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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC.
April 24, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ELIOT L. ENGEL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) for 2 minutes.

ARMY SPECIALIST JOEY CANTRELL

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

One of the most solemn duties that we can have in the House of Representatives is to recognize the sacrifice, devotion and service of those who protect this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of Army Specialist Joey Cantrell, a soldier from Westwood, Kentucky, who recently lost his life fighting in Taji, Iraq, serving with the Army's Second Battalion, Eighth Cavalry Regiment.

Specialist Cantrell graduated from Fairview High School in 2002 and was a celebrated athlete both on the football field and around the track. His football coach and mentor, Fairview school superintendent Bill Musick, told a local paper, ''You always noticed Joey Cantrell because of how he presented himself. He was a sharp kid.'' Joey overcame adversity, achieved academic excellence, was a leader and a tough competitor in athletics, and won the friendship of many. When it came to serving, his coach shared with me that Joey felt it was a call to go into the military.

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit with his mother Sondra Adkins. His family and friends remembered his warm smile, thoughtful nature and his ability to excel at everything he did. Joey Cantrell will be deeply missed by all who knew him. His mother shared that Joey believed in what he was doing and gave his life doing what he wanted to do.

Today, as we honor Joey's memory, our Nation grieves with his mother and his family. We are deeply indebted to Joey and thankful for his service. Soldiers like Joey Cantrell make me proud to be an American.

ON THE PASSING OF CONGRESSWOMAN JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland, the distinguished majority leader, Mr. HOYER.

Mr. HOYER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is with deep sadness that I rise today to note the passing of our colleague and friend, Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald, a dedicated public servant who worked tirelessly on behalf of her constituents in California's 37th Congressional District and a devoted representative who cared deeply for those she served.

Congresswoman Millender-McDonald was someone who never allowed the conventions of her surroundings to define the role she would play. Because she understood that education would unlock her budding potential as a community leader, Juanita achieved something extraordinary by earning a bachelor's degree from Redlands University at the age of 40, and a master's degree from California State University at the age of 47.

Because she recognized her duty to give back just a little of what she had learned, Juanita made our children's future her life's work by teaching math and English in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Because she could not sit idly by when she had much to offer, Juanita turned to public service in 1990, becoming the first African American woman to serve on the Carson city council, the first African American woman to chair two committees in the California State assembly, and the first African American woman to chair a full committee in the U.S. Congress.

And because she never let go of her abiding faith in the fact that our tomorrows can be better than our todays, Juanita will be remembered, remembered as a leader who inspired action, drove progress and labored diligently to improve the lives of people throughout our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the advocates of equal rights for women and minorities have lost a powerful voice in the U.S. Congress, one that always sought to bring people together by elevating the bonds that unite us as Americans and as human beings. Children and the working poor have lost a compassionate

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ally. Men and women seeking to participate in their own governance have lost a steadfast guardian of voting rights who fought to expand the reach of democracy, not only in spirit but in practice as well. And defenders of human rights have lost a champion of their cause who never missed an opportunity to remind the free world of its obligation to help alleviate suffering and restore fundamental human dignity to those who have gone without it for far too long, such as those suffering in Darfur. Juanita Millender-McDonald personified what it means to serve others before serving self.

Mr. Speaker, I want Juanita's husband, James, and her children and grandchildren to know that the thoughts and prayers of a grateful Nation are with them as they mourn their loss. We join them in their mourning but we also join them in their joy of a life well-lived.

CHAIRWOMAN JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to take a moment today to express my heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and constituents of Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald and pay tribute to her legacy of leadership and her profound impact on this institution, the people she served and indeed our Nation.

Chairwoman McDonald was a trailblazer who paved the way for me and many others to be elected and to serve in the Congress. I am ever mindful of the legacy of integrity and excellence that she has imparted to each and every one of us. I embrace it and can truly say that she has touched my life. Though we were colleagues in this body for a short while, we had many moments of interactions that were truly empowering. She never missed a moment to be encouraging and complimentary.

Just a week ago or so before the chairwoman took her leave from the Congress, we encountered one another in this very Chamber. She inquired of me about how I was doing. My response to her was, ''I'm just trying to keep up with you, Madam Chair.'' She smiled her beautiful and elegant smile and said to me, ''You're doing it, girl.''

It has truly been a blessing for me as a freshman to have been acknowledged and encouraged by this truly remarkable, elegant and extraordinary role model. The legacy of Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald will never be forgotten. It has been imparted to all of us and it will certainly always reside with me.

God bless you, sister. Thank you for all you have given to each and every one of us. Well done.

CHAIRWOMAN JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker and Members, I come to the floor today to join with my colleagues in recognition of a public servant who served in this august body, who served in the California State legislature, who served the city of Compton as a city councilwoman, who served as head of the NAACP in the city of Compton, who was a community activist, a legislator and not only a committed servant but a woman who was determined to make sure that she did everything possible to bring about justice and equality, not only for our people but for all people.

I have known Juanita Millender-McDonald for over 35 years. I knew her before she was the president of the Compton chapter of the NAACP. She contacted me when she became the president and we worked on some projects together. We went on to work on many projects together. When my son ran for the California State legislature, she was involved with his campaign. When her son made an attempt to get back into professional football, my husband who was a professional football player, having played for the Cleveland Browns, helped to connect him with some recruiters in order to get him into professional football. And so we have interacted on a professional level, on a personal level and in so many ways for such a long period of time.

We have been involved in some of the same kind of issues over the years. I can recall, it was not so many years ago when it was revealed that perhaps our government had known about drugs that were being transported from Nicaragua into south central Los Angeles, and, of course, that revelation kicked off a firestorm in this country. Juanita McDonald invited the head of the CIA to come to south central Los Angeles to speak to the people and tell them what he knew about the Contras and about the Sandinistas and our involvement with the drug trade, this government. Did this government turn a blind eye while drugs were being transported across our borders?

It was an unusual event. Never had the head of the CIA been to a community to speak with the people, and people were everywhere. The FBI, the CIA, everybody was standing on roofs all over the place. It was a spectacular event. But that was her style.

Juanita McDonald and I not only worked on that issue in different ways. We have been involved in trying to save Martin Luther King Hospital for a number of years now. This has been a tough, tough battle. This hospital was born out of the ashes of the insurrection of 1965 in south Los Angeles. This is an institution that is so very much needed but is such at risk at this point. This institution has been threatened by the Federal Government to withdraw all of its Federal funds and we have fought day in and day out, month in and month out, year in and year out to maintain the funding from the Federal Government so that that hospital could stay there for people who need it so desperately.

Juanita McDonald has organized many meetings. She has interacted not only with CMS and the Federal Government but all of the county officials. Time after time we have sat before the board of supervisors, imploring them to do everything that they could to straighten out the problems at Martin Luther King Hospital, to work harder, to make sure there was the management and the supervision.

Juanita McDonald cared about health issues. Not only was she involved with trying to save Martin Luther King Hospital, she organized an AIDS walk that took place every year. She and her women's group organized and each year they went to one of the stadiums in the south Los Angeles area and they held their walk. It got a lot of attention, but this was her way of saying to the community, not only do I care about AIDS, I'm willing to put some quality time and attention on this issue. I want you to get tested. I want you to get involved in learning how you can protect yourself from being infected with HIV/AIDS. And so it is just a small example of the care and commitment that she has demonstrated over the years, whether we talk about health care or education or voting rights that she was so very much involved in before she took her leave of absence.

She cared about justice. She cared that this democracy would truly act in ways that supported the proposition that everybody has the right to a decent quality of life. Everybody must be protected by the Constitution of the United States of America. Everybody must enjoy the benefits of living in this great country. And she reached beyond with care for the mother continent of Africa. She was involved in those issues, also.

And so I stand here today to say, Juanita McDonald has taken her place in history and she did it her way. Sometimes we did it different ways, but she knew what she was doing and why she was doing it the way that she did. Her husband can be proud. Her children can be proud. And we can all be proud that we had the blessing and the opportunity to live and work with a woman of substance, a woman who cared, a woman who gave of herself and a woman who left us with dignity, a woman who never complained, a woman who never said, I feel bad, I have pain, I can't do it today. She worked right up until she took a leave of absence just a few days ago.

I am proud to stand here and say that I knew her, that I worked with her, that I have appreciated everything

that she has contributed to our great society.

CHAIRWOMAN JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 1 minute.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, first allow me to please say amen to the words of the Honorable MAXINE WATERS.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the superlative life of a superb woman, the Honorable Juanita Millender-McDonald. Indeed, she was a devoted wife, a loving mother, a superior scholar, a preeminent educator, and a powerful legislator.

Notwithstanding all of this, Mr. Speaker, she had a positive air and a special flair. She was a pillar of probity. Her integrity was beyond reproach. She was a repository of respect. Her mere presence commanded respect. She was the queen of self-esteem. She was comely, courtly and stately with a positive personality.

We were truly blessed to have her among us, she will surely be missed by us, and I thank God for her.

CHAIRWOMAN JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 3 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. I thank the Chair for recognizing me.

Members of the House, we tend to use the term ''friend'' very liberally in this institution. We often apply it to anyone with whom we have had more than a casual or passing conversation. Juanita Millender-McDonald was someone that I genuinely viewed as a friend, not in the way the Members of the House use that term but in the way that ordinary people who are watching this on television use it.

There were a lot of days when we sat on this floor and we talked together. There were a lot of days when we sat on this floor and we exchanged confidences. There were a lot of days when we sat on this floor and I spoke to her of my aspirations and my goals and she spoke to me of hers. There were times when I spoke of my family and she spoke of her abiding, continuing faith in her family.

Many people do not realize because she did not speak of it a great deal, but Juanita was from Birmingham, Alabama, and it is a tragedy that a black woman born in 1937 or 1938 felt that she had to leave the State of Alabama to reach her full promise. Juanita did. And it was my State's loss. She went to the State of California, and so many of my colleagues have told the story of her wonderful ascension and her wonderful career there. But she always retained memories of growing up in the South. She always retained memories of growing up in a segregated environment. And her family, much of it remains there.

Another thing that was not widely known, Juanita's brother, Shelley Millender, was a longtime radio talk show host in the city of Birmingham and I have had a long-time attachment to him. When I ran for this job for the first time, there were very few people who would welcome me onto their programs or into their forums. The very first one to do so was Shelley Millender. He did it constantly and I have always appreciated that.

Juanita's nephew, Shelley, Jr., has become a friend of mine and I always enjoyed telling her how proud she should be of him and how well he conducts himself in the city of Birmingham.

So, Mr. Speaker, what I want to say today, Juanita Millender-McDonald was a phenomenally elegant, restrained and dignified woman. She richly deserved the title Madam Chairwoman that she was just beginning to wear so well, and I will remember my last conversation with her sitting just off this floor. It was not uncommon for us to gather and talk about what was going on as we left the floor. I remember her telling me during that conversation how much she looked forward to her work on the House Administration Committee. I remember her telling me how much she looked forward to several hearings that were upcoming. She never had the chance to do that which she talked about that day. But I will always remember her confidence, her courage, and her decency. And as she and her family watch and as they prepare for God to take her back to her home in heaven, know that the time she spent here was well served and the legacy that she left honors her native State of Alabama, my State, and the State she adopted and served so ably, California.

REMEMBERING JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) is recognized during morning hour debates for 3 minutes.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to send condolences to the family of my colleague, Chairwoman Juanita Millender-McDonald, and let them know that they are in my heart and in my prayers. I also want to send condolences to the people of the 37th Congressional District of California who placed their faith and trust in the strong, dedicated and elegant Juanita Millender-McDonald.

You have heard from some of my colleagues about the many firsts that Juanita achieved here in the Congress of the United States, including serving as the first African American woman to chair a full committee in the United States House of Representatives. But I just want to take a moment to reflect upon an aspect of her strength that was not readily apparent but clearly on display long before she came to Congress. While some of us have focused on the life that she lived, I want to talk about the Juanita Millender-McDonald who did not believe in self-pity but believed in using what she had to make a difference.

While many of my colleagues will come to this mike and talk about the life that she lived and her service to a grateful Nation, Juanita Millender-McDonald taught us something about character in her transition. No self-pity. Not a single Member of Congress knew that Juanita was ailing and that her ailment was terminal. Juanita did not want to walk around the House of Representatives and have Members of Congress feeling pity for her or feeling sad for her or making special speeches or concessions to her. She wanted all of us to recognize that we live our lives as if life is certain and death is uncertain, when in reality it is death that is certain and life that is uncertain. And, therefore, each of us is under an obligation to do the very best that we can with the time that God has given us on this Earth and in this world.

The Bible talks about serving this present age. ''O may all my powers be engaged to do my Master's will.'' Clearly the type of ailment that ailed our colleague and our close and dear friend, Juanita Millender-McDonald, was not the kind of ailment that strikes one suddenly. She knew about it for quite some time and chose not to share it with Members of Congress. That is a statement about her dignity. It is a statement about her commitment to public service. It is a statement about character. And it is a statement about her strength under extraordinarily life-threatening odds.

Juanita Millender-McDonald was married, she raised five children, and then went to college to launch an impressive and inspiring career at an age when many people start slowing down. She combined higher education with her native Alabama wisdom and she set out to show women and men in life and in death that no matter where you came from, you can go where you want to go. She was a living example of the power of not only keeping your eyes on the prize but putting in the old-fashioned elbow grease to earn it.

No self-pity. She didn't want people looking down on her or feeling bad about her or seeing her physical ailments. No self-pity. She possessed the necessary tough-mindedness combined with the tenderheartedness that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. talked about. She understood, and Dr. King wrote, ''There is little hope for us until we become tough-minded enough to break loose from the shackles of prejudice, half-truths and downright ignorance. The shape of the world today does not

permit us the luxury of soft-mindedness. A nation or civilization that continues to produce soft-minded men and women purchases its own spiritual death on an installment plan.''

I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve with Juanita Millender-McDonald, and once again I send my condolences to those who loved her. The House and the Nation have lost a dedicated public servant and someone who in life and death has taught us the meaning of character.

CHAIRWOMAN JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to honor one of our colleagues, Representative Juanita McDonald of the 37th District of California.

Representative McDonald was an extraordinary woman. She was born in Birmingham, Alabama at a time of racial violence and overt displays of the most open and systematic forms of racism. But she did not let that hold her down or hold her back. She went to college in California, she became a teacher in the Los Angeles school system, and throughout her career she used education as an instrument for change.

She was a great teacher, and she used the power of knowledge and her commitment to human understanding to break down institutional barriers and to reach across the aisle.

I think that is why she made so many strides as a Member of Congress. She knew gaining mutual understanding was the only way to build coalitions and lay all differences aside.

That's why her creativity and skillful leadership became legendary. She was the first Democrat to chair the Congressional Caucus For Women's Issues and she used that power to build a coalition between the women of the Supreme Court and the women of Congress. She knew the differences in their roles as public servants didn't matter. She believed all women in government shared a common bond.

She took concerned women of Congress to meet delegates to the United Nations to unify the global struggle against the exploitation of women and girls.

She developed the first National Teen Dating Violence Week as a platform for all women to speak out against a common problem—violence against teen girls. And she was the first Member to bring the head of the CIA to the city of Watts to address longstanding, widespread allegations of drug dumping in that community.

And, of course, she was the first African American to chair a full committee, the Committee on House Administration. This committee oversees some of the great educational institutions of our Nation—the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution, the Government Printing Office, and the Capitol Fine Arts Board.

We can only dream about what this great teacher would have done in this capacity. I know she would have used the power of knowledge and education as an instrument of change.

But beyond that, Juanita McDonald was an elegant lady. She may have moved to California, but she never lost her southern charm. She was always a lady—as tough as steel but as sweet as honey. She was more than a colleague. She was our sister, our friend. Juanita was a sharp dresser, and sometimes she would dress to kill. She was beautiful on the outside and on the inside. She had a sweet, sweet spirit, and she will be deeply missed.

Sometimes when she would see me, she would call me Mr. Civil Rights. And sometimes when she would see Sanford Bishop, David Scott and me together, she would say, ''What are you Georgia boys doing? What are you up to?''

And when she was planning programs in her district, she would stop by to see members of the Georgia delegation and tell us she needed a box of peanuts. And we would all ante up and make those peanuts available to her.

It is so unreal. It is so unbelievable that we will not see her on the floor of this Chamber again. Life is short, too short. We are here today, and we're gone tomorrow, but her spirit and her memory will live on in all of us.

With the passing of Congresswoman McDonald, it seems the world is a little darker. It seems that a light has gone out. Maybe here in this Chamber and on this Earth a light has gone out. But in another part of the universe Juanita is shining brighter than ever before.

CHAIRWOMAN JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I had to come to the floor today in remembrance of a phenomenal woman, Juanita Millender-McDonald. My heart is pained and it is unbelievable that we will not see this great woman, at least not on this planet, again. She was a woman that anytime that you saw her, she stood with such dignity and grace. She was a woman who was honest. I can recall when I would go to her and ask her opinion on various issues. She wouldn't tell me what I wanted to hear. She would tell me what I needed to hear. She would tell me what was indeed right. Being the father of three daughters, I can't help but say, Thank you, Juanita. Thank you for being the pioneer that you were. Thank you for blazing a trail, a trail that's so wide for women, all women, like my three young daughters, so that they can walk now on that path, so that they now can have opportunities that were denied others because you have fought the fight.

In the church that I come from, the question is, have you helped someone, and the song says, ''If you've helped someone, then your living shall not be in vain.''

In the life story of Juanita Millender-McDonald, she has indeed helped a whole lot of somebodies and she has made life better for a lot of children yet unborn. She has made history. And in the camera of history and in the camera of life of Juanita Millender-McDonald, it will be recorded that she was a soldier in this thing we call life, and she was a leader for all human beings but in particular to make sure that women, that their tomorrow is better than their yesterday or today.

Juanita, we will miss you, and we know that as you see the good Lord, He's saying, ''Well done, Juanita. Job well done.''

THE STATE OF INTELLIGENCE'S UNION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, it is 6 years after 9/11, and reform of the intelligence community continues to be a primary concern for all of us. At the swearing-in ceremony of Director Mike McConnell, President Bush outlined three main categories for improvement: the need to strengthen individual agencies, increase information sharing action and improve the quality of intelligence produced. I wish to discuss this morning what this means.

The intelligence community has established new hiring and employment reforms to strengthen the workforce. Under the direction of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI), there is now a comprehensive intelligence community plan that focuses on hiring a more diverse workforce to address the critical need for variety in languages, backgrounds, and skills. He has also appointed a chief of equal employment opportunity and diversity, and has agreed to a set of wide-ranging recommendations that the diversity senior advisory panel made in their report: ''Diversity: A National Security Imperative for the Intelligence Community.''

The Director of National Intelligence is also establishing ''joint duty'' as a requirement for promotion to senior positions. This is imperative in transforming the culture to increase integration and a collaborative nature among agencies. It will also reduce ''stovepipe'' mentalities which hampered collection efforts pre-9/11. These are important reforms, Mr. Speaker, and good initiatives that have been undertaken to address the human resources challenges facing the intelligence community. I look forward to

seeing the outcome of these reforms, and hope to see even more innovative programs to strengthen our human intelligence capabilities.

One of the critical lapses identified after September 11, particularly by the 9/11 Commission report, was the poor information sharing among agencies and departments. Recently there have been some improvements in this area. The National CounterTerrorism Center, NCTC, recently published a report entitled ''NCTC and Information Sharing: Five Years Since 9/11, a Progress Report.'' The NCTC reports that today, following many reforms, analysts have access to dozens of networks and information systems that they were previously denied. This access is across intelligence, law enforcement, military, and homeland security communities. This enormous increase of the amount of information, while ultimately beneficial, also raised the concern of becoming overwhelmed by the flood of this new information. Therefore, the NCTC is continuously exploring new technologies to help analysts manage these volumes of terrorism-related data.

The NCTC also reports that they host communitywide video teleconferences three times a day to ensure awareness of ongoing operations and emerging threats. Participants in these video teleconferences can correct misunderstandings, compare notes, and share best practice ideas to enhance the capabilities of all involved. Mr. Speaker, this is a vital component to the ability to detect and respond effectively in real time to emerging terrorism threats.

They have also created an online counterterrorism library allowing non-intelligence community agencies easier access to counterterrorism information. This library today hosts over 6,000 users, 6 million documents, and has over 60 departments and agencies that contribute information to its files.

Finally, the ODNI has reformed overseas collection efforts among agencies, focusing collection efforts on the stated needs and goals of the policymakers receiving the intelligence products. In a March 4 press release from the public affairs of the Office of Director of National Intelligence, ''The intelligence community has strengthened the quality of intelligence provided to policymakers through initiatives like the mission managers concept. Among the most experienced in the intelligence community, mission managers have highly developed analytical and collection management skills and they focus on the topics of highest interest to our policymakers. This strategy allows the intelligence community to identify collection gaps and address resources to cover those gaps, ensuring analysts have the required information to support policy decisionmakers.'' They have also streamlined production of National Intelligence Council (NIC) products, increasing output and minimizing delays in production time. They have included both more effective explanation behind judgments and the inclusion of alternative views of analysts, to incorporate a wide range of opinions and combat the dangers arising from ''group think.''

I look forward to monitoring the progress of these important first steps. However, it is vital that we maintain our momentum. As Director McConnell stated in his swearing-in speech, ''Taking advantage of these advances in technology, today's threats move at increasing speeds. The time needed to develop a terrorist plot, communicated around the globe, and put it into motion has been drastically reduced. The time line is no longer a calendar, it is a watch.''

THE REAL FILTHY SECRET BEHIND THE COAL ADS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) is recognized during morning hour debates for 4 minutes.

CHAIRWOMAN JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in the words of mourning and celebration of the life of our late colleague, Juanita Millender-McDonald. She was a leader on many issues as we have heard stated already. And foremost among those in my opinion was her leadership and her vision as the first African American female chairman of a major committee here on Capitol Hill. She had a plan for how this City on a Hill would operate in a more smooth and efficient manner. And while she may not be with us to see that vision carried out, it is my hope that we will carry it out in memory of her. So to her husband and to her children and to her grandchildren, I hope that her memories will serve as a source of inner strength, inspiration, courage and love for the rest of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, on another subject, if I might, over the last few weeks, a series of anti-coal advertisements sponsored by a group called the Clean Sky Coalition have been running in prominent publications, such as the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, and other publications that we in this body come to rely upon each day and view each day. These ads feature photos of people whose faces are smeared with coal dust and the headline reads, ''Face It, Coal Is Filthy.'' Indeed, there have been bumper sticker handouts on the streets of Washington, DC, stating that same phrase.

But the real filthy secret here is that the people depicted in these ads are not our Nation's coal miners but they are Hollywood models, and the ads are not being financed by environmental groups as one might be led to believe by the title of Clean Sky Coalition but, rather, these ads are primarily being financed by elements of the natural gas industry, including Chesapeake Energy Corporation headquartered in Oklahoma City. These ads are despicable and so is this so-called Clean Sky Coalition. The sponsors are not being truthful and they would have you to believe that it is merely environmental groups leading this campaign. The filthy secret is that this ad campaign is about market share. It's about profits. It's about one segment of the energy industry trying to bamboozle the general public and policymakers to sell more of its product.

And the filthy secret is that these ads completely ignore the tremendous progress being made to burn coal cleanly and ignore the national security interests of this country. The only truth here is that these ads are an insult, an absolute insult to the hardworking men and women who go beneath this Nation's bowels each and every day to produce the energy that provides for this Nation's electricity.

CHAIRWOMAN JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2½ minutes.

Mr. JEFFERSON. I thank the Chair.

A 17th century poet John Donne speaks to death thusly: ''Death be not proud,'' he says, ''though some have called you mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so. And those thou thinkest thy doth overthrow die not, poor death. A short sleep past, we wake eternally and death shall be no more.''

This is the confidence in her Christian faith with which our sister, Juanita Millender-McDonald, lived and with which she passed from this earth. This is what she meant when she told her family that she was going home. This is what we saw and at which we marveled as we observed her peace on display in the final hours that she worked amongst us, giving not a hint of distress or brokenheartedness or loss of confidence. Her grace and elegance in her final months and years when she knew well her earthly fate is a lesson in how to live and how to leave this life for those of us who still live on this side.

Chairwoman Juanita Millender-McDonald was serious about her work. I had the pleasure of finding this out firsthand when I was Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and Juanita was chair of the CBCF's annual legislative weekend. She helped to organize this event, which drew over 40,000 African American leaders to Washington, with great attention to detail, taxing all of us—sometimes we thought then too much—to meet our responsibilities and on time. But the result was a magnificent event heralded by all of us as one of our very best. This House got only a glimpse of her profound organizational skills as she had the chance to serve us only a

short time in her post as Chair of the Committee on House Administration. It would have been wonderful for we who work here and for our Nation if we had been privileged to see more.

As it is now, we welcome our sister to her rest in the bosom of her Lord and we pray for comfort and peace for James, her husband, and their five children and grandchildren, and we thank her for her friendship and commitment to the House, to her constituents, and to her country. She served us proudly and well, and she will be well remembered.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 15 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. SOLIS) at noon.

PRAYER

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

In the end it is faith that proves victorious. Days come and go. Wars and famine cry out for justice, charity and peace. It is faith which helps us all respond to every call. It is faith that strengthens Your people for the struggle and, in the end, brings promise beyond the sacrifice.

Lord God, as faith inspired the apostles and martyrs and all who have gone before us, let living faith now find expression in us through acts of love that will excite hope, especially in the hearts of the poor and the fragile.

Help the Members of Congress and all Americans make decisions today that will build a justice that will not fail tomorrow. With faith, enable them to set aside goods of the present moment in the hope of attaining eternal good. With faith, it is possible to hope to change the present for the future.

We pray for the Honorable Juanita Millender-McDonald and all Your servants who have served You and Your people in public service. With faith, they can leave this place and find in You eternal reward. The free children of God are always on the move, both now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. POE 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 175

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Juanita Millender-McDonald, late a Representative from the State of California.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns or recesses today, it stand adjourned or recessed as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Representative.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1681. An act to amend the Congressional Charter of The American National Red Cross to modernize its governance structure, to enhance the ability of the board of governors of The American National Red Cross to support the critical mission of The American National Red Cross in the 21st century, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 96–388, as amended by Public Law 97–84 and Public Law 106–292, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, appoints the following Senators to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council for the One Hundred and Tenth Congress:

The Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH).

The Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN).

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 105 (adopted April 13, 1989), as amended by S. Res. 149 (adopted October 5, 1993), as amended by Public Law 105–275, further amended by S. Res. 75 (adopted March 25, 1999), amended by S. Res. 383 (adopted October 27, 2000), and amended by S. Res. 355 (adopted November 13, 2002), and further amended by S. Res. 480 (adopted November 20, 2004), the Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, announces the appointment of the following Senators to serve as members of the Senate National Security Working Group for the One Hundred and Tenth Congress:

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), Co-Chairman.

The Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL), Administrative Co-Chairman.

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), Co-Chairman.

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT), Co-Chairman.

DEMOCRATS' IRAQ SUPPLEMENTAL BILL DENIES PRESIDENT AN OPEN COMMITMENT AND BLANK CHECK

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, this week Congress will vote on an emergency war spending conference report that fully funds the war and our troops, and yet the President is still threatening a veto. The President's problem with the bill is Congress' strong message that we are not going to allow the war to go on indefinitely.

In years past, the President has dealt with Republican-controlled Congresses, which simply rubber-stamped his requests, despite countless mistakes in Iraq. Last November, the American people demanded a change.

Last month the Congress acted and brought a serious change to our policy in Iraq. We demanded that the Iraqi Government meet the political and economic benchmarks that the President himself outlined earlier this year and set timelines for withdrawal if those benchmarks are not met.

Defense Secretary Gates himself, last week, said that the timelines we passed here in Congress and the pressure that our legislation exerts on the Iraqi Government is having a positive impact. Our legislation is already impacting the events in Iraq. The President should allow this to continue by reconsidering his threat to veto the legislation.

THE IRAQ SUPPLEMENTAL

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

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of our troops who are still waiting for critical funding needed to fight the war on terror. I want to make sure the American people understand what is happening with legislation that provides money for our soldiers.

Instead of passing a clean bill the President could sign into law, the Democrats chose to pass a political statement that ties troop funding to arbitrary withdrawal deadlines, and it's loaded with earmarks. The Democrats have even dragged their feet on their own legislation, taking a 2-week recess without funding our troops and spending another week in Washington bickering over a bill that they know that the President will veto.

Why are we playing politics with money for our soldiers? Our troops can't win this war with political rhetoric. They need money, they need supplies, and they have been waiting over

70 days since the President made the request. I call on this House to pass a clean bill, get it to the President's desk, so we can give our war fighters the tools that they need to achieve victory.

SCHIP

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

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the SCHIP, the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

My home State of Pennsylvania is a model for this widely successful program. Our distinguished former Governor, the late Robert P. Casey, knew how important it was for Pennsylvania's children to have access to quality, affordable health care.

By meeting the health care needs of our children, we are better preparing them to be healthy adults. Numerous studies have shown that children with health insurance perform better in school and have higher attendance rates. Every child deserves a chance to grow up healthy and strong.

As the proud father of five, I know personally how important it is to have access to doctors, pharmacists and hospitals that your family can trust. Unfortunately, not all families have this security. Children without insurance are sometimes forced to delay treatment or put off preventive care entirely.

Our working families deserve better quality health care for their children. This is not a partisan issue. Rather, providing our children with health care should be a top priority for this Congress. Since its enactment in 1997, SCHIP has been enormously successful in reducing the number of uninsured children across the country.

HEALTH CARE SOLUTIONS WITH CREATIVE FEDERALISM

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, this week is ''Cover the Uninsured Week,'' highlighting the fact that the health and well-being of our Nation's future is at stake.

Over 45 million Americans will be without health insurance at some point during this year. It's past time that Washington helps find real solutions to this very real problem. With colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and in the House and Senate, we have introduced legislation that will begin to take a meaningful approach to bringing down the cost of health care and help cover all Americans.

The Health Partnership through Creative Federalism Act, H.R. 506, empowers individual States and regions to develop unique solutions to fit the needs of their citizens. We are fighting to put the needs of patients first.

Unlike many other proposals, our reform rejects a one-size-fits-all model. The inflexibility of such an antiquated approach has continually proven ineffective in addressing individual health care needs. Working together, we can find a way to provide health care coverage for all Americans, so that American families will have a brighter and healthier future.

AMERICANS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to address my concerns for the 5.4 million Texans who are without health insurance. Nearly 25 percent of Texans are uninsured. That's the highest rate in the entire country. The irony is that Dallas and other cities have great health care networks.

The problem is that of access to care. In Dallas, there are many examples of health care excellence, including Parkland Memorial Hospital, Baylor University Medical Center, Methodist Medical Center, UT Southwestern Medical School, the Dallas Veterans Administration Medical Center, and others.

However, the price of insurance is robbing Texans of access to the appropriate medical care. Emergency rooms are overcrowded. Only half of Texas children are covered by employment-based insurance.

We must fix the problem of the uninsured. Affordable, accessible health care coverage should be available to every American. Health care should not be a cash cow for the insurance companies.

THE WAR IN IRAQ

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, as President Bush said yesterday, this is a tough time in Iraq.

This week our Congress will hear from our commander in Baghdad, General David Petraeus, here on Capitol Hill. I suspect we will hear what I heard from General Petraeus on the streets of Baghdad just 3 weeks ago. That is, despite a wave of recent insurgent bombing, this war is not lost.

In fact, because of the President's surge and the brave conduct of our forces and the Iraqi forces, we are making modest progress in Iraq. In Baghdad, despite recent bombings, sectarian violence is down. Baghdad is not safe, but it is safer because of the presence of more than two dozen U.S. and Iraqi joint operating centers, and now more than 20 Sunni sheiks across the Al Anbar Province have united together to oppose the insurgency and al Qaeda.

I truly believe that we are making progress because of the President's surge. This war is not lost. The American people know in their hearts that victory is our only option.

Let's give General Petraeus a willing ear, the time and the resources and the authority to secure a victory for freedom in Iraq, for ourselves and our posterity.

EQUAL PAY DAY

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today we observe Equal Pay Day, the day that indicates just how far into each year a woman must work to earn as much as a man earned in the previous year.

Women are more highly educated and productive than ever, yet these gains have not yet translated into equal pay across the board. A Government Accountability Office study that JOHN DINGELL and I sponsored showed that when occupation, marital status, job tenure, industry and race are accounted for, women still earn eighty cents for every dollar men earn.

This wage gap extends across all income levels and occupations, and it's even wider for minority women. There is no excuse for this gap between men and women. Both men and women must feed their families and pay their rent. Let's pass the Paycheck Fairness Act and close the gender wage gap for good.

VICTIMS SHOULD BE SEEN AND HEARD

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, to support National Crime Victims Week, the Washington Post printed an opinion piece submitted by a criminal defense lawyer that belittled victims of crime, implying that victims are what is wrong with the criminal justice system and our society.

It seems the op-ed writer does not believe the criminal justice system should pay any attention to victims. To him, crime victims should not be seen and not heard. However, the same Constitution that protects defendants also protects victims of crime.

Justice is viewed as a scale, a balance. As a former judge, I always balanced the rights of defendants with the rights of society to be safe and the rights of crime victims. A court of law is to seek justice, justice for defendants and justice for victims.

Sometimes defendants don't want justice, especially the guilty ones. They think it's Burger King, where they can have it their way. But justice is not having it your way. It's doing the right thing for the right reason. The right thing is for victims to be heard and present in our courts of law, and then let the courts weigh the rights of the defendants and victims to achieve justice so that we can have liberty and justice for all.

And that's just the way it is.

IRAQ TIMETABLE AND FUNDING

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, this Congress remains committed to forging a new direction in Iraq. Overwhelmingly, the American people support our plan to establish important benchmarks and a responsible timetable to redeploy the troops.

Yet, the President has threatened to veto our legislation, even though it ensures our troops have everything they need, and for our veterans when they return home. However, just last week, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said, and I quote: The debate in Congress has been helpful in demonstrating to the Iraqis that American patience is limited.

Mr. Gates went on to say that the strong feelings expressed in the Congress about the timetable probably has had a positive impact on communicating to the Iraqis that this is not an open-ended commitment. To ensure that the Iraqis step up and take control of their own country, we must continue to demonstrate that the American people will not stand for an open-ended commitment of American resources or personnel.

□ 1215

INTERNATIONAL SOLID WASTE IMPORTATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT

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

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, since 1992, Michigan has not been able to control the millions of tons of trash entering our State from Canada, and the problem continues. Every day, over 400 trucks from Canada dump trash into our State. These trucks come barreling across the border without inspection and examination, raising a viable national security threat.

At this time, our State government has almost no say in whether or not Michigan should accept the over 4 million tons of trash and hazardous waste from Canada every year. Michigan instituted laws banning Canadian trash in 1988, but the Supreme Court struck down these laws a mere 4 years later and ruled that Congress has not granted such authority to our State.

For too long, Michigan has had its hands tied by the Federal Government, and it is time to let the decisions about the integrity and the safety of our land be made by those who inhabit the land. As a proud cosponsor of H.R. 518, I urge my colleagues to support the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act and empower Michigan to make certain the beauty and safety of our land remains intact for generations of Michiganders to enjoy in the future.

HOUSE DEMOCRATS LOOK TO COVER SOME OF OUR NATION'S UNINSURED BY EXPANDING SCHIP PROGRAM

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

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, last month the Democratic Congress showed the commitment to expanding health care coverage to millions of children who are currently uninsured. In our budget for the upcoming fiscal year, we included a $50 billion funding increase for the SCHIP program so that we can provide health to millions of additional children.

After SCHIP was created 10 years ago, the number of uninsured children began to fall every year. But last year, for the first time since 1998, the number of uninsured actually went up.

As we recognize Cover the Uninsured Week, it is important to highlight the growing number of families without access to affordable health insurance and the need for this Congress to strengthen SCHIP now. For 6 long years, this problem of the growing number of uninsured has been ignored. This new Democratic Congress will not ignore the problem. We are committed to expanding health insurance to millions of children who need insurance, and our budget gives us the opportunity to achieve this worthy goal this year.

REJECT THE IRAQ EMERGENCY FUNDING BILL

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, this week the House will once again take up an Iraq emergency funding bill which is seriously flawed and should be rejected.

Having 535 politicians attempt to micromanage the war on terror from atop Capitol Hill is a recipe for disaster. This Congress should not be telegraphing our war strategy to the enemy and setting arbitrary timetables for withdrawal, nor should we be tying the hands of our Commander in Chief and military leaders on the ground.

Iraq has become a central battlefield on the war on terror, not because we say so, but because the terrorists themselves have declared Iraq to be the central front for their global jihad. Therefore, it is vital that we win the war and achieve success in Iraq. To do so, this Congress must reject efforts to micromanage the war and give the Iraqi new strategy opportunity to succeed.

HONORING MR. DAVID HALBERSTAM

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, yesterday a great American died, David Halberstam. We had a mutual friend, and through that I got to know Mr. Halberstam. He chronicled and wrote and reported the events of the last half of the 20th century. He saw truth, he spoke truth, and he wrote truth; and he gained his first fame at the age of 30 when he received a Pulitzer Prize for reporting about a quagmire known as Vietnam, a misdirection of American energies in foreign policies that led us to lose over 30,000 lives and many casualties in a great blunder under American foreign policy. We have a similar situation today in Iraq, another mistaken folly, and lives are being lost.

Madam Speaker, I would hope that we could speak truth to power, and that power would know that the Congress is giving the President a bill to support the troops, to bring the troops home and support them by seeing that they are not put in harm's way, and that the President will support the bill that the Congress gives him.

We have lost a great leader in Mr. Halberstam, and may the truth and knowledge that he brought to this country be imbued in this House and in executive leadership where another politician along with the 535 here serve.

PASS A CLEAN BILL

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, the liberal leadership of this Congress put the lives of our soldiers in the field in a very difficult, very difficult position. When they passed the supplemental bill earlier this month, they loaded it up with pork. Actually, the bill sounds more like a shopping list. There is money for spinach and for fish and for peanut storage. A lot of pork, and it is something that does not do a service to our military.

But what the leadership did was to make an offer that couldn't be refused to a lot of Members. They claim to support the military, but in the bill what they are doing is tying the hands of the military by inserting a timetable for withdrawal and taking the power away from the commanders in the field. Majority Senate leader HARRY REID didn't help when he considered that the war was lost. That is the message that he is sending to our troops and to the terrorists alike, that everybody ought to give up.

American citizens need to ask themselves, is defeat an option? What would happen if we were to leave?

What we need to do is let the soldiers do their jobs, us do ours, pass a clean bill, and send it to the President.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings

today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

PRESERVATION APPROVAL PROCESS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1675) to suspend the requirements of the Department of Housing and Urban Development regarding electronic filing of previous participation certificates and regarding filing of such certificates with respect to certain low-income housing investors.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1675

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 ''Preservation Approval Process Improvement Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. SUSPENSION OF ELECTRONIC FILING REQUIREMENT.

The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall—

(1) suspend mandatory processing of Previous Participation Certificates (form HUD–2530) under the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Automated Partners Performance System (APPS) and permit paper filings of such certificates until such time that the Secretary—

(A) revises the December 2006 draft proposed regulations under subpart H of part 200 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, to eliminate the unnecessary burdens and disincentives for program participants; and

(B) submits such revised draft proposed regulations to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate for review by such Committees; and

(2) suspend immediately all filing requirements under the Previous Participation Certificate process with respect to limited liability corporate investors who own or expect to own an interest in entities which are allowed or are expected to be allowed low-income housing tax credits under section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. BEAN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Preservation Approval Process Improvement Act of 2007, introduced by myself and Representative GILLMOR, was recently reported out of the Committee on Financial Services without objection, and I am pleased it is being given consideration on the House floor today. In addition to expressing my appreciation to Chairman FRANK, Ranking Member BACHUS, and Housing Subcommittee Chairwoman WATERS, I would especially like to thank my colleague from Ohio (Mr. GILLMOR) in moving this bill forward and his efforts to address the regulatory barriers impacting the investment in affordable housing.

I am also very appreciative of the expert assistance provided by the House Financial Services Committee staff, including Jeff Riley and Cindy Chetti, who have been working on this issue for more than 1½ years.

H.R. 1675 will reduce burdens caused by HUD's unnecessarily complex regulation of its previous participation reporting requirements, known as the 2530 process.

Written many years ago when small mom-and-pop companies were investing in affordable housing, HUD's regulations governing the 2530 process are no longer in sync with the type of real estate transactions being conducted today. As a result, when applied to the more typical investor of today, these regulations impose huge administrative and regulatory hurdles. The application of these cumbersome regulations was made worse last summer when HUD automated the 2530 process using an electronic system known as APPS. In addition to being difficult to navigate, the APPS system experiences technical difficulties almost daily and has led to a number of security breaches involving personal data.

As a result, H.R. 1675 will suspend the requirement that 2530 filings be done through HUD's electronic APPS system. Participants may choose to continue to use APPS, but HUD must permit other participants to submit 2530 paper filings. The suspension of HUD's requirement that all filings be done through APPS will continue until HUD revises the 2530 rules to eliminate unnecessary burdens and disincentives for all participants. The revised regulations are to be submitted to the Committee on Financial Services as well as to the Senate Banking Committee for review.

Further, the bill requires the HUD Secretary to immediately suspend all filing requirements under the previous participation process for limited liability corporate investors owning an interest in entities that receive low-income housing tax credits. Limited liability corporate investors have no operational control over properties and pose no risk to the Department. The investors are simply providing much needed capital to build affordable housing for low-income Americans, and such investment should not be inadvertently discouraged by outdated, burdensome regulations.

I submit for printing in the RECORD a letter addressed to Chairman FRANK and Representative BACHUS from nearly 30 organizations endorsing this legislation, including the National Association of Realtors, National Multi-Housing Council, the National Association of State and Local Equity Funds, and many more.

