

(1) To State and local health and disability agencies for the purpose of—

(A) establishing paralysis registries for the support of relevant population-based research;

(B) developing comprehensive paralysis and other physical disability action plans and activities focused on the items listed in subsection (b)(4);

(C) assisting State-based programs in establishing and implementing partnerships and collaborations that maximize the input and support of people with paralysis and other physical disabilities and their constituent organizations;

(D) coordinating paralysis and physical disability activities with existing State-based disability and health programs;

(E) providing education and training opportunities and programs for health professionals and allied caregivers; and

(F) developing, testing, evaluating, and replicating effective intervention programs to maintain or improve health and quality of life.

(2) To nonprofit private health and disability organizations for the purpose of—

(A) disseminating information to the public;

(B) improving access to services for persons living with paralysis and other physical disabilities and their caregivers;

(C) testing model intervention programs to improve health and quality of life; and

(D) coordinating existing services with State-based disability and health programs.

(d) COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall ensure that activities under this section are coordinated as appropriate with other activities of the Public Health Service.

(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than December 1, 2007, the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report describing the results of the study under subsection (a) and, as applicable, the national plan developed under subsection (b)(1).

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the purpose of carrying out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated in the aggregate \$25,000,000 for the fiscal years 2007 through 2010.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) as science and research have advanced, so too has the need to increase strategic planning across the National Institutes of Health to identify research that is important to the advancement of biomedical science; and

(2) research involving collaboration among the national research institutes and national centers of the National Institutes of Health is crucial for advancing research on paralysis and thereby improving rehabilitation and the quality of life for persons living with paralysis and other physical disabilities.

Mr. BARTON of Texas (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, reserving an objection at this time, again I was going to ask the chairman, the version I have now is December 8 at 5:25 p.m. Does that include the amendment that the gentleman now proposed? Or is this something new?

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Yes.

Mr. PALLONE. So the amendment that you proposed would be the version that I have now for December 8 at 5:25 p.m.?

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Yes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1554, the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Act, legislation that will enhance paralysis research and improve the lives of people suffering from mobility impairments caused by disease or accident.

I first introduced the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Act in 2003 after meeting with the extraordinary man for whom this bill is named. Christopher Reeve told me how dramatically the accident that left him paralyzed changed his life and forced him to completely depend on others for his everyday needs.

What impressed me so much about Christopher was not only his strength and courage in dealing with what only people similarly situated can understand, but his resolve and determination to one day walk again and help others who shared his condition. And though Chris never walked again before his death, he and his wife Dana, who also has since so tragically passed away, pushed to the national forefront the issue of the need for better research into paralysis and greater emphasis on rehabilitation. This bill is part of their legacy.

The substitute amendment offered to the bill this evening represents a significant step forward in our efforts to find a cure for paralysis and mobility impairment. The amendment authorizes grants through the Department of Health and Human Services to expand research on paralysis, better coordinate that research, and intensify efforts to translate clinical research into progress on rehabilitation and improving the quality-of-life of people with paralysis and mobility impairment.

The bill will encourage the development of unique programs through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to improve the quality of life and long-term health status of persons with paralysis and other physical disabilities. CDC grants could be used to help states develop coordinated services to assist people with paralysis or for non-profit organizations to improve access to important services and better integrate people with paralysis into society.

It is my hope that efforts in these areas ultimately will help translate clinical research into evidence-based best practices for treating paralysis and improving quality-of-life for mobility-impaired individuals.

Finally, the amendment renames the bill the Christopher and Dana Reeve Quality of Life for Persons with Paralysis Act, to appropriately recognize the tireless efforts of both Chris and Dana Reeve, both of whom were taken from this Earth much too soon.

There is no question that this bill is desperately needed. Though Christopher Reeve was certainly one of the most vocal and visible advocates for people affected by paralysis, he fought for many more who shared his condition. And while there are tremendous economic costs associated with disability caused by paralysis, we cannot begin to measure the impact that this condition has on those living

with paralysis and on those who love and care for them.

Before I conclude, I want to thank Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman JOE BARTON and Health Subcommittee Chairman NATHAN DEAL, both for their willingness to move forward on this bill and for their leadership on issues important to so many of us. I am proud to have worked with you both for so many years and wish you well as you continue your service in Congress.

I also want to thank full Committee Ranking Member JOHN DINGELL, Subcommittee Ranking Member SHERRON BROWN, and the majority and minority committee staffs for their work on this measure, especially Randy Pate of the majority staff and Cheryl Jaeger of Majority Whip BLUNT's staff. I also would be remiss if I did not thank several former staffers of mine, Steve Tilton, Jeremy Allen, and Jeanne Haggerty, for their previous work on this bill. The work of all of these dedicated people has led us to where we are today.

Mr. Speaker, we clearly need to better focus and enhance our national effort to cure paralysis and improve the lives of people who suffer from mobility impairment. The passage and enactment of the Christopher and Dana Reeve Quality of Life for Persons with Paralysis Act will be another critical step toward helping millions of Americans walk again, and carrying on the fight that Christopher and Dana Reeve fought so valiantly. I urge all of our colleagues to support it.

The amendment was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 6164, H.R. 5280, H.R. 5472, H.R. 1245, S. 3718, S. 1608, S. 3678, S. 707, H.R. 6143, H.R. 1554, S. 3546, S. 2563, S. 4092 and H. Res. 335, and to insert extraneous material on the bills.

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

There was no objection.

FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS ASSISTANCE TAX CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2006

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Ways and Means be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 6429) to treat payments by charitable organizations with respect to certain firefighters as exempt payments, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 6429

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Fallen Firefighters Assistance Tax Clarification Act of 2006”.

