
	4/4	4/5	Middle East		273.00						1,600.00
Meika Eoyang	4/1	4/2	Asia		678.00						
	4/3	4/4	Asia		782.00						
	4/5	4/6	Asia		800.00						
Commercial Aircraft							9,245.92				11,505.92
Larry Hanauer	4/1	4/2	Asia		678.00						
	4/3	4/4	Asia		1,017.00						
	4/5	4/6	Asia		800.00						
Commercial Aircraft							9,482.92				11,977.92
Donald Veira	4/1	4/2	Asia		678.00						
	4/3	4/4	Asia		782.00						
	4/5	4/6	Asia		800.00						
Commercial Aircraft							9,245.92				11,505.92
Frederick Fleitz	4/1	4/2	Asia		678.00						
	4/3	4/4	Asia		782.00						
	4/5	4/6	Asia		800.00						
Commercial Aircraft							9,245.92				11,505.92
Hon. Peter Hoekstra	4/1	4/2	Central Asia		366.67						
	4/3	4/5	Central Asia		474.00						
	4/6	4/7	Central Asia		145.00						
Commercial Aircraft							9,712.80				10,698.47
James Lewis	4/1	4/2	Central Asia		366.67						
	4/3	4/5	Central Asia		474.00						
	4/6	4/7	Central Asia		145.00						
Commercial Aircraft							9,755.80				10,741.47
Michael Meermans	4/1	4/2	Central Asia		366.67						
	4/3	4/4	Central Asia		474.00						
	4/5	4/6	Central Asia		145.00						
Commercial Aircraft							9,735.80				10,721.47
Hon. Robert Cramer	5/3	5/7	Europe		468.00						
Hon. Darrell Issa	5/4	5/6	Middle East		150.00						
Commercial Aircraft							7,826.00				7,976.00
Jody Houck	5/4	5/6	Middle East		150.00						
Commercial Aircraft							9,293.08				9,443.08
Wyndee Parker	5/26	5/27	Poland		355.00						
	5/28	5/29	Russia		962.00						
	5/30	5/31	Lithuania		255.00						
Commercial Aircraft							7,641.03				9,213.03
Jeremy Bash	5/28	5/29	Russia		962.00						
	5/30	5/31	Lithuania		255.00						
	5/31	6/2	Estonia		606.00						
Commercial Aircraft							8,080.06				9,903.06
Josh Kirschner	5/28	5/29	Russia		962.00						
	5/30	5/31	Lithuania		255.00						
	5/31	6/2	Estonia		606.00						
Commercial Airlines							8,155.06				9,978.06
Eric Greenwald	5/26	5/27	Russia		962.00						
	5/28	5/29	Lithuania		255.00						
	5/30	5/31	Estonia		606.00						
	6/2	6/5	London		1,704.00						
Commercial Aircraft							7,958.03				11,485.80
James Lewis	5/28	5/29	Russia		962.00						
	5/30	5/31	Lithuania		255.00						
	5/31	6/2	Estonia		606.00						
Commercial Aircraft							8,923.06				10,746.06
Christopher Donesa	5/28	5/29	Russia		962.00						
	5/30	5/31	Lithuania		255.00						
	5/31	6/2	Estonia		606.00						
Commercial Airlines							8,080.06				9,903.06
Mieke Eoyang	5/26	5/29	Philippines		908.00						
	5/30	6/2	Jakarta		849.00						
Commercial Aircraft							10,869.70				12,626.70
Donald Vieira	5/26	5/29	Philippines		908.00						
	5/30	6/2	Jakarta		849.00						
Commercial Aircraft							10,869.70				12,626.70
George Pappas	5/26	5/29	Philippines		908.00						
	5/30	6/2	Jakarta		849.00						
Commercial Airlines							10,869.70				12,626.70
Hon. Rush D. Holt	5/29	5/29	Vienna								
Commercial Aircraft							834.20				834.20
Hon. Mike Thompson	5/31	6/2	London		1,136.00						
	6/2	6/3	Germany		322.64						
	6/4	6/5	Sweden		958.00						
Commercial Aircraft							8,974.19				11,390.83
Laurance Hanauer	5/31	6/2	London		1,136.00						
	6/2	6/3	Germany		322.64						
	6/4	6/5	Sweden		958.00						

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2007—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Commercial Aircraft											
Linda Cohen	5/31	6/2	London		1,136.00		8,534.19				10,950.83
	6/2	6/3	Germany		322.64						
	6/4	6/5	Sweden		958.00						
Commercial Aircraft							8,534.19				10,950.83
Jamal Ware	5/31	6/2	London		1,136.00						
	6/2	6/3	Germany		322.64						
	6/4	6/5	Sweden		958.00						
Commercial Aircraft							8,514.19				10,930.83
Hon. Robert Cramer	5/31	6/5	London		2,840.00						
Commercial Aircraft							7,098.55				9,938.55
Hon. Darrell Issa	6/23	6/24	Israel		423.00						
	6/25	6/26	Germany		436.00						
Commercial Aircraft							6,303.45				7,162.45
James Lewis	6/23	6/24	Israel		436.00						
	6/25	6/26	Germany		436.00						
Commercial Aircraft							9,039.45				9,898.45
Josh Kirschner	6/23	6/24	Israel		423.00						
	6/25	6/26	Germany		436.00						
Commercial Aircraft							6,303.45				7,162.45
Committee totals											316,087.50

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.

SILVESTRE REYES, Chairman, July 3, 2007.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3161. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Buprofezin; Pesticide Tolerance; Technical Correction [EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0821; FRL-8140-9] received August 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3162. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Cis-isomer of 1-(3-chloroallyl)-3,5,7-triaza-1-azoniaadamantane chloride (CAS Reg. No. 51229-78-8); Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-0220; FRL-8122-3] received August 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3163. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fipronil; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2005-0206; FRL-8142-6] received August 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3164. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Lambda-Cyhalothrin; Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2005-0545; FRL-8143-1] received August 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3165. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Zucchini Yellow Mosaic Virus-Weak Strain; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0329; FRL-8137-9] received August 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3166. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Pyrasulfotole; Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-1026; FRL-8141-8] received August 9, 2007, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3167. A letter from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting Authorization of Colonel Rex C. McMillian, United States Marine Corps, to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3168. A letter from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting Authorization of Brigadier General Anthony A. Cucolo III to wear the insignia of the grade of major general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3169. A letter from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of the enclosed list of officers to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3170. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary for Acquisitions, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the National Defense Stockpile (NDS) Annual Materials Plan for Fiscal Year 2008, along with proposed plans for FY 2009 through 2012, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 98h-2(b); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3171. A letter from the Inspector General, Department of Defense, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3172. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Colorado; Revised Denver and Longmont Carbon Monoxide Maintenance Plans, and Approval of Related Revisions [EPA-R08-OAR-2007-0465; FRL-8453-5] received August 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3173. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agen-

cy's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Arizona — Phoenix PM-10 Nonattainment Area; Salt River Area Plan for Attainment of the 24-hour PM-10 Standard [EPA-R09-OAR-2006-0526; FRL-8446-1] received August 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3174. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Idaho and Washington; Interstate Transport of Pollution; Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule [EPA-R10-OAR-2007-0110; FRL-8456-3] received August 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3175. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Plan for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Louisiana; Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR) [EPA-R06-OAR-2006-1028; FRL-8455-3] received August 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3176. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Arkansas: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision [FRL-8455-5] received August 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3177. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Louisiana: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision [FRL-8455-9] received August 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3178. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — New Mexico: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision [FRL-8455-6] received August 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3179. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Alaska [EPA-R10-OAR-2006-101 ; FRL-8447-2] received August 9, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3180. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Montana; Missoula Carbon Monoxide Redesignation to Attainment, Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes, and Approval of Related Revisions [EPA-R08-OAR-2006-0163; FRL-8452-9] received August 9, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3181. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; State Implementation Plan Revision Variance for International Paper, Franklin Paper Mill, Virginia [EPA-R03-OAR-2006-0060; FRL-8452-6] received August 9, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3182. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Implementation Plans of Tennessee: Clean Air Interstate Rule [EPA-R04-OAR-2007-0229-200713 (a); FRL-8453-6] received August 9, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3183. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Determination of Attainment, Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Ohio; Redesignation of the Toledo Area 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment Area to Attainment [EPA-R05-OAR-2007-0001; FRL 8451-9] received August 9, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3184. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Determination of Attainment, Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Ohio; Redesignation of the Dayton-Springfield 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment Area to Attainment [EPA-R05-OAR-2006-0956; FRL-8452-3] received August 9, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3185. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Florida: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision [EPA-R04-RCRA-2007-0016; FRL-8451-8] received August 9, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3186. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Operator Training Grant Guidelines for States; Solid Waste Disposal Act, Subtitle I, as amended by Title XV, Subtitle B of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 [FRL-8451-6] received August 9, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3187. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designation of

Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Kentucky: Redesignation of the Kentucky Portion of the Louisville 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area to Attainment for Ozone; Technical Amendment [EPA-R04-OAR-2006-0584 200723(c); FRL-8460-6] received August 21, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3188. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Jersey; Low Emission Vehicle Program [Docket No. EPA-R02-OAR-2006-0920 FRL-8441-7] received August 21, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3189. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Redesignation of the Reading 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area to Attainment and Approval of the Area's Maintenance Plan and 2002 Base-Year Inventory [EPA-R03-OAR-2007-0175; FRL-8459-3] received August 21, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3190. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to the Taiwan Relations Act, agreements concluded by the American Institute in Taiwan on April 17 and July 13, 2007, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3311(a); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3191. 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.

3192. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting pursuant to Section 62(a) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), notification concerning the Department of the Air Force's proposed lease of defense articles to the Government of Canada (Transmittal No. 07-07); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3193. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisitions, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting notification regarding the annual report on foreign military sales and direct sales to foreign entities of significant military equipment manufactured in the United States during the preceding calendar year, pursuant to Public Law 109-364, section 1231; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3194. A letter from the Acting White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3195. A letter from the Acting White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3196. A letter from the Acting White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3197. A letter from the Acting White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3198. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3199. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3200. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3201. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3202. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3203. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3204. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3205. A letter from the Special Assistant to the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

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. MILLER, GEORGE: Committee of Conference. Conference report on H.R. 2669. A bill to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 601 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008 (Rept. 110-317). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. FRANK: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2761. A bill to extend the Terrorism Insurance Program of the Department of the Treasury, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-318). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. WELCH: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 636. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1908) to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform (Rept. 110-319). Referred to the House Calendar.

Ms. SUTTON: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 637. Resolution providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2669) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 601 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008 (Rept. 110-320). 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. CARNEY (for himself, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. MCDERMOTT):

H.R. 3480. A bill to direct the United States Sentencing Commission to assure appropriate enhancements of those involved in receiving stolen property where that property

consists of grave markers of veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WOOLSEY (for herself, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. FILNER):

H.R. 3481. A bill to expand family and medical leave in support of servicemembers with combat-related injuries; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and House Administration, 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. BONO (for herself and Mr. PALLONE):

H.R. 3482. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to facilitate number portability in order to increase consumer choice of voice service provider; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BOSWELL (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

H.R. 3483. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for qualified tuition and related expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 3484. A bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for improved public health and food safety through enhanced enforcement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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 Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 3485. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and the Egg Products Inspection Act to improve the safety of food, meat, and poultry products through enhanced traceability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. ELLSWORTH:

H.R. 3486. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for improving mine safety; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. MEEK of Florida, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H.R. 3487. A bill to provide for a rotating schedule for regional selection of delegates to a national Presidential nominating convention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 3488. A bill to require mobile phones containing digital cameras to make a sound when a photograph is taken; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 3489. A bill to require that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense enter into a sharing agreement with Eglin Air Force Base Hospital for the provision of inpatient services to veterans in Northwest Florida, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, 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. RADANOVICH:

H.R. 3490. A bill to transfer administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands from the Bureau of Land Management to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to take such lands into trust for Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians of the Tuolumne Rancheria, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. WELCH of Vermont (for himself, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. OLVER, and Mr. HODES):

H.R. 3491. A bill to amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to improve and strengthen the safety inspection process of nuclear facilities; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WESTMORELAND:

H.R. 3492. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to increase the limits on the amount of contributions that may be made to political committees and to provide for the indexing of such limits for all contributions made under the Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. COHEN:

H. Con. Res. 205. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Women's Friendship Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H. Res. 638. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United Nations should forthwith take the procedural actions necessary to amend Article 23 of the Charter of the United Nations to establish India as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GALLEGLY:

H. Res. 639. A resolution commending the actions of the Government of Germany and its cooperation with United States intelligence agencies in preventing a large-scale terrorist attack against locations in Germany, including sites frequented by Americans; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), 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.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. MILLER of Florida introduced A bill (H.R. 3493) to modify the purposes for which the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation at the National Museum of Naval Aviation at Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, may operate the National Flight Academy; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS TO PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 63: Mr. SOUDER.
H.R. 197: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania and Mr. SNYDER.
H.R. 368: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Ms. FOXX.
H.R. 369: Mr. OLVER.
H.R. 555: Ms. KILPATRICK.
H.R. 636: Ms. FOXX.
H.R. 643: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 649: Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 652: Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas.

H.R. 676: Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 686: Mr. HALL of New York and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 690: Mr. BOUCHER.

H.R. 699: Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 718: Ms. HIRONO.

H.R. 719: Mr. BACHUS, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. ALTMIRE, and Mr. ELLSWORTH.

H.R. 728: Mr. GORDON.

H.R. 897: Mr. KUCINICH and Ms. BALDWIN.

H.R. 997: Mr. PITTS and Mr. MCINTYRE.

H.R. 1110: Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. DENT, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. SPACE, Mr. BERRY, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. HODES, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. WALSH of New York, and Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 1188: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1228: Mr. SARBANES.

H.R. 1236: Mr. ISSA.

H.R. 1275: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 1286: Mr. WELCH of Vermont and Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 1303: Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. TIBERI, and Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 1419: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WAXMAN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. GORDON, Mr. SNYDER, and Mr. GOODE.

H.R. 1428: Mr. PAUL, Mr. BAIRD, and Mr. KNOLLENBERG.

H.R. 1464: Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 1496: Mr. FERGUSON.

H.R. 1537: Mrs. MUSGRAVE.

H.R. 1542: Mr. WYNN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H.R. 1552: Mr. BOUCHER and Mr. LAMPSON.

H.R. 1584: Mr. TANNER, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. PITTS, and Mr. BOREN.

H.R. 1610: Mr. KING of New York and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H.R. 1621: Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 1644: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 1647: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 1843: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. CARNEY, and Mr. MANZULLO.

H.R. 1887: Mr. SESTAK.

H.R. 1971: Mr. PICKERING and Mr. BERRY.

H.R. 2095: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BOREN.

H.R. 2108: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 2169: Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 2204: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin and Ms. SOLIS.

H.R. 2205: Mr. SALI.

H.R. 2210: Mr. DAVIS of Alabama.

H.R. 2211: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.

H.R. 2266: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 2276: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. CAMP of Michigan, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. KILPATRICK, and Mr. UPTON.

H.R. 2280: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. GRAVES.

H.R. 2303: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 2342: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 2370: Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.

H.R. 2380: Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. FORBES, and Mrs. MUSGRAVE.

H.R. 2394: Mr. ROSKAM and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 2443: Mr. TANNER.

H.R. 2452: Mr. BOSWELL.

H.R. 2484: Mrs. BONO.

H.R. 2537: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 2539: Mr. STARK.

H.R. 2604: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 2611: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. BACA, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 2620: Mr. SESTAK and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 2659: Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H.R. 2713: Mr. KING of New York.

- H.R. 2714: Mr. GORDON and Mrs. EMERSON.
 H.R. 2723: Mr. GONZALEZ.
 H.R. 2728: Mr. HERGER and Mr. DOOLITTLE.
 H.R. 2746: Mrs. CAPPS.
 H.R. 2762: Mr. CLAY, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, and Mr. WAMP.
 H.R. 2783: Ms. SOLIS.
 H.R. 2833: Mr. HARE, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 2860: Mr. WICKER.
 H.R. 2914: Mr. UPTON.
 H.R. 2940: Ms. MATSUI.
 H.R. 3005: Ms. DELAURO.
 H.R. 3012: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.
 H.R. 3024: Mr. CROWLEY.
 H.R. 3028: Mr. MCCOTTER.
 H.R. 3029: Mr. REICHERT and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
 H.R. 3057: Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. GOODE, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. TIERNEY, and Mr. WICKER.
 H.R. 3099: Mrs. TAUSCHER and Mr. GOODE.
 H.R. 3115: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. SIRES.
 H.R. 3168: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida and Ms. MATSUI.
 H.R. 3191: Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 3223: Mr. MCINTYRE.
 H.R. 3249: Mr. BOUCHER.
 H.R. 3257: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
 H.R. 3265: Mrs. EMERSON.
 H.R. 3282: Ms. WOOLSEY and Mr. WAMP.
 H.R. 3298: Mr. LOEBSSACK, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. ORTIZ, and Mr. BOSWELL.
 H.R. 3327: Mr. BACHUS.
 H.R. 3355: Mr. DELAHUNT.
 H.R. 3364: Mr. COSTA.
 H.R. 3373: Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 3386: Mr. MCHUGH.
 H.R. 3394: Ms. CARSON.
 H.R. 3402: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
 H.R. 3416: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.
 H.R. 3429: Mr. BOSWELL.
 H.R. 3432: Mr. RANGEL.
 H.J. Res. 3: Mr. HONDA.
 H.J. Res. 6: Mr. MARSHALL.
 H. Con. Res. 163: Mr. WELDON of Florida.
 H. Res. 95: Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. MCINTYRE.
 H. Res. 111: Mr. SPRATT, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Mr. ROSS, Mrs. SCHMIDT, and Mr. ISSA.
 H. Res. 604: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. ISSA, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. WOLF, Mr. HARE, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. MARSHALL.
 H. Res. 605: Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DENT, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GOODE, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. LAHOOD, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. REYES, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. HUNTER.
 H. Res. 634: Mrs. DRAKE.