It is time for us to bring a commonsense approach to affordable housing. In passing this bill we will be taking an important step toward encouraging investment in such housing options and reducing unnecessary regulatory roadblocks.

MARCH 27, 2007.

Hon. BARNEY FRANK,
Chairman, House Committee on Financial Services, Washington, DC.

Hon. SPENCER BACHUS,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Financial Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR SIRS: We are writing to express our support for H.R. 1675, the Preservation Approval Process Improvement Act of 2007, introduced by Congresswoman BEAN and Congressman GILLMOR on March 26, 2007. This legislation is very important to ensuring continued investment in safe, affordable rental housing.

The Preservation Approval Process Improvement Act will reduce unnecessary and onerous HUD filing requirements for purposes of participating in HUD programs. The current requirements, under the HUD 2530 filing process, are discouraging investment in affordable housing.

HUD's current 2530 Previous Participation Review process is intended as a risk assessment tool, but has, in fact, been a barrier to housing development and preservation. The current regulations and the accompanying electronic system that processes 2530 submissions do not take into account the complexities of today's real estate transactions. The reporting requirements are unduly burdensome and offer no additional benefit to HUD.

Presently, investors who represent more than half of the investment in the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program have elected not to invest in HUD multifamily properties if such investment would subject them to the 2530 filing requirements. Investors have reduced their share of investments to below 25 percent in any property, or fund of properties, so as to not trigger the unduly burdensome requirements.

With the assistance of many members of the House Committee on Financial Services, we have been working with HUD for more than a year to try to resolve this issue. The Preservation Approval Process Improvement Act is a significant step toward reducing filing burdens and requires immediate useful action from HUD, whose previous response has been contrary to the goals of encouraging investment in affordable rental housing.

Our organizations strongly support this legislation to reduce filing burdens for, and encourage investment in, affordable rental housing. Please contact Francine E. Friedman, Affordable Housing Tax Credit Coalition, 202–955–1536, or Denise B. Muha, National Leased Housing Association, 202–785–8888, with any questions or concerns.

Affordable Housing Tax Credit Coalition
American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
Bank of America
Barker Management Incorporated
Boston Capital Corporation
California Council for Affordable Housing
California Housing Partnership Corporation
CharterMac Capital LLC
Council for Rural Housing and Development
G.G. MacDonald Companies

Housing Advisory Group
Institute for Responsible Housing Preservation
Institute of Real Estate Management
The John Stewart Company
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Mortgage Bankers Association
National Apartment Association
National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Realtors
National Association of State and Local Equity Funds
National Housing Conference
National Housing Trust/Enterprise Preservation Corporation
National Leased Housing Association
National Multi Housing Council
PNC MultiFamily Capital
The Related Companies of California
Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future
Texas Affiliation of Affordable Housing Providers

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1675, the Preservation Approval Process Improvement Act of 2007, introduced by Representative MELISSA BEAN, Financial Institution Subcommittee Ranking Member PAUL GILLMOR, and Full Committee Chairman BARNEY FRANK.

1675 addresses problems with HUD's processing of previous participation certificate or HUD's form 2530 under HUD's automated partners performances system.

Specifically, this legislation suspends the electronic filing requirement for the previous participation certificates and the filing requirements of these certificates for certain low-income housing investors. Form 2530 has been used for many years to ascertain the prior record of participants in certain HUD programs. This enabled HUD to refuse to do business with participants who have not previously carried out their obligations. However, passive investor disclosure requirements have created problems for private individuals and groups who wish to participate in the construction and preservation of affordable housing through the low-income housing tax credit program.

The 2530 process is designed to review principals, including any limited partner, with a 25 percent or greater interest in property. These rules were developed long before low-income housing tax credit programs were actually created. Low-income housing tax credit deals with the typical investors or institutions, that is, publicly traded and regulated national and multi-national financial institutions, including government sponsored enterprises whose reputation is well established.

Under the 2530 process, officers, directors, and stockholders with 10 percent or greater holdings are required to submit their names, Social Security numbers, as well as their individual and prior record with HUD. Industry groups have objected to these disclosure requirements as they are passive investor partners and are not involved in the construction, maintenance, and operation of the property. They claim that these reporting requirements are costly, time intensive, and deter investment in affordable housing. Investors developers, syndicators, and others have contacted HUD to ask that passive investors be exempted from filing with HUD.

In December 2005, former Chairman Oxley requested that HUD extend the opportunity for paper filing, and asked HUD to explain why passive investors should be required to file. HUD allowed the paper filing until June 30, 2006. In December 2006, after repeated inquiries from the Financial Services Committee and requests from interested parties to provide relief, HUD sent the committee a proposal that, according to the industry, made filing more burdensome in many respects.

On December 21, 2006, noting that HUD's applications for 2530 filing requirements have become broad and overreaching and, in some cases, unnecessarily delayed or even prevented HUD transactions that were beneficial to people in need of housing, Chairman FRANK, Ranking Member BACHUS, Chairman WATERS, and Chairman Oxley asked HUD to discuss the matter further with interested parties before taking any action on the proposed rule. Since then, however, HUD has not taken any overt action to amend the proposal.

H.R. 1675, the Preservation Approval Process Improvement Act of 2007, requires that HUD take action to alleviate the concerns mentioned above in order to encourage private sector participation in affordable housing programs.

HUD's current 2530 previous participation review process is intended as a risk assessment tool, but in many ways has been a barrier with housing preservation because the current regulations in the accompanying electronic system that process 2530 submissions do not reflect the complexity of today's real estate transactions. The reporting requirements are unduly burdensome and offer no additional benefit to HUD.

To this end, H.R. 1675 requires that HUD suspend mandatory previous participation filings through the APPS computer program, and that it allow paper filing until HUD submits to Congress a revised draft that would eliminate unnecessary filing burdens.

In addition, this legislation eliminates the requirement to file a 2530 form for passive investors who expect to own entities that are allowed or expected to be allowed in low-income housing tax credits.

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

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1230

Ms. BEAN. I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of our time.

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

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I would just say this is a bill where we had strong bipartisan support, and while technology didn't work in the case of the APPS system, bipartisanship did.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. BEAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1675.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIVE AMERICAN HOME OWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2007

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1676) to reauthorize the program of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for loan guarantees for Indian housing.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1676

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 ''Native American Home Ownership Opportunity Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. LOAN GUARANTEES FOR NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING.

Section 184(i) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–13a(i)) is amended as follows:

(1) OUTSTANDING AGGREGATE LIMITATION.—In paragraph (5)(C), by striking ''fiscal years 1997 through 2007'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2008 through 2012''.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In paragraph (7), by striking ''fiscal years 1997 through 2007'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2008 through 2012''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BOREN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1676, the Native American Home Ownership Opportunity Act of 2007, reauthorizing the section 184 Indian Loan Program.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman FRANK and Subcommittee Chairwoman

WATERS for their hard work in making this legislation a priority and recognizing the importance of the section 184 program.

This program offers home ownership, property rehabilitation, new construction and refinance opportunities for Native Americans. The primary purpose of the section 184 program is a 100 percent loan guarantee program for Native American families seeking home ownership who are members of participating tribes; 196 federally recognized tribes participate in this program, including 24 tribes from my home State of Oklahoma. Therefore, this program works by increasing home ownership in Indian country and improving the quality of life in Indian communities. Without argument, this program increased Native American home ownership in Oklahoma and throughout Indian country across the Nation.

Section 184 is administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Native American Programs, created in 1992 to address the lack of private mortgage capital in Indian country, and authorizing HUD to guarantee loans made by private lenders to Native Americans.

The section 184 program guarantees single-family residential loans for Native American borrowers, and provides for a 100 percent guarantee of the outstanding principal and interest and payment of other necessary and allowable expenses. The flexible underwriting, low down payment, higher loan limits, loan guarantee fee, and absence of income limits make this the most affordable loan program available to tribal areas.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1676, the Native American Home Ownership Opportunity Act of 2007, introduced by Congressman BOREN and Congressman RENZI.

This important legislation authorizes section 184 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992, which established a loan guarantee program for Native American families, Indian Housing Authorities and federally recognized Native American tribes.

Under current law this program is authorized through 2007. This bill will reauthorize the program through 2012.

Congress established this program to provide access to private mortgage financing for Native American families, Indian Housing Authorities and federally recognized Native American tribes that could not otherwise acquire housing financing because of the unique legal status of Native American lands.

This loan guarantee under this program is used to construct, acquire, refinance or rehabilitate single-family housing located on trust land or land located in an Indian or an Alaska native area.

Section 184 of the program guarantees single family, one- to four-family units, residential loans for homes located in these Indian and Alaska native areas where land may be tribal trust, allotted individual trust or fee simple. HUD offers 100 percent guarantee on the outstanding principal and interest and payment of necessary and allowable expenses.

The flexible underwriting, low down payment, higher loan limits, low guarantee fee and the absence of income limits make this the most affordable loan program available in tribal areas.

In 2007, about $6 million was appropriated for the loan guarantee program. Consequently, CBO has estimated that H.R. 1675 will cost about $30 million over the 2008–2012 period if appropriators continue the funding at the level similar to previous years. Enacting this bill does not affect direct spending or revenues.

Madam Speaker, this legislation was approved by the Committee on Financial Services by voice vote, and I urge the passage of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, it is my honor at this time to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI), who is one of the authors of this legislation and someone who has worked tirelessly for Native American issues all across the country and particularly in his home State of Arizona.

Mr. RENZI. Madam Speaker, the Native American Home Ownership Opportunity Act of 2007 is an important piece of legislation that reauthorizes this vital section 184 Native American housing program which is operated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Back in 2004, the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing, chaired by former Congressman Bob Ney, held the first congressional hearing on Native American housing in the history of the United States Congress on tribal lands in Tuba City, Arizona, out west on Navajo country. And many of the folks from both sides of the aisle got together and went out there and visited the Grand Canyon and got a chance to see the Navajo Nation, the pink stones and the sands, and they got to visit the country and truly see the beauty and the conditions, but also the largest land mass of poverty in America, the size of West Virginia. And Bob Ney helped make that happen. And that hearing was important because it brought light to the challenges that face Native Americans when trying to achieve home ownership.

Native Americans, as a group, have the single lowest home ownership rate in America, less than 25 percent. And the problem is especially acute on the Navajo Nation.

So this section 184 program provides 100 percent guarantees to the outstanding principal and interest for single-family residential homes. And to date, over 4,200 loans have been guaranteed by this program. Now everybody is out there talking about subprime lending and the default and the foreclosures. Only 30 loans in this Native American program have ever been defaulted on, less than 1 percent. This low rate greatly shows the efficiency of section 184, and the program has received the highest rating of America's Office of Management and Budget, even though it doesn't need it. This year it is expected that the program will enable private lenders to finance about 1,600 new mortgages.

So I want to thank Congressman BOREN of Oklahoma, Chairman FRANK, who has been absolutely bipartisan and forward-thinking in pushing housing issues, particularly on Native American, Chairman WATERS and the subcommittee, Chairman BIGGERT, and I want to thank Bob Ney for his advocacy for the poor around America and for Native American housing. If my colleagues don't think this is good, they don't know what is good.

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

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

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

I want to thank also my friends, Congressmen NEUGEBAUER from Texas and RENZI from Arizona for their work on this legislation and for their bipartisan effort here.

According to HUD, 4,200 loans have been guaranteed since the inception of the program, totaling $517 million. As lenders have become more comfortable with making loans secured by land in Indian country, interest in this program has only increased. My home State of Oklahoma represents 34 percent of the total loans guaranteed through section 184, thereby increasing the number of my constituents who have access to home ownership.

Again, I want to thank Chairman FRANK and Subcommittee Chairwoman WATERS for recognizing the importance of the section 184 program in Indian country.

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H.R. 1676, the Native American Homeownership Opportunity Act of 2007. This important legislation reauthorizes the Section 184 Indian Loan Program, which offers home ownership, property rehabilitation, new construction, and refinance opportunities for Native Americans.

I want to thank my friend, Mr. BOREN, for sponsoring this bill and championing this cause which is of great significance to so many Native families in this country.

Section 184 advances the opportunity for Native Americans seeking homeownership and addresses the issue of lack of mortgage lending for homes in Indian Country.

The Section 184 program guarantees single-family residential loans for Native American borrowers, thereby increasing the homeownership for Native Americans.

While many Native Americans struggle to own a home and provide for their families, H.R. 1676 eases that burden. The program provides a 100 percent guarantee of the outstanding principal and interest and payment of other necessary and allowable expenses.

Section 184 allows for many Native Americans to become first-time homeowners. According to HUD, since the start of the program roughly 4,200 loans have been guaranteed.

Almost 200 tribes participate in the Section 184 program nationwide, 31 of which are from my home State of California.

In the Inland Empire alone, the Saboba Band of Luiseno Indians, the Cabazon Band of Cahulla Mission Indians and the Morongo Band of Mission Indians have been able to provide homeownership for many families through this program.

H.R. 1676 will help close the homeownership gap and increase for Native Americans in my area and all across the country. Let's help all Americans achieve the dream of owning a home.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BOREN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1676.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE THAT CONGRESS SHOULD INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 299) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should increase public awareness of child abuse and neglect and should continue to work with the States to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect through such programs as the Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 299

Whereas child abuse and neglect continue to pose a serious threat to our Nation's children;

Whereas according to the most recent annual estimates, 3,600,000 children were the subject of child abuse and neglect investigations in 2005, an increase of 462,000 children from 2001;

Whereas more than 899,000 children were found to be the victims of abuse and neglect in 2005;

Whereas as of the end of 2005, approximately 513,000 children were unable to live safely with their families and instead were living in foster homes and institutions;

Whereas an estimated 1,460 children died because of abuse and neglect in 2005;

Whereas more than 75 percent of the children who died because of abuse and neglect in 2005 were under the age of 4;

Whereas studies have found that abused and neglected children tend to be at least 25 percent more likely than the general population of children to experience problems such as delinquency, teen pregnancy, low academic achievement, drug use, and mental illness;

Whereas a National Institute of Justice study indicated abuse or neglect during childhood increased the likelihood of arrest as a juvenile by 59 percent and adult criminal behavior by 28 percent;

Whereas studies have found that abusive parents often were themselves the victims of child abuse;

Whereas it is estimated that approximately ⅓ of abused and neglected children will eventually victimize their own children;

Whereas child abuse and neglect can have long-term economic and societal costs through the increased use of the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems, the increased health care costs resulting from mental illness, substance abuse, and domestic violence, and the loss of economic productivity due to unemployment and underemployment; and

Whereas it is appropriate to designate the month of April, 2007 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should increase public awareness of child abuse and neglect and should continue to work with the States to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect through such programs as the Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

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

Not every child in America is raised in a safe and loving home. More often than we realize, children become the victims of abuse and neglect from the very people they should be able to trust the most, their parents.

Today the Income Security and Family Support Committee that I chair is united behind this resolution to designate April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Democratic Representatives JOHN LEWIS, PETE STARK, MICHAEL MCNULTY, KENDRICK MEEK and Republican Representative JERRY WELLER, the subcommittee's ranking member, WALLY HERGER and JON PORTER are cosponsors of the resolution.

Our goal in designating April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month is to increase public awareness of the serious threats that child maltreatment imposes on children, and to encourage Americans to break the cycle of violence.

2005 is the most recent year for which data is available from the Department of Health and Human Services. Nine hundred thousand children were victims of substantiated cases of abuse and neglect. Nearly 1,500 children, mostly under the age of 4, died as a result. Another half a million children could not live safely with their parents and were removed from the home.

Child abuse and neglect has a devastating impact on the life of a child that goes beyond the immediate physical and emotional pain that is inflicted on them. Children who suffer from maltreatment are at greater risk of developmental delays and behavioral problems that could last a lifetime. Child maltreatment can delay or disrupt the normal cognitive development process which, in turn, impacts academic achievement.

□ 1245

Children who are the victims of abuse and neglect tend to have lower math scores and English grades, and they repeat grades more frequently than other children. We know that poor academic skills can lead to a child's dropping out of school, continuing a cycle of negative consequences that can last a lifetime.

A history of child abuse and neglect can also disrupt the development of skills that children use to interact with others, such as problem-solving and communication. These skills are critical in stopping the development of other serious behavior problems even among seriously troubled youth. Moreover, victims of child abuse and neglect tend to have greater levels of depression compared to other children. These children are also more likely to suffer from mental illness, experience problems with drugs, and are more likely to become teen-age parents.

Not every child who has suffered from abuse and neglect will experience poor outcomes. Many maltreated children will persevere against the odds and find the ability to cope and even to thrive. They could develop and maintain the personal characteristics that will make them more resilient than others. Of course, this resilience can depend on a child's finding a safe and loving home to live in and access to support systems, educational resources, and health care.

These amazing kids deserve to be recognized and celebrated for their remarkable ability to persevere over the most difficult of circumstances and for setting an example for other children.

In recognition of the fact that too many of our Nation's children will become the victims of violence at the hands of their parents and many others are at risk of such abuse, Congress has expressed the commitment over the last several decades to stop child abuse and neglect. In 1935 Congress established the Child Welfare Services program to provide Federal funding for a variety of services for States to use to protect children who are at risk of abuse and neglect and who assist those who have been victimized.

In 1993, Congress took another step to protect children when it created the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program. This program is the largest source of Federal funding designed to

stop child abuse and neglect before it starts and to support vulnerable families who are at risk of falling into crisis.

Last fall we reauthorized promoting Safe and Stable Families on a bipartisan basis, and we made a number of key improvements. For instance, new funding will allow us to respond to the growing methamphetamine problem that threatens the safety of many of our children in communities across America. We provided States with additional resources to attract, train, and retain caseworkers. We required States to have caseworkers visit children in foster care once a month to make sure they are getting the proper care. And we increased funding that is available to the Native American community as well.

These are only modest steps that will strengthen our ability to prevent the incidence of child abuse and support vulnerable families. Certainly more can be done, but these programs express the commitment of Congress to protect abused and neglected children.

In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, I urge my colleagues to join me in increasing public awareness of the threat to innocent children and to promote public policies designed to prevent child abuse and safeguard our most vulnerable children.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of House Resolution 299. This resolution reflects bipartisan support for increasing public awareness of child abuse and neglect, which is a necessary first step to better protect children.

Yesterday, the House passed a resolution honoring foster parents, who play a major role in ensuring hundreds of thousands of children are protected from abuse and neglect each year. Today's resolution before us highlights the too large number of children who are abused and neglected each year and the many negative consequences of that abuse for children, families, and our Nation. The numbers are bracing. Almost 900,000 children in the United States were victims of abuse and neglect in 2005, the most recent figures.

Several government programs overseen by the subcommittee on which Chairman MCDERMOTT and I serve assist foster and adoptive families with children's needs or help reunify children with their own parents when that is safe and appropriate. But the very first step to ensure children are out of harm's way involves alert relatives, neighbors, friends, teachers, community organizations, and so many others in every neighborhood across this country. These are people who care, people who want to help, and people who take the time to step in to help make sure our children are safe and sound.

Consider some of those working hard right now to help children in the congressional district I represent in Illinois. Earlier this year I sat down with my local community support agencies to listen to their successes and their many challenges in helping to prevent child abuse and neglect. These agencies offer a wide variety of services to families, from Head Start, food programs, and affordable housing to social services and foster care when needed to ensure children are safe.

In the district I represent, Will County Catholic Charities protects over 300 children in foster care. The Guardian Angel Home and Groundwork in Joliet, Illinois, help abused women and children affected by domestic violence by providing services such as temporary housing, counseling, and legal assistance. Many others provide similar services in other parts of the district I represent, as well as in every congressional district in America.

We should never take these people and their agencies that deliver such good services for granted. Just last week, Catholic Charities in Chicago announced they are shutting down their foster care program after 90 years of service. Their absence will leave a void others will have to fill to ensure that more than 900 Illinois children they now care for are protected from harm. This will be a major challenge. Catholic Charities and the Guardian Angel Home are just two of the many organizations across the Nation that help children and families lead safe and productive lives. Many caseworkers and others who serve families directly have committed their lives to this critical service. They deserve our continued support.

Congress recently made improvements to key programs designed to protect children, including by providing additional resources for direct services and also caseworkers. Last year in the Child and Family Services Improvement Act, Congress increased accountability by requiring States to conduct more frequent caseworker visits to children in foster care. We also targeted over $145 million over the next 5 years for preventing and treating parental substance abuse, which is a key cause of child abuse and neglect. This legislation was fully paid for and was totally bipartisan. And for that I want to congratulate former Subcommittee Chairman WALLY HERGER of California, who worked with our current chairman, JIM MCDERMOTT of Washington State, to accomplish this goal.

I expect to introduce legislation shortly that would provide caseworkers with more resources to better serve children. Currently, when private organizations provide training to their caseworkers, they are eligible for fewer Federal funds to support those costs than are paid for to support the training of government-employed caseworkers. Same training, same job, but different payments, simply because one worker is employed by a private agency and another by a government agency. That is arbitrary and unfair, and we should fix it. I hope the same spirit of bipartisanship evident here today and that which created our work last year will help us get this legislation passed this year, in 2007.

There certainly is much more work to do. Many experts have long been concerned that current programs focus too many resources on helping families after children have been abused and neglected. That is simply too late, especially when the right resources might help prevent abuse or neglect from occurring.

As this resolution expresses, Congress should continue to work with the States to reduce child abuse and neglect. Thoughtful efforts are under way in States like Florida and elsewhere to test ways to better prevent abuse and neglect from happening instead of addressing it after the fact. We are eager to see these results and stand ready to incorporate any positive measures in reforms yet to come. In the meantime, this resolution focuses public attention on child abuse and on the resources available today to prevent child abuse.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and to work together in a bipartisan way with the Ways and Means Committee to develop further measures to protect children from abuse and neglect.

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of increasing public awareness of child abuse and neglect. Nearly 900,000 children were found to be victims of abuse and neglect in 2005. This is unacceptable. Congress must take bold action to protect our Nation's children.

Abused and neglected children face a trauma that does not end when the abuse stops. They must also contend with numerous future problems stemming from their abuse and neglect, including mental illness, poor academic achievement, and criminal behavior. In addition, abuse and neglect often starts or continues a cycle of abuse where a third of victimized children go on to become abusers themselves.

Congress has taken steps to prevent and ameliorate child abuse and neglect through programs such as the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program, Child Welfare Services, and the Community Based Child Abuse Prevention program. These are all good programs, but Congress and the President have consistently under funded them. For example, in fiscal year 2006, the Community Based Child Abuse Prevention program was under funded by $38 million. Congress must fully fund these programs at their authorized levels. The fraudulent war in Iraq and tax cuts for the rich has placed us in a difficult fiscal situation. Even so, we must fund the services that protect our most vulnerable children.

By increasing public awareness of child abuse and neglect, we also have an opportunity to implement new policies that address the health and safety of our children. There are 8 million uninsured children in this country. Continuing to deny health care to all children is simply another form of child neglect. We should work to provide health coverage to every child.

I hope that the resolution before us will help to galvanize this body to push for policies that protect and nurture children. The thousands of abused children and the millions of uninsured children deserve our attention and commitment.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 299.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

INTERNATIONAL SOLID WASTE IMPORTATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2007

Mr. WYNN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 518) to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to authorize States to restrict receipt of foreign municipal solid waste and implement the Agreement Concerning the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste between the United States and Canada, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 518

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 ''International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION AND DISPOSAL OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6941 et seq.) is amended by adding after section 4010 the following new section:

''SEC. 4011. INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION AND DISPOSAL OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE.

''(a) STATE AUTHORITY TO ADDRESS IMPORTATION AND MANAGEMENT OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Until the date on which all final regulations issued by the Administrator to implement and enforce the Agreement (including notice and consent provisions of the Agreement) become effective, a State may enact a law or laws or issue regulations or orders imposing limitations on the receipt and disposal of foreign municipal solid waste within the State. Laws, regulations, and orders enacted or issued before that date may continue in effect according to their terms after that date.

''(2) EFFECT ON INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE.—No State action taken as authorized by this section shall be considered to impose an undue burden on interstate and foreign commerce or to otherwise impair, restrain, or discriminate against interstate and foreign commerce.

''(3) TRADE AND TREATY OBLIGATIONS.—Nothing in this section affects, replaces, or amends prior law relating to the need for consistency with international trade obligations.

''(b) AUTHORITY OF ADMINISTRATOR.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning immediately after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall—

''(A) perform the functions of the Designated Authority of the United States described in the Agreement with respect to the importation and exportation of municipal solid waste under the Agreement; and

''(B) implement and enforce the notice and consent and other provisions of the Agreement.

''(2) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall issue final regulations with respect to the Administrator's responsibilities under paragraph (1).

''(3) CONSENT TO IMPORTATION.—In considering whether to consent to the importation under article 3(c) of the Agreement, the Administrator shall—

''(A) give substantial weight to the views of the State or States into which the municipal solid waste is to be imported, and consider the views of the local government with jurisdiction over the location where the waste is to be disposed;

''(B) consider the impact of the importation on—

''(i) continued public support for and adherence to State and local recycling programs;

''(ii) landfill capacity as provided in comprehensive waste management plans;

''(iii) air emissions from increased vehicular traffic; and

''(iv) road deterioration from increased vehicular traffic; and

''(C) consider the impact of the importation on homeland security, public health, and the environment.

''(4) ACTIONS IN VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENT.—No person shall import, transport, or export municipal solid waste for final disposal or for incineration in violation of the Agreement.

''(c) COMPLIANCE ORDERS.—(1) Whenever on the basis of any information the Administrator determines that any person has violated or is in violation of this section, the Administrator may issue an order assessing a civil penalty for any past or current violation, requiring compliance immediately or within a specified time period, or both, or the Administrator may commence a civil action in the United States district court in the district in which the violation occurred for appropriate relief, including a temporary or permanent injunction.

''(2) Any order issued pursuant to this subsection shall state with reasonable specificity the nature of the violation. Any penalty assessed in the order shall not exceed $25,000 per day of noncompliance for each violation. In assessing such a penalty, the Administrator shall take into account the seriousness of the violation and any good faith efforts to comply with applicable requirements.

''(d) PUBLIC HEARING.—Any order issued under this section shall become final unless, not later than 30 days after the order is served, the person or persons named therein request a public hearing. Upon such request, the Administrator shall promptly conduct a public hearing. In connection with any proceeding under this section, the Administrator may issue subpoenas for the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of relevant papers, books, and documents, and may promulgate rules for discovery procedures.

''(e) VIOLATION OF COMPLIANCE ORDERS.—If a violator fails to take corrective action within the time specified in a compliance order, the Administrator may assess a civil penalty of not more than $25,000 for each day of continued noncompliance with the order.

''(f) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

''(1) AGREEMENT.—The term 'Agreement' means—

''(A) the Agreement Concerning the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste between the United States and Canada, signed at Ottawa on October 28, 1986 (TIAS 11099) and amended on November 25, 1992; and

''(B) any regulations promulgated and orders issued to implement and enforce that Agreement.

''(2) FOREIGN MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE.—The term 'foreign municipal solid waste' means municipal solid waste generated outside of the United States.

''(3) MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE.—

''(A) WASTE INCLUDED.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term 'municipal solid waste' means—

''(i) all waste materials discarded for disposal by households, including single and multifamily residences, and hotels and motels; and

''(ii) all waste materials discarded for disposal that were generated by commercial, institutional, municipal, and industrial sources, to the extent such materials—

''(I) are essentially the same as materials described in clause (i); and

''(II) were collected and disposed of with other municipal solid waste described in clause (i) or subclause (I) of this clause as part of normal municipal solid waste collection services, except that this subclause does not apply to hazardous materials other than hazardous materials that, pursuant to regulations issued under section 3001(d), are not subject to regulation under subtitle C.

Examples of municipal solid waste include food and yard waste, paper, clothing, appliances, consumer product packaging, disposable diapers, office supplies, cosmetics, glass and metal food containers, and household hazardous waste. Such term shall include debris resulting from construction, remodeling, repair, or demolition of structures.

''(B) WASTE NOT INCLUDED.—The term 'municipal solid waste' does not include any of the following:

''(i) Any solid waste identified or listed as a hazardous waste under section 3001, except for household hazardous waste.

''(ii) Any solid waste, including contaminated soil and debris, resulting from—

''(I) a response action taken under section 104 or 106 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9604 or 9606);

''(II) a response action taken under a State law with authorities comparable to the authorities of such section 104 or 106; or

''(III) a corrective action taken under this Act.

''(iii) Recyclable materials that have been separated, at the source of the waste, from

waste otherwise destined for disposal or that have been managed separately from waste destined for disposal.

''(iv) Scrap rubber to be used as a fuel source.

''(v) Materials and products returned from a dispenser or distributor to the manufacturer or an agent of the manufacturer for credit, evaluation, and possible reuse.

''(vi) Any solid waste that is—

''(I) generated by an industrial facility; and

''(II) transported for the purpose of treatment, storage, or disposal to a facility or unit thereof that is owned or operated by the generator of the waste, located on property owned by the generator or a company with which the generator is affiliated, or the capacity of which is contractually dedicated exclusively to a specific generator, so long as the disposal area complies with local and State land use and zoning regulations applicable to the disposal site.

''(vii) Any medical waste that is segregated from or not mixed with solid waste.

''(viii) Sewage sludge and residuals from any sewage treatment plant.

''(ix) Combustion ash generated by resource recovery facilities or municipal incinerators, or waste from manufacturing or processing (including pollution control) operations not essentially the same as waste normally generated by households.

''(x) Solid waste generated incident to the provision of service in interstate, intrastate, foreign, or overseas air transportation.''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. prec. 6901) is amended by adding after the item relating to section 4010 the following new item:

''Sec. 4011. International transportation and disposal of municipal solid waste.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WYNN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material into the RECORD on the pending bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 518, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act of 2007.

This legislation is a culmination of efforts that began with the introduction of the international waste bill in the 104th Congress and has been introduced by our committee chairman, Mr. DINGELL; and sponsored by all the members of the Michigan delegation, including Mr. ROGERS, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. UPTON, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. MILLER, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. CAMP, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. HOEKSTRA, and Mr. WALBERG. I want to thank and congratulate all these Members for their tireless efforts to move this legislation to the floor.

In March this legislation was reported out of the subcommittee which I chair, the Subcommittee on the Environment and Hazardous Materials, and out of the full Committee on Energy and Commerce.

□ 1300

This legislation, which has a long history of bipartisan support, is long overdue in providing States and localities control over the amount of international municipal solid waste that they are forced to accept.

The extent of this problem is exemplified by the millions of tons of solid waste that is trucked into this country at the rate of approximately 350 truckloads per day. The volume of the international solid waste that comes into this country on a daily basis places an undue burden on the States' and localities' landfill capacities, as well as their roads and infrastructure, solely at the expense of the States and localities.

This legislation seeks to address these concerns by providing the States with the authority to place limits on the amounts of international municipal solid waste that they will accept. It will give the States and the EPA clear authority to safely manage solid waste disposal and to control waste volumes in the best interests of the States and the Nation as a whole.

In addition, H.R. 518 provides the necessary legal authority for the United States, through the Environmental Protection Agency, to fully implement the 1986 Trans-Boundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes Agreement between the United States and Canada. These are simple steps that will provide the legislative authority to the Federal and State governments, and are also consistent with the powers enumerated in the United States Constitution and our international trade obligations and agreement. I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this very important and bipartisan bill.

Madam Speaker, I would reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I first want to thank JOHN DINGELL, a friend and colleague and chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, for working with us on putting together what I think is a great product, and really the first opportunity we are going to have in Michigan, I think the first really good opportunity to say ''no'' to Canadian trash. And for that, sir, I thank you. And Mr. WYNN, sir, thank you as well for working with us and standing tall, which is really an important issue. Michigan gets hit hardest, and your care and concern for those of us in the north is greatly appreciated.

Right now, the current law allows trash to move across international borders and States can do nothing to regulate this waste, as Congress has not given them the authority to do so. Canada has for years taken advantage of this situation by turning Michigan into the dumping ground for Ontario's trash. This bill, the fourth of its kind, really, since 2000, gives States the authority to regulate Canadian waste and directs the EPA to implement the existing U.S.-Canada Trans-Boundary Agreement. More importantly, it gives Michigan the authority to regulate trash coming from Ontario, no matter how the EPA chooses to implement that trans-boundary agreement.

In 2006 alone, over 3.6 million tons of Canadian trash was dumped in our great State of Michigan. As we lose landfill space, shipments of Canadian waste continue to increase every year, and this year was no exception, Madam Speaker.

While my colleagues and I have been trying to pass this law, the problem has only gotten worse. Since 2001, when I introduced the first bill to fight Canadian trash, over 17 million tons of garbage have been driven across the border and dumped into our back yards.

Since our first attempts to fix this problem, annual garbage loads from Canada have tripled. Of all the trash Canada sends to the United States, 90 percent of it ends up in Michigan. Six years ago, just 10 percent of the waste disposed in Michigan landfills came from Canada; today, that has doubled to 20 percent. Over 400 garbage trucks over a single day rumble through our neighborhoods and deposit and unload their waste in Michigan landfills.

Without the ability to regulate this out-of-control surge in Canadian waste, Michigan communities can only sit back and watch the trash pile up. And what have we been getting and why is this a concern? We have had human blood dripping from trash trucks; stopped the whole bridge crossing for almost 6 hours on one occasion as the local police tried to determine the cause of it. It turned out it was hazardous medical waste. Thank God it wasn't a body. But we didn't know, and there is no good way to search those trucks to find out. We had to find out because human blood was dripping from the back of a garbage truck.

We have found drugs in those garbage trucks. We have found, in the dumps that receive Canadian trash, that PCP levels have increased. It is a true and real environmental and security problem, not just for Michigan, but for the United States, that we don't get a handle and say to our good friends to the north, this is an unneighborly thing to do, let's work this out.

When we anticipated years ago in Michigan that we would cite landfills, which is a very difficult thing to do, we had 20 years' worth of capacity; pretty hard thing to do. You go in through neighborhoods, and we cited these landfills. And we did the right thing for the right environmental reasons. And because of Canada, we believe that our

landfill capacity, because we were diligent and were trying to protect our environment in the future, may have been cut in half because of Canada's inability to deal with their own household municipal garbage problem.

The best part of this is that in Canada they actually allow its provinces to restrict intraprovince waste. So if you think about this, Saskatchewan could say ''no'' to Ontario's trash, while Michigan is compelled by law to take it. That is a problem. And again, I argue, it is unneighborly, and we should be able to fix this problem.

It is important to note that this bill would not impact State shipments of trash, commercial waste streams; it is only that household municipal waste, that trash that is at the end of the revenue stream where you dig a big hole and you throw it in, that is the only trash that this bill narrowly focused on. 518 is a balanced, narrow NAFTA-compliant bill that gives Michigan and other States the authority they need to be good stewards of their land.

Ladies and gentlemen, and Madam Speaker, Michigan needs your help. My colleagues and I urge the support of this important bill.

I again want to thank Chairman DINGELL and Chairman WYNN for their help and assistance in what really is not only an environmental issue, but a national security issue as well.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WYNN. It gives me great pleasure at this time to yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

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

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 518, the International Solid Waste Management Act of 2007. This legislation is of the greatest importance to our people in Michigan, and it has been sponsored with great enthusiasm by all members of the Michigan delegation in a completely bipartisan fashion.

Mr. ROGERS, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. UPTON, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. MILLER, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. CAMP, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. HOEKSTRA and Mr. WALBERG have all been important supporters of this bill. And I want to pay particular tribute to my colleague from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) for his leadership.

I also want to thank the distinguished Chairman of the Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials for his leadership and for his help and for the way that he has taken care of us in Michigan in making it possible for this legislation to be on the floor at this particular time.

The gentleman from Maryland is an extremely effective and able leader, and we are not only grateful to him, but also to our dear friend, Mr. GILLMOR, who moved it for us in the last Congress.

The legislation is identical to the bill that passed the House of Representatives without opposition last September. In this Congress it was reported out both by the Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials and the full Committee on Energy and Commerce by voice vote, without dissent.

I would point out that it requires the EPA to enforce the notice-and-consent provisions in the bilateral U.S.-Canadian agreement, an agreement which was signed by the United States and Canada in 1986 to govern trans-boundary movement of hazardous waste, and amended in 1992 to include municipal solid waste.

I note now that the administration should comply with the notice-and-consent provisions which require both parties to use best efforts, absent regulation. Unfortunately, the needed efforts by the Administration have not been forthcoming. Although legislation was promised to be delivered ''soon'', by the Administration it has yet to appear.

Michigan's ability to manage the importation of solid waste is crucial to the comprehensive and environmentally sound waste management that the State of Michigan wants to have. Since 1996 when Michigan first began collecting the data, we have seen a 350 percent rise in the amount of Canadian waste disposed in Michigan, going from 2.7 million cubic yards to 12.1 cubic yards.

As mentioned by Mr. ROGERS, better than 400 trucks haul this waste across the bridges every day from Canada into Michigan. Not only is this waste an obnoxious substance, but it is a hazard to travelers and to our roads. It is also an environmental risk, a security risk, and a hazard to the health and security and safety of our people.

This legislation would ensure that the U.S.-Canadian Agreement is properly implemented and properly enforced. The bill provides criteria to ensure that the views of State and local governments are properly taken into account in implementing the bilateral agreement and the bill adds the necessary enforcement authority so that this can be dealt with fully, completely, and properly.

The legislation would also give not just Michigan, but all of the States, more authority to regulate foreign waste until the Environmental Protection Agency's rules and regulations go into effect. This is extremely important, as all of my colleagues in Michigan and elsewhere know.

I want to say that I am pleased that the House is moving forward. I commend my colleagues in the Michigan delegation for the extraordinary cooperation, leadership and energy with which they have addressed this problem. And I want to again thank and express my deep gratitude to the Chairman of the Subcommittee, my good friend from Maryland (Mr. WYNN) for the fine leadership which he has shown in this matter.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I will now yield 2½ minutes to the distinguished lady from Michigan, the former Secretary of State there, a distinguished Member in this body, CANDICE MILLER.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Thank you. I certainly appreciate the gentleman yielding time to me.

Madam Speaker, my home State of Michigan shares a very long liquid border with the nation of Canada. We have a very strong and we have a positive relationship with our neighbors to the north; but one issue that has festered in recent years is the fact that Canada has made Michigan a dumping ground for their trash. In fact, all of the municipal waste from the city of Toronto, 100 percent of it all, is carried across the border and dumped in our home State of Michigan. I do not find this to be very neighborly. In fact, if you come to the Blue Water Bridge in St. Clair County, which is in my district, you can literally see, sometimes as far as the eye can see, these trucks lined up to enter into our country just brimming with Canadian trash. They are obviously congesting our roads, they are clogging this very vital border crossing, they are tearing up our highways, and they are threatening the safety of our drivers.

Pine Tree Acres, which is one of the largest landfills in Michigan, is in my district, it's in Lenox Township, and every day you can drive down and see a mountain of trash that is growing higher and higher because of all of the influx of Canadian trash that is being dumped there. And most Michigan communities plan very prudently to meet the solid waste needs of our citizens. We all took a lot of pride in planning for that. But now with the influx of all of this foreign trash, the Canadian trash, landfills across the State are overflowing and they are reaching their capacity years sooner than was ever anticipated by the local municipalities.

Much of this trash presents enormous health and safety hazards to our communities as well, and to our residents. Some of the trucks have even been found to be ferrying illegal drugs into our communities. And just to give one example of the kind of dangerous trash that is being imported, just last year a Canadian truck spilled human waste, which I think Mr. ROGERS referred to as well, all the way along a highway in our State, and this is simply unacceptable. In fact, I find it rather ironic that Canada has a reputation of being environmentally conscious because it seems they are employing something of a double standard here. They find it perfectly acceptable to use Michigan as their own personal garbage can for their waste, but God forbid that they would pollute their own environment and endanger their own citizens with this trash.

Madam Speaker, the people of Michigan have had enough, but presently they have no ability to stop the flow of foreign trash, and this legislation does give them that ability. So I would urge all of my colleagues to stand with the people of Michigan and every community in our Nation, to give them the ability to protect our environment and to control the flow of foreign trash into our landfills by supporting this very important legislation.

Again, I appreciate our colleagues' responsible action on this.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I would yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman, who has worked tirelessly on this effort in the past and has helped us craft this piece of legislation, Mr. GILLMOR of Ohio.

□ 1315

Mr. GILLMOR. Madam Speaker, I very much appreciate the gentleman yielding, and I am pleased to rise in support of this bill.

I introduced a similar bill in the last Congress with the cosponsorship of my friends Mr. DINGELL and Mr. ROGERS and much of the rest of the Michigan delegation. We were successful in getting it passed last year, but the Senate did not act. I am proud to join as a cosponsor with those gentlemen in this effort this year, and I hope we get better luck in the Senate in this session.

This is a commonsense bill. It gives authority to the States to regulate foreign waste which is being dumped in our landfills. The process of planning, developing and maintaining landfills is often contentious and often very expensive. Our communities should not be forced to sit back and watch as their resources are overwhelmed with trash from outside the United States.

International waste, as has been mentioned, has become a tremendous burden for my neighbors to the north in the State of Michigan. And while much of the foreign waste coming into the United States ultimately ends up in Michigan, this is an issue for all Americans. Our landfills are an important resource, and I believe there will come a day when Michigan's landfills have a sign outside that reads ''Landfill full. Continue to Ohio.'' It is that domino effect that makes international waste a national problem.

The current law rewards the environmentally irresponsible, those who won't make the investment and face the issue of creating landfill space. It punishes the environmentally responsible, like Michigan, who have gone to the effort to make landfill space available. That situation has to change. This legislation will do it, and I am pleased to support it.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, today I rise to express my strong support for passage of H.R. 518, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act of 2007. Like every membr of the Michigan congressional delegation, I am a cosponsor of this bill.

For many years, Canada has shipped significant amounts of solid waste into the United States, with a large percentage of it going to Michigan. It is estimated that more than four hundred trucks bring this waste into Michigan from Ontario each day. That means nearly 150,000 truckloads full of Canadian solid waste is deposited in the great State of Michigan each year.

One of Michigan's greatest assets is the acres upon acres of beautiful land in its natural state. Michiganders are defined in part by our Great Lakes, and the health of our environment is one of our top priorities. It is imperative that we preserve our State's natural beauty, from the wilderness on Isle Royale and the Porcupine Mountains in the Upper Peninsula, all the way down to the lakes and streams in the bottom of our beloved mitten.

By allowing such an immense amount of Canadian trash into our landfills we are falling short of our responsibilities as stewards of our State's health. Canadian trash represents a threat to the health of our environment and the health of our citizens.

States must have the authority to address this matter as they see fit. H.R. 518 is necessary in order to provide Michigan with the power to address this issue, as the U.S. Supreme Court and other Federal courts have consistently ruled that States cannot restrict out-of-state trash without action by Congress.

Passage of H.R. 518 will finally allow States to regulate the importation of international waste in ways that best suit the needs of their citizens. I thank Mr. DINGELL for introducing this important legislation and urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 518.

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I am an original cosponsor of H.R. 518, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act of 2007, and am proud to join Chairman JOHN DINGELL, the Dean of the House of Representatives, my bi-partisan colleagues from Michigan and others in strong support of its passage.

This legislation would require the U.S. to implement the ''notice and consent'' provisions of the 1992 bilateral U.S.-Canadian Agreement on municipal solid waste, and adds the necessary statutory enforcement authority. It also provides criteria to ensure that the views of the affected State and local governments are properly taken into account.

The importation of foreign trash is of great concern to the residents of Michigan's Fifth Congressional District, and citizens across the State vocally oppose the importation of foreign trash.

Nationally, more than 4 million tons of waste—about 400 truckloads per day—is transported from Canada to the U.S. each year, with three-quarters of it coming to Michigan. In Michigan alone, Canadian trash deposits have increased more than five-fold from 1999 to 2006—from about 710,000 tons to 3.67 million tons.

The growing amount of foreign trash coming into Michigan is polluting our environment, clogging our roadways, increasing the health and safety risks in our State, and poses a growing a homeland security threat. In 2006, the Department of Homeland Security Office of the Inspector General released a report finding that U.S. Customs does not have an effective method to screen and inspect the hundreds of truckloads of municipal solid waste that enter the U.S. daily through the Detroit and Port Huron ports of entry. In addition, multiple incidents have occurred on Michigan roadways where Canadian trash trucks have spilled waste on our roads.

Congress has had numerous opportunities to address this problem, either through legislation or the implementation of a bilateral agreement between the U.S. and Canada from 1992, which would allow Michigan to manage foreign waste being disposed of within its borders.

Madam Speaker, the time has come for Congress to take action to address this serious matter. H.R. 518 has broad, bipartisan support reinforced by its clear passage through the House Energy and Commerce Committee earlier this year without objection.

Once again, Madam Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 518, and urge my colleagues to pass this important legislation.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on H.R. 518, introduced by Chairman JOHN DINGELL from Michigan.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 518 is going to be considered under ''suspension of the rules'' which is usually reserved for non-controversial bills, but it has come to my attention that there are some strong objections both from the Canadian Embassy here in Washington D.C. as well as from the Administration, specifically the Department of State and from the United States Trade Representative.

I feel it is my duty as one of the Co-Chairs of the Congressional Friends of Canada Caucus to submit for the RECORD letters from the Canadian Ambassador to the United States, Michael Wilson, as well as letters from the Administration to Speaker NANCY PELOSI and to Republican Leader JOHN BOEHNER that express concern over H.R. 518.

CANADIAN EMBASSY,
Washington, DC, April 12, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I am writing regarding H.R. 518, ''International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act of 2007'', approved by the Energy and Commerce Committee on March 22, 2007. I would like to share with you Canada's views on this legislation.

Canada and the United States have a longstanding partnership in managing the two-way flow of hazardous and municipal solid wastes. Managing hazardous and municipal solid wastes has two components: the commercial relationship, and environmental management.

On the first, the trade in waste is governed by our respective rights and obligations pursuant to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreements and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). HR 518 will grant to states the authority to discriminate between types of waste based solely on national origin, without any environmental or sound waste management considerations. The State of Michigan has already passed Legislation that would prohibit landfill operators from accepting solid waste from foreign sources. Canada views this legislation as inconsistent with the United States' WTO and NAFTA obligations. HR 518 would authorize Michigan's legislation, which would place the United States in contravention of its international trade obligations.

Furthermore, in 1986, both countries signed the Canada-U.S. Agreement on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes, which resulted in effective measures in both countries to ensure that hazardous wastes would be moved to the nearest safe disposal site, without regard to borders. In

1992, Canada and the United States took environmentally sound waste management one step further when they agreed to amend the agreement to include municipal solid waste.

Canada is working toward implementation of the 1992 amendment. We hope that the U.S. will take similar steps in the near future. An Environment Canada-U.S. E.P.A. pilot program in 2005, based on the Agreement, clearly demonstrated that it is possible for our two countries to work together co-operatively to ensure that municipal solid waste is shipped in an environmentally sound manner.

H.R. 518 is a departure from the principle that the sound environmental management of waste should not be impeded because of borders. Canada believes we should follow that principle for municipal solid waste, just like for hazardous waste (of which the U.S. is a net exporter to Canada).

Canada agrees that shipping municipal solid waste to Michigan is not a sustainable solution. Ontario has committed to eliminate by the end of 2010 the shipment to Michigan of all municipally managed wastes. Ontario is on target to meet this short timeline, having already taken the steps necessary to clear the first two hurdles, being 20 percent reductions for the end of each of 2007 and 2008. To that end, about 50 million tonnes of new landfill capacity has been approved by the province of Ontario over the past two years.

We therefore strongly believe that this issue can be managed without resorting to legislation.

I urge you to give serious consideration to these issues and thank you for the opportunity to share Canada's views on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL WILSON,
Ambassador.

APRIL 23, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This letter is to express the Administration's concern with H.R. 518, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act of 2007. H.R. 518 would authorize states to restrict the receipt and disposal of municipal solid waste generated outside the United States.

The Administration is concerned that enactment of H.R. 518 would have the unintended result of increasing the disposal of hazardous waste in the United States and lead to an unnecessary trade dispute. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, approximately 230 U.S. companies in over 32 states shipped hazardous waste to Canada in 2004 alone. If states use the authority in H.R. 518 to restrict foreign waste imports, this could provoke reciprocal actions by Canada or other trading partners against U.S. waste exports.

In addition, because H.R. 518 would authorize states to enact laws or regulations that exclusively restrict the disposal of foreign-generated waste or limit the amount of foreign waste shipped to the United States, it could raise concerns by our trading partners regarding U.S. compliance with international rules prohibiting trade discrimination. In fact, the Government of Canada has already questioned whether H.R. 518, as well as the state laws and regulations it could lead to, would be compatible with U.S. obligations under the North American Free Trade Agreement and WTO agreements.

Moreover, H.R. 518 could result in a patchwork of individual and possibly conflicting state and federal laws and regulations on the receipt and disposal of foreign municipal waste that could make it more difficult to manage cross-border waste flows in an environmentally sound and economically efficient manner.

Finally, there are other ways to address concerns about imports of foreign waste. For example, the U.S.-Canada Agreement Concerning the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste has been a successful mechanism for managing the flow of hazardous waste between our countries and illustrates how issues relating to this type of trade can be handled in a manner that does not raise concerns for our trading partners.

We appreciate your attention to these concerns. The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the President's program

Sincerely,

JUSTIN MCCARTHY,
Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Congressional Affiars.

JEFFREY T. BERGNER,
Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs.

APRIL 23, 2007.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. BOEHNER: This letter is to express the Administration's concern with H.R. 518, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act of 2007. H.R. 518 would authorize states to restrict the receipt and disposal of municipal solid waste generated outside the United States.

The Administration is concerned that enactment of H.R. 518 would have the unintended result of increasing the disposal of hazardous waste in the United States and lead to an unnecessary trade dispute. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, approximately 230 U.S. companies in over 32 states shipped hazardous waste to Canada in 2004 alone. If states use the authority in H.R. 518 to restrict foreign waste imports, this could provoke reciprocal actions by Canada or other trading partners against U.S. waste exports.

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Moreover, H.R. 518 could result in a patchwork of individual and possibly conflicting state and federal laws and regulations on the receipt and disposal of foreign municipal waste that could make it more difficult to manage cross-border waste flows in an environmentally sound and economically efficient manner.

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We appreciate your attention to these concerns. The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the President's program.

Sincerely,

JUSTIN MCCARTHY,
Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Congressional Affairs.

JEFFREY T. BERGNER,
Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, as a cosponsor of H.R. 518, I rise in strong support of this measure. The issue of waste coming into Michigan from Ontario is one of great concern to the people I represent, and I appreciate Representative DINGELL's tireless efforts to move this legislation.

Like the bill approved by the House last year, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act directs the Environmental Protection Agency to implement and enforce the Agreement Concerning the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste between the United States and Canada. The Administrator is required to issue final regulations within 24 months after the date of enactment.

The legislation further requires the Administrator of EPA, when considering whether to consent to a shipment of foreign municipal solid waste to give substantial weight to the views of the recipient State or States, and also consider the impact of the shipment on local recycling programs, landfill capacity, road deterioration, homeland security, public health and the environment, among other factors.

As I mentioned, the bill before the House is nearly identical to the legislation that the House approved last September. Unfortunately, the former leadership of the Senate failed to take up the bill last year, despite bipartisan pleas from Michigan's House delegation urging prompt action. Now that the Senate is under new management, I hope we can at last address this longstanding problem and get a bill to the President's desk for signature.

Our Nation has no closer friend in the world than Canada, but the current trash arrangement in which hundreds of trash trucks cross the border each day on their way to Michigan landfills is simply untenable. The legislation before the House builds on the agreement that Michigan's two Senators negotiated with the government of Ontario last year to reduce municipal waste shipments from Canada over the next four years.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting the legislation before the House.

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of the bill before us today, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act, H.R. 518. Last year, the House of Representatives unanimously approved this bill. While the Senate failed to take action on this important legislation, I urge my colleges in the House to send it to the other body again.

This is an issue that transcends political partisanship. With the support of the entire Michigan delegation, and other Members representing Maryland and Virginia, H.R. 518 sends a strong signal to foreign countries, particularly Canada, that States should no longer be viewed as dumping grounds. The volume of foreign waste from Canada into Michigan continues unabated. Since 2002 Canadian

shipments of waste to Michigan have increased 83 percent. Not only do these shipments crowd our landfills, but they also pose environmental, public health, and even national security risks. It is long past that time States are lawfully able to regulate the amount of municipal solid waste coming across the border and into their communities. H.R. 518 gives States the legal authority to regulate this waste until the Federal Government implements a 21-year-old bilateral agreement between the U.S. and Canada on this subject.

H.R. 518 does not violate trade agreements. The House has done its due diligence in crafting this legislation to avoid any potential trade issues. Simply put, H.R. 518 provides the legislative authority for the United States to implement the 1986 bilateral agreement this country signed with Canada.

More specifically, the legislation authorizes and directs the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to implement and enforce the 1986 Agreement Concerning the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste between the United States and Canada. The Administrator is required to issue final regulations within 24 months after the date of enactment. Under the 1986 agreement shipments of hazardous waste require notification to the importing country and that country's consent before waste may be shipped. The agreement was amended in 1992 to establish similar requirements for municipal solid waste. H.R. 518 provides the legislative authority for the agreement to be implemented and ensure both governments provide proper notice and shipment information before dump trucks cross the U.S. northern border.

Stopping trash coming into Michigan from Canada must be done through statute—not handshakes. H.R. 518 accomplishes this goal. This bill represents the first real opportunity in a long time to ensure States know in advance what is coming into their communities and where it is going.

The Michigan delegation in the House of Representatives has done a terrific job of helping bring H.R. 518 to the floor for a vote. I encourage all of my colleagues to support it. I am hopeful the Senate will soon consider the measure.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 518, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act of 2007. H.R. 518 adds a new section to the Solid Waste Disposal Act requiring the Environmental Protection Agency to implement and enforce the "notice and consent" provisions of a bilateral U.S.-Canadian Agreement signed in 1986 to govern the transboundary movement of hazardous waste. This agreement was amended in 1992 to include municipal solid waste, but neither administration since then has made any effort to implement the bilateral agreement. Enforcement legislation promised "soon" by the present administration almost 4 years ago has yet to arrive. H.R. 518 provides criteria to ensure that the views of the affected State and local governments are properly taken into account, and it adds the necessary statutory enforcement authority.

According to the most recent information for fiscal year 2006, the largest source of waste imported into Michigan continues to be from Canada, with total reported imports to landfills of more than 12 million cubic yards. That is a 23 percent increase from fiscal year 2003. Even more disturbing is that the amount of Canadian waste being disposed of in Michigan has risen by 335 percent since 1996, when Michigan began collecting data.

Riverview and other downriver communities in my district have had to cope with hundreds of trucks full of Canadian trash rumbling down their streets on a daily basis for years. These trucks pass through our communities en route from the Ambassador Bridge to traffic dumps to the west. You can imagine the traffic congestion, environmental, and quality-of-life problems these truckloads of trash have created.

Local activists like Mr. George Read of Trenton and State Representative Kathleen Law have been working tirelessly alongside our congressional delegation to put an end to this never-ending flow of trash, and I am very pleased that the House today is taking a step toward that goal.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time and would be honored to yield back my time.

Mr. WYNN. Likewise, Madam Speaker, we have no further speakers. Again, I would like to commend Chairman DINGELL and the Michigan delegation for their leadership on this issue.

I yield back the balance of my time as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 518.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 362, 10,000 TEACHERS, 10 MILLION MINDS SCIENCE AND MATH SCHOLARSHIP ACT

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 327 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 327

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. 362) to authorize science scholarships for educating mathematics and science teachers, and for other purposes. 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 Science and Technology. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science and Technology now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. 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. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. During consideration in the House of H.R. 362 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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H. Res. 327 provides for consideration of H.R. 362, the 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act, under a structured rule. The rule provides 1 hour of debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Science and Technology. The rule waives all points of order against the bill, except those arising under clauses 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The rule also makes in order and provides appropriate waivers for consideration of two amendments that

were submitted for consideration. A third amendment was submitted, but was withdrawn by its sponsors. All three amendments that were submitted to the Rules Committee were offered by Democratic Members.

H.R. 362 is a bipartisan bill aimed at improving K–12 science, technology, engineering and mathematics, STEM, education through recruitment, training, mentoring and professional development of teachers.

The major provisions of H.R. 362 are in response to recommendations laid out by the National Academy of Sciences in their recent report on American competitiveness. That report, ''Rising Above the Gathering Storm,'' identified K–12 science and math education as the highest priority policy recommendations. This legislation intends to implement those important recommendations. The report concluded a comprehensive and coordinated Federal effort is urgently needed to bolster U.S. competitiveness and preeminence in these areas.

This report, initiated, as you know, by Congress, makes four recommendations along with 20 implementation actions that Federal policymakers should take to create high-quality jobs and focus new science and technology efforts on meeting the Nation's needs. Those include, one, increasing America's talent pool by vastly improving K–12 mathematics and science education; two, sustaining and strengthening the Nation's commitment to long-term basic research; three, develop, recruit and retain top students, scientists and engineers, both from the U.S. and abroad; and, four, ensure that the United States is the premier place in the world for innovation.

According to that report, in 1999, 68 percent of U.S. eighth graders received math instruction from a teacher with no, repeat, no math certification or degree. Also, according to that report, in the year 2000, 92 percent of the fifth through ninth graders, our kids, were taught physical science by a teacher with no science degree or certification. In 2004, the United States high school students ranked 24th, 24th, out of 29 countries in math proficiency, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, obviously a situation that is not tolerable.

This bill makes important strides towards achieving the goals laid out by the National Academy of Sciences report. H.R. 362 will authorize $1.5 billion to be appropriated for new and existing programs within the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy that support the training and professional development of elementary and secondary school teachers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. H.R. 362 addresses the academy's highest priority recommendations to invest in elementary and secondary education.

In summary, H.R. 362 creates programs at colleges and universities to improve the training of science, technology, engineering and math teachers; increases the size and duration of scholarships provided for those fields for people who become teachers; authorizes teacher training for advanced math and science courses; establishes a National Science Foundation grant program to support teachers institutes, including summer institutes for working math and science teachers; establishes master's degree programs for working math and science teachers through the NSF; and creates centers for improving undergraduate education in science, technology, engineering, and math.

The bill also authorizes scholarships for students majoring in these STEM fields who commit to teaching in our K–12 science and math programs.

The legislation has very broad support among our Nation's leading education and research institutions and broad bipartisan support in this body.

H.R. 362 will improve teacher preparation by providing our Nation's teachers with the necessary professional development, and it should improve our students' achievement by strengthening our math and science curriculum.

The reason for this legislation is clear: by 2010, one in four new jobs will be technically oriented, or will involve computers. Women still lag far behind in earning computer technology degrees and working in computer technology related professions, a situation we hope to change.

Constituents from my home State of Vermont have expressed their belief that this legislation provides the forward-thinking policy our Nation's education system requires.

H.R. 362 will provide a particular benefit to rural regions because of the number of rural school districts that currently don't have the resources to get these jobs done. High school lab courses not only reinforce what is going on in lecture, but obviously capture the attention and engagement of our students. These are useful tools for our students to acquire, no matter what career path they choose to follow.

An additional 10,000 math and science teachers across the United States will help ensure that our Nation can capture the imagination of our young people and give them the tools they need to succeed in the careers of science, engineering, technology, and math. The bill also supports the purchase of laboratory equipment, absolutely essential to achieving these goals, that will upgrade facilities in the development of programs that integrate laboratory experience with classroom instruction.

□ 1330

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 362 to invest in America's competitiveness. That is essentially what this bill is about. This bill will have a great impact on our teacher preparation, will strengthen and expand the science, technology, engineering and math workforce, and attract more of our best and brightest students into these fields.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, yesterday the Rules Committee met and granted a structured rule for consideration of the bill 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act. Only two amendments were submitted to the Rules Committee and both were offered by the underlying bill's lead sponsor and the chairman of the Science and Technology Committee, Mr. GORDON.

Madam Speaker, I am disappointed the Democrat majority rejected, on a party-line vote, an open rule for consideration of this measure, thus denying Members of the House of Representatives the opportunity to come to the floor and offer his or her amendments to this bill. And I frankly view this as another opportunity of the promises made by the new majority that were wasted with this bill.

However, the underlying bill mirrors the Science and Mathematics Education for Competitiveness Act, which was approved by the House Science Committee unanimously in the last Congress. The underlying legislation aims to increase K–12 science, technology, engineering and mathematics or ''STEM'' teachers annually by 10,000. Specifically, the bill authorizes competitive awards through the National Science Foundation to institutions of higher education to improve the training of STEM teachers and provide scholarships to students in STEM fields who commit to teaching after graduation.

I applaud the Science and Technology Committee for working in a bipartisan manner to help address the need for America to be more globally competitive in math, science, technology and engineering fields by focusing on increasing the number of quality math and science teachers in our Nation's classrooms. Our students and educators certainly stand to benefit from this bipartisan bill which I support.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Washington.

Just in response to comments on the rule, the Rules Committee believes that this is a judicious rule. All of the amendments that were presented to the Rules Committee were made in order. This is essentially from our point of view an open rule, subject to a filing requirement. The filing requirement obviously gives Members as well

as the Rules Committee an opportunity to review what is being proposed. The rule was adopted by a voice vote.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. The gentleman stated that in his mind this is an open rule. An open rule historically in this body has been where the committee of jurisdiction marks up the bill, takes it to the committee, and then the Rules Committee, with no restrictions, allows Members that are not on that committee to come down if they wish and submit their thoughts or improvements to the bill.

The bill we are about to vote on is a structured rule. Only two amendments were offered. Actually three, and one was withdrawn. Two amendments were made in order. Those amendments were sponsored by the chairman of the committee that has primary jurisdiction on this and the sponsor of the bill, to which it has strong bipartisan support because, as I mentioned in my remarks, this mirrors a bill passed out of the Science Committee last year.

This bill very easily could have been amended in the committee by the chairman, because he is the one who wanted to have the amendments, and it could have been on the Suspension Calendar. It would have passed with strong bipartisan support.

So with due respect to my friend from Vermont, this is not an open rule. This is a structured rule where Members are denied the opportunity if they wish to come to the floor of the House and offer amendments or improvements to this bill.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. I would inquire of the gentleman, were any rules offered by Members on the Republican side that were rejected?

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I will simply say that a requirement of an open rule is not necessarily to have amendments submitted to the Rules Committee. The committee of jurisdiction is the one that marks it up and they take a lot of give-and-take within the committee. That is how we break this down, we break this whole cumbersome process down so committees can work in specific ways.

It is after that process, when it goes to the floor, that Members should have an opportunity to submit whatever they wish. And there is no requirement, never has there been a requirement on something like that where they have to go to the Rules Committee and essentially ask permission to offer an amendment on the floor.

So with this rule, contrary to the promises your party made going into the election, this is a closed process. Only two amendments are made in order. So Members are denied an opportunity to offer their thoughts on the floor.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, every amendment that was offered was allowed. There was one amendment that was offered and withdrawn. That is the reason it is not being offered. There was no denial of any proposed amendment by anybody in this body, Republican or Democrat. The only requirement under the rule is that if somebody had an amendment to propose, they had to do it in a timely way.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON).

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, let me thank our leaders on the committee. This is a very important bill. It is most especially for me, because for the last 15 years that I have been here, I have been preaching about this. So I rise in strong support of H.R. 362 for 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act.

The Committee on Science and Technology has worked to produce legislation to act upon the recommendations of the ''Rising Above the Gathering Storm'' report which was published by the National Academy of Sciences. This bill addresses the issues that they recommended to improve the quality and number of math and science teachers across the Nation.

Of particular interest to me is the Noyce teacher scholarship program. This program provides grants to universities to give scholarships to math, science and engineering students who become math and science teachers. Original law stated that for every 1 year the scholarship was awarded, new teachers must spend 2 years teaching in a high-needs school. This high-needs school requirement was softened by H.R. 362, but I am pleased that the chairman agreed to modify the bill in conference to restore incentives for teachers to serve in high-need schools. We are losing so many students because they are are from poor communities.

The new design will provide more money per scholarship for students who agree to teach in underserved classrooms. This incentive will hopefully entice passionate and high-quality Noyce scholars to share their talents with students most in need.

I want to commend the chairman's sensitivity to the great disparities that exist in availability of highly qualified math and science teachers in schools across the country. As a matter of fact, in my district we have the number one high school in the country in this area, but not without a great deal of effort.

The subcommittee chair, where I was ranking member for about 6 years, Mr. BAIRD, and ranking member, Mr. GINGREY, of the Research and Science Education Subcommittee have been great advocates for lessening the achievement gap as well.

H.R. 362 also contains a laboratory science partnership pilot program that I have worked on with Mr. HINOJOSA from Texas, and he has been a strong advocate because many of these schools don't have equipment. Overall, this legislation is designed to strengthen our Nation's scientific competitiveness by producing thousands of talented and well-educated math and science teachers. That is the only way we are going to remain competitive in this country. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 362.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, we have had a discussion on the structure of this rule, and I just want to ask this question of my friend from Vermont, and I will be more than happy to yield to him.

This bill will be debated on the floor later on this afternoon. Is it possible under this rule for any Member, Democratic or Republican Member, to come down and offer an amendment on this bill?

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield to the gentleman from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. No.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Thank you for your honest response on that.

Madam Speaker, I make the point that this, therefore, is not an open rule as was presented by my friend in his remarks. This is a structured rule, and what has happened is very simply that Members not on the committee are not given the opportunity to try to improve this bill. With that, I oppose the rule.

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

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, this bill has received bipartisan support. There has been a slight argument here about the nature of a structured rule, but I have heard from the gentleman from Washington that there is broad support for the content of this bill. It is a step that is going to move this Nation ahead in the important areas of improving science, math, technology, and engineering.

It is absolutely crucial that our country remain competitive. It is a disgrace that we are 24th out of 29 countries as measured in our performance in K–12 instruction in these critical areas to our present economy.

So we support this bill and ask full support of the Members of the House of Representatives for its passage.

Madam 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. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 363, SOWING THE SEEDS THROUGH SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH ACT

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 318 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 318

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. 363) to authorize appropriations for basic research and research infrastructure in science and engineering, and for support of graduate fellowships, and for other purposes. 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 Science and Technology. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science and Technology now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. 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. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. During consideration in the House of H.R. 363 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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) is recognized for 1 hour.

□ 1345

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, House Resolution 318 provides for consideration of H.R. 363, the Sowing the Seeds through Science and Engineering Research Act, under a structured rule.

The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Science and Technology.

The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except for clauses 9 and 10 of rule XXI. The bill shall be considered as read.

The rule makes in order and provides appropriate waivers for all three amendments that were submitted for consideration. The first amendment to be debated on the floor will be that of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL), the ranking member of the Science and Technology Committee.

Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Madam Speaker, the talent, intellect and entrepreneurial spirit of the American people have made this Nation the leader in economic and technological advancements. In fact, high-tech industries drive economic growth around the world.

Every day, however, my constituents tell me the United States has fallen further and further behind our competitors in Europe and Asia. The United States continues to lead the world in many statistical categories such as R&D spending and the number of scientists and engineers; however, the rest of the world is increasing its capacity, its R&D investments, and its will to catch up with us.

Other countries such as China and India are pouring resources into their scientific and technological infrastructure at staggering rates, which is increasing their ability to compete with us in the global economy.

For example, in South Korea, 38 percent of undergraduates received their degrees in science or engineering. In France, the figure is 47 percent. In China, it is 50 percent, and in Singapore, it is 67 percent. In the United States, only 15 percent of undergraduates receive a degree in science or engineering. More telling is the fact that approximately one-third of U.S. students intending to major in engineering switch majors to something else before graduating.

Madam Speaker, the warning signs could not be any clearer. Our leadership in the race to discovery is being challenged at unparalleled levels around the world. We cannot ignore this challenge, and we cannot afford to ignore this challenge.

Our society has always depended on innovation and discovery. It has depended on pioneers who push themselves to their intellectual and physical limits to find the hidden paths that lead to that discovery. Over 125 years ago, Thomas Edison who famously quipped that he had not failed but instead had found 10,000 different ways that would not work invented the light bulb, and it was Albert Einstein who once said, ''I never came upon any of my discoveries through the process of rational thinking.''

My point, Madam Speaker, is that our advancement as a society depends on leading the search for the unknown. Americans must continue to research, we must continue to develop, and we must continue to innovate in order to create new and thriving industries that will produce millions of good jobs and a better future for our children. To do that, however, we must continue to reinvigorate America's commitment to this discovery process.

The National Academy of Sciences recently released a report, ''Rising Above the Gathering Storm.'' The report outlines specific recommendations to enhance the scientific building blocks in the United States. The bill we have today before us, H.R. 363, the Sowing the Seeds through Science and Engineering Research Act, draws directly from several of those recommendations.

To paraphrase the report, the report recommends that we strengthen our Nation's commitment to research to maintain the flow of new ideas that fuel the economy, provide security and enhance our quality of life. In that regard, H.R. 363 seeks to improve Federal support for scientific research and education in order to maintain our position as the unequivocal global leader in innovation.

H.R. 363 creates a program at the National Science Foundation to award grants to scientists and engineers at the early stage of their careers at colleges, universities and research institutions across the country. Young researchers are eligible to receive up to $80,000 per year for 5 years.

The awards are granted on a competitive basis and are based on intellectual merit of their work, the innovative or transformative nature of the proposed research, and the researcher's potential for leadership at the frontiers of knowledge.

The bill requires that the National Science Foundation director allocate at least 3.5 percent of its research funding for this grant program. The bill also creates a similar program in the Department of Energy for which $25 million is authorized.

H.R. 363 directs NSF to allocate at least 1.5 percent of its research funds

to an integrated graduate education and research training program. This program provides support to those scientists and engineers who will pursue careers in research and education.

Just this week, Madam Speaker, the president of my alma mater from the University of Maryland, Dr. Mote, came by to describe some of the challenges for young researchers in just this area. It is so appropriate that Congress is taking this action at this time.

This bill establishes the Presidential Innovation Award, an award which will recognize scientists and engineers who develop unique innovations in the national interests. The bill creates a national coordination office within the Office of Science and Technology Policy to better coordinate research efforts, and, finally, H.R. 363 directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology to provide a report to Congress on the efforts to attract and retain young researchers.

But this bill goes far beyond the long-lasting impacts of development and innovation. It goes far beyond our ability to create jobs and compete in a global economy. It will plant the seeds of hope for a better tomorrow in communities across this country.

I know firsthand what research funding will be able to do. The University of California in Merced, my hometown in my district, is on the cutting edge of several research projects where additional funding could spur the next big breakthrough. UC Merced is a leader in solar concentration technologies, just one of the many of our ongoing projects. To date, this research has largely been supported through public and private partnerships. However, increased research funding could potentially improve the efficiencies of solar power and solar thermal technologies; and if efficiency and affordability are within our grasp, we can decrease the carbon emissions and reduce our dependence on foreign oil, certainly worthy goals for this Congress. This is but one example of many research efforts across our country that has the potential to define and shape tomorrow.

It is this type of project that would benefit from the funding of this bill, but how many more ideas could become reality if our researchers only had the tools that they sorely need? How many more concepts, how many more ideas are out there on the horizon waiting to be discovered?

Madam Speaker, it is our duty and our responsibility as legislators to help make those dreams and ideas become a reality.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Madam Speaker, it is vital that the United States continue to grow more globally competitive in the areas of scientific research and technology. Federal and private investment in supporting research and development is essential to the health of our economy and our competitiveness as a Nation. We must plan for the future by investing in areas of basic research and science today.

The underlying bill, H.R. 363, reaffirms our Federal commitment to increase America's global competitiveness in the areas of science, technology, research and innovation by supporting America's future scientific leaders.

The central Washington area that I represent is home to the Pacific Northwest National Lab in Richland, a state-of-the-art research facility. The PNNL hosts a diverse staff of outstanding scientists, engineers and support professionals. Many of these individuals in the past have received the highest levels of recognition for outstanding achievements and discoveries in their field.

At this lab, researchers use their expertise in the fields of environmental, radiological, biological and computational sciences to make important contributions to the scientific advancement of our Nation. The development of fuel cell technologies, biomass systems and radiation portal monitors are just a few of the areas where lab researchers are leading efforts to solve our national security and energy security challenges.

I am pleased that this legislation includes efforts to help encourage collaborations between scientists and national labs. Specifically, this legislation allows the National Science Foundation grants to be used in collaboration with our national labs, which means more researchers at our labs will be eligible for Federal support.

Madam Speaker, the underlying legislation enjoys strong bipartisan support, and this rule makes in order all amendments that were submitted to the Committee on Rules. However, Madam Speaker, I question the need once again for a structured rule when an open rule could have been granted for consideration of this bill.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to oppose the rule.

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

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, before I turn it over and yield to my colleague from Texas, I just want to respond to the gentleman and say, on an ongoing basis, we have heard the same drumbeat that we are somehow trampling on the rights of the minority. It is true that this is a structured rule, but it is also true, as it was with the last bill, that every amendment that has been offered has been granted. Certainly that is in the spirit of collegiality and cooperation that this House deserves. We have gone far beyond what is required. This is not an open rule, but certainly we have done more open rules in this committee than was done in the past Congress already in the first few months. We are doing everything we can to accommodate the minority in both spirit and practice.

So I say to my colleague, my good friend from the State of Washington, that he has had the opportunity, every Member, I have heard no one who is clamoring for an amendment to this bill. In fact, all three amendments that were offered to the committee were, in fact, granted, and it seems to me that we are offering cooperation on a silver platter. We just need our colleagues to say ''yes'' and agree that we have done that.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CARDOZA. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding, and I appreciate his acknowledgment that this is a structured rule and, therefore, Members cannot come down to the floor and ask for amendments to be made in order.

But I just want to make this point, and we talk about it a lot in the Rules Committee. A lot of these bills have strong bipartisan support, and, yes, there may or may not be Members that are clamoring for amendments. But it would just seem to me to keep the process in a way where all Members, if they desire, should have an opportunity to come down because maybe something was said in debate, maybe a point that was made that was overlooked, to at least have the opportunity to change. When bills have strong bipartisan support, that is probably the best time to have an open rule.

I respectfully tell my friend that there has been a change in definition of what open rules are. We could probably discuss that further because you have not had the open rules that we have had based on everybody having an opportunity.

I would just simply say that bills like this, if you are going to have them on the floor under the regular order of a rule, then it should be an open rule. Otherwise, it seems to me that it should be on a Suspension Calendar, like we pass so many pieces of our legislation.

□ 1400

That is just simply the point I am making. I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

Mr. CARDOZA. Reclaiming my time, I acknowledge this is not an open rule, this is a structured rule. That is what we put forward. In the 12 or 14 years that the current minority was in power, we saw a declining, ever-declining number of what he considers an open rule.

As I said before, we granted every amendment that came forward in the

last two bills. Certainly that is in the spirit of cooperation that we bring this legislation to the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), a member of the Science Committee.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Let me proceed to thank my colleagues for bringing this rule to the House so that we can rise above the gathering storm.

Mr. Speaker, this is not to insult anyone. I know what it feels like not to be given the opportunity to offer an amendment, I truly do.

But this is a well-substantiated reason because we are in a crisis in this Nation, and we must rise to the occasion. We are moving backwards right now, or standing still. The measure is an investment in America's future, and we must move it.

We must support our American scholars so that we can get the leadership and the thoughts we need to convey to other young people. Our young scholars are not getting the support they need now. They really need more, because they are the future.

The alternative to this bill is to become a Third World nation with all the low-paying jobs, because all of the other ones will leave this country to go where the talent is. We must move fast.

We are in a crisis, and I would hope that we would accept this rule as it is.

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

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL), a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. ISRAEL. I thank the gentleman for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, not to quibble over a rule, but to get to the heart of this very important legislation, in 1957 the American people were terrorized when Sputnik orbited the Earth, and it looked like the Soviet Union had beat us into outer space. What we did then, in the face of that very grave threat to our national security, was to launch a new generation of engineers and scientists.

What we did then was went into our classrooms and nurtured a new generation of people who could engineer, research, develop, manufacture and mobilize. That generation of engineers landed us on the Moon.

People say that NASA landed man on the Moon. I have a very high regard for NASA, but NASA didn't land us on the Moon. The Grumman Corporation landed us on the Moon. NASA provided the incentives and the support and acted as a catalyst to help mobilize that generation of engineers that figured out how to get us to the Moon. We won the Cold War with that generation.

I believe that today our dependence on foreign oil is just as grave a threat as Sputnik was; just as grave a threat to our security, and my children's security, as the Cold War was. We need to engineer again, to research and develop, to mobilize and motivate and inspire a new generation of engineers who can develop plug-in hybrids and fuel cells, hydrogen fuel cells and batteries and cellulosic ethanol.

I was in China just 2 months ago on an energy security congressional delegation. The seventh wealthiest person in China is manufacturing solar panels in China and selling them to Germany; not here, but selling them to Germany.

In Brazil, seven out of every 10 cars is running on flex fuel. We beat Germany and Japan in World War II. They are now ahead of us in solar energy.

If we could win the Cold War and World War II, if we could defeat Germany and Japan in World War II, we should be able to get ahead of them in solar energy. If Brazil can do it, we can do it. It starts in the classroom. It starts with our schools. It starts with that generation.

We can no longer afford to turn our backs on the future. It is time to harness that energy so that generation can provide us with the energy and security we need. It is time to stop borrowing money from China in order to fund our military, to buy oil from the Persian Gulf to fuel our weapons to protect us from China and the Persian Gulf.

This is a national security issue, and it's time for us to treat it as that and invest in that next generation of engineers and scientists. That is what this bill does, and that is why I am so proud to support it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask my friend from California if he has any more requests for time.

Mr. CARDOZA. We have no more requests for time and are prepared to close.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I simply want to say this is a very good bill. It's a bill that has been worked on in the past Congress, and, obviously, in this Congress. It has strong bipartisan support, and all of the points that my friend from New York made in his previous remarks, I would like to associate myself with them. We need that.

It just seems to me that during their whole process, when you have strong bipartisan support, under the rules of the House, all Members ought to have an opportunity to have some say in legislation as important as this that comes to the floor of the House, and not just those members within the committee of jurisdiction.

I am simply pointing that out. It is a promise that was made by the new majority in the last election. I will withhold judgment, obviously, until after this first session is over to see if, in fact, those promises were kept. But as we go along here, seeing structured rules on bills that could very well be on a Suspension Calendar, I just think it's another opportunity missed.

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

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I first want to acknowledge the fantastic remarks of my colleague, Mr. ISRAEL, from the great State of New York.

I also want to respond to my colleague in closing, that while we hear continued complaints about the rule process this session, we have granted the vast majority of amendments that have been offered on these last two bills. In fact, I think every amendment that was offered was granted to the minority. There is certainly no shortage of allowing the minority to have input, both in the committee and here on the floor.

I just get to the heart of the topic at hand today, and that is, quite simply, we must, we must reinvigorate America's commitment to discovery. Where there is research to be done, we must undertake it. There is opportunity to be pursued. This country has always pursued the opportunities presented. We have been an innovator in the last 225 years that we have been in existence, and we must continue to pursue it.

When a technological breakthrough lies far away on the horizon, we must seek it and discover it. I urge a ''yes'' vote on the rule and on the previous question.

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 (Mr. SALAZAR). The question is on the resolution.

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

Mr. CARDOZA. 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: H. Res. 327, H. Res. 318, H. Res. 299, H. Res. 289, H. Res. 119, each 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.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 362, 10,000 TEACHERS, 10 MILLION MINDS SCIENCE AND MATH SCHOLARSHIP ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on adoption of House Resolution 327, 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.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 220, nays 188, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 248]

YEAS—220

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castor
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
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
Filner
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Reyes
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NAYS—188

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Chabot
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastert
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Jindal
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Latham
LaTourette
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Neugebauer
Nunes
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—24

Baker
Brady (PA)
Buyer
Castle
Cleaver
Cubin
Davis, Jo Ann
Deal (GA)
Fattah
Fossella
Hastings (FL)
Hobson
Honda
Kennedy
King (NY)
Kirk
Lampson
McCollum (MN)
Myrick
Rangel
Sutton
Waxman
Westmoreland
Wynn

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1435

Messrs. HELLER of Nevada, FEENEY, HERGER, and REYNOLDS changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 363, SOWING THE SEEDS THROUGH SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on adoption of House Resolution 318, 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 219, nays 187, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 249]

YEAS—219

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castor
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
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
Filner
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Reyes
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NAYS—187

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Coble
Cole (OK)
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier

Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastert
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Jindal
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Latham
LaTourette
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Neugebauer
Nunes
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—26

Baker
Brady (PA)
Buyer
Cleaver
Conaway
Cubin
Davis, Jo Ann
Deal (GA)
Fattah
Ferguson
Fossella
Hastings (FL)
Hobson
Honda
Kennedy
King (NY)
Kirk
Lampson
Lewis (CA)
McCollum (MN)
Myrick
Rangel
Sutton
Waxman
Westmoreland
Wynn

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE.

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

□ 1443

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. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 249 I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 24th, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for two rollcall votes.

Had I been present I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall 248 for passage of H. Res. 327, providing for consideration of H.R. 362 to authorize science scholarships for educating mathematics and science teachers, and for other purposes; "yea" on rollcall 249 for passage of H. Res. 318, providing for consideration of H.R. 363 to authorize appropriations for basic research and research infrastructure in science and engineering, and for support of graduate fellowships, and for other purposes.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE THAT CONGRESS SHOULD INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 299, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 299.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 411, nays 0, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 250]

YEAS—411

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastert
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jindal
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
Kingston
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—21

Baker
Brady (PA)
Buyer
Cleaver
Cubin
Davis, Jo Ann
Deal (GA)
Fattah
Fossella
Gillibrand
Hastings (FL)
Hobson
Kennedy
King (NY)
Kirk
Lampson
Lewis (CA)
Myrick
Rangel
Sutton
Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1452

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 250, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE WITH RESPECT TO RAISING AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGING PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 289, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 289.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 410, nays 0, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 251]

YEAS—410

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastert
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jindal
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
Kingston
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—22

Baker
Bishop (NY)
Brady (PA)
Buyer
Cleaver
Cubin
Davis, Jo Ann
Deal (GA)
Drake
Fattah
Fossella
Hastings (FL)
Hobson
Kennedy
King (NY)
Kirk
Lampson
Moore (WI)
Myrick
Rangel
Sutton
Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE.

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

□ 1500

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE MISSION AND GOALS OF NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 119, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 119.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 407, nays 0, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 252]

YEAS—407

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

Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jindal
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
Kingston
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—25

Baker
Bilirakis
Brady (PA)
Buyer
Cleaver
Cubin
Davis, Jo Ann
Deal (GA)
Fattah
Fossella
Hastings (FL)
Hobson
Kennedy
King (NY)
Kirk
Lampson
Lewis (CA)
McDermott
Moore (WI)
Myrick
Rangel
Sessions
Sutton
Waxman
Westmoreland

□ 1507

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. Speaker, during the vote on rollcall 252, I was momentarily detained, and was not on the House floor. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes due to an evacuation of the Longworth House Office Building which was conducted during the votes.

Mr. Speaker, had I been present for rollcall vote 248, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 362) to authorize science scholarships for educating mathematics and science teachers, and for other purposes, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. Speaker, had I been present for rollcall vote 249, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 363) to authorize appropriations for basic research and research infrastructure in science and engineering, and for support of graduate fellowships, and for other purposes, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. Speaker, had I been present for rollcall vote 250, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should increase public awareness of child abuse and neglect and should continue to work with the States to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect through such programs as the Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families program, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. Speaker, had I been present for rollcall vote 251, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to raising awareness and encouraging prevention of sexual assault in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. Speaker, had I been present for rollcall vote 252, Supporting the mission and goals of National Crime Victims' Rights Week in order to increase public awareness of the rights, needs, and concerns of victims and survivors of crime in the United States during such week and throughout the year, I would have voted "yea."

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 362, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

10,000 TEACHERS, 10 MILLION MINDS SCIENCE AND MATH SCHOLARSHIP ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 327 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. 362.

□ 1510

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. 362) to authorize science scholarships for educating mathematics and science teachers, and for other purposes, with Mr. SALAZAR 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 Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 362, and yield myself such time as I may consume for an opening statement.

In 2005, the National Academies assembled a blue-ribbon committee of national leaders in academia, business and government to address concerns about the national prosperity and the global economy in the 21st century. The Academies' report was entitled, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future." That report catalogs a number of worrisome indicators and presents recommendations that the Nation must follow to maintain its competitiveness.

What did this distinguished committee tell us is most important to the future of the economic health of our Nation? Here is the first recommendation from the report: Increase America's talent pool by vastly improving K–12 science and mathematics education.

The Gathering Storm report goes on to tell us where the focus should be in efforts to improve K–12 science and mathematics education. In brief, it says, "Focus on the teachers." H.R. 362 follows that blueprint.

In January, I partnered with Mr. HALL, ranking minority member on the Committee on Science and Technology, to introduce H.R. 362, whose purpose is to implement all of the action items from the Gathering Storm report and address the report's first recommendation.

I want to thank Mr. HALL for his assistance in developing this bill. With his support, it was favorably reported by the Science and Technology Committee by a unanimous vote.

□ 1515

This bill is endorsed by a wide variety of educational organizations and business coalitions, including the Association of American Universities, the Business Roundtable, the Council of Competitiveness, the National Education Association, the National

Science Teachers Association, and the STEM Education Coalition. These organizations are enthusiastic about H.R. 362 because it will dramatically improve the national corps of math and science teachers.

We call the first title of the bill ''10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act.'' The bill will create thousands of new teachers with content and teaching skill expertise in their area of teaching.

The vehicle for accomplishing this goal is the Robert Noyce Scholarship Program at the National Science Foundation. Noyce awards go to universities that build model programs for recruiting math and science students into teaching. These programs provide mentoring, early field experiences, and a streamlined path toward teaching certification. Students who enroll in this program will receive $10,000-per-year scholarships. In return, they will make commitments of several years to the teaching profession.

H.R. 362 will also create summer institutes and graduate programs that provide sustained, content-oriented professional development to in-service teachers through the Math and Science Partnership Program at the National Science Foundation. We have a critical shortage of math and science teachers in the U.S., and many of our math and science teachers have no degree or certification in the field they teach. In fact, 87 percent of middle school and 58 percent of high school physical science teachers lack these qualifications.

This bill tackles this problem from both ends. On the one end, we bring in a new cadre of math and science teachers who are well-educated and well-prepared. That is what the Noyce program does. On the other end, we improve the teachers that we have through innovative, effective programs led by disciplinary faculty from higher education. That is what the Math and Science Partnerships program does.

Other provisions of H.R. 362 include an expansion of the STEM Talent Expansion Program at the National Science Foundation, a program to enhance the undergraduate education of the future science and engineering workforce, and a pilot program at the NSF to improve laboratory science in high-need secondary schools.

To maintain our high national standard of living, we need a workforce that is prepared in a world-class math and science education system. But there is a dark cloud looming. American students have performed poorly in recent years on an assortment of international tests of math and science achievement. That does not bode well for the future. Our next generation of innovators, where will they come from? That is what the gathering storm on the horizon is all about. To rise above it, we need to reform the math and science teaching profession. That is what this legislation now before us will do.

The stakes are high and the concern is urgent. I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 362.

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

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 362. In the last Congress, we will remember that the National Academy of Sciences ''Rising Above the Gathering Storm'' report, as well as other reports, emphasized the importance of strengthening science, of strengthening technology, of strengthening engineering and mathematics, those fields of education in the U.S., to ensure that the Nation's workforce can compete globally in high-tech, high-value industries such as information technology, biotechnology, semiconductor manufacturing and nanotechnology.

President Bush followed up on these reports with his American Competitiveness Initiative, and Republicans have led this effort through the 109th Congress, the last Congress, because we understood the importance of promoting innovation to keep our Nation competitive globally.

I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of this legislation, most of which was included in a majority effort in the last Congress to implement many of the report's suggestions by expanding current programs versus creating duplicative new programs.

The bill authorizes programs to improve U.S. math, science and engineering education at all levels, K–12, undergraduate and graduate. These programs will develop and provide teacher training, attract math and science majors to teaching to improve undergraduate math, science and engineering courses and expand interdisciplinary graduate work, primarily by strengthening existing programs at the National Science Foundation.

I am particularly pleased with the 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds title which is modeled on a program at the University of Texas called UTeach.

As reported, this is a good bill. I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to my friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES).

Mr. REYES. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise for the purpose of engaging in a colloquy with Chairman GORDON.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in order to request the attention of the distinguished chairman in addressing an important concern relating to the section in H.R. 362, the 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act of 2007, that amends the National Science Foundation Noyce Scholarship Program.

As you know, the core purpose of H.R. 362 is to increase the number of STEM teachers with strong content knowledge and teaching expertise serving in America's schools. In particular, the bill authorizes a large expansion of the Noyce program, which gives scholarships to students to become highly qualified teachers in exchange for their service in a public school.

I want to commend the chairman for crafting this very important legislation. It is an essential step in achieving our national goals of promoting innovative behavior and ensuring continued American strength and competitiveness.

If we are to expand the STEM pipeline, however, and if our investments in innovation and competitiveness are to pay large dividends, we must work to correct the large gaps in math and science test performance that exist today between underrepresented minority groups, which are concentrated in high need areas and the rest of the population. The first step in improving the participation of underrepresented groups is to prepare them to compete academically in STEM.

I am sure that the gentleman will agree that one of the most effective methods for resolving these disparities is by augmenting the number of quality, highly trained teachers serving in high-need areas. This is a job practically tailored for the Noyce Scholarship Program.

I would like to thank the distinguished chairman for his recognition of this need and for his willingness to work with me on this important issue, and I would like to yield to the gentleman at this point.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman is absolutely correct. The NSF Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, as amended by H.R. 362, is specifically designed to help place highly qualified STEM teachers in every classroom across the Nation. I further agree with the gentleman that it is particularly important to reduce the number of out-of-field teachers in the schools that have a high proportion of minority students, who are currently underrepresented in science and technology.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman, and in order to address the points that we have both made, I would like to suggest to the chairman that we pursue the following: I would request that in conference the distinguished chairman seek to increase the scholarship amount for students who agree to teach in high-need schools from the current $10,000 per year to $12,000 per year over a 3-year period of scholarship support. The intention of this is to increase this scholarship amount to address the problem of a disproportionate number of high-need schools that have high percentages of out-of-field STEM teachers.

Does the chairman believe this is a modification he would find worthy of his support?

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman will yield

further, let me first of all thank the gentleman for his recommendation and assure you that it is my intention when we go to conference on H.R. 362 to work to increase the size of the Noyce scholarship to $12,000 per year for students who agree to carry out their teaching commitment in high-need schools.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman.

In addition, I would also request that we ensure that the provisions requiring NSF to track the types of schools in which Noyce recipients carry out their teaching obligations include an assessment of the effectiveness of the increased scholarship amount on influencing individuals to teach in high-need schools. Does the chairman believe that this is a modification that he would find worthy of supporting?

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman will yield further, I certainly do; and I once again thank the gentleman for bringing this up.

As the gentleman points out, H.R. 362 now requires the National Science Foundation track the proportion of Noyce graduates who elect to teach in high-need schools. I will seek to expand this provision in conference to require NSF to assess the effect of increasing the size of scholarships on attracting graduates of the program to teach in high-need schools.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman.

In addition, seeing as that the problem of out-of-field teachers is most severe in high-need schools, I would request that in conference the distinguished chairman pursue modifications to the bill, clarifying that one of the purposes of Noyce is to close the gap between the number of highly qualified STEM teachers in high-need schools and the number of such teachers in non-high-need schools.

I would further request that this policy statement be included in section 103 of H.R. 362 titled ''Policy Objectives.'' Does the chairman believe that this is a modification he would find worthy of his support?

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, once again we are on the same page. I agree with the gentleman that an important goal of the Noyce program is to reduce disparities in the distribution of highly qualified STEM teachers among schools in different regions of the Nation. I support the gentleman's proposed modification to section 103 of the bill and will pursue this change in conference.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Chairman, I would like to again thank the distinguished chairman for agreeing to address these points in conference and for the great job that he has done in crafting this very important and vital piece of legislation.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, let me again thank the gentleman for his constructive efforts in making a good bill even better.

Mr. Chairman, I include for the RECORD an exchange of letters between the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee on Education and Labor.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR,
Washington, DC, April 3, 2007.

Hon. BART GORDON,
Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GORDON: I am writing to confirm our mutual understanding regarding consideration of H.R. 362, the ''10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act,'' which was referred to the Committee on Science. As you know, the Committee on Education and Labor has a jurisdictional interest in H.R. 362, particularly as we move forward to reauthorize the Higher Education Act this term.

Given the importance of moving this bill forward promptly, I do not intend to request the sequential referral of H.R. 362 to the Committee on Education and Labor. However, I do so only with the understanding that this procedural route should not be construed to prejudice this Committee's jurisdictional interests and prerogatives on this bill or any other similar legislation and will not be considered as precedent for consideration of matters of jurisdictional interest to the Committee on Education and Labor in the future. In addition, should this bill or similar legislation be considered in a conference with the Senate, I would expect members of the Committee on Education and Labor to be appointed to the conference committee on such measures.

Finally, I ask that you include a copy of our exchange of letters in your committee's report on H.R. 362 and in the Congressional Record during the consideration of this bill. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to call me. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

GEORGE MILLER,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
Washington, DC, April 5, 2007.

Hon. GEORGE MILLER,
Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding the consideration of H.R. 362, the ''10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act.'' I appreciate your waiving your Committee's right to a referral on this bill so that it may move expeditiously to the Floor.

I recognize your Committee's jurisdiction in this area and will support any request you may make to have conferees on H.R. 362 or similar legislation. The exchange of letters between our two committees will be included in the Committee report on H.R. 362 and will be inserted in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,
Chairman.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 7 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, all of us go back to our districts regularly and meet with our constituents, and some of the most sorrowful meetings I have are with students who have just graduated from high school and say, I can't get a job. I can't get a job. What a shock to them, after years of education. And I am not talking about dropouts. I am talking about students who have studied hard, worked hard, and tried to learn a lot.

When I analyze the problem, much of it circles around the fact that today, and, indeed, all the jobs of the future, require a good understanding of the basic principles of mathematics and science, and many students in today's curriculum are not getting that knowledge.

What can we do to help solve that? There are a number of aspects to the problem. Obviously, the first thing is to entice students to take those courses. But, secondly, and more importantly, is to make certain that all those teachers in our high schools across this Nation are adequately trained and adequately prepared to teach math and science courses and do it in a fashion that excites the students and entices them to take these courses so that they will develop the background in math and science that they need to get a job, both now and in the future.

The world has changed. China and India recognized this 20 years ago and changed their educational system. We did not change. We did not recognize what was happening, and so we have to play catch-up.

This bill, which I strongly support, is a good bill which will help us to improve U.S. math, science, and engineering education at all levels; K–12, undergraduate and graduate.

As most people in Congress know, I am a scientist. What you may not know is that over 40 years ago, I dedicated myself to trying to improve the science educational programs in the United States, basically from preschool through graduate school, because we were simply falling behind other countries in the areas of mathematics and science.

I am not talking only about producing good engineers and enough engineers, or good scientists and enough scientists. That is very important, and we must do it. We are losing out on that as well. But what we certainly have to do is to prepare everyone for the workplace of today, and especially the workplace of tomorrow.

□1530

This bill will help do that. This bill builds on the Noyce Scholarship Program, an excellent program that has been in effect for a number of years and which was initially proposed by the former chair of the Science Committee, Sherry Boehlert. It is named after the person who helped to found Intel and make it grow into what it is today. They also have funded a number of scholarship programs, and this is our counterpart.

But this program does more than that. It strengthens and expands the

Noyce Scholarship Program, but it also strengthens and focuses the Math and Science Partnership Program at the National Science Foundation, a program which has fallen on hard times in the last few years, primarily because the President's budget has sought to eliminate funding for that program. I think this is based on a misunderstanding in the administration or in the Office of Management and Budget about what the program does, and the mistaken belief that this program was a duplicate of one residing in the Department of Education. As a result the program in the Department of Education grew, and the one in the Science Foundation was cut back.

The fact of the matter is they are both good programs and necessary programs, and they are complementary, not competitive. We need both if we are going to strengthen our teacher training programs. That is why I strongly approve of the aspect of the bill that will strengthen and focus the Math and Science Partnership Program.

The bill also extends the authorization of and expands the NSF Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program, better known as the STEP program, which provides grants to colleges and universities to improve undergraduate science, math and engineering education.

This bill enables NSF to fund the creation of centers at colleges and universities to develop new approaches to undergraduate education programs, and expands the focus of STEP beyond its initial focus of increasing the number of graduating STEM majors to also include increasing the number of nonmajors taking STEM courses.

The bill also establishes a pilot grant program at NSF to create a partnership to support science lab improvements in secondary schools, a proposal initiated by Mr. HINOJOSA in a separate bill, but that we are incorporating into this bill.

In short, this bill does a great deal to strengthen several programs at the NSF and, develop innovative programs which will provide better math, science education at all levels from the elementary schools through the undergraduate and the graduate programs.

We have worked together on this in a nonpartisan way. I commend Ranking Member HALL. Mr. HALL has been a strong person in this area and has strongly pushed this bill. I also commend the chairman of the committee, Mr. GORDON, who has also worked very hard on this. It has been a copacetic experience in the Science Committee to hear this discussion and see the progress we have made. I strongly support the bill, and urge the House to adopt it.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I would like to say amen to most of Dr. EHLERS' eloquent statement. He is a very constructive and positive force on our committee.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA), a former science teacher.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in enthusiastic support of H.R. 362, the 10 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act, and H.R. 363, the Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Act.

The National Academies' report, ''Rising Above the Gathering Storm,'' found that the United States ''must prepare with great urgency to preserve its strategic and economic security.'' To do this, we must compete by optimizing our knowledge-based resources, particularly in science and technology, and by sustaining the most fertile environment for new and revitalized industries and the well-paying jobs they bring.

As a Representative from Silicon Valley, I am keenly aware of how innovation is a driving force behind our Nation's economy. There is one thread that runs through both bills that I particularly support, something I call teaching innovation.

H.R. 363 authorizes the NSF to support research on the process of innovation and the teaching of inventiveness, while H.R. 362 enables the development and dissemination curriculum tools for teaching inventiveness and innovation. These provisions are derived from H.R. 1492, the Innovations for our Nation's Vital Educational Needs for Technology (INVENT) Act.

From talking to Silicon Valley CEOs, I have learned that, in especially innovative high-tech companies, the cutting-edge work has really been driven by a few highly innovative scientists and engineers who tend to have many patents, while other employees have only a few. To maximize our Nation's knowledge-based resources, I believe we need to figure out how these people do it and teach others those skills.

I am grateful to Chairman GORDON and also to the former chairman, Sherry Boehlert, with whom I worked on this during the 109th Congress.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER), a member of the Science Committee.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 362. Let me first congratulate Chairman GORDON for the leadership that he is providing, along with Ranking Member HALL, and let us note that since the change of the guard here in the House of Representatives a few months ago, we have had an exemplary approach to bipartisanship and a positive spirit that we have seen in the Science Committee, and this legislation reflects that positive atmosphere and working environment that we have in the Science Committee.

H.R. 362 seeks to address the lack of qualified teachers for math and science in K–12 throughout our country. I support H.R. 362 because it is not just a giving of something to someone, a scholarship, but it is actually providing young people who may not have the means to go to school and to get their education. It requires 5 years of service as a science and mathematics teacher in order for them to get this scholarship. I see that as a two-for, if not a three-for or a four-for, because the kids are going to benefit, the schools are going to benefit, the country is going to benefit.

Trading service for education is an American tradition. I guess it goes back even further than the GI bill, but that is what brought it to mind. All of us had parents who were probably recipients of the GI bill. I know my father was.

We should be beefing up education benefits through the GI bill and other things like that for our Reserves and our National Guard and Active Duty people, now that we are at war and now that we are thinking about this. But this particular scholarship program we are talking about today will fill a need for our country of finding math and science teachers in order to fill these positions throughout our country that now can't be filled.

Let us note that 10,000 teachers provided these scholarships is certainly going to help. But the basic problem is not touched by this legislation, and that is that we would not need these scholarships if math and science teachers throughout the country were paid more than they are today.

What is happening is today, math and science teachers are being forced to accept wages, and then they don't accept them and just go someplace else, at the same level as teachers who teach things that are not quite as necessary. Or, in fact, there are many, many more teachers available for these other courses, whether it be social sciences or whatever. So since we do not have a pay differential, it is very difficult to fill these positions, and at least this legislation today will help meet the immediate challenge.

Instead, however, we should have worked on the fundamental problem throughout our country of making sure that people can go into math and science and be attracted to it. Fundamentally, what we need to do in America to address these types of shortages is to make sure that people who go into math and science and engineering make more money, whether they are teachers or anything else. Quite often, we do things that go contrary to this. Insisting that all teachers make the same money is one of those mistakes. H–1B visas that bring in hundreds of thousands of people from overseas and just depress the wages of people who are in math and science and engineering in our country is something else that is wrong, that ends up taking us in the wrong direction.

We need our young people attracted to math, science and engineering, and to get that education because they know they can earn a good living for their family and earn a decent living if they get that type of training.

So the legislation we pass today will help. It will provide scholarships. I support that. I salute the chairman and the ranking member for the leadership they provided in providing this help for our young people in exchange for what they will do teaching young people in our country. But again, that doesn't change the fact that there are some fundamental things we need to do in America to make sure that people go into math and science and don't have to subsidize our mistaken policies.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) for his support for this bill, and I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY) who has spent so much time working on the bill.

Ms. HOOLEY. Thank you, Chairman GORDON, for giving me time to speak on this important and crucial piece of legislation.

I also want to applaud you for your leadership on this issue, and the expediency that you moved this through committee, along with Ranking Member HALL.

This initiative was identified by the Academies as being the most important step to increase America's talent pool by vastly improving K–12 science and mathematics education.

Among the findings of the National Academies' ''Gathering Storm'' report, was a statistic that in 2000 more than 85 percent of students in grades 5–9 were taught physical science by a teacher lacking a major or certification in the physical sciences.

As a former teacher, I can appreciate how difficult it is to teach a subject when you are not comfortable with it, and this discomfort translates in discomfort for the subject to the students.

The key to the United States maintaining its position at the forefront of global innovation and technology is to get more students interested in the science and math fields. Our Nation's economic vitality is derived in large part from the productivity of well-trained people and the steady stream of scientific and technical innovations they produce.

After years of inattention and neglect, this legislation is an important first step towards a reinvestment in our Nation's science and math education. It will, in turn, positively benefit the American Competitive Initiative.

Once again, I applaud Chairman GORDON for his leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 362, the 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act.

As you know, it is a sad truth that American students' performance in science and math is below that of other developed countries. Like many of my colleagues, I am concerned that without increased attention to this issue at the elementary, high school and post-secondary levels, our country's technological leadership could decline and ultimately harm not only today's students but tomorrow's economy as well as our national security.

This legislation provides a framework for improving math and science education by investing heavily in the recruitment and training of teachers.

In recent years, I have had the pleasure of observing several of the ''For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology,'' or FIRST Program's competitions. This program is designed to inspire young people to take an interest and participate in science and technology. Through FIRST, teams of students and their mentors work together to solve complex, real-world problems or design actual pieces of technology. They are given the opportunity to compete against their peers, all the while developing self-confidence, good sportsmanship, and critical life skills.

The talent and drive of the students I have observed in the FIRST competitions leaves me encouraged—in fact, awestruck—by the potential of America's high school students. I have seen first hand that with quality resources and instruction, our children can do great things in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Today, our support for H.R. 362 is a tremendous step towards bringing these resources to future generations, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON).

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, let me thank Mr. GORDON, Mr. HALL, and our subcommittee chair as well as the ranking member.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 362. It is an essential measure to world competitiveness for this country. We are in the storm. We cannot accomplish rising above until we invest in our teachers, teachers that are qualified. Many of our teachers love teaching and they are trying hard, but they simply do not have the background needed. A lot of it has to do with pay, because the people who are well-qualified in these areas simply do not come to the classroom because they do not pay enough.

□ 1545

I support the Noyce teacher scholarships, and I know that the storm of need is sure and it is now. It takes efforts and investment to deal with this issue. There are now more and more high-need schools which means we have more and more students that need special attention, and we cannot have a positive future until we include them in this education.

This is called the investment in America's future. We are depending on the home people to be prepared because the H–1B visas are causing us to brain drain other countries. This is a global need, and we must be ready to prepare our own. We will be left with no possible preparation in this area, and we will move right into a Third World nation.

We must remedy this. Implementing the provisions of H.R. 362 will go a long way in remedying this problem, and I firmly believe that with proper resources we know our young people can do it.

There is a school in my district with some of the poorest kids, but they are doing it because they have the proper resources.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, could you tell me how much time I have left.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) has 17½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) has 11½ minutes remaining.

Mr. HALL of Texas. I am going to yield to the gentleman from Tennessee 5 minutes of our time, and we reserve the balance of our time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I certainly thank the gentleman for his generosity. There is a lot of interest in this bill.

I would like to yield now 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CARNAHAN), another active member of our committee.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Chairman, I stand today with enthusiastic support for H.R. 362, 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act.

I want to add my thanks to Chairman GORDON and Ranking Member HALL for their leadership on this issue and continued commitment of our entire Science and Technology Committee and the Research and Science Education Subcommittee.

Last year, I received a letter from a mother in New Jersey whose 14-year-old daughter was not satisfied with her education. This young girl wanted permission from her parents to move to Beijing, China, for high school because she felt like her counterparts were getting ahead of her education here in the United States.

To me, this story underscores the need for our Nation to strengthen its investment in education, and it is consistent with the international statistics that we have seen of U.S. students falling behind in both the number of graduates and in academic performance with regard to science and math education.

In particular, America must make a major renewed commitment to education in math and science and engineering to promote innovation and technological advancement.

As public servants, our constituents have entrusted us with the responsibility of ensuring our educators have the tools they need to best serve our young people.

I urge all my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation to create a brighter future for our children, expanded support for our teachers, increased innovation in our research and technology, and a stronger competitive edge for the U.S. in the growing world marketplace.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI), the vice chairman of the Science and Technology Committee.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 362, a bill that is critically important for America's future.

I thank Chairman GORDON for his hard work on this issue of science education and for making H.R. 362 a priority in this Congress. I also thank Representative HALL, ranking member of the committee, for his work on this bill and for his continuing work in a bipartisan manner in this committee to get things done that we need done for America.

Numerous studies have shown that our students are falling behind the international curve on math and science. When I was a college professor, I certainly saw far too many students coming to college unprepared.

Today, we see that America is at a crossroads. The path that we choose will dictate our standing in the world for decades to come. If we continue business as usual, we jeopardize America's competitiveness and the prosperity that we have all come to enjoy.

Instead, we must do all that we can to make sure that Americans are prepared by a world-class math and science education. America's high standard of living depends on this.

That is why H.R. 362 is a vital part of an American innovation agenda that will help to guarantee a continued prosperity in America's future. Right now, many school districts throughout the country are finding it increasingly difficult to find good math and science teachers.

Lyons Township High School Superintendent Dennis Kelly has spoken to me recently about the difficulties that they are having finding these teachers, and I hear this all across my district and all across the country. This bill targets this problem and offers viable solutions to recruiting new teachers, as well as developing and supporting current ones.

H.R. 362 will expand the Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program at the National Science Foundation allowing more universities to be able to host programs for recruiting students into teaching. This is a vital part of our educational system, connecting universities with K–12 education. This will ensure that our children have an abundance of qualified, well-equipped math and science teachers who will prepare them for their future.

I have a special understanding of the impact that teachers have on children's lives, especially when it comes to inspiring students in math and science. In addition to being a former college professor, I am only one of the handful of Members of Congress with a degree in engineering. In addition, my wife has a degree in math, and we often talk about the teachers who have inspired us.

I will always remember my high school physics teacher, Father Fergus, who inspired me to pursue a degree in engineering, and I also will always remember Father Thul who really inspired me in mathematics.

It is vital that we pass this bill and continue to produce these teachers that continue to inspire our children and make our future more secure.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. GIFFORDS), the former State senator.

Ms. GIFFORDS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ranking Member HALL.

I rise today to enthusiastically express my support for H.R. 362, the 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act.

The purpose of this legislation is to improve our national corps of teachers in both math and science, both by recruiting new teachers and also by supporting the current ones. To build a world-class science and technology workforce, we need to have a world-class math and science education system, and H.R. 362 will help accomplish this goal.

According to the Nation's report card in 2005, only 30 percent of eighth graders performed at or above the proficient levels in math. Only 32 percent of eighth graders and 18 percent of 12th graders performed at or above the proficient levels in science.

America must do better. The National Academy's ''Rising Above the Gathering Storm'' report, presented to us in committee, states that ''without fundamental knowledge and skills, the majority of students scoring below proficient'' levels will ''lack the foundation for good jobs and full participation in society.''

America must invest in this national teaching force, especially in rural and poor areas.

Karen Nicodemus is president of Cochise Community College in my district in Arizona. She states that although the shortage of high-quality and high-qualified math and science teachers cuts across all educational systems, we feel it in the rural areas more than in other areas. We do a disservice to our brightest students in high school in those rural and poor areas by not investing and making sure that we have a qualified workforce.

To remain competitive in the 21st-century global economy, it is critical that we reform math and science education in America. All children, especially those in rural and in poor areas, should have the opportunity to become leaders, should be able to take our country to the next level.

It is an honor to be on this bill.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I reserve my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, thanks to the generosity of our ranking member, I yield 2½ minutes to one of his fellow Texans (Mr. HINOJOSA), chairman of the Subcommittee on Higher Education.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 362, the 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Act.

Today, this body will take up two bills that represent a bipartisan effort to implement the recommendations in the watershed report, ''Rising above the Gathering Storm.''

I would like to thank Chairman GORDON and Ranking Member HALL for their leadership in bringing these critical measures to us today.

H.R. 362 will address our competitiveness crisis at its foundation, our acute shortage of teachers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, commonly known as the STEM fields.

Low-income, rural and minority communities bear a disproportionate share of the national shortfall of highly qualified STEM teachers. We must reverse that inequity. The 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Act will help us do exactly that.

H.R. 362 also addresses a quiet crisis in our high-need high schools, the lack of quality laboratory science opportunities.

The National Research Council's report on America's high school labs found that experience in high school labs was poor for most students and practically nonexistent for students in low-income or minority communities. We will never produce enough STEM professionals if we do not address this issue and invest the correct amount of money.

I am very pleased that the legislation before us today includes the provisions of my bill, H.R. 524, Partnerships for Access to Laboratory Science Act. This legislation will establish a pilot program that will partner high-need school districts with colleges and universities and the private sector to improve high school laboratories.

Through these pilot programs, we will be able to develop models and test effective practices for improving laboratory science in high-need schools. We will leverage resources from the local community and the private sector and build on our base of knowledge of what works in teaching science.

I would especially like to thank my friend and colleague, the gentlewoman

from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), for working with me to move the PALS Act forward.

I want to close by saying that through the leadership of all of these gentlemen on this committee, we are going to be able to pass this legislation with your help.

□ 1600

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS).

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Chairman, our Nation's scientific and technological innovation has been a key source of our global economic competitiveness, but I fear that our competitiveness is in jeopardy because America's K–12 students are being underserved in math and sciences. If we do not provide our students with adequate education resources, we jeopardize our future economic prosperity.

H.R. 362, 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds bill is a key step towards providing our students with the quality education needed to maintain our Nation's global competitiveness. We are facing a crisis in our schools because math and science college graduates are not being attracted to teaching careers. Too often, math and science teachers are instructing outside of their fields.

American students are facing a future of job competition on a global scale. In a global economy, highly educated workers from anywhere in the world can compete for America's high-skilled and high-paying jobs. To have a prosperous economy in which all segments of the population can compete for high-paying jobs, we need schools with well-placed labs and science programs.

H.R. 362 will promote the educational experience that all our youth deserve, being taught by competent math and science teachers, and this bill will provide universities and teacher preparation programs the incentives to track more math and science college graduates and prepare them for their successful teaching careers. The bill will also increase professional development resources for math and science teachers already instructing in America's neediest schools.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, we have no more speakers. To wrap it up, may I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the bill. I also would like to reiterate to Mr. REYES that I, too, am sensitive to the needs of the high-needs schools. I think we have sufficiently addressed his concern in the underlying measure by providing an added incentive for Noyce scholars who choose to teach in high-needs schools.

Furthermore, the clearinghouse provided for under Mr. GORDON's amendment provides yet another layer of commitment to help guarantee that our high-needs schools are not left out of the selection process for the new STEM teachers.

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

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, may I ask the amount of time that we have left here?

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman has 4¾ minutes.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, let me take just a moment to thank the staff, Jim Wilson, and our minority staff for the time they have put in on this bill. Two years ago, LAMAR ALEXANDER, and our former chairman, Sherry Boehlert, asked the National Academies to do a recommendation on the competitiveness of America in the 21st century. The recommendation was good news and bad news. The bad news was that we are in a very competitive environment and that we are on a losing track.

The good news was we had some recommendations. That is what we tried to do. We didn't try to make a Democratic or Republican bill; we took their recommendations and made a bipartisan bill. I think that today the bipartisan bill is the result of that. I again thank all the Members for their constructive efforts in doing this.

I understand that the Speaker is so committed to this bill that she is on her way to the floor, and she is not only on her way, but she has arrived, and I yield her the balance of my time.

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I commend the distinguished chairman of the Science Committee and the ranking member for their leadership in bringing this legislation to the floor with strong bipartisan support. This is indeed a great day for the Congress because we are here to talk about the future. I always say to people when they come, You visit Washington, you see all these monuments to people who lived a long time ago; but when you come to the floor of the Congress, what we are here to do is to make the future better for the next generation.

Central to that is a strong economy for our country. We have had a bipartisan commitment to an innovation agenda, a commitment to competitiveness to keep America number one. We know that innovation begins in the classroom, and that is why the legislation on the floor today is so important.

For some of us of a generation when I was a student, President Kennedy talked about putting a man on the Moon. It seemed impossible at the time.

When he said it, when he made his announcement, he said the vows of this Nation can only be fulfilled if we are first, and therefore we intend to be first. Our leadership in science and in industry, our hopes for peace and security, our obligations to ourselves and others as well, all require us to make this effort. It was with that our country made a strong commitment to science and technology, and within 10 years a man was on the Moon and safely returned.

Here we are again in this new century, all these many years later, recommitting to an innovation agenda. We have to talk about how we grow our economy to create new jobs here at home for the 21st century. We certainly have a commitment to trade, and that is important to us.

We can only succeed in the international global economy if we are competitive and if we innovate. We cannot innovate without the investment in education, the investment in science and technology.

Our effort for an innovation agenda began nearly 2 years ago outside of Washington, meeting all over the country with leaders and CEOs in many fields, whether it was biotech, high-tech, the academic community, venture capital, entrepreneurs, young people and telecommunications sector people who are creating jobs for the 21st century. We held forums in Silicon Valley, in Seattle, and in Boston, in Chicago, northern New Jersey, North Carolina's Research Triangle, El Paso, Texas, to name a few.

Using the expertise and advice that we heard from the outside, emphasizing a focus on public/ private partnerships, emphasizing a focus on the entrepreneurial spirit that is the hallmark of our country, we adopted an innovation agenda that will help create a new generation of innovators, an educated skilled workforce in the vital areas of science, math, engineering and information technology.

Thank you, Chairman GORDON, for your extraordinary leadership in this area and bringing this legislation to the floor. I also want to commend Chairman GEORGE MILLER for his leadership and focusing on STEM as well.

The agenda will help to make a sustained Federal research and development commitment that promotes private sector innovation, spur affordable access to broadband technology, achieve energy independence, strengthen our national security, protect our planet by developing emerging technologies for clean and sustainable alternatives, and provide small businesses with the tools they need to engage and encourage entrepreneurial innovation and job creation throughout our economy.

This is what was important to us. Again, pointing out the importance of education to all of this, I am very pleased to come to the floor to support the legislation that is on the floor today.

Once again, I want to thank Mr. HALL for his leadership in this area. I take special pride in the fact that this effort is bipartisan. The President has spoken on any number of occasions, in his State of the Union addresses or in other settings, about his commitment to this investment in the future.

Hopefully we can move these pieces of legislation along to his desk for his signature and on to better public policy to promote the United States as

number one with an innovation agenda for the future.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to support H.R. 362, the 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act.

I am a cosponsor of this important legislation, which will greatly increase the numbers of science and math teachers across the country, both through creating more teachers from current college students and by providing better training for the teachers already in our schools.

America has long been a center for science and engineering discovery. Just looking back over the 20th century, American ingenuity has been truly incredible. From Ford's Model T in 1908 and on to the personal computer in 1981, American innovations have transformed our Nation and the world, again and again, creating whole new industries and occupations. Going forward, new innovations will continue to be critical, both in maintaining a solid industrial base and increasing our standard of living.

In short—innovation leads to new products and processes that sustain our industrial base; innovation depends on a solid knowledge base in math, science and engineering; without this knowledge base, innovation as well as our industrial base will erode.

Along those lines, all jobs of the future will require a basic understanding of math and science. The most recent 10 year employment projections by the U.S. Labor Department show that of the 20 fastest growing occupations projected for 2014, 15 require significant mathematics or science preparation to successfully compete for a job.

To succeed, U.S. students will need a strong background in math and science and our students have proven that they have talent in these areas. Compared to other countries, U.S. fourth graders score above average in both math and science on international tests. Yet, by the time these students graduate from high school, they score near the bottom of all industrialized countries.

We must do more to keep students involved, interested, and educated in science and math fields.

This bill will help us increasing the number of well-trained science and math teachers, which will lead to more scientists and engineers in future generations.

H.R. 362 will enhance and expand the national corps of math and science teachers, both by recruiting new teachers with backgrounds in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields and by supporting current teachers.

Specifically, the bill will improve the Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program at the National Science Foundation (NSF). Noyce Scholarships will award $10,000 scholarships to students enrolled in STEM majors who commit several years to teaching. Furthermore, this program will ensure that these new teachers have mentors and other support as they begin teaching.

For current teachers, the bill will enhance NSF's Math Science Partnership (MSP) program, which provides sustained, content-oriented professional development for current teachers with summer institutes and master's degree programs. Furthermore, teachers participating in these MSPs are encouraged to become teacher leaders by sharing their knowledge with other teachers in their schools.

I would like to thank Science and Technology Chairman GORDON for introducing this critical legislation and working to bring it to the floor today.

In conclusion, I encourage all of my colleagues to support H.R. 362. To ensure that we continue to have a strong and healthy economy in the new interconnected global market, we need to have a prosperous science and technology enterprise. This legislation will set us in the right direction.

Mr. WU. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 362, the 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act.

I would like to thank Chairman GORDON, as well as Ranking Member HALL, on their hard work on this legislation, and the bipartisan manner in which the Science and Technology Committee operates to produce such substantial legislation.

Mr. Chairman, this legislation will come to the aid of America's need for more school teachers in our nation's classrooms. In their much referenced report, Rising Above the Gathering Storm, the National Academies found that 68 percent of U.S. 8th grade students received instruction from a mathematics teacher who did not hold a degree or certification in mathematics; in 2000, more than 85 percent of students in grades 5–9 were taught physical science by a teacher lacking a major or certification in the physical sciences.

Also, U.S. 15-year-olds ranked 24th out of 40 countries that participated in a 2003 administration of the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) examination, which assessed students' ability to apply mathematical concepts to real-world problems. These figures could spell disaster for America's competitiveness in the fields of science, technology and innovation.

By amending and expanding the Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program at the National Science Foundation (NSF) which will go to universities that build model programs for recruiting students into teaching, H.R. 362 will move us down the road to improving the strength of our math and science teachers, while actively recruiting new teachers.

Our future lies in our students, and their ability to think critically, and ask thoughtful, insightful questions lie in the strength of their schooling. The un-bias nature of scientific inquiry and the natural beauty of math help students build their questioning and logic skills.

It is imperative that our students are taught by teachers whose strengths lie in conveying these concepts and inspiring young minds not only to go into the science and technology fields, but also to open their minds to be inquisitive in the world.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chairman, today we are considering several bills to implement the Innovation Agenda including H.R. 362, the "10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds" Science and Math Scholarship Act.

Last month, I was pleased to support this legislation in Committee. H.R. 362 invests in thousands of new and highly qualified teachers through professional development, summer training institutes, scholarships, and investment in undergraduate science, technology, engineering and math ("STEM") education.

I taught high school in Arizona for 28 years, and I know that my fellow teachers work hard and do a good job with the resources they have.

But I was also a State Senator for 8 years, and I know our schools need help. Arizona's students are below the national averages in every subject area. Arizona's teachers teach six children more per class than the national average.

That's a problem.

Arizona must increase the number of highly qualified teachers and lower the student to teacher ratio.

As a former educator, I understand firsthand the impact that education has on our children and their future. I appreciate Chairman GORDON's leadership on this issue, and I am pleased to see the chairman's legislation works to increase the number of qualified science and math teachers.

Ensuring that our students receive a first-rate education is vital not only to Arizona's future but our nation's as well. I believe that if we want to successfully compete and prosper in the 21st century, we must make education a national priority.

The National Academy of Science was asked how the United States can accomplish this goal. Their report, Rising Above the Gathering Storm, recommends action to recruit highly qualified science and math teachers and implement programs to strengthen the skills of our current teachers.

I wholeheartedly agree.

To continue to compete in the global economy we need to increase the number of science and technology graduates and our schools need the resources to successfully educate our children.

H.R. 362 supports this important goal and I look forward to supporting its passage today.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Chairman, innovation in math, science, and technology is the way America will stay strong and competitive in this century. Unfortunately, we are seeing our children's test scores slip behind the rest of the industrialized world. In a recent exam to test the real-world application ability of mathematical concepts, U.S. high-school students ranked 24th out of 40 countries that were tested.

As a mother and grandmother, I want all of our Nation's children to have the best possible education to empower them to be whatever they choose to be when they grow up. I can't help but be concerned with the idea that the America they will inherit will not be able to compete on the highest levels of the global marketplace. We must stem the tide of dropping test scores and fewer and fewer qualified teachers of science and math.

That's why I rise in support of H.R. 362, the 10,000 minds, 10 million Science and Math Scholarship Act. It's not enough that we have the scientists to drive the innovation to keep us competitive. We also need to be producing the educators to mentor and impart wisdom to our youth so that they can expand their fields of knowledge, innovate new technologies, discover new medicines, and answer questions we once thought unanswerable.

In a global economy, competition is going to keep increasing, and unless we take definitive action to increase our science and math capabilities, we are going to be left behind. H.R. 362, under the leadership of Chairman GORDON, is part of the definitive action we must take to get more qualified teachers in place to ensure that our kids have the knowledge and skills at hand to continue to lead the world.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 362 and to help put America on track to remain strong, competitive, and well-educated in math and science.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Ms. Chairman, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 362, the ''10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act,'' of which I am proud to be a co-sponsor. This bill is the first component of the new Democratic majority's Innovation Agenda, which is designed to make our nation more able to compete successfully in the global economy.

Mr. Chairman, it is essential that we invest in a workforce ready for global competition by creating a new generation of innovators and make a sustained commitment to federal research and development. We need to spur and expand affordable access to broadband, achieve energy independence, and provide small business with tools to encourage entrepreneurial innovation

H.R. 362 is a critical first step. It will place highly qualified teachers in math, science, and technology K–12 classrooms, based on the recommendations of the National Academies. It will invest in 10,000 new science and math teachers, totaling some 25,000 over five years, by increasing the number of scholarships for students majoring in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields and who are committed to pursuing teaching.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 362, will also strengthen the skills of math, science and technology of up to 250,000 teachers by improving education and training opportunities for math and science teachers and expanding professional development, summer training institutes, and graduate education assistance.

This important, bipartisan legislation seeks to advance science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM, education by providing for improved recruitment, training, mentoring, and professional development of teachers.

The establishment and maintenance of a capable scientific and technological workforce remains an important facet of U.S. efforts to maintain economic competitiveness. Pre-college instruction in mathematics and scientific fields is crucial to the development of U.S. scientific and technological personnel, as well as our overall scientific literacy as a nation. The value of education in scientific and mathematics is not limited to those students pursuing a degree in one of these fields, and even students pursuing nonscientific and nonmathematical fields are likely to require basic knowledge in these subjects.

In particular, there is a need to extend access to mathematics and scientific education to a number of specific groups. Even as certain minorities, including African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans, comprise an increasingly large proportion of the U.S. population, they continue to be underrepresented in science and engineering disciplines. Together, these three groups comprise over 25 percent of the population, but earn only 16.2 percent of the bachelor degrees, 10.7 percent of the masters degrees, and 5.4 percent of the doctorate degrees in these fields.

This legislation amends the National Science Foundation (NSF) Authorization Act of 2002 by revising the requirements for the Robert Noyce Scholarship program. This important program provides scholarships, stipends, and teacher training to science, mathematics, and engineering students and professionals, in exchange for a commitment to service as elementary or secondary school teachers following graduation.

H.R. 362 also provides for summer institutes and graduate programs through the Mathematics and Science Education Partnership program. It authorizes $195 million from FY 2008 to FY 2012 for the operation of an already existing NSF program to provide summer workshops for teachers. It authorizes additional funds to establish a new grant program aimed at encouraging the development of graduate degree programs for math and science teachers. This bill provides increasing funding for fiscal years 2010 through 2012 for the NSF STEM Talent Expansion program, and authorizes the NSF to create pilot programs to award grants to improve laboratories in secondary schools.

Mr. Chairman, according to the National Academies, the most important thing we can do for our future economic health is invest in our science and math teachers. A number of highly publicized studies have shown that the mathematics and science achievement of American students is poor by international standards. In 2005, 39 percent of 12th graders lacked even basic high school math skills.

H.R. 362 has been endorsed by a broad range of businesses and universities as well as industry and education groups, including the Business Roundtable, Association of American Universities, Council on Competitiveness, the College Board, Semiconductor Industry Association and the Business Software Alliance.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act. Taking its name from the fifth chapter of the National Academies Report ''Rising Above the Gathering Storm,'' H.R. 362 is part of an ambitious legislative portfolio that will fulfill the Innovation Agenda. I was proud to help craft the Innovation Agenda, on which our nation is dependent for its future prosperity.

In middle school, 68 percent of math students have a teacher who did not major in and has not certification in mathematics. Across all sciences, 57 percent of middle school students have teachers without a major or certification in the subject. In physical sciences, 93 percent have teachers without a major or certification. In high school, approximately 31 percent of math students, 45 percent of life science students, 61 percent of chemistry students, and 67 percent of physics students have teachers with no major or certification in the field.

The National Science Foundation's successful Noyce program recruits and trains math and science teachers, drawing from high-performing college students and from existing math and science professionals. The Noyce program also encourages those it trains and supports to serve in high-needs school districts. H.R. 362 expands the Noyce program and modifies it to include freshmen and sophomores.

Another successful math and science education program at the National Science Foundation is its Mathematics and Science Education Partnerships program, which provides grants to universities and nonprofits for the improvement of K–12 education. H.R. 362 improves the program by focusing grantees on teacher training, requiring grantees to offer masters programs for in-service teachers, and preparing teachers to instruct Advanced Placement courses.

H.R. 362 does not stop with the improvement of these existing programs. It recognizes the special need for quality hands-on science teaching by authorizing funds for the Laboratory Science Teacher Professional Development program. The Act also requires the Director of NSF to convene a panel of experts to develop nationally available K–12 math and science teaching materials, and it creates centers that will work on curriculum, pedagogy, and the training of professors and teaching assistants to increase undergraduate participation and performance in science, technology, engineering, and math courses.

I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this bill.

America is still the number one economy in the world, and we can keep that leadership. But we can only do so with a level of determination and commitment that we have not shown in almost half a century. Other countries are making aggressive investments in a competitive workforce. We must exceed those efforts.

That is why—nearly 2 years ago—then-Minority Leader NANCY PELOSI laid down a challenge to Congress and the President to invest in innovation in order to create vibrant industries, a strong economy, and good jobs here at home. Now, with Speaker PELOSI at the helm and Democrats determining the agenda before Congress, we are acting on that challenge.

Working with leaders from the hi-tech and bio-tech industries, venture capitalists, and academics, Democrats laid out a plan to boost America's competitiveness. We made it clear to the American people that we take this challenge seriously.

Today, we are taking the next steps on our commitment. The bill before the House today is an important step for America's future economic strength and the strength of America's middle class.

Mr. GORDON's legislation is a strong step in reaching a key goal of our innovation agenda. This bill will educate 25,000 highly qualified math and science teachers by creating high quality programs that integrate the strong teaching of both education programs as well as strong research and content area instruction.

In the Education and Labor Committee, we are also working to create a new generation of innovators by ensuring that today's students are taught to high academic standards and receive the workplace skills that are necessary to prepare them as scientists, engineers, and mathematicians in a global high-tech economy.

The Committee will work toward the goals of innovation agenda by educating 100,000 new innovators in the next five years. We propose a new public-private partnership with the business community and higher education institutions to produce well-qualified, highly-skilled workers by establishing Congressional Science fellowships and interdisciplinary Master's programs in science, engineering, and math that include specialized training and internships with business partners, and loan forgiveness options.

Additionally, we will build on the work of Mr. GORDON by placing a highly qualified teacher in math, science, and technology K–12 classrooms by offering up-front tuition assistance to talented undergraduates majoring in math, science or engineering who agree to teach in a high-needs school and by partnering community colleges with 4-year institutions to improve the teacher pipeline.

Lastly, we need to enhance the ability of states to coordinate education and workforce goals, identify the challenges of recruiting students and retaining them in innovative fields, and develop collaborative solutions through statewide coalitions of education, business, and community leaders, such as P–16+ Councils.

America's entrepreneurial, innovative spirit is one of the key reasons for our strength in the world today. If we match that spirit to these substantial investments, our economy will stay strong for generations to come. I look forward to continuing to press forward with other elements of the Innovation Agenda and to make sure that America stays No. 1 in the world.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to support these important bills—the 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act and the Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act—and to keep our Nation competitive in an era of global economic and scientific competition.

Now, more than ever, we must ensure that America remains at the forefront of discovery and innovation. To do that, we must engage our young people and encourage more of them to pursue careers in science, math, and engineering. These two bills accomplish that by fostering student potential in K–12 classrooms and by investing in long-term scientific research to keep more young scientists in our Nation's laboratories.

The 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science Math Scholarship Act would increase the number of scholarships for students majoring in the field of science, technology, engineering, and math who want to teach and would strengthen the skills of current STEM teachers by expanding professional development. These teachers would be better equipped to excite and engage students in math and science.

The Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act would increase our investment in long-term scientific research and provide grants to young researchers. It would encourage our brightest young minds to think innovatively and push the boundaries of current research. Also, it will encourage young scientists to continue their study in U.S. institutions.

Mr. Chairman, these bills will help stimulate exciting research and increase the number of students entering the fields of math and science. They are an essential part of our competitiveness agenda, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for them today.

The CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 362

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

SECTION 1. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Table of contents.
Sec. 2. Findings.
Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Sec. 101. Short title.
Sec. 102. Findings.
Sec. 103. Policy objective.
Sec. 104. Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program.

TITLE II—MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT

Sec. 201. Mathematics and science education partnerships amendments.
Sec. 202. Teacher institutes.
Sec. 203. Graduate degree program.
Sec. 204. Curricular materials.
Sec. 205. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program.
Sec. 206. High-need local educational agency definition.
Sec. 207. Teacher leaders.
Sec. 208. Laboratory science pilot program.
Sec. 209. Study on laboratory equipment donations for schools.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The National Science Foundation has made significant and valuable contributions to the improvement of K–12 and undergraduate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education throughout its 56 year history.

(2) Under section 3 of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1862), the National Science Foundation is explicitly required to strengthen science, mathematics, and engineering research potential and education programs at all levels.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) The term ''cost of attendance'' has the meaning given that term in section 472 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087ll).

(2) The term ''Director'' means the Director of the National Science Foundation.

(3) The term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given that term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(4) The term ''mathematics and science teacher'' means a mathematics, science, or technology teacher at the elementary school or secondary school level.

TITLE I—SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act''.

SEC. 102. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The prosperity the United States enjoys today is due in no small part to investments the Nation has made in research and development over the past 50 years.

(2) Corporate, government, and national scientific and technical leaders have raised concerns that current trends affecting the science and technology enterprise of the Nation could result in erosion of this past success and jeopardize future prosperity.

(3) The National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine were tasked in a congressional request to recommend actions that the Federal Government could take to enhance the science and technology enterprise so that the United States can successfully compete, prosper, and be secure in the global community of the 21st century.

(4) The Academies' highest priority recommendation in its report, ''Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future'', is to improve K–12 mathematics and science education, and the Academies' first recommended action item is to institute a major scholarship program to recruit and educate annually 10,000 mathematics and science teachers.

SEC. 103. POLICY OBJECTIVE.

In carrying out the program under section 104, the National Science Foundation shall seek to increase by up to 10,000 per year the number of elementary and secondary mathematics and science teachers in the Nation's schools having both exemplary subject knowledge and pedagogical skills.

SEC. 104. ROBERT NOYCE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) PROGRAM AMENDMENTS.—Section 10 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n–1) is amended—

*(1) by inserting ''**TEACHER**'' after ''**NOYCE**'' in the section heading;*

(2) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by striking ''to provide scholarships, stipends, and programming designed'';

(B) by inserting ''and to provide scholarships and stipends to students participating in the program'' after ''science teachers''; and

(C) by inserting ''Teacher'' after ''Noyce'';

(3) in subsection (a)(3)(A)—

(A) by striking ''encourage top college juniors and seniors'' and inserting ''recruit and prepare undergraduate students''; and

(B) by inserting ''qualified as'' after ''to become'';

(4) in subsection (a)(3)(A)(ii)—

(A) by striking ''programs to help scholarship recipients'' and inserting ''academic courses and early field teaching experiences designed to prepare students participating in the program'';

(B) by striking ''programs that will result in'' and inserting ''such preparation as is necessary to meet requirements for''; and

(C) by striking ''licensing; and'' and inserting ''licensing;'';

(5) in subsection (a)(3)(A)(iii)—

(A) by striking ''scholarship recipients'' and inserting ''students participating in the program'';

(B) by striking ''enable the recipients'' and inserting ''enable the students''; and

(C) by striking ''; or'' and inserting ''; and'';

(6) in subsection (a)(3)(A) by inserting at the end the following new clause:

''(iv) providing summer internships for freshman students participating in the program; or'';

(7) in subsection (a)(3)(B)—

(A) by striking ''encourage'' and inserting ''recruit and prepare''; and

(B) by inserting ''qualified as'' after ''to become'';

(8) by amending clause (ii) of subsection (a)(3)(B) to read as follows:

''(ii) offering academic courses and field teaching experiences designed to prepare stipend recipients to teach in elementary schools and secondary schools, including such preparation as is necessary to meet requirements for teacher certification or licensing; and'';

(9) in subsection (a) by inserting at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT.—To be eligible for an award under this section, an institution of higher education (or consortia of such institutions) shall ensure that specific faculty members and staff from the institution's mathematics, science, or engineering departments and specific education faculty are designated to carry out the development and implementation of the program. An institution of higher education may also include teacher leaders to participate in developing the pedagogical content of the program and to supervise students participating in the program in their field teaching experiences. No institution of higher education

shall be eligible for an award unless faculty from the institution's mathematics, science, or engineering departments are active participants in the program.'';

(10) in subsection (b)(1)(A)—

(A) by striking ''scholarship or stipend'';

(B) by inserting ''and summer internships'' after ''number of scholarships''; and

(C) by inserting ''the type of activities proposed for the recruitment of students to the program,'' after ''intends to award,'';

(11) in subsection (b)(1)(B)—

(A) by striking ''scholarship or stipend''; and

(B) by striking ''; and'' and inserting '', which may include a description of any existing programs at the applicant's institution that are targeted to the education of mathematics and science teachers and the number of teachers graduated annually from such programs;'';

(12) in subsection (b)(1), by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

''(C) a description of the academic courses and field teaching experiences required under subsection (a)(3)(A)(ii) and (B)(ii), including—

''(i) a description of the undergraduate program that will enable a student to graduate within 5 years with a major in mathematics, science, or engineering and to obtain teacher certification or licensing;

''(ii) a description of the field teaching experiences proposed; and

''(iii) evidence of agreements between the applicant and the schools or school districts that are identified as the locations at which field teaching experiences will occur;

''(D) a description of the programs required under subsection (a)(3)(A)(iii) and (B)(iii), including activities to assist new teachers in fulfilling their service requirements under this section; and

''(E) an identification of the applicant's mathematics, science, or engineering faculty and its education faculty who will carry out the development and implementation of the program as required under subsection (a)(4).'';

(13) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), and (E) as subparagraphs (C), (D), (E) and (F), respectively;

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (A) a new subparagraph as follows:

''(B) the extent to which the applicant's mathematics, science, or engineering faculty and its education faculty have worked or will work collaboratively to design new or revised curricula that recognizes the specialized pedagogy required to teach mathematics, science, and technology effectively in elementary and secondary schools;''; and

(C) by amending subparagraph (F), as so redesignated by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, to read as follows:

''(F) the ability of the applicant to recruit students who are individuals identified in section 33 or 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a or 1885b).'';

(14) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking ''2 years'' and inserting ''3 years'';

(15) in subsection (c)(3)—

(A) by striking ''$7,500'' and inserting ''$10,000''; and

(B) by striking ''2 years of scholarship support'' and inserting ''3 years of scholarship support, unless the Director establishes a policy by which part-time students may receive additional years of support'';

(16) in subsection (c)(4)—

(A) by striking ''6 years'' and inserting ''8 years'';

(B) by inserting '', with a maximum service requirement of 6 years'' after ''was received''; and

(C) by striking ''Service required under this paragraph shall be performed in a high-need local educational agency.'';

(17) in subsection (c), by adding at the end a new paragraph as follows:

''(5) EXCEPTION.—The period of service obligation under paragraph (4) is reduced by 1 year for scholarship recipients whose service is performed in a high-need local educational agency.'';

(18) in subsection (d)(1), by striking ''to receive certification or licensing to teach'' and inserting ''established under subsection (a)(3)(B)'';

(19) in subsection (d)(2), by inserting ''and professional achievement'' after ''academic merit'';

(20) in subsection (d)(3), by striking ''1 year'' and inserting ''16 months'';

(21) in subsection (d)(4)—

(A) by striking ''6 years'' and inserting ''4 years''; and

(B) by striking ''for each year a stipend was received'';

(22) in subsection (g)(2)(A)—

(A) by striking ''Treasurer of the United States,'' and inserting ''Treasurer of the United States.''; and

(B) by striking ''multiplied by 2.'';

(23) in subsection (i)(3), by inserting ''or had a career in'' after ''is working in'';

(24) in subsection (i)—

(A) by striking ''and'' at the end of paragraph (4);

(B) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (5) and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) the term 'teacher leader' means a mathematics or science teacher who works to improve the instruction of mathematics or science in kindergarten through grade 12 through—

''(A) participating in the development or revision of science, mathematics, engineering, or technology curricula;

''(B) serving as a mentor to mathematics or science teachers;

''(C) coordinating and assisting teachers in the use of hands-on inquiry materials, equipment, and supplies, and when appropriate, supervising acquisition and repair of such materials;

''(D) providing in-classroom teaching assistance to mathematics or science teachers; and

''(E) providing professional development, for the purposes of training other teacher leaders, to mathematics and science teachers.''; and

(25) by adding at the end the following:

''(j) MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP GIFT FUND.—In accordance with section 11(f) of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, the Director is authorized to accept donations from the private sector to support scholarships, stipends, or internships associated with programs under this section.

''(k) ASSESSMENT OF TEACHER SERVICE AND RETENTION.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Director shall transmit to Congress a report on the effectiveness of the program carried out under this section. The report shall include the proportion of individuals receiving scholarships or stipends under the program who —

''(1) fulfill their service obligation required under this section in a high-need local educational agency;

''(2) elect to fulfill their service obligation in a high-need local educational agency but fail to complete it, as defined in subsection (g);

''(3) remain in the teaching profession beyond their service obligation; and

''(4) remain in the teaching profession in a high-need local educational agency beyond their service obligation.

''(l) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Director for the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program—

''(1) $70,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

''(2) $101,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

''(3) $133,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

''(4) $164,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; and

''(5) $196,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 8(6) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 is amended—

(1) in the paragraph heading by inserting ''TEACHER'' after ''NOYCE''; and

(2) by inserting ''Teacher'' after ''Noyce''.

TITLE II—MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT

SEC. 201. MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS AMENDMENTS.

Section 9 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) by striking ''(A)'';

(B) by striking subparagraph (B);

(C) by inserting '', through 1 or more of its departments in science, mathematics, or engineering,'' after ''institution of higher education''; and

(D) by striking ''a State educational agency'' and inserting ''education faculty from the participating institution or institutions of higher education, a State educational agency,'';

(2) in subsection (a)(3)(B)—

(A) by inserting ''content-specific'' before ''professional development programs'';

(B) by inserting ''which are'' before ''designed''; and

(C) by inserting ''and which may include teacher training activities to prepare mathematics and science teachers to teach challenging mathematics, science, and technology college-preparatory courses, including Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses'' after ''and science teachers'';

(3) in subsection (a)(3)(C)—

(A) by inserting ''and laboratory experiences'' after ''technology''; and

(B) by inserting ''and laboratory'' after ''provide technical'';

(4) in subsection (a)(3)(I) by inserting ''including model induction programs for teachers in their first 2 years of teaching,'' after ''and science,'';

(5) in subsection (a)(3)(K) by striking ''developing and offering mathematics or science enrichment programs for students, including after-school and summer programs;'' and inserting ''developing educational programs and materials and conducting mathematics, science, and technology enrichment programs for students, including after-school programs and summer camps for students described in subsection (b)(2)(G);'';

(6) in subsection (a) by inserting at the end the following:

''(8) MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS.—Activities carried out in accordance with paragraph (3)(B) shall include the development and offering of master's degree programs for in-service mathematics and science teachers that will strengthen their subject area knowledge and pedagogical skills, as described in section 203 of the Act enacting this paragraph. Grants provided under this section may be used to develop and implement courses of instruction for the master's degree programs, which may involve online learning, and develop related educational materials.

''(9) MENTORS FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS OF CHALLENGING COURSES.—Partnerships carrying out activities to prepare mathematics and science teachers to teach challenging mathematics, science, and technology college-preparatory courses, including Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses, in accordance with paragraph (3)(B) shall encourage companies employing scientists, mathematicians, or engineers to provide mentors to teachers and students and provide for the coordination of such mentoring activities.

''(10) INVENTIVENESS.—Activities carried out in accordance with paragraph (3)(H) may include the development and dissemination of curriculum tools that will help foster inventiveness and innovation.'';

(7) in subsection (b)(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) and (F) as subparagraphs (F) and (G), respectively, and inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

''(E) the extent to which the evaluation described in paragraph (1)(E) will be independent and based on objective measures;'';

(8) in subsection (b) by inserting at the end the following:

''(4) MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM GRANT SIZE.—A grant awarded under this section shall be not less than $75,000 or greater than $2,000,000 for any fiscal year.'';

(9) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking paragraph (2);

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) as paragraphs (4), (5), and (6), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraphs:

''(2) REPORT ON MODEL PROJECTS.—The Director shall determine which completed projects funded through the program under this section should be seen as models to be replicated on a more expansive basis at the State or national levels. Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Director shall transmit a report describing the results of this study to the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

''(3) REPORT ON EVALUATIONS.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Director shall transmit a report summarizing the evaluations required under subsection (b)(1)(E) of grants received under this program and describing any changes to the program recommended as a result of these evaluations to the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate. Such report shall be made widely available to the public.''; and

(10) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'mathematics and science teacher' means a mathematics, science, or technology teacher at the elementary school or secondary school level; and

''(2) the term 'science', in the context of elementary and secondary education, includes technology and pre-engineering.''.

SEC. 202. TEACHER INSTITUTES.

(a) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION INSTITUTES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish a grant program to provide for summer or academic year teacher institutes or workshops authorized by section 9(a)(3)(B) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n(a)(3)(B)) and shall allow grantees under the Teacher Institutes for the 21st Century program to operate 1 to 2 week summer teacher institutes with the goal of reaching the maximum number of in-service mathematics and science teachers, particularly elementary and middle school teachers, to improve their content knowledge and pedagogical skills.

(2) PREPARATION TO TEACH CHALLENGING COURSES.—The Director shall ensure that activities supported for awards under paragraph (1) include the development and implementation of teacher training activities to prepare mathematics and science teachers to teach challenging mathematics, science, and technology college-preparatory courses, including Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses.

(3) AWARDS.—In awarding grants under this section, the Director shall give priority to applications that propose programs that will attract mathematics and science teachers from local educational agencies that—

(A) are receiving grants under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq) as a result of having within their jurisdictions concentrations of children from low income families; and

(B) are experiencing a shortage of highly qualified teachers, as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801), in the fields of science, mathematics, or technology.

(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Science Foundation for the purposes of this section, $32,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, $35,200,000 for fiscal year 2009, $38,700,000 for fiscal year 2010, $42,600,000 for fiscal year 2011, and $46,800,000 for fiscal year 2012.

(b) LABORATORY SCIENCE TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Energy for the Laboratory Science Teacher Professional Development program, $3,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, $8,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2010, $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2011, and $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.

SEC. 203. GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall ensure that master's degree programs for in-service mathematics and science teachers that will strengthen their subject area knowledge and pedagogical skills are instituted in accordance with section 9(a)(8) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n(a)(8)). The degree programs shall be designed for current teachers, who will enroll as part-time students, and to allow participants to obtain master's degrees within a period of 3 years.

(b) DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDS.—The Director shall, in awarding grants to carry out subsection (a), consider the distribution of awards among institutions of higher education of different sizes and geographic locations.

(c) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—Activities supported through master's degree programs established under subsection (a) may include—

(1) development of courses of instruction and related educational materials;

(2) stipends to defray the cost of attendance for students in the degree program; and

(3) acquisition of computer and networking equipment needed for online instruction under the degree program.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Science Foundation for the purposes of this section $46,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, $50,600,000 for fiscal year 2009, $55,700,000 for fiscal year 2010, $61,200,000 for fiscal year 2011, and $67,300,000 for fiscal year 2012.

SEC. 204. CURRICULAR MATERIALS.

The Director, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, shall convene a national panel of experts on mathematics and science education to identify and collect K–12 mathematics, science, and technology teaching materials that have been demonstrated to be effective and to recommend the development of new materials in areas where effective materials do not exist. The Director and Secretary shall develop ways to disseminate effective materials and support efforts to develop new materials, in accordance with the recommendations of the national panel. Recommendations made under this section shall not be considered a mandate of specific K–12 curricula.

SEC. 205. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS TALENT EXPANSION PROGRAM.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 8(7) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A) by striking ''competitive, merit-based'' and all that follows through ''in recent years.'' and inserting ''competitive, merit-reviewed multiyear grants for eligible applicants to improve undergraduate education in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology through—

''(i) the creation of programs to increase the number of students studying toward and completing associate's or bachelor's degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, particularly in fields that have faced declining enrollment in recent years; and

''(ii) the creation of centers (in this paragraph referred to as 'Centers') to develop undergraduate curriculum, teaching methods for undergraduate courses, and methods to better train professors and teaching assistants who teach undergraduate courses to increase the number of students completing undergraduate courses in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including the number of nonmajors, and to improve student academic achievement in those courses.

Grants made under clause (ii) shall be awarded jointly through the Education and Human Resources Directorate and at least 1 research directorate of the Foundation.'';

(2) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

''(B) In selecting projects under subparagraph (A)(i), the Director shall strive to increase the number of students studying toward and completing baccalaureate degrees, concentrations, or certificates in science, mathematics, engineering, or technology who are—

''(i) individuals identified in section 33 or 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a or 1885b); or

''(ii) graduates of a secondary school that is administered by a local educational agency that is receiving grants under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq) as a result of having within its jurisdiction concentrations of children from low income families.'';

(3) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) by inserting ''(i)'' before ''The types of'';

(B) by redesignating clauses (i) through (vi) as subclauses (I) through (VI), respectively;

(C) by striking ''under this paragraph'' and inserting ''under subparagraph (A)(i)''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(ii) The types of activities the Foundation may support under subparagraph (A)(ii) include—

''(I) creating model curricula and laboratory programs;

''(II) developing and demonstrating research-based instructional methods and technologies;

''(III) developing methods to train graduate students and faculty to be more effective teachers of undergraduates;

''(IV) conducting programs to disseminate curricula, instructional methods, or training methods to faculty at the grantee institutions and at other institutions;

''(V) conducting assessments of the effectiveness of the Center at accomplishing the goals described in subparagraph (A)(ii); and

''(VI) conducting any other activities the Director determines will accomplish the goals described in subparagraph (A)(ii).'';

(4) in subparagraph (D)(i), by striking ''under this paragraph'' and inserting ''under subparagraph (A)(i)'';

(5) in subparagraph (D)(ii), by striking ''under this paragraph'' and inserting ''under subparagraph (A)(i)'';

(6) after subparagraph (D)(iii), by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(iv) A grant under subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be awarded for 5 years, and the Director may extend such a grant for up to 2 additional 3 year periods.'';

(7) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''under this paragraph'' both places it appears and inserting ''under subparagraph (A)(i)'';

(8) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as subparagraph (J); and

(9) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following new subparagraphs:

''(F) Grants awarded under subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be carried out by a department or departments of science, mathematics, or engineering at institutions of higher education (or a

consortia thereof), which may partner with education faculty. Applications for awards under subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be submitted to the Director at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require. At a minimum, the application shall include—

''(i) a description of the activities to be carried out by the Center;

''(ii) a plan for disseminating programs related to the activities carried out by the Center to faculty at the grantee institution and at other institutions;

''(iii) an estimate of the number of faculty, graduate students (if any), and undergraduate students who will be affected by the activities carried out by the Center; and

''(iv) a plan for assessing the effectiveness of the Center at accomplishing the goals described in subparagraph (A)(ii).

''(G) In evaluating the applications submitted under subparagraph (F), the Director shall consider, at a minimum—

''(i) the ability of the applicant to effectively carry out the proposed activities, including the dissemination activities described in subparagraph (C)(ii)(IV); and

''(ii) the extent to which the faculty, staff, and administrators of the applicant institution are committed to improving undergraduate science, mathematics, and engineering education.

''(H) In awarding grants under subparagraph (A)(ii), the Director shall endeavor to ensure that a wide variety of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields and types of institutions of higher education, including 2-year colleges and minority-serving institutions, are covered, and that—

''(i) at least 1 Center is housed at a Doctoral/Research University as defined by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching; and

''(ii) at least 1 Center is focused on improving undergraduate education in an interdisciplinary area.

''(I) The Director shall convene an annual meeting of the awardees under this paragraph to foster collaboration and to disseminate the results of the Centers and the other activities funded under this paragraph.''.

(b) REPORT ON DATA COLLECTION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall transmit to Congress a report on how the Director is determining whether current grant recipients in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program are making satisfactory progress as required by section 8(7)(D)(ii) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 and what funding actions have been taken as a result of the Director's determinations.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Science Foundation for the program described in paragraph (7) of section 8 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002—

(1) $44,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, of which $4,000,000 shall be for the grants described in subparagraph (A)(ii) of that paragraph;

(2) $55,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, of which $10,000,000 shall be for the grants described in subparagraph (A)(ii) of that paragraph;

(3) $60,000,000 for fiscal year 2010, of which $10,000,000 shall be for the grants described in subparagraph (A)(ii) of that paragraph;

(4) $60,000,000 for fiscal year 2011, of which $10,000,000 shall be for the grants described in subparagraph (A)(ii) of that paragraph; and

(5) $60,000,000 for fiscal year 2012, of which $10,000,000 shall be for the grants described in subparagraph (A)(ii) of that paragraph.

SEC. 206. HIGH-NEED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY DEFINITION.

Section 4(8) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n note) is amended to read as follows:

''(8) HIGH-NEED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term 'high-need local educational agency' means a local educational agency that—

''(A) is receiving grants under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq) as a result of having within its jurisdiction concentrations of children from low income families; and

''(B) is experiencing a shortage of highly qualified teachers, as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801), in the fields of science, mathematics, or engineering.''.

SEC. 207. TEACHER LEADERS.

The National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 is amended—

(1) in section 4(11)—

(A) by striking ''MASTER TEACHER'' and inserting ''TEACHER LEADER'';

(B) by striking ''master teacher'' and inserting ''teacher leader''; and

(C) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''master teachers'' and inserting ''teacher leaders''; and

(2) in section 9—

(A) in subsection (a)(3)(E), by striking ''master teachers'' and inserting ''teacher leaders''; and

(B) in subsection (a)(4)—

(i) by striking ''MASTER TEACHERS'' and inserting ''TEACHER LEADERS''; and

(ii) by striking ''master teachers'' each place it appears and inserting ''teacher leaders''.

SEC. 208. LABORATORY SCIENCE PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) To remain competitive in science and technology in the global economy, the United States must increase the number of students graduating from high school prepared to pursue postsecondary education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

(2) There is broad agreement in the scientific community that learning science requires direct involvement by students in scientific inquiry and that laboratory experience is so integral to the nature of science that it must be included in every science program for every science student.

(3) In America's Lab Report, the National Research Council concluded that the current quality of laboratory experiences is poor for most students and that educators and researchers do not agree on how to define high school science laboratories or on their purpose, hampering the accumulation of research on how to improve labs.

(4) The National Research Council found that schools with higher concentrations of non-Asian minorities and schools with higher concentrations of poor students are less likely to have adequate laboratory facilities than other schools.

(5) The Government Accountability Office reported that 49.1 percent of schools where the minority student population is greater than 50.5 percent reported not meeting functional requirements for laboratory science well or at all.

(6) 40 percent of those college students who left the science fields reported some problems related to high school science preparation, including lack of laboratory experience and no introduction to theoretical or to analytical modes of thought.

(7) It is in the national interest for the Federal Government to invest in research and demonstration projects to improve the teaching of laboratory science in the Nation's high schools.

(b) GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 8(8) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (F) as clauses (i) through (vi), respectively;

(2) by inserting ''(A)'' before ''A program of competitive''; and

(3) by inserting at the end the following new subparagraphs:

''(B) In accordance with subparagraph (A)(v), the Director shall establish a research pilot program designated as 'Partnerships for Access to Laboratory Science' to award grants to partnerships to improve laboratories and provide instrumentation as part of a comprehensive program to enhance the quality of mathematics, science, engineering, and technology instruction at the secondary school level. Grants under this subparagraph may be used for—

''(i) purchase, rental, or leasing of equipment, instrumentation, and other scientific educational materials;

''(ii) maintenance, renovation, and improvement of laboratory facilities;

''(iii) development of instructional programs designed to integrate the laboratory experience with classroom instruction and to be consistent with State mathematics and science academic achievement standards;

''(iv) training in laboratory safety for school personnel;

''(v) design and implementation of hands-on laboratory experiences to encourage the interest of individuals identified in section 33 or 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a or 1885b) in mathematics, science, engineering, and technology and help prepare such individuals to pursue postsecondary studies in these fields; and

''(vi) assessment of the activities funded under this subparagraph.

''(C) Grants may be made under subparagraph (B) only to a partnership—

''(i) for a project that includes significant teacher training and professional development components; or

''(ii) that establishes that appropriate teacher training and professional development is being addressed, or has been addressed, through other means.

''(D) Grants awarded under subparagraph (B) shall be to a partnership that—

''(i) includes an institution of higher education or a community college;

''(ii) includes a high-need local educational agency;

''(iii) includes a business or eligible nonprofit organization; and

''(iv) may include a State educational agency, other public agency, National Laboratory, or community-based organization.

''(E) The Federal share of the cost of activities carried out using amounts from a grant under subparagraph (B) shall not exceed 50 percent.

''(F) The Director shall require grant recipients to submit a report to the Director on the results of the project supported by the grant.''.

(c) REPORT.—The Director shall evaluate the effectiveness of activities carried out under the research pilot projects funded by the grant program established pursuant to the amendment made by subsection (b) in improving student performance in mathematics, science, engineering, and technology. A report documenting the results of that evaluation shall be submitted to the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act. The report shall identify best practices and materials developed and demonstrated by grant awardees.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Science Foundation to carry out this section and the amendments made by this section $5,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 3 succeeding fiscal years.

SEC. 209. STUDY ON LABORATORY EQUIPMENT DONATIONS FOR SCHOOLS.

Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall transmit a report to the Congress examining the extent to which institutions of higher education are donating used laboratory equipment to elementary

and secondary schools. The Director, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, shall survey institutions of higher education to determine—

(1) how often, how much, and what type of equipment is donated;

(2) what criteria or guidelines the institutions are using to determine what types of equipment can be donated, what condition the equipment should be in, and which schools receive the equipment;

(3) whether the institutions provide any support to, or follow-up with the schools; and

(4) how appropriate donations can be encouraged.

The CHAIRMAN. No amendment to the committee amendment is in order except those printed in House Report 110–105. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent of the amendment, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. GORDON OF TENNESSEE

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 110–105.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 1 offered by Mr. GORDON of Tennessee:

Page 12, line 22, page 13, line 2, and page 13, line 4, redesignate paragraphs (22), (23), and (24) as paragraphs (24), (26), and (27), respectively.

Page 12, after line 21, insert the following new paragraphs:

(22) in subsection (e)—

(A) by inserting ''or section 10A'' after ''under this section''; and

(B) in paragraph (1) by inserting ''or section 10A'' after ''subsection (d)'';

(23) in subsection (f)(1), by inserting ''or section 10A'' after ''under this section'';

Page 13, after line 1, insert the following new paragraph:

(25) in subsection (h), by inserting ''or section 10A'' after ''under this section'';

Page 13, line 3, insert ''and'' after the semicolon.

Page 13, lines 7 and 9, redesignate subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively.

Page 13, after line 6, insert the following new subparagraph:

(B) in paragraph (5), by inserting ''or section 10A'' after ''subsection (d)'';

Page 15, line 12, redesignate subsection (b) as subsection (c).

Page 15, after line 11, insert the following new subsection:

(b) SPECIAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM FOR STIPENDS.—The National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after section 10 the following new section:

''SEC. 10A. SPECIAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM FOR STIPENDS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—As part of the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program established under section 10, the Director shall establish a separate type of award for eligible entities described in subsection (b). Stipends under this section shall be available only to mathematics, science, and engineering professionals who, while receiving the stipend, are enrolled in a program to receive certification or licensing to teach.

''(b) ELIGIBILITY.—In order to be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an institution of higher education (or consortia of such institutions) shall enter into a partnership with one or more private sector nonprofit organizations, local or State government organizations, and businesses. The members of the partnership shall provide the teaching supplements described in subsection (f).

''(c) USE OF GRANTS.—Grants provided under this section shall be used by institutions of higher education or consortia to develop and implement a program to encourage science, mathematics, or engineering professionals to become qualified as mathematics and science teachers, through—

''(1) administering stipends in accordance with this section;

''(2) offering academic courses and field teaching experiences designed to prepare stipend recipients to teach in elementary and secondary schools, including such preparation as is necessary to meet the requirements for certification or licensing; and

''(3) offering programs to stipend recipients, both during and after matriculation in the program for which the stipend is received, to enable recipients to become better mathematics and science teachers, to fulfill the service requirements of this section, and to exchange ideas with others in their fields.

''(d) SELECTION PROCESS.—

''(1) MERIT REVIEW.—Grants shall be provided under this section on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis.

''(2) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible institution of higher education or consortium seeking funding under this section shall submit an application to the Director at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require. The application shall include, at a minimum—

''(A) a description of the program that the applicant intends to operate, including the number of stipends the applicant intends to award, the type of activities proposed for the recruitment of students to the program, and the amount of the teaching supplements to be provided in accordance with subsection (f);

''(B) a description of the selection process that will be used in awarding stipends, including a description of the rigorous, nationally recognized test that will be administered during the selection process in order to determine whether individuals applying for stipends have advanced content knowledge of science or mathematics;

''(C) evidence that the applicant has the capability to administer the program in accordance with the provisions of this section, which may include a description of any existing programs at the applicant's institution that are targeted to the education of mathematics and science teachers and the number of teachers graduated annually from such programs;

''(D) a description of the academic courses and field teaching experiences described in subsection (c)(2), including—

''(i) a description of an educational program that will enable a student to obtain teacher certification or licensing within 16 months; and

''(ii) evidence of agreements between the applicant and the schools or school districts that are identified as the locations at which field teaching experiences will occur;

''(E) a description of the programs described in subsection (c)(3), including activities to assist new teachers in fulfilling their service requirements under this section; and

''(F) evidence that the partnership will provide the teaching supplements required under subsection (f).

''(3) CRITERIA.—In evaluating the applications submitted under paragraph (2), the Director shall consider, at a minimum—

''(A) the ability of the applicant to effectively carry out the program and to meet the requirement of subsection (f);

''(B) the extent to which the applicant's mathematics, science, or engineering faculty and its education faculty have worked or will work collaboratively to design new or revised curricula that recognizes the specialized pedagogy required to teach mathematics and science effectively in elementary and secondary schools;

''(C) the extent to which the applicant is committed to making the program a central organizational focus;

''(D) the degree to which the proposed programming will enable stipend recipients to become successful mathematics and science teachers;

''(E) the number and quality of the students that will be served by the program; and

''(F) the ability of the applicant to recruit students who would otherwise not pursue a career in teaching.

''(e) STIPENDS.—Individuals shall be selected to receive stipends under this section primarily on the basis of their content knowledge of science or mathematics as demonstrated by their performance on a test designated in accordance with subsection (d)(2)(B). Among individuals demonstrating equivalent content knowledge, consideration may be given to financial need and to the goal of promoting the participation of individuals identified in section 33 or 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a or 1885b).

''(f) TEACHING SUPPLEMENTS.—The members of a partnership shall identify a source of non-Federal funding to provide salary supplements to individuals who participate in the program under this section during the period of their service obligation under subsection (h).

''(g) AMOUNT AND DURATION.—Stipends under this section shall be not less than $10,000 per year, except that no individual shall receive for any year more than the cost of attendance at that individual's institution. Individuals may receive a maximum of 16 months of stipend support.

''(h) SERVICE OBLIGATION.—If an individual receives a stipend under this section, that individual shall be required to complete, within 6 years after completion of the educational program for which the stipend was awarded, 4 years of service as a mathematics or science teacher in a public secondary school.''.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 327, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program at the National Science Foundation aims to increase the number of first-rate math and science teachers in the U.S.

The program targets two resources from which to recruit these teachers: one, undergraduates who are majoring in the math and science field; and, two,

science and math engineering professionals who want to switch to a teaching degree.

The reported version of H.R. 362 considerably expands the Noyce program. It also amends a part of the program that targets undergraduates. But the part of the program that targets professionals was left for the most part unchanged. This amendment establishes within the Noyce program a new model for recruiting professionals to a teaching career.

This new model is based on a program called Math for America, which has shown astonishing success in making first-rate teachers out of former scientists and engineers. Math for America was launched in 2004 by James Simons, a mathematician who founded an enormously successful private investment firm in New York City.

Mr. Simon's philanthropic foundation has provided much of the funding for Math for America. This is just the third year of Math for America, but already they have recruited 90 teachers for New York City public schools. The math for America model has so much in common with the Noyce program at the National Science Foundation.

Consistent with the Math for America model, my amendment has the following features: An institution of higher education wishing to establish this new program must create a partnership with at least one non-Federal entity to be eligible for the NSF support; a scientist or engineer participating in the program must demonstrate advance content knowledge through a nationally recognized standardized test; participants take specialized education courses in a 16-month teacher certification program during which they receive a stipend; graduates from the program must teach in a secondary school for a period of 4 years, during which they receive a teaching supplement to their ordinary salary.

The teaching supplements are provided by the partnerships from non-Federal sources. This amendment, therefore, adds a component to the Noyce program to develop the kind of public/private partnership that we see working so well in Math for America.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

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

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY).

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the chairman's amendment. I know on this bill, H.R. 362, this is a perfect example of everything being said but not every one of us having an opportunity to say it. I rise in support of the amendment of Chairman GORDON and also the bill.

I can't improve on the words of the distinguished Speaker that we heard from just a few minutes ago, but I do want to applaud and support this H.R. 362, 10,000 Teachers, 10,000 Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act, and certainly applaud Chairman GORDON and Ranking Member HALL and the work that they have done. I am proud to be a member of the Science and Technology Committee and to see this come to the floor today.

□ 1615

The National Academy released a report, Mr. Chairman, entitled ''Rising Above the Gathering Storm'' that looked at the ways in which the Federal Government could enhance our country's science and technology enterprise so that we can continue to compete and prosper in the global marketplace. The commission arrived at one outstanding and alarming conclusion: American students are falling behind in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math, sometimes referred to as STEM.

In response to this sobering reality, the report recommends vastly improving the K–12 science and math programs in classrooms across the country in order to increase America's talent pool. We talk about raising the level of H–1B visas, doubling them. That might be part of the solution, Mr. Chairman, but we need to develop our homegrown talent. Early education is crucial in getting children not only excited about math and science, but adequately prepared to pursue these fields later in life. And I strongly believe by recruiting, retaining, and training better educators in these fields more students will want to attend college in the areas of science, technology, and math. And that is the key to keeping America competitive in the ever-increasing technological global marketplace.

The 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship program begins to remedy this situation by implementing a variety of action items recommended by this report. First, H.R. 362 seeks to raise both the quantity and quality of math and science teachers in America by increasing the number and amount of grants available to teachers and students who pursue continuing education in these fields. It also increases grants within a program at the National Science Foundation that provides financial aid to students who make a commitment to teach after college.

Mr. Chairman, I firmly believe this legislation is a good first step to address this impending crisis of America's workforce. I am again proud to support the bill, to support Chairman GORDON's amendment. I respectfully ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the same.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I certainly from a policy standpoint don't have an issue with the amendment; in fact, I think it might go a long way in enticing retired STEM professionals to get their teacher's certification and to put their many years of expertise to work in the K–12 classroom, educating and inspiring our next generation of scientists, engineers, and mathematicians. I support the amendment.