SEC. 2. PAYMENTS BY CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN FIREFIGHTERS TREATED AS EX-EMPT PAYMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, payments made on behalf of any firefighter who died as the result of the October 2006 Esperanza Incident fire in southern California to any family member of such firefighter by an organization described in paragraph (1) or (2) of section 509(a) of such Code shall be treated as related to the purpose or function constituting the basis for such organization’s exemption under section 501 of such Code if such payments are made in good faith using a reasonable and objective formula which is consistently applied.

(b) APPLICATION.—Subsection (a) shall apply only to payments made on or after October 26, 2006, and before June 1, 2007.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, the communities in our Southern California mountains, and the community of Federal firefighters, suffered a terrible tragedy a little more than a month ago when five Federal firefighters were killed protecting our homes and families. Our constituents have promised to provide for the survivors of Engine Captain Mark Loutzenhisser, Fire Engine Operator Jess McLean, Assistant Fire Engine Operator Jason McKay, Firefighter Daniel Hoover-Najera, and Firefighter Pablo Cerda. With the help of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and a local United Way chapter, nearly \$1 million has been raised. But we need to ensure that our tax regulations do not block the distribution of this money to the deserving families. My colleague and friend Representative MARY BONO has introduced a very simple bill, which would give permission to the United Way to organize the fund’s dispersal. It is a narrow bill that creates a one-time income tax exemption for those firefighter families receiving money from the fund. It also allows donations to the fund to be deductible. Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that the members of this body will help us help these families, who have suffered a terrible loss in the name of public service and protecting our communities from wildfires.

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, after five United States Forest Service fire fighters were killed in the line of duty battling the Esperanza fire to protect life and property, a fund was set up to help care for the families of these brave men.

Thousands of citizens from across the country donated to this worthy cause. The response was so overwhelming that soon, the County of Riverside found itself with approximately \$1 million to distribute to their survivors. The County turned to the Central County United Way in Hemet, CA to help manage these donations.

Local officials were surprised to learn soon thereafter that tax-exempt charitable organizations are not allowed to raise money for a group as small and specific as the families of these five American heroes.

My colleagues, Chairman JERRY LEWIS and Congressman KEN CALVERT, and I, along with Senators BARBARA BOXER and DIANNE FEINSTEIN, are trying to remedy this situation.

The pain these families have suffered through should not be worsened due to their inability to receive funds that Americans so generously donated. Nor should the United

Way jeopardize its tax exempt status to help distribute these donations.

Sometimes, our rules and regulations just don’t make sense and they prevent charity and kind heartedness from being furthered. While no amount of money will ease the suffering of the families of these fallen firefighters, Congress can take an important step to help get them the donations they deserve.

I want to thank Chairman BILL THOMAS, Majority Leader JOHN BOEHNER and Ranking Member CHARLES RANGEL for helping to make this bill possible. Your kindness and thoughtfulness will not be forgotten.

I urge the passage of this critical piece of legislation.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUNDS RESTORATION ACT OF 2006

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Ways and Means be discharged from further consideration of the Senate bill (S. 4091) to provide authority for restoration of the Social Security Trust Funds from the effects of a clerical error, and for others purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Reserving the right to object, the title said “for other purposes.” Would you elaborate?

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

Mr. KUCINICH. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. THOMAS. That is boilerplate language that is used. This is something that we do virtually every year because there are always accounting errors, and this allows for the correcting of the accounting errors.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 4091

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Social Security Trust Funds Restoration Act of 2006”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act—

(1) CLERICAL ERROR.—The term “clerical error” means the bookkeeping errors at the Social Security Administration that resulted in the overpayment of amounts transferred from the Trust Funds to the general fund of the Treasury during the period commencing with 1999 and ending with 2005 as transfers, under the voluntary withholding program authorized by section 3402(p) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, of anticipated taxes on

benefit payments under title II of the Social Security Act.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Treasury.

(3) TRUST FUNDS.—The term “Trust Funds” means the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund.

SEC. 3. RESTORATION OF TRUST FUNDS.

(a) APPROPRIATION.—There is hereby appropriated to each of the Trust Funds, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, an amount determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Security, to be equal, to the extent practicable in the judgment of the Secretary, to the difference between—

(1) the sum of—

(A) the amounts that the Secretary determines, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Security, were overpaid from such Trust Fund to the general fund of the Treasury by reason of the clerical error, and

(B) the amount that the Secretary determines, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Security, to be equal, to the extent practicable in the judgment of the Secretary, to the interest income that would have been payable to such Trust Fund pursuant to section 201(d) of the Social Security Act on obligations issued under chapter 31 of title 31, United States Code, that was not paid by reason of the clerical error, and

(2) the sum of—

(A) the amounts that are refunded to such Trust Fund as overpayments by reason of the clerical error to the extent not limited by periods of limitation under applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and

(B) the interest that is paid to such Trust Fund on the overpayments resulting from the clerical error to the extent allowed under applicable provisions of such Code.

(b) INVESTMENT.—The Secretary shall invest the amounts appropriated to each of the Trust Funds under subsection (a) in accordance with the currently applicable investment policy for such Trust Fund.

SEC. 4. TIMING.

(a) ACTIONS BY THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall take such actions as are necessary to accomplish the restoration described in section 3 not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) ACTION BY THE COMMISSIONER.—The Commissioner of Social Security shall cooperate with the Secretary to the extent necessary to enable the Secretary to meet the requirements of subsection (a).

SEC. 5. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.

Not later than 30 days after the Secretary takes the last action necessary to accomplish the restoration described in section 3, the Secretary shall notify each House of the Congress in writing of the actions so taken.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND UNITED STATES TERRITORIES CIRCULATING QUARTER DOLLAR PROGRAM ACT

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Financial Services be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3885) to provide for a circulating quarter dollar coin program to honor the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam,