

felony takes place after enactment and while the Member is in Congress and a conviction occurs after January 2, 2009; and

Applies to bribery of public officials and witnesses; wrongfully acting as agents of foreign principals; conspiracy to commit one of the offenses listed above; conspiracy to violate the post-employment prohibitions; and perjury and subornation of perjury in falsely denying committing one of these crimes.

While I believe it is important to punish those Members who violate the law, and in turn the public's trust, I am very pleased that this bill, through the Director of Office Personnel Management (OPM), provides protection for family members of those Members whose conduct warrants forfeiture of their pensions.

The intent of the bill is not to harm the family members of Members who are convicted of certain serious crimes. That is why the bill permits the Director of Office of Personnel Management, if it is determined to be necessary under the totality of the circumstances, to provide benefits to the Member's spouse and children, in which case the lump sum payment due the Member based on his or her own contributions would be reduced by an appropriate amount.

While avoiding harm to family members of the convicted Members, this critical measure to deny pension benefits to House Members convicted of corruption is another step towards comprehensive ethics reform. We promised the American people that we would restore a sense of respect and dignity to the House of Representatives. This measure is a meaningful first step towards restoring public trust in Congress and ensuring that taxpayers do not fund the pensions of Members convicted of corruption while serving the American people. While we seek to do the right thing by punishing perpetrators of serious illegal conduct, we also seek to deter Members from such behavior and to assure the American people that we serve at their behest and in their interest, not our own.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 476 is necessary because under current law a Federal elected official found to have betrayed the public trust is eligible to receive taxpayer-funded pensions for their service in Congress—even if they are convicted of serious abuses of power. The American people do not want us to reward those Members who have dishonored and disrespected both the law and the public's trust.

By passing this bill, this Congress is sending a message to the American people that we heard their voices loud and clear in November 2006 that we must win back their trust and act in the best interest of the American people.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 476 to clean up the American people's House and win back public trust.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment with the majority's efforts today to attempt to restore the public trust in government.

The Nation's Capital has been hammered by corruption-related political scandals in recent years, and it is imperative that we take action to respond to these scandals. But H.R. 476, the Congressional Pension Accountability Act, is little more than a trophy that the majority can hold up to claim they restored public trust in the Nation's Capital. In a nutshell, the legislation gives Members of Congress who

are convicted of a public corruption related crime an additional slap on the wrist by preventing them from counting their time served as a Member of Congress toward their federal retirement.

This stands in stark contrast to much stronger, bipartisan legislation that the Committee on Government Reform marked up last February to crack down on public officials convicted of betraying the public trust. The Federal Pension Forfeiture Act of 2006, approved by unanimous consent by the Committee last year, would have denied federal retirement benefits to any Member, congressional employee or political appointee in the Executive Branch convicted of a crime related to public corruption punishable by more than one year imprisonment for an act committed while the individual was employed by the federal government.

Unlike H.R. 476, last year's proposal would have permanently denied a pension from an official convicted of a corruption-related crime rather than simply limiting time that counted toward the official's retirement. Additionally and most importantly, last year's proposal covered not only Members of Congress but also political appointees in the Executive Branch. After all, federal officials in both branches of government equally share the blame for the fact that the public no longer trusts public officials.

It's unclear to me why the majority would want to only address half of the issue when we have an opportunity to address the issue in its entirety. Unfortunately this is the first opportunity I have had to raise this concern since the legislation was taken straight to the floor rather than receiving the benefit of committee consideration. Regardless of process, I fear that this legislation will do little if anything to restore any of the public's trust in the federal government.

Therefore, it is with regret that I will vote in favor of this legislation, and I do so only because no other option has been presented to the House.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I yield back whatever time that I have left.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCGOVERN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 476, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those voting have responded in the affirmative.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, 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 motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 52, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 390, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 29, by the yeas and nays.

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

PAYING TRIBUTE TO REVEREND WAITSTILL SHARP AND MARTHA SHARP FOR THEIR HEROIC EFFORTS TO SAVE JEWS DURING THE HOLOCAUST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 52.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 52, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 413, nays 0, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 44]

YEAS—413

Abercrombie	Cannon	Duncan
Ackerman	Cantor	Edwards
Aderholt	Capito	Ehlers
Akin	Capps	Ellison
Alexander	Capuano	Ellsworth
Allen	Cardoza	Emanuel
Altmire	Carnahan	Emerson
Andrews	Carney	Engel
Arcuri	Carter	English (PA)
Baca	Castle	Eshoo
Bachmann	Castor	Etheridge
Bachus	Chabot	Everett
Baird	Chandler	Fallin
Baker	Clarke	Farr
Baldwin	Clay	Fattah
Barrett (SC)	Cleaver	Feeney
Barrow	Clyburn	Ferguson
Bartlett (MD)	Coble	Finer
Barton (TX)	Cohen	Flake
Bean	Cole (OK)	Forbes
Becerra	Conaway	Fortenberry
Berkley	Conyers	Fossella
Berman	Cooper	Foxx
Berry	Costa	Frank (MA)
Biggert	Courtney	Franks (AZ)
Billirakis	Cramer	Frelinghuysen
Bishop (GA)	Crenshaw	Galleghy
Bishop (NY)	Crowley	Garrett (NJ)
Blackburn	Cubin	Gerlach
Blumenauer	Cuellar	Giffords
Blunt	Cummings	Gilchrest
Boehner	Davis (AL)	Gillibrand
Bonner	Davis (CA)	Gillmor
Bono	Davis (IL)	Gingrey
Boozman	Davis (KY)	Gohmert
Boren	Davis, David	Gonzalez
Boswell	Davis, Jo Ann	Goode
Boucher	Davis, Lincoln	Goodlatte
Boustany	Davis, Tom	Gordon
Boyd (FL)	Deal (GA)	Granger
Boyd (KS)	DeFazio	Graves
Brady (PA)	DeGette	Green, Al
Brady (TX)	Delahunt	Green, Gene
Braley (IA)	DeLauro	Grijalva
Brown (SC)	Dent	Hall (NY)
Brown, Corrine	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hall (TX)
Brown-Waite,	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hare
Ginny	Dicks	Hastert
Buchanan	Dingell	Hastings (FL)
Burgess	Doggett	Hastings (WA)
Burton (IN)	Donnelly	Hayes
Butterfield	Doolittle	Heller
Calvert	Doyle	Hensarling
Camp (MI)	Drake	Hergert
Campbell (CA)	Dreier	Herseth