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

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, I want to thank Dr. GINGREY for his support for this bill and, more importantly, his constructive role that he plays on the Science and Technology Committee. Again, I want to thank Mr. HALL for his constructive role, and also for his generosity in having additional time for us.

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

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. GORDON OF TENNESSEE

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 110–105.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 2 offered by Mr. GORDON of Tennessee:

Page 8, line 16, after paragraph (4), insert the following new paragraph:

''(5) AWARDS.—In awarding grants under this section, the Director shall endeavor to ensure that the recipients are from a variety of types of institutions of higher education. In support of this goal, the Director shall broadly disseminate information about when and how to apply for grants under this section, including by conducting outreach to Historically Black Colleges and Universities that are part B institutions as defined in section 322(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2)) and minority institutions (as defined in section 365(3) of that Act (20 U.S.C. 1067k(3))).''.

Page 12, line 9, insert the following sentence at the end of paragraph (5): ''The Director shall establish and maintain a central clearinghouse of information on teaching opportunities available in high-need local educational agencies throughout the United States, which shall be made available to individuals having a service obligation under this section.''.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 327, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Noyce program at the National Science Foundation has up to now required scholarship recipients to teach in high-need schools. H.R. 362 substantially expands the program, scaling it up from fewer than 1,000 pre-service STEM teachers per year to 10,000 per year.

The Noyce program is being scaled up by H.R. 362 to address the needs of schools in all parts of the Nation which have large numbers of out-of-field STEM teachers. For example, the percentage of physical science teachers in

middle schools with neither a major in the field nor certification is nearly 90 percent.

As part of enlarging the program's scale, the bill also removes the requirement that all graduates teach in a high-need school. But the bill also adds in its place an incentive for teachers to serve in high-need schools. The amendment I am proposing makes clear that we are not backing away from our firm commitment to address the requirements of high-need schools.

The amendment has two provisions. The first provision requires the NSF to broadly disseminate information about the program, including to Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This is to ensure that students in minority schools have improved chances of seeing a minority teacher prepared through a Noyce program.

The second provision requires the foundation to maintain a clearinghouse on teaching opportunities in high-need schools. This will assist Noyce scholars in finding their ideal placement.

Without this amendment, Noyce scholars seeking placement might not know which schools meet the definition of high-need in any given year or which such schools have openings.

This amendment will both help increase the number of individuals from minority-serving institutions who participate in the Noyce program and will help recruit Noyce scholars to teaching positions in high-need schools. I recommend adoption of this amendment.

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

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment, which the chairman has already described.

Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to Dr. Ehlers, the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. EHLERS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I do support this amendment and I think we should approve it, but I would like to spend the majority of my time discussing the previous amendment which we already accepted. I would like to make a point in connection with that. A very good part of that amendment is that it provides an additional stipend for teachers during their 4-year service requirement.

We have a major problem in America with math and science teachers; in fact, we have a major problem with a lot of teachers who do not stick with their field. We just don't have the retention rate we should. But that is especially true of good math and science teachers because the market out there for them is tremendous. Frequently, they can double their salary by going into industry, and at the very least they can increase their salary by 40 or 50 percent. It is very difficult for the schools to compete with that, although I have argued for years we should have a salary differential for those teachers who have very strong economic incentives to leave the teaching profession and to go into another job.

We simply have to meet the market, and unfortunately that has not been the tradition in the schools. I think we should establish that. If you don't meet the market, you are going to lose your best teachers, and we certainly don't want to lose them after all the work we have done through these various scholarships to develop good teachers.

So I strongly support the part of the Noyce amendment No. 2 which Chairman GORDON offered, and I hope that we can work, not just within this Congress but within this Nation, with the teachers, the school boards, and the teachers unions to develop a system that recognizes that a mechanism is needed to meet the market for those teachers who are offered large inducements to leave the teaching profession and go to another field.

I simply wanted to make that point in connection with the first amendment simply because that amendment is a start in the right direction, and I hope we can carry that principle onward.

I appreciate Chairman GORDON offering the amendment, and I hope that we can continue along that path in future bills relating to the subject.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I would like to once again thank Dr. EHLERS for his support for this bill, but more importantly for making a good bill a better bill.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON).

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, let me thank Mr. EHLERS as well as Mr. GORDON for accepting this amendment, and I fully support it and I fully support the bill.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER) having assumed the chair, Mr. SALAZAR, 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. 362) to authorize science scholarships for educating mathematics and science teachers, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 327, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment 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 to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the question is on the amendment.

The amendment was 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.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT OFFERED BY MR. HOEKSTRA

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I offer a motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. HOEKSTRA. In its present form, yes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Hoekstra moves to recommit the bill, H.R. 362, to the Committee on Science and Technology with instructions to report back the same forthwith with an amendment. The amendment is as follows:

Amend section 204 to read as follows:

SEC. 204. CURRICULA.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall be construed to limit the authority of State governments or local school boards to determine the curricula of their students.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I reserve a point of order on the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Tennessee reserves a point of order.

The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I offer this motion to recommit with instructions. My motion to recommit addresses a glaring inconsistency in this bill with all other Federal education laws by removing a provision that moves us in the direction of national standards and curriculum and puts those decisions back in the hands where they belong, in the hands of our State and local education leaders and, most importantly, parents.

Education in this country has always been predominantly a State and local issue, and within that context parents had a protected right to direct their children's education.

Even in the years after the passage of No Child Left Behind, the Federal contribution towards educating our children continues to be less than 10 percent, with States, counties, cities, and towns, actually parents and their local communities, providing over 90 percent of their funding to educate the next generation.

It is not only appropriate but imperative that the Federal law prevents the Federal Government from telling States and districts and schools what and how they should teach.

For example, the No Child Left Behind Act prohibits the Federal Government from mandating, directing, reviewing, or controlling a State, district, or school's choice of instructional content or curriculum.

In addition, No Child Left Behind strictly prohibits the Department of Education from endorsing, approving, or sanctioning any curriculum for an elementary or secondary school.

The rationale behind these provisions is important. As a Nation, we believe that the people closest to our children should make the decision as to what works best.

□ 1630

Children learn differently. Some are visual learners. Some learn best from listening. Others need hands-on opportunities. While there are some things that work well for some groups of children, determining definitively what works at the national level for all children is absurd. Therefore, when the Federal Government says that these five, 10 or 15 specific science curricula are most effective, it is implicitly telling States, districts and schools that they should use these identified options, irrespective of whether that is what is best for their students or their area.

Case in point is the current debate regarding the implementation of Reading First. There are allegations that some States and districts took information from technical assistance center employees and, to be fair, some department employees, to be implied endorsements of specific programs, believing that those were the only programs that would be funded under Reading First.

No one seems happy about the outcome, yet this underlying bill would create another panel to provide ''recommendations'' that it then requires the Director of NSF and the Secretary of Education to disseminate.

Take a look at this motion to recommit. Very simple. Nothing in this act or the amendments made by this act shall be construed to limit the authority of State governments or local school boards to determine the curricula of their students. It very clearly states and adds the clarifying language that it is the State and local school districts' responsibility and accountability for developing and approving the most appropriate, the most effective teaching methods and the most effective content.

This Congress has long taken the position that we do not want to develop national curriculum and national standards. This Congress has consistently taken the position that we need and want local control of our schools.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this motion to recommit, to once again say that parents and local school districts, the ones who know the needs and the names of our children in their schools, are the ones in the best position to make the decisions as to what will happen in the classrooms in their local schools.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Tennessee insist on his point of order?

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, this motion simply states the status quo, and we are glad to accept it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman withdraw his point of order?

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Yes, he does.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic passage on the question of passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 408, nays 4, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 253]

YEAS—408

Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jindal
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
Kingston
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Ortiz
Pallone
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—4

Abercrombie
Crowley
Pascrell
Slaughter

NOT VOTING—20

Bilirakis
Boucher
Brady (PA)
Buyer
Cubin
Davis, Jo Ann
Fattah
Fossella
Hastert
Hastings (FL)
Kennedy
King (NY)
Kirk
Lampson
Myrick
Olver
Poe
Rangel
Sutton
Westmoreland

□ 1658

Ms. SLAUGHTER and Mr. ABERCROMBIE changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. JOHNSON of Georgia, ELLISON, SHADEGG, NUNES, and ROTHMAN changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to recommit was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1591, U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' HEALTH, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, 2007

Mr. OBEY submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 1591) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 110–107)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1591), ''making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes'', 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:

That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

CHAPTER 1

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

PUBLIC LAW 480 TITLE II GRANTS

For an additional amount for ''Public Law 480 Title II Grants'', during the current fiscal year, not otherwise recoverable, and unrecovered prior years' costs, including interest thereon, under the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, for commodities supplied in connection with dispositions abroad under title II of said Act, $460,000,000, to remain available until expended.

GENERAL PROVISION—THIS CHAPTER

SEC. 1101. There is hereby appropriated $40,000,000 to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for the release of eligible commodities under section 302(f)(2)(A) of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act (7 U.S.C. 1736f–1): Provided, That any such funds made available to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation shall only be used to replenish the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust.

CHAPTER 2

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LEGAL ACTIVITIES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses, General Legal Activities'', $1,648,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses, United States Attorneys'', $5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses'', $6,450,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses'', $1,736,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses'', $268,000,000, of which $258,000,000 is to remain available until September 30, 2008 and $10,000,000 is to remain available until expended to implement corrective actions in response to the findings and recommendations in the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General report entitled, ''A Review of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Use of National Security Letters'', of which $500,000 shall be transferred to and merged with ''Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General''.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses'', $12,166,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses'', $4,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

FEDERAL PRISON SYSTEM

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses'', $17,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

CHAPTER 3

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—MILITARY

MILITARY PERSONNEL

MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMY

For an additional amount for ''Military Personnel, Army'', $8,853,350,000.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, NAVY

For an additional amount for ''Military Personnel, Navy'', $1,100,410,000.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for ''Military Personnel, Marine Corps'', $1,495,827,000.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for ''Military Personnel, Air Force'', $1,218,587,000.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, ARMY

For an additional amount for ''Reserve Personnel, Army'', $147,244,000.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, NAVY

For an additional amount for ''Reserve Personnel, Navy'', $86,023,000.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for ''Reserve Personnel, Marine Corps'', $5,660,000.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for ''Reserve Personnel, Air Force'', $11,573,000.

NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, ARMY

For an additional amount for ''National Guard Personnel, Army'', $545,286,000.

NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for ''National Guard Personnel, Air Force'', $44,033,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Army'', $20,373,379,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Navy'', $4,676,670,000, of which up to $120,293,000 shall be transferred to Coast Guard, ''Operating Expenses'', for reimbursement for activities which support activities requested by the Navy.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps'', $1,146,594,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Air Force'', $6,650,881,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide'', $2,714,487,000, of which—

(1) not to exceed $25,000,000 may be used for the Combatant Commander Initiative Fund, to be used in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom; and

(2) not to exceed $200,000,000, to remain available until expended, may be used for payments to reimburse Pakistan, Jordan, and other key cooperating nations, for logistical, military, and other support provided to United States military operations, notwithstanding any other provision of law: Provided, That such payments may be made in such amounts as the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, and in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, may determine, in his discretion, based on documentation determined by the Secretary of Defense to adequately account for the support provided, and such determination is final and conclusive upon the accounting officers of the United States, and 15 days following notification to the appropriate congressional committees: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense shall provide quarterly reports to the congressional defense committees on the use of funds provided in this paragraph.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY RESERVE

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Army Reserve'', $74,049,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY RESERVE

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Navy Reserve'', $111,066,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS RESERVE

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps Reserve'', $13,591,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE RESERVE

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Air Force Reserve'', $10,160,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard'', $83,569,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Air National Guard'', $38,429,000.

AFGHANISTAN SECURITY FORCES FUND

For an additional amount for ''Afghanistan Security Forces Fund'', $5,906,400,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

IRAQ SECURITY FORCES FUND

For an additional amount for ''Iraq Security Forces Fund'', $3,842,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

IRAQ FREEDOM FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for ''Iraq Freedom Fund'', $355,600,000, to remain available for transfer until September 30, 2008: Provided, That up to $50,000,000 may be obligated and expended for purposes of the Task Force to Improve Business and Stability Operations in Iraq.

JOINT IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DEFEAT FUND

For an additional amount for ''Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund'', $2,432,800,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

STRATEGIC RESERVE READINESS FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

In addition to amounts provided in this or any other Act, for training, operations, repair of equipment, purchases of equipment, and other expenses related to improving the readiness of non-deployed United States military forces, $2,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009; of which $1,000,000,000 shall be transferred to ''National Guard and Reserve Equipment'' for the purchase of equipment for the Army National Guard; and of which $1,000,000,000 shall be transferred by the Secretary of Defense only to appropriations for military personnel, operation and maintenance, procurement, and defense working capital funds to accomplish the purposes provided herein: Provided, That the funds transferred shall be merged with and shall be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriation to which transferred: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense shall, not fewer than thirty days prior to making transfers under this authority, notify the congressional defense committees in writing of the details of any such transfers made pursuant to this authority: Provided further, That funds shall be transferred to the appropriation accounts not later than 120 days after the enactment of this Act: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided in this paragraph is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: Provided further, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation.

PROCUREMENT

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For an additional amount for ''Aircraft Procurement, Army'', $619,750,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For an additional amount for ''Missile Procurement, Army'', $111,473,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

PROCUREMENT OF WEAPONS AND TRACKED COMBAT VEHICLES, ARMY

For an additional amount for ''Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army'', $3,404,315,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY

For an additional amount for ''Procurement of Ammunition, Army'', $681,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For an additional amount for ''Other Procurement, Army'', $11,076,137,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For an additional amount for ''Aircraft Procurement, Navy'', $1,090,287,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For an additional amount for ''Weapons Procurement, Navy'', $163,813,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for ''Procurement of Ammunition, Navy and Marine Corps'', $159,833,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For an additional amount for ''Other Procurement, Navy'', $748,749,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for ''Procurement, Marine Corps'', $2,252,749,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for ''Aircraft Procurement, Air Force'', $2,106,468,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for ''Missile Procurement, Air Force'', $94,900,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for ''Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force'', $6,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for ''Other Procurement, Air Force'', $2,096,200,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for ''Procurement, Defense-Wide'', $980,050,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, ARMY

For an additional amount for ''Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army'', $100,006,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, NAVY

For an additional amount for ''Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy'', $298,722,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for ''Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force'', $187,176,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for ''Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide'', $512,804,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

REVOLVING AND MANAGEMENT FUNDS

DEFENSE WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS

For an additional amount for ''Defense Working Capital Funds'', $1,315,526,000.

NATIONAL DEFENSE SEALIFT FUND

For an additional amount for ''National Defense Sealift Fund'', $5,000,000.

OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS

DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM

For an additional amount for ''Defense Health Program'', $3,251,853,000; of which $2,802,153,000 shall be for operation and maintenance, including $600,000,000 which shall be available for the treatment of Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and remain available until September 30, 2008; of which $118,000,000 shall be for procurement, to remain available until September 30, 2009; and of which $331,700,000 shall be for research, development, test and evaluation, to remain available until September 30, 2008: Provided, That if the Secretary of Defense determines that funds made available herein for the treatment of Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder are in excess to the requirements of the Department of Defense he may transfer amounts in excess of that requirement to the Department of Veterans Affairs to be available only for the same purpose.

DRUG INTERDICTION AND COUNTER-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEFENSE

For an additional amount for ''Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense'', $254,665,000, to remain available until expended.

RELATED AGENCIES

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT

For an additional amount for ''Intelligence Community Management Account'', $71,726,000.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

SEC. 1301. Appropriations provided in this chapter are available for obligation until September 30, 2007, unless otherwise provided in this chapter.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 1302. Upon his determination that such action is necessary in the national interest, the Secretary of Defense may transfer between appropriations up to $3,500,000,000 of the funds made available to the Department of Defense in this chapter: Provided, That the Secretary shall notify the Congress promptly of each transfer made pursuant to the authority in this section: Provided further, That the authority provided in this section is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense and is subject to the same terms and conditions as the authority provided in section 8005 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 109–289; 120 Stat. 1257), except for the fourth proviso: Provided further, That funds previously transferred to the ''Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund'' and the ''Iraq Security Forces Fund'' under the authority of section 8005 of Public Law 109–289 and transferred back to their source appropriations accounts shall not be taken into account for purposes of the limitation on the amount of funds that may be transferred under section 8005.

SEC. 1303. Funds appropriated in this chapter, or made available by the transfer of funds in or pursuant to this chapter, for intelligence activities are deemed to be specifically authorized by the Congress for purposes of section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 414(a)(1)).

SEC. 1304. None of the funds provided in this chapter may be used to finance programs or activities denied by Congress in fiscal years 2006 or 2007 appropriations to the Department of Defense or to initiate a procurement or research, development, test and evaluation new start program without prior written notification to the congressional defense committees.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 1305. During fiscal year 2007, the Secretary of Defense may transfer not to exceed $6,300,000 of the amounts in or credited to the Defense Cooperation Account, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2608, to such appropriations or funds of the Department of Defense as he shall determine for use consistent with the purposes for which such funds were contributed and accepted: Provided, That such amounts shall be available for the same time period as the appropriation to which transferred: Provided further, That the Secretary shall report to the Congress all transfers made pursuant to this authority.

SEC. 1306. (a) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE SUPPORT.—Of the amount appropriated by this chapter under the heading, ''Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense'', not to exceed $60,000,000 may be used for support for

counter-drug activities of the Governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan: Provided, That such support shall be in addition to support provided for the counter-drug activities of such Governments under any other provision of the law.

(b) TYPES OF SUPPORT.—

(1) Except as specified in subsection (b)(2) of this section, the support that may be provided under the authority in this section shall be limited to the types of support specified in section 1033(c)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 (Public Law 105–85, as amended by Public Laws 106–398, 108–136, and 109–364) and conditions on the provision of support as contained in section 1033 shall apply for fiscal year 2007.

(2) The Secretary of Defense may transfer vehicles, aircraft, and detection, interception, monitoring and testing equipment to said Governments for counter-drug activities.

SEC. 1307. (a) From funds made available for operation and maintenance in this chapter to the Department of Defense, not to exceed $456,400,000 may be used, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to fund the Commanders' Emergency Response Program, for the purpose of enabling military commanders in Iraq and Afghanistan to respond to urgent humanitarian relief and reconstruction requirements within their areas of responsibility by carrying out programs that will immediately assist the Iraqi and Afghan people.

(b) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Not later than 15 days after the end of each fiscal year quarter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report regarding the source of funds and the allocation and use of funds during that quarter that were made available pursuant to the authority provided in this section or under any other provision of law for the purposes of the programs under subsection (a).

SEC. 1308. Section 9010 of division A of Public Law 109–289 is amended by striking ''2007'' each place it appears and inserting ''2008''.

SEC. 1309. During fiscal year 2007, supervision and administration costs associated with projects carried out with funds appropriated to ''Afghanistan Security Forces Fund'' or ''Iraq Security Forces Fund'' in this chapter may be obligated at the time a construction contract is awarded: Provided, That for the purpose of this section, supervision and administration costs include all in-house Government costs.

SEC. 1310. Section 1005(c)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364) is amended by striking ''$310,277,000'' and inserting ''$376,446,000''.

SEC. 1311. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be obligated or expended by the United States Government for a purpose as follows:

(1) To establish any military installation or base for the purpose of providing for the permanent stationing of United States Armed Forces in Iraq.

(2) To exercise United States control over any oil resource of Iraq.

SEC. 1312. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in contravention of the following laws enacted or regulations promulgated to implement the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (done at New York on December 10, 1984):

(1) Section 2340A of title 18, United States Code;

(2) Section 2242 of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (division G of Public Law 105–277; 112 Stat. 2681–822; 8 U.S.C. 1231 note) and regulations prescribed thereto, including regulations under part 208 of title 8, Code of Federal Regulations, and part 95 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(3) Sections 1002 and 1003 of the Department of Defense, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and Pandemic Influenza Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–148).

SEC. 1313. (a) REPORT BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that contains individual transition readiness assessments by unit of Iraq and Afghan security forces. The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees updates of the report required by this subsection every 90 days after the date of the submission of the report until October 1, 2008. The report and updates of the report required by this subsection shall be submitted in classified form.

(b) REPORT BY OMB.—

(1) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense; the Commander, Multi-National Security Transition Command—Iraq; and the Commander, Combined Security Transition Command—Afghanistan, shall submit to the congressional defense committees not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and every 90 days thereafter a report on the proposed use of all funds under each of the headings ''Iraq Security Forces Fund'' and ''Afghanistan Security Forces Fund'' on a project-by-project basis, for which the obligation of funds is anticipated during the three-month period from such date, including estimates by the commanders referred to in this paragraph of the costs required to complete each such project.

(2) The report required by this subsection shall include the following:

(A) The use of all funds on a project-by-project basis for which funds appropriated under the headings referred to in paragraph (1) were obligated prior to the submission of the report, including estimates by the commanders referred to in paragraph (1) of the costs to complete each project.

(B) The use of all funds on a project-by-project basis for which funds were appropriated under the headings referred to in paragraph (1) in prior appropriations Acts, or for which funds were made available by transfer, reprogramming, or allocation from other headings in prior appropriations Acts, including estimates by the commanders referred to in paragraph (1) of the costs to complete each project.

(C) An estimated total cost to train and equip the Iraq and Afghan security forces, disaggregated by major program and sub-elements by force, arrayed by fiscal year.

(c) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees of any proposed new projects or transfers of funds between sub-activity groups in excess of $15,000,000 using funds appropriated by this Act under the headings ''Iraq Security Forces Fund'' and ''Afghanistan Security Forces Fund''.

SEC. 1314. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this chapter may be obligated or expended to provide award fees to any defense contractor contrary to the provisions of section 814 of the National Defense Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364).

SEC. 1315. Not more than 85 percent of the funds appropriated in this chapter for operation and maintenance shall be available for obligation unless and until the Secretary of Defense submits to the congressional defense committees a report detailing the use of Department of Defense funded service contracts conducted in the theater of operations in support of United States military and reconstruction activities in Iraq and Afghanistan: Provided, That the report shall provide detailed information specifying the number of contracts and contract costs used to provide services in fiscal year 2006, with sub-allocations by major service categories: Provided further, That the report also shall include estimates of the number of contracts to be executed in fiscal year 2007: Provided further, That the report shall include the number of contractor personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan funded by the Department of Defense: Provided further, That the report shall be submitted to the congressional defense committees not later than August 1, 2007.

SEC. 1316. Section 1477 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''A death gratuity'' and inserting ''Subject to subsection (d), a death gratuity'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e) and, in such subsection, by striking ''If an eligible survivor dies before he'' and inserting ''If a person entitled to all or a portion of a death gratuity under subsection (a) or (d) dies before the person''; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection (d):

''(d) During the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this subsection and ending on September 30, 2007, a person covered by section 1475 or 1476 of this title may designate another person to receive not more than 50 percent of the amount payable under section 1478 of this title. The designation shall indicate the percentage of the amount, to be specified only in 10 percent increments up to the maximum of 50 percent, that the designated person may receive. The balance of the amount of the death gratuity shall be paid to or for the living survivors of the person concerned in accordance with paragraphs (1) through (5) of subsection (a).''.

SEC. 1317. Section 9007 of Public Law 109–289 is amended by striking ''20'' and inserting ''287''.

SEC. 1318. INSPECTION OF MILITARY MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITIES, MILITARY QUARTERS HOUSING MEDICAL HOLD PERSONNEL, AND MILITARY QUARTERS HOUSING MEDICAL HOLDOVER PERSONNEL. (a) PERIODIC INSPECTION REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall inspect each facility of the Department of Defense as follows:

(A) Each military medical treatment facility.

(B) Each military quarters housing medical hold personnel.

(C) Each military quarters housing medical holdover personnel.

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of an inspection under this subsection is to ensure that the facility or quarters concerned meets acceptable standards for the maintenance and operation of medical facilities, quarters housing medical hold personnel, or quarters housing medical holdover personnel, as applicable.

(b) ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS.—For purposes of this section, acceptable standards for the operation and maintenance of military medical treatment facilities, military quarters housing medical hold personnel, or military quarters housing medical holdover personnel are each of the following:

(1) Generally accepted standards for the accreditation of medical facilities, or for facilities used to quarter individuals with medical conditions that may require medical supervision, as applicable, in the United States.

(2) Where appropriate, standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).

(c) ADDITIONAL INSPECTIONS ON IDENTIFIED DEFICIENCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the event a deficiency is identified pursuant to subsection (a) at a facility or quarters described in paragraph (1) of that subsection—

(A) the commander of such facility or quarters, as applicable, shall submit to the Secretary a detailed plan to correct the deficiency; and

(B) the Secretary shall reinspect such facility or quarters, as applicable, not less often than once every 180 days until the deficiency is corrected.

(2) CONSTRUCTION WITH OTHER INSPECTIONS.—An inspection of a facility or quarters under this subsection is in addition to any inspection of such facility or quarters under subsection (a).

(d) REPORTS ON INSPECTIONS.—A complete copy of the report on each inspection conducted under subsections (a) and (c) shall be submitted in unclassified form to the applicable military medical command and to the congressional defense committees.

(e) REPORT ON STANDARDS.—In the event no standards for the maintenance and operation of military medical treatment facilities, military quarters housing medical hold personnel, or military quarters housing medical holdover personnel exist as of the date of the enactment of this Act, or such standards as do exist do not meet acceptable standards for the maintenance and operation of such facilities or quarters, as the case may be, the Secretary shall, not later than 30 days after that date, submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth the plan of the Secretary to ensure—

(1) the adoption by the Department of standards for the maintenance and operation of military medical facilities, military quarters housing medical hold personnel, or military quarters housing medical holdover personnel, as applicable, that meet—

(A) acceptable standards for the maintenance and operation of such facilities or quarters, as the case may be; and

(B) where appropriate, standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; and

(2) the comprehensive implementation of the standards adopted under paragraph (1) at the earliest date practicable.

SEC. 1319. From funds made available for the ''Iraq Security Forces Fund'' for fiscal year 2007, up to $155,500,000 may be used, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to provide assistance, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to the Government of Iraq to support the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of militias and illegal armed groups.

SEC. 1320. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF CAPABILITIES OF IRAQI SECURITY FORCES. (a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount appropriated or otherwise made available for the Department of Defense, $750,000 is provided to commission an independent, private-sector entity, which operates as a 501(c)(3) with recognized credentials and expertise in military affairs, to prepare an independent report assessing the following:

(1) The readiness of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) to assume responsibility for maintaining the territorial integrity of Iraq, denying international terrorists a safe haven, and bringing greater security to Iraq's 18 provinces in the next 12–18 months, and bringing an end to sectarian violence to achieve national reconciliation.

(2) The training; equipping; command, control and intelligence capabilities; and logistics capacity of the ISF.

(3) The likelihood that, given the ISF's record of preparedness to date, following years of training and equipping by U.S. forces, the continued support of U.S. troops will contribute to the readiness of the ISF to fulfill the missions outlined in subparagraph (1).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after passage of this Act, the designated private sector entity shall provide an unclassified report, with a classified annex, containing its findings, to the House and Senate Committees on Armed Services, Appropriations, Foreign Relations, and Intelligence.

SEC. 1321. AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO WOODROW W. KEEBLE FOR VALOR DURING KOREAN WAR. (a) WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding any applicable time limitation under section 3744 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the award of certain medals to individuals who served in the Armed Forces, the President may award to Woodrow W. Keeble the Medal of Honor under section 3741 of that title for the acts of valor described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTS OF VALOR.—The acts of valor referred to in subsection (a) are the acts of Woodrow W. Keeble, then-acting platoon leader, carried out on October 20, 1951, during the Korean War.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 1322. Of the amount appropriated under the heading ''Other Procurement, Army'', in title III of division A of Public Law 109–148, $6,250,000 shall be transferred to ''Military Construction, Army''.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 1323. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed $110,000,000 may be transferred to the ''Economic Support Fund'', Department of State, for use in programs in Pakistan from amounts appropriated by this Act as follows:

''Military Personnel, Army'', $70,000,000;

''National Guard Personnel, Army'', $13,183,000; and

''Defense Health Program'', $26,817,000.

CHAPTER 4

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION

For an additional amount for ''Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation'', $150,000,000, to remain available until expended.

GENERAL PROVISION—THIS CHAPTER

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 1401. The Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration is authorized to transfer up to $1,000,000 from Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation to the Office of the Administrator during fiscal year 2007 supporting nuclear nonproliferation activities.

CHAPTER 5

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

ANALYSIS AND OPERATIONS

For an additional amount for ''Analysis and Operations'', $15,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008, to be used for support of the State and Local Fusion Center program.

UNITED STATES CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses'', $115,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008, to be used to increase the number of officers, intelligence analysts and support staff responsible for container security inspections, and for other efforts to improve supply chain security: Provided, That up to $5,000,000 shall be transferred to Federal Law Enforcement Training Center ''Salaries and Expenses'', for basic training costs.

AIR AND MARINE INTERDICTION, OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND PROCUREMENT

For an additional amount for ''Air and Marine Interdiction, Operations, Maintenance, and Procurement'', for air and marine operations on the Northern Border, including the final Northern Border air wing, $120,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses'', $10,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

AVIATION SECURITY

For an additional amount for ''Aviation Security'', $970,000,000; of which $815,000,000 shall be for procurement and installation of checked baggage explosives detection systems, to remain available until expended; of which $45,000,000 shall be for expansion of checkpoint explosives detection pilot systems, to remain available until expended; and of which $110,000,000 shall be for air cargo security, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

FEDERAL AIR MARSHALS

For an additional amount for ''Federal Air Marshals'', $8,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

NATIONAL PROTECTION AND PROGRAMS

INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION AND INFORMATION SECURITY

For an additional amount for ''Infrastructure Protection and Information Security'', $37,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

OFFICE OF HEALTH AFFAIRS

For an additional amount for ''Office of Health Affairs'' for nuclear event public health assessment and planning and other activities, $15,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

For expenses for management and administration of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, $25,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008: Provided, That none of such funds made available under this heading may be obligated until the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives receive and approve a plan for expenditure: Provided further, That unobligated amounts in the ''Administrative and Regional Operations'' and ''Readiness, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery'' accounts shall be transferred to ''Management and Administration'' and may be used for any purpose authorized for such amounts and subject to limitation on the use of such amounts.

STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for ''State and Local Programs'', $552,500,000; of which $190,000,000 shall be for port security grants pursuant to section 70107(l) of title 46 United States Code; of which $325,000,000 shall be for intercity rail passenger transportation, freight rail, and transit security grants; of which $35,000,000 shall be for regional grants and regional technical assistance to high risk urban areas for catastrophic event planning and preparedness; and of which $2,500,000 shall be for technical assistance: Provided, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be obligated for such regional grants and regional technical assistance until the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives receive and approve a plan for expenditure: Provided further, That funds for such regional grants and regional technical assistance shall remain available until September 30, 2008.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANTS

For an additional amount for ''Emergency Management Performance Grants'', $100,000,000.

UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

For an additional amount for expenses of ''United States Citizenship and Immigration Services'' to address backlogs of security checks associated with pending applications and petitions, $10,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008: Provided, That none of the funds made available under this heading shall be available for obligation until the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the United States Attorney General, submits to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives a plan to eliminate the backlog of security checks that establishes information sharing protocols to ensure United States Citizenship and Immigration Services has the information it needs to carry out its mission.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, ACQUISITION, AND OPERATIONS

For an additional amount for ''Research, Development, Acquisition, and Operations'' for air cargo security research, $10,000,000, to remain available until expended.

DOMESTIC NUCLEAR DETECTION OFFICE

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND OPERATIONS

For an additional amount for ''Research, Development, and Operations'' for non-container, rail, aviation and intermodal radiation detection activities, $39,000,000, to remain available until expended.

SYSTEMS ACQUISITION

For an additional amount for ''Systems Acquisition'', $223,500,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That none of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be obligated for full scale procurement of Advanced Spectroscopic Portal Monitors until the Secretary of Homeland Security has certified through a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives that a significant increase in operational effectiveness will be achieved.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

SEC. 1501. (a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 550 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (6 U.S.C. 121 note) is amended by:

(1) in subsection (c), by striking ''consistent with similar'' and inserting ''identical to the protections given'';

(2) in subsection (c), by striking '', site security plans, and other information submitted to or obtained by the Secretary under this section, and related vulnerability or security information, shall be treated as if the information were classified material'' and inserting ''and site security plans shall be treated as sensitive security information (as that term is used in section 1520.5 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, or any subsequent regulations relating to the same matter)''; and

(3) by adding at the end of the section the following:

''(h) This section shall not preclude or deny any right of any State or political subdivision thereof to adopt or enforce any regulation, requirement, or standard of performance with respect to chemical facility security that is more stringent than a regulation, requirement, or standard of performance issued under this section, or otherwise impair any right or jurisdiction of any State with respect to chemical facilities within that State.''.

(b) REGULATORY CLARIFICATION.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall update the regulations administered by the Secretary that govern sensitive security information, including 49 CFR 1520, to ensure the protection of all information required to be protected under section 550(c) of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (6 U.S.C. 121 note), as amended by paragraph (a).

SEC. 1502. None of the funds provided in this Act, or Public Law 109–295, shall be available to carry out section 872 of Public Law 107–296.

SEC. 1503. LINKING OF AWARD FEES UNDER DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CONTRACTS TO SUCCESSFUL ACQUISITION OUTCOMES. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall require that all contracts of the Department of Homeland Security that provide award fees link such fees to successful acquisition outcomes (which outcomes shall be specified in terms of cost, schedule, and performance).

CHAPTER 6

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses'', $6,437,000, as follows:

ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for allowances and expenses as authorized by House resolution or law, $6,437,000 for business continuity and disaster recovery, to remain available until expended.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses'' of the Government Accountability Office, $374,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

CHAPTER 7

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For an additional amount for ''Military Construction, Army'', $1,255,890,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, such funds may be obligated and expended to carry out planning and design and military construction projects not otherwise authorized by law: Provided further, That of the funds provided under this heading, not to exceed $173,700,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services: Provided further, That of the funds made available under this heading, $369,690,000 shall not be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Defense submits a detailed report explaining how military road construction is coordinated with NATO and coalition nations: Provided further, That of the funds made available under this heading, $401,700,000 shall not be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Defense submits a detailed stationing plan to support Army end-strength growth to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate: Provided further, That of the funds provided under this heading, $274,800,000 shall not be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Defense certifies that none of the funds are to be used for the purpose of providing facilities for the permanent basing of U.S. military personnel in Iraq.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for ''Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps'', $370,990,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, such funds may be obligated and expended to carry out planning and design and military construction projects not otherwise authorized by law: Provided further, That of the funds provided under this heading, not to exceed $49,600,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services: Provided further, That of the funds made available under this heading, $324,270,000 shall not be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Defense submits a detailed stationing plan to support Marine Corps end-strength growth to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for ''Military Construction, Air Force'', $43,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, such funds may be obligated and expended to carry out planning and design and military construction projects not otherwise authorized by law: Provided further, That of the funds provided under this heading, not to exceed $3,000,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT 2005

For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account 2005, established by section 2906A(a)(1) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), $3,136,802,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That within 30 days of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit a detailed spending plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

SEC. 1701. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds in this or any other Act may be used to close Walter Reed Army Medical Center until equivalent medical facilities at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center at Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, and/or the Fort Belvoir, Virginia, Community Hospital have been constructed and equipped: Provided, That to ensure that the quality of care provided by the Military Health System is not diminished during this transition, the Walter Reed Army Medical Center shall be adequately funded, to include necessary renovation and maintenance of existing facilities, to maintain the maximum level of inpatient and outpatient services.

SEC. 1702. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds in this or any other Act shall be used to reorganize or relocate the functions of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) until the Secretary of Defense has submitted, not later than December 31, 2007, a detailed plan and timetable for the proposed reorganization and relocation to the Committees on Appropriations and Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives. The plan shall take into consideration the recommendations of a study being prepared by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), provided that such study is available not later than 45 days before the date specified in this section, on the impact of dispersing selected functions of AFIP among several locations, and the possibility of consolidating those functions at one location. The plan shall include an analysis of the options for the location and operation of the Program Management Office for second opinion consults that are consistent with the recommendations of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, together with the rationale for the option selected by the Secretary.

CHAPTER 8

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND RELATED AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for ''Diplomatic and Consular Programs'', $870,658,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008, of which $96,500,000 for World Wide Security Upgrades is available until expended: Provided, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not more than $20,000,000 shall be made available for public diplomacy programs: Provided further, That prior to the obligation of funds pursuant to the previous proviso, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations describing a comprehensive public diplomacy strategy, with goals and expected results, for fiscal years 2007 and 2008: Provided further, That of the amount available under this heading, $258,000 shall be transferred to, and merged with, funds available in fiscal year 2007 for expenses for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom: Provided further, That 20 percent of the amount available for Iraq operations shall not be obligated until the Committees on Appropriations receive and approve a detailed plan for expenditure, prepared by the Secretary of State, and submitted within 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act: Provided further, That within 15 days of enactment of this Act, the Office of Management and Budget shall apportion $15,000,000 from amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by chapter 8 of title II of division B of Public Law 109–148 under the heading ''Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service'' for emergency evacuations: Provided further, That of the amount made available under this heading for Iraq, not to exceed $20,000,000 may be transferred to, and merged

with, funds in the ''Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service'' appropriations account, to be available only for terrorism rewards.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for ''Office of Inspector General'', $36,500,000, to remain available until December 31, 2008: Provided, That $35,000,000 shall be transferred to the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction for reconstruction oversight.

EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for ''Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs'', $20,000,000, to remain available until expended.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

For an additional amount for ''Contributions to International Organizations'', $50,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITIES

For an additional amount for ''Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities'', $288,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

RELATED AGENCY

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING OPERATIONS

For an additional amount for ''International Broadcasting Operations'' for activities related to broadcasting to the Middle East, $10,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CHILD SURVIVAL AND HEALTH PROGRAMS FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for ''Child Survival and Health Programs Fund'', $161,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the President determines and reports to the Committees on Appropriations that the human-to-human transmission of the avian influenza virus is efficient and sustained, and is spreading internationally, funds made available under the heading ''Millennium Challenge Corporation'' and ''Global HIV/AIDS Initiative'' in prior Acts making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs may be transferred to, and merged with, funds made available under this heading to combat avian influenza: Provided further, That funds made available pursuant to the authority of the previous proviso shall be subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations.

INTERNATIONAL DISASTER AND FAMINE ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for ''International Disaster and Famine Assistance'', $165,000,000, to remain available until expended.

OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

For an additional amount for ''Operating Expenses of the United States Agency for International Development'', $8,700,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For an additional amount for ''Operating Expenses of the United States Agency for International Development Office of Inspector General'', $3,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

OTHER BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND

For an additional amount for ''Economic Support Fund'', $2,649,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008: Provided, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, $57,400,000 shall be made available to nongovernmental organizations in Iraq for economic and social development programs and activities in areas of conflict: Provided further, That the responsibility for policy decisions and justifications for the use of funds appropriated by the previous proviso shall be the responsibility of the United States Chief of Mission in Iraq: Provided further, That none of the funds appropriated under this heading in this Act or in prior Acts making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs may be made available for the Political Participation Fund and the National Institutions Fund: Provided further, That of the funds made available under the heading ''Economic Support Fund'' in Public Law 109–234 for Iraq to promote democracy, rule of law and reconciliation, $2,000,000 should be made available for the United States Institute of Peace for programs and activities in Afghanistan to remain available until September 30, 2008.

ASSISTANCE FOR EASTERN EUROPE AND THE BALTIC STATES

For an additional amount for ''Assistance for Eastern Europe and the Baltic States'', $229,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008, for assistance for Kosovo.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEMOCRACY FUND

For an additional amount for ''Democracy Fund'', $260,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008: Provided, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not less than $190,000,000 shall be made available for the Human Rights and Democracy Fund of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Department of State, and not less than $60,000,000 shall be made available for the United States Agency for International Development, for democracy, human rights and rule of law programs in Iraq: Provided further, That not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations describing a comprehensive, long-term strategy, with goals and expected results, for strengthening and advancing democracy in Iraq.

INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for ''International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement'', $257,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

Of the amounts made available for procurement of a maritime patrol aircraft for the Colombian Navy under this heading in Public Law 109–234, $13,000,000 are rescinded.

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for ''Migration and Refugee Assistance'', $130,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008, of which not less than $5,000,000 shall be made available to rescue Iraqi scholars.

UNITED STATES EMERGENCY REFUGEE AND MIGRATION ASSISTANCE FUND

For an additional amount for ''United States Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund'', $55,000,000, to remain available until expended.

NONPROLIFERATION, ANTI-TERRORISM, DEMINING AND RELATED PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for ''Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Programs'', $57,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for ''International Affairs Technical Assistance'', $2,750,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

MILITARY ASSISTANCE

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

FOREIGN MILITARY FINANCING PROGRAM

For an additional amount for ''Foreign Military Financing Program'', $265,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

For an additional amount for ''Peacekeeping Operations'', $230,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008: Provided, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not less than $40,000,000 shall be made available, notwithstanding section 660 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, for assistance for Liberia for security sector reform: Provided further, That not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act and every 30 days thereafter until September 30, 2008, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations detailing the obligation and expenditure of funds made available under this heading in this Act and in prior Acts making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS

SEC. 1801. Funds appropriated by this title may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 10 of Public Law 91–672 (22 U.S.C. 2412), section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2680), section 313 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 6212), and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 414(a)(1)).

EXTENSION OF OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY

SEC. 1802. Section 3001(o)(1)(B) of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense and for the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan, 2004 (Public Law 108–106; 117 Stat. 1238; 5 U.S.C. App., note to section 8G of Public Law 95–452), as amended by section 1054(b) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2397) and section 2 of the Iraq Reconstruction Accountability Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–440), is amended by inserting ''or fiscal year 2007'' after ''fiscal year 2006''.

LEBANON

SEC. 1803. (a) LIMITATION ON ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND ASSISTANCE FOR LEBANON.—None of the funds made available in this Act under the heading ''Economic Support Fund'' for cash transfer assistance for the Government of Lebanon may be made available for obligation until the Secretary of State reports to the Committees on Appropriations on Lebanon's economic reform plan and on the specific conditions and verifiable benchmarks that have been agreed upon by the United States and the Government of Lebanon pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding on cash transfer assistance for Lebanon.

(b) LIMITATION ON FOREIGN MILITARY FINANCING PROGRAM AND INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE FOR LEBANON.—None of the funds made available in this Act under the heading ''Foreign Military Financing Program'' or ''International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement'' for military or police assistance to Lebanon may be made available for obligation until the Secretary of State submits to the Committees on Appropriations a report on procedures established to determine eligibility of members and units of the armed forces and police forces of Lebanon to participate in United States training and assistance programs and on the end use monitoring of all equipment provided under such programs to the Lebanese armed forces and police forces.

(c) CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Prior to the initial obligation of funds made available in this Act for assistance for Lebanon under the headings ''Foreign Military Financing Program'' and ''Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Programs'', the Secretary

of State shall certify to the Committees on Appropriations that all practicable efforts have been made to ensure that such assistance is not provided to or through any individual, or private or government entity, that advocates, plans, sponsors, engages in, or has engaged in, terrorist activity.

(d) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations a report on the Government of Lebanon's actions to implement section 14 of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 (August 11, 2006).

(e) SPECIAL AUTHORITY.—This section shall be effective notwithstanding section 534(a) of Public Law 109–102, which is made applicable to funds appropriated for fiscal year 2007 by the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–289, as amended by Public Law 110–5).

DEBT RESTRUCTURING

SEC. 1804. Amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2007 for ''Bilateral Economic Assistance—Department of the Treasury—Debt Restructuring'' may be used to assist Liberia in retiring its debt arrearages to the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the African Development Bank.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

SEC. 1805. To facilitate effective oversight of programs and activities in Iraq by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the Department of State shall provide GAO staff members the country clearances, life support, and logistical and security support necessary for GAO personnel to establish a presence in Iraq for periods of not less than 45 days.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY FUND

SEC. 1806. The Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor shall be responsible for all policy, funding, and programming decisions regarding funds made available under this Act and prior Acts making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing and related programs for the Human Rights and Democracy Fund of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

INSPECTOR GENERAL OVERSIGHT OF IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

SEC. 1807. (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Inspector General of the Department of State and the Broadcasting Board of Governors (referred to in this section as the ''Inspector General'') may use personal services contracts to engage citizens of the United States to facilitate and support the Office of the Inspector General's oversight of programs and operations related to Iraq and Afghanistan. Individuals engaged by contract to perform such services shall not, by virtue of such contract, be considered to be employees of the United States Government for purposes of any law administered by the Office of Personnel Management. The Secretary of State may determine the applicability to such individuals of any law administered by the Secretary concerning the performance of such services by such individuals.

(b) CONDITIONS.—The authority under paragraph (1) is subject to the following conditions:

(1) The Inspector General determines that existing personnel resources are insufficient.

(2) The contract length for a personal services contractor, including options, may not exceed 1 year, unless the Inspector General makes a finding that exceptional circumstances justify an extension of up to 1 additional year.

(3) Not more than 10 individuals may be employed at any time as personal services contractors under the program.

(c) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority to award personal services contracts under this section shall terminate on December 31, 2007. A contract entered into prior to the termination date under this paragraph may remain in effect until not later than December 31, 2009.

(d) OTHER AUTHORITIES NOT AFFECTED.—The authority under this section is in addition to any other authority of the Inspector General to hire personal services contractors.

FUNDING TABLES

SEC. 1808. (a) Funds provided in this Act for the following accounts shall be made available for programs and countries in the amounts contained in the respective tables included in the report accompanying this Act:

''Diplomatic and Consular Programs''.

''Economic Support Fund''.

''Democracy Fund''.

''International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement''.

''Migration and Refugee Assistance''.

(b) Any proposed increases or decreases to the amounts contained in the tables in the accompanying report shall be subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations and section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

SPENDING PLAN AND NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES

SEC. 1809. Not later than 45 days after enactment of this Act the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations a report detailing planned expenditures for funds appropriated under the headings in this chapter, except for funds appropriated under the heading ''International Disaster and Famine Assistance'': Provided, That funds appropriated under the headings in this chapter, except for funds appropriated under the heading named in this section, shall be subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations.

CONDITIONS ON ASSISTANCE FOR PAKISTAN

SEC. 1810. None of the funds made available for assistance for the central Government of Pakistan under the heading ''Economic Support Fund'' in this title may be made available for non-project assistance until the Secretary of State submits to the Committees on Appropriations a report on the oversight mechanisms, performance benchmarks, and implementation processes for such funds: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available for non-project assistance pursuant to the previous proviso shall be subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations: Provided further, That of the funds made available for assistance for Pakistan under the heading ''Economic Support Fund'' in this title, $5,000,000 shall be made available for the Human Rights and Democracy Fund of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Department of State, for political party development and election observation programs.

CIVILIAN RESERVE CORPS

SEC. 1811. Of the funds appropriated by this Act under the heading ''Diplomatic and Consular Programs'', up to $50,000,000 may be made available to support and maintain a civilian reserve corps: Provided, That none of the funds for a civilian reserve corps may be obligated without specific authorization in a subsequent Act of Congress: Provided further, That funds made available under this section shall be subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations.

COORDINATOR FOR IRAQ ASSISTANCE

SEC. 1812. (a) COORDINATOR FOR IRAQ ASSISTANCE.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall appoint a Coordinator for Iraq Assistance (hereinafter in this section referred to as the ''Coordinator''), by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, who shall report directly to the President.

(b) DUTIES.—The Coordinator shall be responsible for—

(1) Developing and implementing an overall strategy for political, economic, and military assistance for Iraq;

(2) Coordinating and ensuring coherence of Iraq assistance programs and policy among all departments and agencies of the Government of the United States that are implementing assistance programs in Iraq, including the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Treasury, and the Department of Justice;

(3) Working with the Government of Iraq in meeting the benchmarks described in section 1904(a) of this Act in order to ensure Iraq continues to be eligible to receive United States assistance described in such section;

(4) Coordinating with other donors and international organizations that are providing assistance for Iraq;

(5) Ensuring adequate management and accountability of United States assistance programs for Iraq;

(6) Resolving policy and program disputes among departments and agencies of the United States Government that are implementing assistance programs in Iraq; and

(7) Coordinating United States assistance programs with the reconstruction programs funded and implemented by the Government of Iraq.

(c) RANK AND STATUS.—The Coordinator shall have the rank and status of ambassador.

CHAPTER 9

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

SEC. 1901. (a) Congress finds that it is Defense Department policy that units should not be deployed for combat unless they are rated ''fully mission capable''.

(b) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act may be used to deploy any unit of the Armed Forces to Iraq unless the chief of the military department concerned has certified in writing to the Committees on Appropriations and the Committees on Armed Services at least 15 days in advance of the deployment that the unit is fully mission capable.

(c) For purposes of subsection (b), the term ''fully mission capable'' means capable of performing assigned mission essential tasks to prescribed standards under the conditions expected in the theater of operations, consistent with the guidelines set forth in the Department of Defense readiness reporting system.

(d) The President, by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations and the Committees on Armed Services that the deployment to Iraq of a unit that is not assessed fully mission capable is required for reasons of national security and by submitting along with the certification a report in classified and unclassified form detailing the particular reason or reasons why the unit's deployment is necessary despite the chief of the military department's assessment that the unit is not fully mission capable, may waive the limitation prescribed in subsection (b) on a unit-by-unit basis.

SEC. 1902. (a) Congress finds that it is Defense Department policy that Army, Army Reserve, and National Guard units should not be deployed for combat beyond 365 days or that Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserve units should not be deployed for combat beyond 210 days.

(b) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act may be obligated or expended to initiate the development of, continue the development of, or execute any order that has the effect of extending the deployment for Operation Iraqi Freedom of—

(1) any unit of the Army, Army Reserve or Army National Guard beyond 365 days; or

(2) any unit of the Marine Corps or Marine Corps Reserve beyond 210 days.

(c) The limitation prescribed in subsection (b) shall not be construed to require force levels in Iraq to be decreased below the total United States force levels in Iraq prior to January 10, 2007.

(d) The President, by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations and the Committees on Armed Services that the extension of

a unit's deployment in Iraq beyond the periods specified in subsection (b) is required for reasons of national security and by submitting along with the certification a report in classified and unclassified form detailing the particular reason or reasons why the unit's extended deployment is necessary, may waive the limitations prescribed in subsection (b) on a unit-by-unit basis.

SEC. 1903. (a) Congress finds that it is Defense Department policy that Army, Army Reserve, and National Guard units should not be redeployed for combat if the unit has been deployed within the previous 365 consecutive days or that Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserve units should not be redeployed for combat if the unit has been deployed within the previous 210 days.

(b) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act may be obligated or expended to initiate the development of, continue the development of, or execute any order that has the effect of deploying for Operation Iraqi Freedom of—

(1) any unit of the Army, Army Reserve or Army National Guard if such unit has been deployed within the previous 365 consecutive days; or

(2) any unit of the Marine Corps or Marine Corps Reserve if such unit has been deployed within the previous 210 consecutive days.

(c) The limitation prescribed in subsection (b) shall not be construed to require force levels in Iraq to be decreased below the total United States force levels in Iraq prior to January 10, 2007.

(d) The President, by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations and the Committees on Armed Services that the redeployment of a unit to Iraq in advance of the periods specified in subsection (b) is required for reasons of national security and by submitting along with the certification a report in classified and unclassified form detailing the particular reason or reasons why the unit's redeployment is necessary, may waive the limitations prescribed in subsection (b) on a unit-by-unit basis.

SEC.1904. (a) The President shall make and transmit to Congress the following determinations, along with reports in classified and unclassified form detailing the basis for each determination, on or before July 1, 2007:

(1) whether the Government of Iraq has given United States Armed Forces and Iraqi Security Forces the authority to pursue all extremists, including Sunni insurgents and Shiite militias, and is making substantial progress in delivering necessary Iraqi Security Forces for Baghdad and protecting such Forces from political interference; intensifying efforts to build balanced security forces throughout Iraq that provide even-handed security for all Iraqis; ensuring that Iraq's political authorities are not undermining or making false accusations against members of the Iraqi Security Forces; eliminating militia control of local security; establishing a strong militia disarmament program; ensuring fair and just enforcement of laws; establishing political, media, economic, and service committees in support of the Baghdad Security Plan; and eradicating safe havens;

(2) whether the Government of Iraq is making substantial progress in meeting its commitment to pursue reconciliation initiatives, including enactment of a hydro-carbon law; adoption of legislation necessary for the conduct of provincial and local elections; reform of current laws governing the de-Baathification process; amendment of the Constitution of Iraq; and allocation of Iraqi revenues for reconstruction projects;

(3) whether the Government of Iraq and United States Armed Forces are making substantial progress in reducing the level of sectarian violence in Iraq; and

(4) whether the Government of Iraq is ensuring the rights of minority political parties in the Iraqi Parliament are protected.

(b) If the President fails to make any of the determinations specified in subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall commence the redeployment of the Armed Forces from Iraq no later than July 1, 2007, with a goal of completing such redeployment within 180 days.

(c) If the President makes the determinations specified in subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall commence the redeployment of the Armed Forces from Iraq not later than October 1, 2007, with a goal of completing such redeployment within 180 days.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act are immediately available for obligation and expenditure to plan and execute a safe and orderly redeployment of the Armed Forces from Iraq, as specified in subsections (b) and (c).

(e) After the conclusion of the redeployment specified in subsections (b) and (c), the Secretary of Defense may not deploy or maintain members of the Armed Forces in Iraq for any purpose other than the following:

(1) Protecting American diplomatic facilities and American citizens, including members of the U.S. armed forces;

(2) Serving in roles consistent with customary diplomatic positions;

(3) Engaging in targeted special actions limited in duration and scope to killing or capturing members of al-Qaeda and other terrorist organizations with global reach; and

(4) Training and equipping members of the Iraqi Security Forces.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, 50 percent of the funds appropriated by title I of this Act for assistance to Iraq under each of the headings ''Economic Support Fund'' and ''International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement'' shall be withheld from obligation until the President has made a certification to Congress that the Government of Iraq has enacted a broadly accepted hydro-carbon law that equitably shares oil revenues among all Iraqis; adopted legislation necessary for the conduct of provincial and local elections, taken steps to implement such legislation, and set a schedule to conduct provincial and local elections; reformed current laws governing the de-Baathification process to allow for more equitable treatment of individuals affected by such laws; amended the Constitution of Iraq consistent with the principles contained in Article 137 of such constitution; and allocated and begun expenditure of $10,000,000,000 in Iraqi revenues for reconstruction projects, including delivery of essential services, on an equitable basis.

(g) The requirement to withhold funds from obligation pursuant to subsection (f) shall not apply with respect to funds made available under the heading ''Economic Support Fund'' for continued support for the Community Action Program and Community Stabilization Program in Iraq administered by the United States Agency for International Development or for programs and activities to promote democracy in Iraq.

(h) Beginning on September 1, 2007, and every 60 days thereafter, the Commander, Multi-National Forces—Iraq and the United States Ambassador to Iraq shall jointly submit to Congress a report describing and assessing in detail the current progress being made by the Government of Iraq regarding the criteria set forth in subsection (a).

TITLE II

ADDITIONAL HURRICANE DISASTER RELIEF AND RECOVERY

CHAPTER 1

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

GENERAL PROVISION—THIS CHAPTER

SEC. 2101. Section 1231(k)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(k)(2)) is amended by striking ''During calendar year 2006, the'' and inserting ''The''.

CHAPTER 2

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for ''State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance'', for discretionary grants authorized by subpart 2 of part E, of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 as in effect on September 30, 2006, notwithstanding the provisions of section 511 of said Act, $50,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the amount made available under this heading shall be for local law enforcement initiatives in the Gulf Coast region related to the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita: Provided further, That these funds shall be apportioned among the States in quotient to their level of violent crime as estimated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Report for the year 2005.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

For an additional amount for ''Operations, Research, and Facilities'', for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on the shrimp and fishing industries, $110,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

EXPLORATION CAPABILITIES

For an additional amount for ''Exploration Capabilities'' for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricane Katrina, $35,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

GENERAL PROVISION—THIS CHAPTER

SEC. 2201. Up to $48,000,000 of amounts made available to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Public Law 109–148 and Public Law 109–234 for emergency hurricane and other natural disaster-related expenses may be used to reimburse hurricane-related costs incurred by NASA in fiscal year 2005.

CHAPTER 3

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

CONSTRUCTION

For an additional amount for ''Construction'' for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricane Katrina and other hurricanes of the 2005 season, $25,300,000, to remain available until expended, which may be used to continue construction of projects related to interior drainage for the greater New Orleans metropolitan area.

FLOOD CONTROL AND COASTAL EMERGENCIES

For an additional amount for ''Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies'', as authorized by section 5 of the Act of August 18, 1941 (33 U.S.C. 701n), for necessary expenses relating to the consequences of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and for other purposes, $1,407,700,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That $1,300,000,000 of the amount provided may be used by the Secretary of the Army to carry out projects and measures for the West Bank and Vicinity and Lake Ponchartrain and Vicinity, Louisiana, projects, as described under the heading ''Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies'', in chapter 3 of Public Law 109–148: Provided further, That $107,700,000 of the amount provided may be used to implement the projects for hurricane storm damage reduction, flood damage reduction, and ecosystem restoration within Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties, Mississippi substantially in accordance with the Report of the Chief of Engineers dated December 31, 2006, and entitled ''Mississippi, Coastal Improvements Program Interim

Report, Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties, Mississippi'': Provided further, That projects authorized for implementation under this Chief's report shall be carried out at full Federal expense, except that the non-Federal interests shall be responsible for providing for all costs associated with operation and maintenance of the project: Provided further, That any project using funds appropriated under this heading shall be initiated only after non-Federal interests have entered into binding agreements with the Secretary requiring the non-Federal interests to pay 100 percent of the operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation costs of the project and to hold and save the United States free from damages due to the construction or operation and maintenance of the project, except for damages due to the fault or negligence of the United States or its contractors: Provided further, That the Chief of Engineers, acting through the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, shall provide a monthly report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds, beginning not later than 60 days after enactment of the Act.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

SEC. 2301. The Secretary is authorized and directed to determine the value of eligible reimbursable expenses incurred by local governments in storm-proofing pumping stations, constructing safe houses for operators, and other interim flood control measures in and around the New Orleans metropolitan area that the Secretary determines to be integral to the overall plan to ensure operability of the stations during hurricanes, storms and high water events and the flood control plan for the area.

SEC. 2302. (a) The Secretary of the Army is authorized and directed to utilize funds remaining available for obligation from the amounts appropriated in chapter 3 of Public Law 109–234 under the heading ''Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies'' for projects in the greater New Orleans metropolitan area to prosecute these projects in a manner which promotes the goal of continuing work at an optimal pace, while maximizing, to the greatest extent practicable, levels of protection to reduce the risk of storm damage to people and property.

(b) The expenditure of funds as provided in subsection (a) may be made without regard to individual amounts or purposes specified in chapter 3 of Public Law 109–234.

(c) Any reallocation of funds that are necessary to accomplish the goal established in subsection (a) are authorized, subject to the approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriation.

SEC. 2303. The Chief of Engineers shall investigate the overall technical advantages, disadvantages and operational effectiveness of operating the new pumping stations at the mouths of the 17th Street, Orleans Avenue and London Avenue canals in the New Orleans area directed for construction in Public Law 109–234 concurrently or in series with existing pumping stations serving these canals and the advantages, disadvantages and technical operational effectiveness of removing the existing pumping stations and configuring the new pumping stations and associated canals to handle all needed discharges; and the advantages, disadvantages and technical operational effectiveness of replacing or improving the floodwalls and levees adjacent to the three outfall canals: Provided, That the analysis should be conducted at Federal expense: Provided further, That the analysis shall be completed and furnished to the Congress not later than three months after enactment of this Act.

SEC. 2304. Using funds made available in Chapter 3 under title II of Public Law 109–234, under the heading ''Investigations'', the Secretary of the Army, in consultation with other agencies and the State of Louisiana shall accelerate completion as practicable the final report of the Chief of Engineers recommending a comprehensive plan to deauthorize deep draft navigation on the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet: Provided, That the plan shall incorporate and build upon the Interim Mississippi River Gulf Outlet Deep-Draft De-Authorization Report submitted to Congress in December 2006 pursuant to Public Law 109–234.

CHAPTER 4

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

DISASTER LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Of the unobligated balances under the heading ''Small Business Administration, Disaster Loans Program Account'', $25,069,000, to remain available until expended, shall be used for administrative expenses to carry out the disaster loan program, which may be transferred to and merged with ''Small Business Administration, Salaries and Expenses''.

Of the unobligated balances under the heading ''Small Business Administration, Disaster Loans Program Account'', $25,000,000 shall be used for loans under section 7(b)(2) of the Small Business Act for businesses located in an area for which the President declared a major disaster because of the hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico in calendar year 2005, of which not to exceed $8,750,000 is for direct administrative expenses and may be transferred to and merged with ''Small Business Administration, Salaries and Expenses'' to carry out the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration.

CHAPTER 5

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

DISASTER RELIEF

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for ''Disaster Relief'', $4,610,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That $4,000,000 shall be transferred to ''Office of Inspector General''.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

SEC. 2501. (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including any agreement, the Federal share of assistance, including direct Federal assistance, provided for the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, and Texas in connection with Hurricanes Katrina, Wilma, Dennis, and Rita under sections 403, 406, 407, and 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b, 5172, 5173, and 5174) shall be 100 percent of the eligible costs under such sections.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The Federal share provided by subsection (a) shall apply to disaster assistance applied for before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 2502. (a) COMMUNITY DISASTER LOAN ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2(a) of the Community Disaster Loan Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–88) is amended by striking ''Provided further, That notwithstanding section 417(c)(1) of the Stafford Act, such loans may not be canceled:''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall be effective on the date of enactment of the Community Disaster Loan Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–88).

(b) EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 4 of title II of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (Public Law 109–234) is amended under Federal Emergency Management Agency, ''Disaster Assistance Direct Loan Program Account'' by striking ''Provided further, That notwithstanding section 417(c)(1) of such Act, such loans may not be canceled:''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall be effective on the date of enactment of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (Public Law 109–234).

SEC. 2503. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2401 of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (Public Law 109–234) is amended by striking ''12 months'' and inserting ''24 months''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall be effective on the date of enactment of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (Public Law 109–234).

CHAPTER 6

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

For an additional amount for the ''Historic Preservation Fund'' for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricane Katrina and other hurricanes of the 2005 season, $10,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008: Provided, That the funds provided under this heading shall be provided to the State Historic Preservation Officer, after consultation with the National Park Service, for grants for disaster relief in areas of Louisiana impacted by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita: Provided further, That grants shall be for the preservation, stabilization, rehabilitation, and repair of historic properties listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, for planning and technical assistance: Provided further, That grants shall only be available for areas that the President determines to be a major disaster under section 102(2) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(2)) due to Hurricanes Katrina or Rita: Provided further, That individual grants shall not be subject to a non-Federal matching requirement: Provided further, That no more than 5 percent of funds provided under this heading for disaster relief grants may be used for administrative expenses.

GENERAL PROVISION—THIS CHAPTER

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 2601. Of the disaster relief funds from Public Law 109–234, 120 Stat. 418, 461, (June 30, 2006), chapter 5, ''National Park Service—Historic Preservation Fund'', for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricane Katrina and other hurricanes of the 2005 season that were allocated to the State of Mississippi by the National Park Service, $500,000 is hereby transferred to the ''National Park Service—National Recreation and Preservation'' appropriation: Provided, That these funds may be used to reconstruct destroyed properties that at the time of destruction were listed in the National Register of Historic Places and are otherwise qualified to receive these funds: Provided further, That the State Historic Preservation Officer certifies that, for the community where that destroyed property was located, the property is iconic to or essential to illustrating that community's historic identity, that no other property in that community with the same associative historic value has survived, and that sufficient historical documentation exists to ensure an accurate reproduction.

CHAPTER 7

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

HIGHER EDUCATION

For an additional amount under part B of title VII of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (''HEA'') for institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101 or section 102(c) of that Act) that are located in an area in which a major disaster was declared in accordance with section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act related to Hurricanes Katrina or Rita, $30,000,000: Provided, That such funds shall be available to the

Secretary of Education only for payments to help defray the expenses (which may include lost revenue, reimbursement for expenses already incurred, and construction) incurred by such institutions of higher education that were forced to close, relocate or significantly curtail their activities as a result of damage directly caused by such hurricanes and for payments to enable such institutions to provide grants to students who attend such institutions for academic years beginning on or after July 1, 2006: Provided further, That such payments shall be made in accordance with criteria established by the Secretary and made publicly available without regard to section 437 of the General Education Provisions Act, section 553 of title 5, United States Code, or part B of title VII of the HEA.

HURRICANE EDUCATION RECOVERY

For carrying out activities authorized by subpart 1 of part D of title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, $30,000,000, to remain available until expended, for use by the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama primarily for recruiting, retaining, and compensating new and current teachers, school principals, assistant principals, principal resident directors, assistant directors, and other educators, who commit to work for at least three years in school-based positions in public elementary and secondary schools located in an area with respect to which a major disaster was declared under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) by reason of Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita, including through such mechanisms as paying salary premiums, performance bonuses, housing subsidies, signing bonuses, and relocation costs and providing loan forgiveness, with priority given to teachers and school-based school principals, assistant principals, principal resident directors, assistant directors, and other educators who previously worked or lived in one of the affected areas, are currently employed (or become employed) in such a school in any of the affected areas after those disasters, and commit to continue that employment for at least 3 years, Provided, That funds available under this heading to such States may also be used for 1 or more of the following activities: (1) to build the capacity, knowledge, and skill of teachers and school-based school principals, assistant principals, principal resident directors, assistant directors, and other educators in such public elementary and secondary schools to provide an effective education, including the design, adaptation, and implementation of high-quality formative assessments; (2) the establishment of partnerships with nonprofit entities with a demonstrated track record in recruiting and retaining outstanding teachers and other school-based school principals, assistant principals, principal resident directors, and assistant directors; and (3) paid release time for teachers and principals to identify and replicate successful practices from the fastest-improving and highest-performing schools: Provided further, That the Secretary of Education shall allocate amounts available under this heading among such States that submit applications; that such allocation shall be based on the number of public elementary and secondary schools in each State that were closed for 19 days or more during the period beginning on August 29, 2005, and ending on December 31, 2005, due to Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita; and that such States shall in turn allocate funds to local educational agencies, with priority given first to such agencies with the highest percentages of public elementary and secondary schools that are closed as a result of such hurricanes as of the date of enactment of this Act and then to such agencies with the highest percentages of public elementary and secondary schools with a student-teacher ratio of at least 25 to 1, and with any remaining amounts to be distributed to such agencies with demonstrated need, as determined by the State Superintendent of Education: Provided further, That, in the case of any State that chooses to use amounts available under this heading for performance bonuses, not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and in collaboration with local educational agencies, teachers' unions, local principals' organizations, local parents' organizations, local business organizations, and local charter schools organizations, the State educational agency shall develop a plan for a rating system for performance bonuses, and if no agreement has been reached that is satisfactory to all consulting entities by such deadline, the State educational agency shall immediately send a letter notifying Congress and shall, not later than 30 days after such notification, establish and implement a rating system that shall be based on classroom observation and feedback more than once annually, conducted by multiple sources (including, but not limited to, principals and master teachers), and evaluated against research-based rubrics that use planning, instructional, and learning environment standards to measure teacher performance, except that the requirements of this proviso shall not apply to a State that has enacted a State law in 2006 authorizing performance pay for teachers.

PROGRAMS TO RESTART SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Funds made available under section 102 of the Hurricane Education Recovery Act (title IV of division B of Public Law 109–148) may be used by the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas, in addition to the uses of funds described in section 102(e), for the following costs: (1) recruiting, retaining, and compensating new and current teachers, school principals, assistant principals, principal resident directors, assistant directors, and other educators for school-based positions in public elementary and secondary schools impacted by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita, including through such mechanisms as paying salary premiums, performance bonuses, housing subsidies, signing bonuses, and relocation costs and providing loan forgiveness; (2) activities to build the capacity, knowledge, and skills of teachers and school-based school principals, assistant principals, principal resident directors, assistant directors, and other educators in such public elementary and secondary schools to provide an effective education, including the design, adaptation, and implementation of high-quality formative assessments; (3) the establishment of partnerships with nonprofit entities with a demonstrated track record in recruiting and retaining outstanding teachers and school-based school principals, assistant principals, principal resident directors, and assistant directors; and (4) paid release time for teachers and principals to identify and replicate successful practices from the fastest-improving and highest-performing schools.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

SEC. 2 701. Section 105(b) of title IV of division B of Public Law 109–148 is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''With respect to the program authorized by section 102 of this Act, the waiver authority in subsection (a) of this section shall be available until the end of fiscal year 2008.''

SEC. 2 702. Notwithstanding section 2002(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397a(c)), funds made available under the heading ''Social Services Block Grant'' in division B of Public Law 109–148 shall be available for expenditure by the States through the end of fiscal year 2009.

SEC. 2 703. (a) In the event that Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, or Texas fails to meet its match requirement with funds appropriated in fiscal years 2006 or 2007, for fiscal years 2008 and 2009, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may waive the application of section 2617(d)(4) of the Public Health Service Act for Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas.

(b) The Secretary may not exercise the waiver authority available under subsection (a) to allow a grantee to provide less than a 25 percent matching grant.

(c) For grant years beginning in 2008, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas and any eligible metropolitan area in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas shall comply with each of the applicable requirements under title XXVI of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300ff–11 et seq.).

CHAPTER 8

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAYS

EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for the Emergency Relief Program as authorized under section 125 of title 23, United States Code, $682,942,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That section 125(d)(1) of title 23, United States Code, shall not apply to emergency relief projects that respond to damage caused by the 2005–2006 winter storms in the State of California: Provided further, That of the unobligated balances of funds apportioned to each State under chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, $682,942,000 are rescinded: Provided further, That such rescission shall not apply to the funds distributed in accordance with sections 130(f) and 104(b)(5) of title 23, United States Code; sections 133(d)(1) and 163 of such title, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of Public Law 109–59; and the first sentence of section 133(d)(3)(A) of such title.

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

FORMULA GRANTS

For an additional amount to be allocated by the Secretary to recipients of assistance under chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, directly affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, $35,000,000, for the operating and capital costs of transit services, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the Federal share for any project funded from this amount shall be 100 percent.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For an additional amount for the Office of Inspector General, for the necessary costs related to the consequences of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, $7,000,000, to remain available until expended.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

SEC. 2801. The third proviso under the heading ''Department of Housing and Urban Development—Public and Indian Housing—Tenant-Based Rental Assistance'' in chapter 9 of title I of division B of Public Law 109–148 (119 Stat. 2779) is amended by striking ''for up to 18 months'' and inserting ''until December 31, 2007''.

SEC. 2802. Section 21033 of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–289, as amended by Public Law 110–5) is amended by adding after the third proviso: '': Provided further, That notwithstanding the previous proviso, except for applying the 2007 Annual Adjustment Factor and making any other specified adjustments, public housing agencies specified in category 1 below shall receive funding for calendar year 2007 based on the higher of the amounts the agencies would receive under the previous proviso or the amounts the agencies received in calendar year 2006, and public housing agencies specified in categories 2 and 3 below shall receive funding for calendar year 2007 equal to the amounts the agencies received in calendar year 2006, except that public housing agencies specified in categories 1 and 2 below shall receive funding under this proviso only if, and to the extent

that, any such public housing agency submits a plan, approved by the Secretary, that demonstrates that the agency can effectively use within 12 months the funding that the agency would receive under this proviso that is in addition to the funding that the agency would receive under the previous proviso: (1) public housing agencies that are eligible for assistance under section 901 in Public Law 109–148 (119 Stat. 2781) or are located in the same counties as those eligible under section 901 and operate voucher programs under section 8(o) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 but do not operate public housing under section 9 of such Act, and any public housing agency that otherwise qualifies under this category must demonstrate that they have experienced a loss of rental housing stock as a result of the 2005 hurricanes; (2) public housing agencies that would receive less funding under the previous proviso than they would receive under this proviso and that have been placed in receivership or the Secretary has declared to be in breach of an Annual Contributions Contract by June 1, 2007; and (3) public housing agencies that spent more in calendar year 2006 than the total of the amounts of any such public housing agency's allocation amount for calendar year 2006 and the amount of any such public housing agency's available housing assistance payments undesignated funds balance from calendar year 2005 and the amount of any such public housing agency's available administrative fees undesignated funds balance through calendar year 2006''.

SEC. 2803. Section 901 of Public Law 109–148 is amended by deleting ''calendar year 2006'' and inserting ''calendar years 2006 and 2007''.

TITLE III

OTHER EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS

CHAPTER 1

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

For an additional amount for ''Operations, Research, and Facilities'', $60,400,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008: Provided, That the National Marine Fisheries Service shall cause such amounts to be distributed among eligible recipients of assistance for the commercial fishery failure designated under section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a(a)) and declared by the Secretary of Commerce on August 10, 2006.

CHAPTER 2

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance'' to dredge navigation channels related to the consequences of hurricanes of the 2005 season, $3,000,000, to remain available until expended.

FLOOD CONTROL AND COASTAL EMERGENCIES

For an additional amount for ''Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies'', as authorized by section 5 of the Act of August 18, 1941 (33 U.S.C. 701n), to support emergency operations, repairs and other activities in response to flood, drought and earthquake emergencies as authorized by law, $150,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the Chief of Engineers, acting through the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, shall provide a monthly report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds, beginning not later than 60 days after enactment of the Act.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES

For an additional amount for ''Water and Related Resources'', $18,000,000, to remain available until expended for drought assistance: Provided, That drought assistance may be provided under the Reclamation States Drought Emergency Act or other applicable Reclamation authorities to assist drought plagued areas of the West.

CHAPTER 3

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for ''Wildland Fire Management'', $100,000,000, to remain available until expended, for urgent wildland fire suppression activities: Provided, That such funds shall only become available if funds previously provided for wildland fire suppression will be exhausted imminently and the Secretary of the Interior notifies the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations in writing of the need for these additional funds: Provided further, That such funds are also available for repayment to other appropriations accounts from which funds were transferred for wildfire suppression.

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

For an additional amount for ''Resource Management'' for the detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza in wild birds, including the investigation of morbidity and mortality events, targeted surveillance in live wild birds, and targeted surveillance in hunter-taken birds, $7,398,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

For an additional amount for ''Operation of the National Park System'' for the detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza in wild birds, including the investigation of morbidity and mortality events, $525,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SURVEYS, INVESTIGATIONS, AND RESEARCH

For an additional amount for ''Surveys, Investigations, and Research'' for the detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza in wild birds, including the investigation of morbidity and mortality events, targeted surveillance in live wild birds, and targeted surveillance in hunter-taken birds, $5,270,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREST SERVICE

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

For an additional amount for ''National Forest System'' for the implementation of a nationwide initiative to increase protection of national forest lands from drug-trafficking organizations, including funding for additional law enforcement personnel, training, equipment and cooperative agreements, $12,000,000, to remain available until expended.

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for ''Wildland Fire Management'', $400,000,000, to remain available until expended, for urgent wildland fire suppression activities: Provided, That such funds shall only become available if funds provided previously for wildland fire suppression will be exhausted imminently and the Secretary of Agriculture notifies the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations in writing of the need for these additional funds: Provided further, That such funds are also available for repayment to other appropriation accounts from which funds were transferred for wildfire suppression.

GENERAL PROVISION—THIS CHAPTER

SEC. 3301. (a) For fiscal year 2007, payments shall be made from any revenues, fees, penalties, or miscellaneous receipts described in sections 102(b)(3) and 103(b)(2) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–393; 16 U.S.C. 500 note), not to exceed $100,000,000, and the payments shall be made, to the maximum extent practicable, in the same amounts, for the same purposes, and in the same manner as were made to States and counties in 2006 under that Act.

(b) There is appropriated $425,000,000, to remain available until December 31, 2007, to be used to cover any shortfall for payments made under this section from funds not otherwise appropriated.

(c) Titles II and III of Public Law 106–393 are amended, effective September 30, 2006, by striking ''2006'' and ''2007'' each place they appear and inserting ''2007'' and ''2008'', respectively.

CHAPTER 4

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

DISEASE CONTROL, RESEARCH AND TRAINING

For an additional amount for ''Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Disease Control, Research and Training'', to carry out section 501 of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 and section 6 of the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006, $13,000,000 for research to develop mine safety technology, including necessary repairs and improvements to leased laboratories: Provided, That progress reports on technology development shall be submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives on a quarterly basis: Provided further, That the amount provided under this heading shall remain available until September 30, 2008.

For an additional amount for ''Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Disease Control, Research and Training'', to carry out activities under section 5011(b) of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico and Pandemic Influenza, 2006 (Public Law 109–148), $50,000,000, to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for ''Low-Income Home Energy Assistance'' under section 2604(a) through (d) of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8623(a) through (d)), $200,000,000.

For an additional amount for ''Low-Income Home Energy Assistance'' under section 2604(e) of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8623(e)), $200,000,000.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES EMERGENCY FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for ''Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund'' to prepare for and respond to an influenza pandemic, $625,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That this amount shall be for activities including the development and purchase of vaccine, antivirals, necessary medical supplies, diagnostics, and other surveillance tools: Provided further, That products purchased with these funds may, at the discretion of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, be deposited in the Strategic National Stockpile: Provided further, That notwithstanding section 496(b) of the Public Health Service Act, funds may be used for the construction or renovation

of privately owned facilities for the production of pandemic vaccine and other biologicals, where the Secretary finds such a contract necessary to secure sufficient supplies of such vaccines or biologicals: Provided further, That funds appropriated herein may be transferred to other appropriation accounts of the Department of Health and Human Services, as determined by the Secretary to be appropriate, to be used for the purposes specified in this sentence.

COVERED COUNTERMEASURE PROCESS FUND

For carrying out section 319F–4 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–6e) to compensate individuals for injuries caused by H5N1 vaccine, in accordance with the declaration regarding avian influenza viruses issued by the Secretary of Health and Human Services on January 26, 2007, pursuant to section 319F–3(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–6d(b)), $25,000,000, to remain available until expended.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

SEC. 3401. (a). From unexpended balances available for the Training and Employment Services account under the Department of Labor, the following amounts are hereby rescinded:

(1) $3,589,000 transferred pursuant to the 2001 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States (Public Law 107–38);

(2) $834,000 transferred pursuant to the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–211); and

(3) $71,000 for the Consortium for Worker Education pursuant to the Emergency Supplemental Act, 2002 (Public Law 107–117).

(b) From unexpended balances available for the State Unemployment Insurance and Employment Service Operations account under the Department of Labor pursuant to the Emergency Supplemental Act, 2002 (Public Law 107–117), $4,100,000 are hereby rescinded.

SEC. 3402. (a) For an additional amount under ''Department of Education, Safe Schools and Citizenship Education'', $8,594,000 shall be available for Safe and Drug-Free Schools National Programs for competitive grants to local educational agencies to address youth violence and related issues.

(b) The competition under subsection (a) shall be limited to local educational agencies that operate schools currently identified as persistently dangerous under section 9532 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

CHAPTER 5

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

CAPITOL POWER PLANT

For an additional amount for ''Capitol Power Plant'', $50,000,000, for utility tunnel repairs and asbestos abatement, to remain available until September 30, 2011: Provided, That the Architect of the Capitol may not obligate any of the funds appropriated under this heading without approval of an obligation plan by the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives.

CHAPTER 6

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

MEDICAL SERVICES

For an additional amount for ''Medical Services'', $466,778,000, to remain available until expended, of which $30,000,000 shall be for the establishment of at least one new Level I comprehensive polytrauma center; $9,440,000 shall be for the establishment of polytrauma residential transitional rehabilitation programs; $10,000,000 shall be for additional transition caseworkers; $20,000,000 shall be for substance abuse treatment programs; $20,000,000 shall be for readjustment counseling; $10,000,000 shall be for blind rehabilitation services; $100,000,000 shall be for enhancements to mental health services; $8,000,000 shall be for polytrauma support clinic teams; $5,356,000 shall be for additional polytrauma points of contact; $228,982,000 shall be for treatment of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans; and $25,000,000 shall be for prosthetics.

MEDICAL ADMINISTRATION

For an additional amount for ''Medical Administration'', $250,000,000, to remain available until expended.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

For an additional amount for ''Medical Facilities'', $595,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which $45,000,000 shall be used for facility and equipment upgrades at the Department of Veterans Affairs polytrauma network sites; and $550,000,000 shall be for non-recurring maintenance as identified in the Department of Veterans Affairs Facility Condition Assessment report: Provided, That the amount provided under this heading for non-recurring maintenance shall be allocated in a manner not subject to the Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation: Provided further, That within 30 days of enactment of this Act the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan, by project, for non-recurring maintenance prior to obligation: Provided further, That semi-annually, on October 1 and April 1, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report on the status of funding for non-recurring maintenance, including obligations and unobligated balances for each project identified in the expenditure plan.

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

For an additional amount for ''Medical and Prosthetic Research'', $32,500,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be used for research related to the unique medical needs of returning Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for ''General Operating Expenses'', $83,200,000, to remain available until expended, of which $1,250,000 shall be for digitization of military records; $60,750,000 shall be for expenses related to hiring and training new claims processing personnel; up to $1,200,000 for an independent study of the organizational structure, management and coordination processes, including seamless transition, utilized by the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide health care and benefits to active duty personnel and veterans, including those returning Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans; and $20,000,000 shall be for disability examinations: Provided, That not to exceed $1,250,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading may be transferred to the Department of Defense for the digitization of military records used to verify stressors for benefits claims.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

For an additional amount for ''Information Technology Systems'', $35,100,000, to remain available until expended, of which $20,000,000 shall be for information technology support and improvements for processing of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans benefits claims, including making electronic Department of Defense medical records available for claims processing and enabling electronic benefits applications by veterans; and $15,100,000 shall be for electronic data breach remediation and prevention.

CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

For an additional amount for ''Construction, Minor Projects'', $326,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which up to $36,000,000 shall be for construction costs associated with the establishment of polytrauma residential transitional rehabilitation programs.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

SEC. 3601. The Director of the Congressional Budget Office shall, not later than November 15, 2007, submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report projecting appropriations necessary for the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to continue providing necessary health care to veterans of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. The projections should span several scenarios for the duration and number of forces deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, and more generally, for the long-term health care needs of deployed troops engaged in the global war on terrorism over the next ten years.

SEC. 3602. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, appropriations made by Public Law 110–5, which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs contributes to the Department of Defense/Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund under the authority of section 8111(d) of title 38, United States Code, shall remain available until expended for any purpose authorized by section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3603. (a)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'') may convey to the State of Texas, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcel of real property comprising the location of the Marlin, Texas, Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

(2) The property conveyed under paragraph (1) shall be used by the State of Texas for the purposes of a prison.

(b) In carrying out the conveyance under subsection (a), the Secretary—

(1) shall not be required to comply with, and shall not be held liable under, any Federal law (including a regulation) relating to the environment or historic preservation; but

(2) may, at the discretion of the Secretary, conduct environmental cleanup on the parcel to be conveyed, at a cost not to exceed $500,000, using amounts made available for environmental cleanup of sites under the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

TITLE IV

OTHER MATTERS

CHAPTER 1

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses'' of the Farm Service Agency, $37,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008: Provided, That this amount shall only be available for network and database/application stabilization.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

SEC. 4101. Of the funds made available through appropriations to the Food and Drug Administration for fiscal year 2007, not less than $4,000,000 shall be for the Office of Women's Health of such Administration.

SEC. 4102. None of the funds made available to the Department of Agriculture for fiscal year 2007 may be used to implement the risk-based inspection program in the 30 prototype locations announced on February 22, 2007, by the Under Secretary for Food Safety, or at any other locations, until the USDA Office of Inspector General has provided its findings to the Food Safety and Inspection Service and the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the data used in support of the development and design of the risk-based inspection program and FSIS has addressed and resolved issues identified by OIG.

CHAPTER 2

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

SEC. 4201. Hereafter, federal employees at the National Energy Technology Laboratory shall

be classified as inherently governmental for the purpose of the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998 (31 U.S.C. 501 note).

SEC. 4202. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN USES OF FUNDS BY BPA. None of the funds made available under this or any other Act shall be used during fiscal year 2007 to make, or plan or prepare to make, any payment on bonds issued by the Administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration (referred in this section as the ''Administrator'') or for an appropriated Federal Columbia River Power System investment, if the payment is both—

(1) greater, during any fiscal year, than the payments calculated in the rate hearing of the Administrator to be made during that fiscal year using the repayment method used to establish the rates of the Administrator as in effect on October 1, 2006; and

(2) based or conditioned on the actual or expected net secondary power sales receipts of the Administrator.

CHAPTER 3

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

SEC. 4301. (a) Section 102(a)(3)(B) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15302(a)(3)(B)) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2006'' and inserting ''March 1, 2008''.

(b) The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Help America Vote Act of 2002.

SEC. 4302. The structure of any of the offices or components within the Office of National Drug Control Policy shall remain as they were on October 1, 2006. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (Public Law 110–5) may be used to implement a reorganization of offices within the Office of National Drug Control Policy without the explicit approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

SEC. 4303. From the amount provided by section 21067 of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (Public Law 110–5), the National Archives and Records Administration may obligate monies necessary to carry out the activities of the Public Interest Declassification Board.

SEC. 4304. Notwithstanding the notice requirement of the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006, 119 Stat. 2509 (Public Law 109–115), as continued in section 104 of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (Public Law 110–5), the District of Columbia Courts may reallocate not more than $1,000,000 of the funds provided for fiscal year 2007 under the Federal Payment to the District of Columbia Courts for facilities among the items and entities funded under that heading for operations.

SEC. 4305. (a) Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury, in coordination with the Securities and Exchange Commission and in consultation with the Departments of State and Energy, shall prepare and submit to the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the House Committee on Financial Services, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and the House Foreign Affairs Committee a written report, which may include a classified annex, containing the names of companies which either directly or through a parent or subsidiary company, including partly-owned subsidiaries, are known to conduct significant business operations in Sudan relating to natural resource extraction, including oil-related activities and mining of minerals. The reporting provision shall not apply to companies operating under licenses from the Office of Foreign Assets Control or otherwise expressly exempted under United States law from having to obtain such licenses in order to operate in Sudan.

(b) Not later than 45 days following the submission to Congress of the list of companies conducting business operations in Sudan relating to natural resource extraction as required above, the General Services Administration shall determine whether the United States Government has an active contract for the procurement of goods or services with any of the identified companies, and provide notification to the appropriate committees of Congress which may include a classified annex, regarding the companies, nature of the contract, and dollar amounts involved.

(INCLUDING RESCISSION)

SEC. 4306. (a) Of the funds provided for the General Services Administration, ''Office of Inspector General'' in section 21061 of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–289, as amended by Public Law 110–5), $4,500,000 are rescinded.

(b) For an additional amount for the General Services Administration, ''Office of Inspector General'', $4,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

SEC. 4307. Section 21073 of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (Public Law 110–5) is amended by adding a new subsection (j) as follows:

''(j) Notwithstanding section 101, any appropriation or funds made available to the District of Columbia pursuant to this division for 'Federal Payment for Foster Care Improvement in the District of Columbia' shall be available in accordance with an expenditure plan submitted by the Mayor of the District of Columbia not later than 60 days after the enactment of this section which details the activities to be carried out with such Federal Payment.''.

CHAPTER 4

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

SEC. 4401. Not to exceed $30,000,000 from unobligated balances remaining from prior appropriations for United States Coast Guard, ''Retired Pay'', shall remain available until expended in the account and for the purposes for which the appropriations were provided, including the payment of obligations otherwise chargeable to lapsed or current appropriations for this purpose.

SEC. 4402. (a) IN GENERAL.—Any contract, subcontract, task or delivery order described in subsection (b) shall contain the following:

(1) A requirement for a technical review of all designs, design changes, and engineering change proposals, and a requirement to specifically address all engineering concerns identified in the review before the obligation of further funds may occur.

(2) A requirement that the Coast Guard maintain technical warrant holder authority, or the equivalent, for major assets.

(3) A requirement that no procurement subject to subsection (b) for lead asset production or the implementation of a major design change shall be entered into unless an independent third party with no financial interest in the development, construction, or modification of any component of the asset, selected by the Commandant, determines that such action is advisable.

(4) A requirement for independent life-cycle cost estimates of lead assets and major design and engineering changes.

(5) A requirement for the measurement of contractor and subcontractor performance based on the status of all work performed. For contracts under the Integrated Deepwater Systems program, such requirement shall include a provision that links award fees to successful acquisition outcomes (which shall be defined in terms of cost, schedule, and performance).

(6) A requirement that the Commandant of the Coast Guard assign an appropriate officer or employee of the Coast Guard to act as chair of each integrated product team and higher-level team assigned to the oversight of each integrated product team.

(7) A requirement that the Commandant of the Coast Guard may not award or issue any contract, task or delivery order, letter contract modification thereof, or other similar contract, for the acquisition or modification of an asset under a procurement subject to subsection (b) unless the Coast Guard and the contractor concerned have formally agreed to all terms and conditions or the head of contracting activity for the Coast Guard determines that a compelling need exists for the award or issue of such instrument.

(b) CONTRACTS, SUBCONTRACTS, TASK AND DELIVERY ORDERS COVERED.—Subsection (a) applies to—

(1) any major procurement contract, first-tier subcontract, delivery or task order entered into by the Coast Guard;

(2) any first-tier subcontract entered into under such a contract;

(3) any task or delivery order issued pursuant to such a contract or subcontract.

(c) EXPENDITURE OF DEEPWATER FUNDS.—Of the funds available for the Integrated Deepwater Systems program, $650,000,000 may not be obligated until the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives receive an expenditure plan directly from the Coast Guard that—

(1) defines activities, milestones, yearly costs, and life-cycle costs for each procurement of a major asset, including an independent cost estimate for each;

(2) identifies life-cycle staffing and training needs of Coast Guard project managers and of procurement and contract staff;

(3) identifies competition to be conducted in each procurement;

(4) describes procurement plans that do not rely on a single industry entity or contract;

(5) contains very limited indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contracts and explains the need for any indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contracts;

(6) complies with all applicable acquisition rules, requirements, and guidelines, and incorporates the best systems acquisition management practices of the Federal Government;

(7) complies with the capital planning and investment control requirements established by the Office of Management and Budget, including circular A–11, part 7;

(8) includes a certification by the head of contracting activity for the Coast Guard and the Chief Procurement Officer of the Department of Homeland Security that the Coast Guard has established sufficient controls and procedures and has sufficient staffing to comply with all contracting requirements, and that any conflicts of interest have been sufficiently addressed;

(9) includes a description of the process used to act upon deviations from the contractually specified performance requirements and clearly explains the actions taken on such deviations;

(10) includes a certification that the Assistant Commandant of the Coast Guard for Engineering and Logistics is designated as the technical authority for all engineering, design, and logistics decisions pertaining to the Integrated Deepwater Systems program; and

(11) identifies progress in complying with the requirements of subsection (a).

(d) REPORTS.—(1) Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives; the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation of the Senate; and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives: (i) a report on the resources (including training, staff, and expertise) required by the Coast Guard to provide appropriate management and oversight of the Integrated Deepwater Systems program; and (ii) a report on how the Coast Guard will utilize full and open competition for any contract that provides for the acquisition or modification of assets under, or in

support of, the Integrated Deepwater Systems program, entered into after the date of enactment of this Act; and (2) within 30 days following the submission of the expenditure plan required under subsection (c), the Government Accountability Office shall review the plan and brief the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives on its findings.

SEC. 4403. None of the funds provided in this Act or any other Act may be used to alter or reduce operations within the Civil Engineering Program of the Coast Guard nationwide, including the civil engineering units, facilities, design and construction centers, maintenance and logistics command centers, the Coast Guard Academy and the Coast Guard Research and Development Center, except as specifically authorized by a statute enacted after the date of enactment of this Act.

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 4404. (a) RESCISSIONS.—The following unobligated balances made available pursuant to section 505 of Public Law 109–90 are rescinded: $1,200,962 from the ''Office of the Secretary and Executive Management''; $512,855 from the ''Office of the Under Secretary for Management''; $461,874 from the ''Office of the Chief Information Officer''; $45,080 from the ''Office of the Chief Financial Officer''; $968,211 from Preparedness ''Management and Administration''; $1,215,486 from Science and Technology ''Management and Administration''; $450,000 from United States Secret Service ''Salaries and Expenses''; $450,000 from Federal Emergency Management Agency ''Administrative and Regional Operations''; and $25,595,532 from United States Coast Guard ''Operating Expenses''.

(b) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) For an additional amount for United States Coast Guard ''Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements'', $30,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009, to mitigate the Service's patrol boat operational gap; and

(2) For an additional amount for the ''Office of the Under Secretary for Management'', $900,000, for an independent study to compare the Department of Homeland Security senior career and political staffing levels and senior career training programs with those of similarly structured cabinet-level agencies.

SEC. 4405. (a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to contracts entered into after June 1, 2007, and except as provided in subsection (b), no entity performing lead system integrator functions in the acquisition of a major system by the Department of Homeland Security may have any direct financial interest in the development or construction of any individual system or element of any system of systems.

(b) EXCEPTION.—An entity described in subsection (a) may have a direct financial interest in the development or construction of an individual system or element of a system of systems if—

(1) the Secretary of Homeland Security certifies to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation of the Senate that—

(A) the entity was selected by the Department of Homeland Security as a contractor to develop or construct the system or element concerned through the use of competitive procedures; and

(B) the Department took appropriate steps to prevent any organizational conflict of interest in the selection process; or

(2) the entity was selected by a subcontractor to serve as a lower-tier subcontractor, through a process over which the entity exercised no control.

(c) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude an entity described in subsection (a) from performing work necessary to integrate two or more individual systems or elements of a system of systems with each other.

(d) REGULATIONS UPDATE.—Not later than June 1, 2007, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall update the acquisition regulations of the Department of Homeland Security in order to specify fully in such regulations the matters with respect to lead system integrators set forth in this section. Included in such regulations shall be (1) a precise and comprehensive definition of the term ''lead system integrator'', modeled after that used by the Department of Defense, and (2) a specification of various types of contracts and fee structures that are appropriate for use by lead system integrators in the production, fielding, and sustainment of complex systems.

CHAPTER 5

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

SEC. 4501. Section 20515 of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–289, as amended by Public Law 110–5) is amended by inserting before the period: ''; and of which, not to exceed $143,628,000 shall be available for contract support costs under the terms and conditions contained in Public Law 109–54''.

SEC. 4502. Section 20512 of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–289, as amended by Public Law 110–5) is amended by inserting after the first dollar amount: '', of which not to exceed $7,300,000 shall be transferred to the 'Indian Health Facilities' account; the amount in the second proviso shall be $18,000,000; the amount in the third proviso shall be $525,099,000; the amount in the ninth proviso shall be $269,730,000; and the $15,000,000 allocation of funding under the eleventh proviso shall not be required''.

SEC. 4503. Section 20501 of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–289, as amended by Public Law 110–5) is amended by inserting after ''$55,663,000'' the following: ''of which $13,000,000 shall be for Save America's Treasures''.

SEC. 4504. Funds made available to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for fiscal year 2007 under the heading ''Land Acquisition'' may be used for land conservation partnerships authorized by the Highlands Conservation Act of 2004.

CHAPTER 6

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Of the amount provided by the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–289, as amended by Public Law 110–5) for ''National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases'', $49,500,000 shall be transferred to ''Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund'' to carry out activities relating to advanced research and development as provided by section 319L of the Public Health Service Act.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Of the amount provided by the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–289, as amended by Public Law 110–5) for ''Office of the Director'', $49,500,000 shall be transferred to ''Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund'' to carry out activities relating to advanced research and development as provided by section 319L of the Public Health Service Act.

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses'', $300,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the requirements of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006, as enacted by the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 109–295).

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS AND RESCISSION)

SEC. 4601. Section 20602 of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–289, as amended by Public Law 110–5) is amended by inserting the following after ''$5,000,000'': ''(together with an additional $7,000,000 which shall be transferred by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation as an authorized administrative cost), to remain available through September 30, 2008,''.

SEC. 4602. Section 20607 of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–289, as amended by Public Law 110–5) is amended by inserting ''of which $9,666,000 shall be for the Women's Bureau,'' after ''for child labor activities,''.

SEC. 4603. Of the amount provided for ''Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Health Resources and Services'' in the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–289, as amended by Public Law 110–5), $23,000,000 shall be for Poison Control Centers.

SEC. 4604. From the amounts made available by the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–289, as amended by Public Law 110–5) for the Office of the Secretary, General Departmental Management under the Department of Health and Human Services, $1,000,000 are rescinded.

SEC. 4605. Section 20625(b)(1) of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–289, as amended by Public Law 110–5) is amended by—

(1) striking ''$7,172,994,000'' and inserting ''$7,176,431,000'';

(2) amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows: ''(A) $5,454,824,000 shall be for basic grants under section 1124 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), of which up to $3,437,000 shall be available to the Secretary of Education on October 1, 2006, to obtain annually updated educational-agency-level census poverty data from the Bureau of the Census;''; and

(3) amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows: ''(C) not to exceed $2,352,000 may be available for section 1608 of the ESEA and for a clearinghouse on comprehensive school reform under part D of title V of the ESEA;''.

SEC. 4606. The provision in the first proviso under the heading ''Rehabilitation Services and Disability Research'' in the Department of Education Appropriations Act, 2006, relating to alternative financing programs under section 4(b)(2)(D) of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 shall not apply to funds appropriated by the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007.

SEC. 4607. Notwithstanding sections 20639 and 20640 of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007, as amended by section 2 of the Revised Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (Public Law 110–5), the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service may transfer an amount of not more than $1,360,000 from the account under the heading ''National and Community Service Programs, Operating Expenses'' under the heading ''Corporation for National and Community Service'', to the account under the heading ''Salaries and Expenses'' under the heading ''Corporation for National and Community Service''.

SEC. 4608. (a) Section 1310.12(a) of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, shall take effect 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b)(1) Notwithstanding subsection (a), any vehicle used to transport children for a Head Start

program as of January 1, 2007, shall not be subject to a requirement under such section (including a requirement based on the definitions set forth or referenced in section 1310.3 or any other provision set forth or referenced in part 1310 of such title, or any corresponding similar regulation or ruling) regarding rear emergency exit doors, for 1 year after that date of enactment.

(2) Not later than 60 days after the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of the Department of Transportation submits its study on occupant protection on Head Start transit vehicles (related to Government Accountability Office report GAO–06–767R), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall review and shall revise as necessary the allowable alternate vehicle standards described in that part 1310 (or any corresponding similar regulation or ruling) relating to allowable alternate vehicles used to transport children for a Head Start program. In making any such revision, the Secretary shall revise the standards to be consistent with the findings contained in such study, including making a determination on the exemption of such a vehicle from Federal seat spacing requirements, and Federal supporting seating requirements related to compartmentalization, if such vehicle meets all other applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards, including standards for seating systems, occupant crash protection, seat belt assemblies, and child restraint anchorage systems consistent with that part 1310 (or any corresponding similar regulation or ruling).

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (a), until such date as the Secretary of Health and Human Services completes the review and any necessary revision specified in paragraph (2), the provisions of section 1310.12(a) relating to Federal seat spacing requirements, and Federal supporting seating requirements related to compartmentalization, for allowable alternate vehicles used to transport children for a Head Start program, shall not apply to such a vehicle if such vehicle meets all other applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards, as described in paragraph (2).

CHAPTER 7

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PAYMENT TO WIDOWS AND HEIRS OF DECEASED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

For payment to Gloria W. Norwood, widow of Charles W. Norwood, Jr., late a Representative from the State of Georgia, $165,200.

CHAPTER 8

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

TECHNICAL AMENDMENT

SEC. 4801. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, subsection (c) under the heading ''Assistance for the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union'' in Public Law 109–102, shall not apply to funds appropriated by the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (Public Law 109–289, division B) as amended by Public Laws 109–369, 109–383, and 110–5.

(b) Section 534(k) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–102) is amended, in the second proviso, by inserting after ''subsection (b) of that section'' the following: ''and the requirement that a majority of the members of the board of directors be United States citizens provided in subsection (d)(3)(B) of that section''.

(c) Subject to section 101(c)(2) of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–289, as amended by Public Law 110–5), the amount of funds appropriated for ''Foreign Military Financing Program'' pursuant to such Resolution shall be construed to be the total of the amount appropriated for such program by section 20401 of that Resolution and the amount made available for such program by section 591 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–102) which is made applicable to the fiscal year 2007 by the provisions of such Resolution.

SEC. 4802. Notwithstanding any provision of title I of division B of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–289, as amended by Public Laws 109–369, 109–383, and 110–5), the dollar amount limitation of the first proviso under the heading, ''Administration of Foreign Affairs, Diplomatic and Consular Programs'', in title IV of the Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–108; 119 Stat. 2319) shall not apply to funds appropriated under such heading for fiscal year 2007.

CHAPTER 9

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

OFFICE OF FEDERAL HOUSING ENTERPRISE OVERSIGHT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount to carry out the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992, $6,150,000, to remain available until expended, to be derived from the Federal Housing Enterprises Oversight Fund and to be subject to the same terms and conditions pertaining to funds provided under this heading in Public Law 109–115: Provided, That not to exceed the total amount provided for these activities for fiscal year 2007 shall be available from the general fund of the Treasury to the extent necessary to incur obligations and make expenditures pending the receipt of collections to the Fund: Provided further, That the general fund amount shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than $0.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

SEC. 4901. Hereafter, funds limited or appropriated for the Department of Transportation may be obligated or expended to grant authority to a Mexican motor carrier to operate beyond United States municipalities and commercial zones on the United States-Mexico border only to the extent that—

(1) granting such authority is first tested as part of a pilot program;

(2) such pilot program complies with the requirements of section 350 of Public Law 107–87 and the requirements of section 31315(c) of title 49, United States Code, related to pilot programs; and

(3) simultaneous and comparable authority to operate within Mexico is made available to motor carriers domiciled in the United States.

SEC. 4902. Funds provided for the ''National Transportation Safety Board, Salaries and Expenses'' in section 21031 of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–289, as amended by Public Law 110–5) include amounts necessary to make lease payments due in fiscal year 2007 only, on an obligation incurred in 2001 under a capital lease.

SEC. 4903. Section 21033 of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–289, as amended by Public Law 110–5) is amended by adding after the second proviso: '': Provided further, That paragraph (2) under such heading in Public Law 109–115 (119 Stat. 2441) shall be funded at $149,300,000, but additional section 8 tenant protection rental assistance costs may be funded in 2007 by using unobligated balances, notwithstanding the purposes for which such amounts were appropriated, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development under this heading, the heading 'Annual Contributions for Assisted Housing', the heading 'Housing Certificate Fund', and the heading 'Project-Based Rental Assistance' for fiscal year 2006 and prior fiscal years: Provided further, That paragraph (3) under such heading in Public Law 109–115 (119 Stat. 2441) shall be funded at $47,500,000: Provided further, That paragraph (4) under such heading in Public Law 109–115 (119 Stat. 2441) shall be funded at $5,900,000: Provided further, That paragraph (5) under such heading in Public Law 109–115 (119 Stat. 2441) shall be funded at $1,281,100,000, of which $1,251,100,000 shall be allocated for the calendar year 2007 funding cycle on a pro rata basis to public housing agencies based on the amount public housing agencies were eligible to receive in calendar year 2006, and of which up to $30,000,000 shall be available to the Secretary to allocate to public housing agencies that need additional funds to administer their section 8 programs, with up to $20,000,000 to be for fees associated with section 8 tenant protection rental assistance''.

SEC. 4904. Section 232(b) of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106–377) is amended to read as follows:

''(b) APPLICABILITY.—In the case of any dwelling unit that, upon the date of the enactment of this Act, is assisted under a housing assistance payment contract under section 8(o)(13) as in effect before such enactment, or under section 8(d)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(d)(2)) as in effect before the enactment of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 (title V of Public Law 105–276), assistance may be renewed or extended under such section 8(o)(13), as amended by subsection (a), provided that the initial contract term and rent of such renewed or extended assistance shall be determined pursuant to subparagraphs (F) and (H), and subparagraphs (C) and (D) of such section shall not apply to such extensions or renewals.''.

CHAPTER 10

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS ACT

AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

SEC. 4950. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

DESIGNATION FOR TITLE I

SEC. 4951. Amounts in title I are designated as emergency requirements pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), and as making appropriations for contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism and other unanticipated defense-related operations pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 376 (109th Congress) as made applicable to the House of Representatives by section 511(a)(4) of H. Res. 6 (110th Congress).

EMERGENCY DESIGNATION FOR OTHER TITLES

SEC. 4952. Amounts in titles II, III, V, and VI are designated as emergency requirements pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), and pursuant to section 501 of H. Con. Res. 376 (109th Congress) as made applicable to the House of Representatives by section 511(a)(4) of H. Res. 6 (110th Congress).

TITLE V

AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE

SEC. 5101. CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE.

(a) ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE.—There are hereby appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture such sums as are necessary, to remain available until expended, to make emergency financial assistance available to producers on a farm that incurred qualifying quantity or quality losses for the 2005 or 2006 crop, or that part of the 2007 crop year before February 28, 2007, due to damaging weather or any related condition (including losses due to crop diseases, insects, and delayed planting), as determined by the Secretary. However, to be eligible for assistance, the crop subject to the loss must have been planted before February 28, 2007 or, in the case of prevented planting or other total loss, would have been

planted before February 28, 2007 in the absence of the damaging weather or any related condition.

(b) ELECTION OF CROP YEAR.—If a producer incurred qualifying crop losses in more than one of the 2005, 2006, or 2007 crop years, the producer shall elect to receive assistance under this section for losses incurred in only one of such crop years. The producer may not receive assistance under this section for more than one crop year.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary of Agriculture shall make assistance available under this section in the same manner as provided under section 815 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106–387; 114 Stat. 1549A–55), including using the same loss thresholds for quantity and economic losses as were used in administering that section, except that the payment rate shall be 50 percent of the established price, instead of 65 percent.

(2) LOSS THRESHOLDS FOR QUALITY LOSSES.—In the case of a payment for quality loss for a crop under subsection (a), the loss thresholds for quality loss for the crop shall be determined under subsection (d).

(d) QUALITY LOSSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3), the amount of a payment made to producers on a farm for a quality loss for a crop under subsection (a) shall be equal to the amount obtained by multiplying—

(A) 65 percent of the payment quantity determined under paragraph (2); by

(B) 50 percent of the payment rate determined under paragraph (3).

(2) PAYMENT QUANTITY.—For the purpose of paragraph (1)(A), the payment quantity for quality losses for a crop of a commodity on a farm shall equal the lesser of—

(A) the actual production of the crop affected by a quality loss of the commodity on the farm; or

(B) the quantity of expected production of the crop affected by a quality loss of the commodity on the farm, using the formula used by the Secretary of Agriculture to determine quantity losses for the crop of the commodity under subsection (a).

(3) PAYMENT RATE.—For the purpose of paragraph (1)(B) and in accordance with paragraphs (5) and (6), the payment rate for quality losses for a crop of a commodity on a farm shall be equal to the difference between—

(A) the per unit market value that the units of the crop affected by the quality loss would have had if the crop had not suffered a quality loss; and

(B) the per unit market value of the units of the crop affected by the quality loss.

(4) ELIGIBILITY.—For producers on a farm to be eligible to obtain a payment for a quality loss for a crop under subsection (a), the amount obtained by multiplying the per unit loss determined under paragraph (1) by the number of units affected by the quality loss shall be at least 25 percent of the value that all affected production of the crop would have had if the crop had not suffered a quality loss.

(5) MARKETING CONTRACTS.—In the case of any production of a commodity that is sold pursuant to one or more marketing contracts (regardless of whether the contract is entered into by the producers on the farm before or after harvest) and for which appropriate documentation exists, the quantity designated in the contracts shall be eligible for quality loss assistance based on the one or more prices specified in the contracts.

(6) OTHER PRODUCTION.—For any additional production of a commodity for which a marketing contract does not exist or for which production continues to be owned by the producer, quality losses shall be based on the average local market discounts for reduced quality, as determined by the appropriate State committee of the Farm Service Agency.

(7) QUALITY ADJUSTMENTS AND DISCOUNTS.—The appropriate State committee of the Farm Service Agency shall identify the appropriate quality adjustment and discount factors to be considered in carrying out this subsection, including—

(A) the average local discounts actually applied to a crop; and

(B) the discount schedules applied to loans made by the Farm Service Agency or crop insurance coverage under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.).

(8) ELIGIBLE PRODUCTION.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall carry out this subsection in a fair and equitable manner for all eligible production, including the production of fruits and vegetables, other specialty crops, and field crops.

(e) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS.—

(1) LIMIT ON AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—Assistance provided under this section to a producer for losses to a crop, together with the amounts specified in paragraph (2) applicable to the same crop, may not exceed 95 percent of what the value of the crop would have been in the absence of the losses, as estimated by the Secretary of Agriculture.

(2) OTHER PAYMENTS.—In applying the limitation in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall include the following:

(A) Any crop insurance payment made under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) or payment under section 196 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333) that the producer receives for losses to the same crop.

(B) The value of the crop that was not lost (if any), as estimated by the Secretary.

(f) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS.—The producers on a farm shall not be eligible for assistance under this section with respect to losses to an insurable commodity or noninsurable commodity if the producers on the farm—

(1) in the case of an insurable commodity, did not obtain a policy or plan of insurance for the insurable commodity under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) for the crop incurring the losses;

(2) in the case of a noninsurable commodity, did not file the required paperwork, and pay the administrative fee by the applicable State filing deadline, for the noninsurable commodity under section 196 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333) for the crop incurring the losses; or

(3) were not in compliance with highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions.

(g) TIMING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary of Agriculture shall make payments to producers on a farm for a crop under this section not later than 60 days after the date the producers on the farm submit to the Secretary a completed application for the payments.

(2) INTEREST.—If the Secretary does not make payments to the producers on a farm by the date described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall pay to the producers on a farm interest on the payments at a rate equal to the current (as of the sign-up deadline established by the Secretary) market yield on outstanding, marketable obligations of the United States with maturities of 30 years.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) INSURABLE COMMODITY.—The term ''insurable commodity'' means an agricultural commodity (excluding livestock) for which the producers on a farm are eligible to obtain a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.).

(2) NONINSURABLE COMMODITY.—The term ''noninsurable commodity'' means a crop for which the producers on a farm are eligible to obtain assistance under section 196 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333).

SEC. 5102. LIVESTOCK ASSISTANCE.

(a) LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM.—

(1) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—There are hereby appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture such sums as are necessary, to remain available until expended, to carry out the livestock compensation program established under subpart B of part 1416 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, as announced by the Secretary on February 12, 2007 (72 Fed. Reg. 6443), to provide compensation for livestock losses between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007, due to a disaster, as determined by the Secretary (including losses due to blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into January 2007). However, the payment rate for compensation under this subsection shall be 70 percent of the payment rate otherwise applicable under such program. In addition, section 1416.102(b)(2)(ii) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (72 Fed. Reg. 6444) shall not apply.

(2) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—In carrying out the program described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide assistance to any applicant that—

(A) conducts a livestock operation that is located in a disaster county with eligible livestock specified in paragraph (1) of section 1416.102(a) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (72 Fed. Reg. 6444), an animal described in section 10806(a)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (21 U.S.C. 321d(a)(1)), or other animals designated by the Secretary as livestock for purposes of this subsection; and

(B) meets the requirements of paragraphs (3) and (4) of section 1416.102(a) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, and all other eligibility requirements established by the Secretary for the program.

(3) ELECTION OF LOSSES.—

(A) If a producer incurred eligible livestock losses in more than one of the 2005, 2006, or 2007 calendar years, the producer shall elect to receive payments under this subsection for losses incurred in only one of such calendar years, and such losses must have been incurred in a county declared or designated as a disaster county in that same calendar year.

(B) Producers may elect to receive compensation for losses in the calendar year 2007 grazing season that are attributable to wildfires occurring during the applicable period, as determined by the Secretary.

(4) MITIGATION.—In determining the eligibility for or amount of payments for which a producer is eligible under the livestock compensation program, the Secretary shall not penalize a producer that takes actions (recognizing disaster conditions) that reduce the average number of livestock the producer owned for grazing during the production year for which assistance is being provided.

(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) DISASTER COUNTY.—The term ''disaster county'' means—

(i) a county included in the geographic area covered by a natural disaster declaration; and

(ii) each county contiguous to a county described in clause (i).

(B) NATURAL DISASTER DECLARATION.—The term ''natural disaster declaration'' means—

(i) a natural disaster declared by the Secretary between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 under section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961(a));

(ii) a major disaster or emergency designated by the President between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.); or

(iii) a determination of a Farm Service Agency Administrator's Physical Loss Notice if such notice applies to a county included under (ii).

(b) LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PAYMENTS.—

(1) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—There are hereby appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture such sums as are necessary, to remain available until expended, to make livestock indemnity payments to producers on farms that have incurred livestock losses between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007, due to a disaster, as determined by the Secretary (including losses due to blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into January 2007) in a disaster county. To be eligible for assistance, applicants must meet all eligibility requirements established by the Secretary for the program.

(2) ELECTION OF LOSSES.—If a producer incurred eligible livestock losses in more than one of the 2005, 2006, or 2007 calendar years, the producer shall elect to receive payments under this subsection for losses incurred in only one of such calendar years. The producer may not receive payments under this subsection for more than one calendar year.

(3) PAYMENT RATES.—Indemnity payments to a producer on a farm under paragraph (1) shall be made at a rate of not less than 30 percent of the market value of the applicable livestock on the day before the date of death of the livestock, as determined by the Secretary.

(4) LIVESTOCK DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''livestock'' means an animal that—

(A) is specified in clause (i) of section 1416.203(a)(2) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (72 Fed. Reg. 6445), or is designated by the Secretary as livestock for purposes of this subsection; and

(B) meets the requirements of clauses (iii) and (iv) of such section.

(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) DISASTER COUNTY.—The term ''disaster county'' means—

(i) a county included in the geographic area covered by a natural disaster declaration; and

(ii) each county contiguous to a county described in clause (i).

(B) NATURAL DISASTER DECLARATION.—The term ''natural disaster declaration'' means—

(i) a natural disaster declared by the Secretary between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 under section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961(a));

(ii) a major disaster or emergency designated by the President between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.); or

(iii) a determination of a Farm Service Agency Administrator's Physical Loss Notice if such notice applies to a county included under (ii).

SEC. 5103. EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

There is hereby appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture $20,000,000, to remain available until expended, to provide assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program under title IV of the Agriculture Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) for the cleanup and restoration of farm and agricultural production lands.

SEC. 5104. PAYMENT LIMITATIONS.

(a) REDUCTION IN PAYMENTS TO REFLECT PAYMENTS FOR SAME OR SIMILAR LOSSES.—The amount of any payment for which a producer is eligible under sections 5101 and 5102 shall be reduced by any amount received by the producer for the same loss or any similar loss under—

(1) the Department of Defense, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and Pandemic Influenza Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–148; 119 Stat. 2680);

(2) an agricultural disaster assistance provision contained in the announcement of the Secretary on January 26, 2006, or August 29, 2006; or

(3) the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (Public Law 109–234; 120 Stat. 418).

(b) ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME LIMITATION.—Section 1001D of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a) shall apply with respect to assistance provided under sections 5101, 5102, and 5103.

SEC. 5105. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Agriculture may promulgate such regulations as are necessary to implement sections 5101 and 5102.

(b) PROCEDURE.—The promulgation of the implementing regulations and the administration of sections 5101 and 5102 shall be made without regard to—

(1) the notice and comment provisions of section 553 of title 5, United States Code;

(2) the Statement of Policy of the Secretary of Agriculture effective July 24, 1971 (36 Fed. Reg. 13804), relating to notices of proposed rulemaking and public participation in rulemaking; and

(3) chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Paperwork Reduction Act'').

(c) CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF AGENCY RULEMAKING.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Agriculture shall use the authority provided under section 808 of title 5, United States Code.

(d) USE OF COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION; LIMITATION.—In implementing sections 5101 and 5102, the Secretary of Agriculture may use the facilities, services, and authorities of the Commodity Credit Corporation. The Corporation shall not make any expenditures to carry out sections 5101 and 5102 unless funds have been specifically appropriated for such purpose.

SEC. 5106. MILK INCOME LOSS CONTRACT PROGRAM.

Section 1502(c)(3) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 7982(c)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by adding ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''August'' and all that follows through the end and inserting ''September 30, 2007, 34 percent.''; and

(3) by striking subparagraph (C).

SEC. 5107. DAIRY ASSISTANCE.

There is hereby appropriated $20,000,000 to make payments to dairy producers for dairy production losses in disaster counties, as defined in section 5102 of this title, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 5108. NONINSURED CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

For states in which there is a shortage of claims adjustors, as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary shall permit the use of one claims adjustor certified by the Secretary in carrying out 7 CFR 1437.401.

SEC. 5109. EMERGENCY GRANTS TO ASSIST LOW-INCOME MIGRANT AND SEASONAL FARMWORKERS.

There is hereby appropriated $21,000,000 to carry out section 2281 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 5177a), to remain available until expended.

SEC. 5110. CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM.

Section 20115 of Public Law 110–5 is amended by striking ''section 726'' and inserting in lieu thereof ''section 726; section 741''.

SEC. 5111. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

There is hereby appropriated $30,000,000 for the 'Farm Service Agency, Salaries and Expenses', to remain available until September 30, 2008.

SEC. 5112. CONTRACT WAIVER.

In carrying out crop disaster and livestock assistance in this title, the Secretary shall require forage producers to have participated in a crop insurance pilot program or the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program during the crop year for which compensation is received.

TITLE VI

ELIMINATION OF SCHIP SHORTFALL AND OTHER MATTERS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES

STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE FUND

For an additional amount to provide additional allotments to remaining shortfall States under section 2104(h)(4) of the Social Security Act, as inserted by section 6001, such sums as may be necessary, but not to exceed $650,000,000 for fiscal year 2007, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 6001. ELIMINATION OF REMAINDER OF SCHIP FUNDING SHORTFALLS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007.

(a) ELIMINATION OF REMAINDER OF FUNDING SHORTFALLS, TIERED MATCH, AND OTHER LIMITATION ON EXPENDITURES.—Section 2104(h) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(h)), as added by section 201(a) of the National Institutes of Health Reform Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–482), is amended—

(1) in the heading for paragraph (2), by striking ''REMAINDER OF REDUCTION'' and inserting ''PART''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

''(4) ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS TO ELIMINATE REMAINDER OF FISCAL YEAR 2007 FUNDING SHORTFALLS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts provided in advance in appropriations Acts, the Secretary shall allot to each remaining shortfall State described in subparagraph (B) such amount as the Secretary determines will eliminate the estimated shortfall described in such subparagraph for the State for fiscal year 2007.

''(B) REMAINING SHORTFALL STATE DESCRIBED.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), a remaining shortfall State is a State with a State child health plan approved under this title for which the Secretary estimates, on the basis of the most recent data available to the Secretary as of the date of the enactment of this paragraph, that the projected Federal expenditures under such plan for the State for fiscal year 2007 will exceed the sum of—

''(i) the amount of the State's allotments for each of fiscal years 2005 and 2006 that will not be expended by the end of fiscal year 2006;

''(ii) the amount of the State's allotment for fiscal year 2007; and

''(iii) the amounts, if any, that are to be redistributed to the State during fiscal year 2007 in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2).''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2104(h) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(h)) (as so added), is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking ''subject to paragraph (4)(B) and'';

(2) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking ''subject to paragraph (4)(B) and'';

(3) in paragraph (5)(A), by striking ''and (3)'' and inserting ''(3), and (4)''; and

(4) in paragraph (6)—

(A) in the first sentence—

(i) by inserting ''or allotted'' after ''redistributed''; and

(ii) by inserting ''or allotments'' after ''redistributions''; and

(B) by striking ''and (3)'' and inserting ''(3), and (4)''.

SEC. 6002. (a) PROHIBITION.—

(1) LIMITATION ON SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall not, prior to the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, take any action (through promulgation of regulation, issuance of regulatory guidance, or other administrative action) to—

(A) finalize or otherwise implement provisions contained in the proposed rule published on January 18, 2007, on pages 2236 through 2248 of volume 72, Federal Register (relating to parts

433, 447, and 457 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations);

(B) promulgate or implement any rule or provisions similar to the provisions described in subparagraph (A) pertaining to the Medicaid program established under title XIX of the Social Security Act or the State Children's Health Insurance Program established under title XXI of such Act; or

(C) promulgate or implement any rule or provisions restricting payments for graduate medical education under the Medicaid program.

(2) CONTINUATION OF OTHER SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Health and Human Service shall not be prohibited during the period described in paragraph (1) from taking any action (through promulgation of regulation, issuance of regulatory guidance, or other administrative action) to enforce a provision of law in effect as of the date of enactment of this Act with respect to the Medicaid program or the State Children's Health Insurance Program, or to promulgate or implement a new rule or provision during such period with respect to such programs, other than a rule or provision described in paragraph (1) and subject to the prohibition set forth in that paragraph.

(b) REQUIREMENT FOR USE OF TAMPER-RESISTANT PRESCRIPTION PADS UNDER THE MEDICAID PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1903(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b(i)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''or'' at the end of paragraph (21);

(B) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (22) and inserting ''; or''; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (22) the following new paragraph:

''(23) with respect to amounts expended for medical assistance for covered outpatient drugs (as defined in section 1927(k)(2)) for which the prescription was executed in written (and non-electronic) form unless the prescription was executed on a tamper-resistant pad.''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall apply to prescriptions executed after September 30, 2007.

(c) EXTENSION OF CERTAIN PHARMACY PLUS WAIVERS.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE WAIVERS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any State that is operating a Pharmacy Plus waiver described in paragraph (2) which would otherwise expire on June 30, 2007, may elect to continue to operate the waiver through December 31, 2009.

(2) PHARMACY PLUS WAIVER DESCRIBED.—For purposes of paragraph (1), a Pharmacy Plus waiver described in this paragraph is a waiver approved by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under the authority of section 1115 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315) that provides coverage for prescription drugs for individuals who have attained age 65 and whose family income does not exceed 200 percent of the poverty line (as defined in section 2110(c)(5) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1397jj(c)(5)).

TITLE VII

FAIR MINIMUM WAGE AND TAX RELIEF

Subtitle A—Fair Minimum Wage

SEC. 7000. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007''.

SEC. 7001. MINIMUM WAGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

''(1) except as otherwise provided in this section, not less than—

''(A) $5.85 an hour, beginning on the 60th day after the date of enactment of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007;

''(B) $6.55 an hour, beginning 12 months after that 60th day; and

''(C) $7.25 an hour, beginning 24 months after that 60th day;''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7002. APPLICABILITY OF MINIMUM WAGE TO AMERICAN SAMOA AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206) shall apply to American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(b) TRANSITION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a)—

(1) the minimum wage applicable to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands under section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) shall be—

(A) $3.55 an hour, beginning on the 60th day after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) increased by $0.50 an hour (or such lesser amount as may be necessary to equal the minimum wage under section 6(a)(1) of such Act), beginning 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and each year thereafter until the minimum wage applicable to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands under this paragraph is equal to the minimum wage set forth in such section; and

(2) the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa under section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) shall be—

(A) the applicable wage rate in effect for each industry and classification under section 697 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, on the date of enactment of this Act;

(B) increased by $0.50 an hour, beginning on the 60th day after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(C) increased by $0.50 an hour (or such lesser amount as may be necessary to equal the minimum wage under section 6(a)(1) of such Act), beginning 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and each year thereafter until the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa under this paragraph is equal to the minimum wage set forth in such section.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 is amended—

(A) by striking sections 5 and 8; and

(B) in section 6(a), by striking paragraph (3) and redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7003. STUDY ON PROJECTED IMPACT.

(a) STUDY.—Beginning on the date that is 26 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall, through the Bureau of Labor Statistics, conduct a study to—

(1) assess the impact of the wage increases required by this Act through such date; and

(2) to project the impact of any further wage increase,

on living standards and rates of employment in American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than the date that is 32 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall transmit to Congress a report on the findings of the study required by subsection (a).

Subtitle B—Small Business Incentives

SEC. 7004. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Small Business and Work Opportunity Act of 2007''.

SEC. 7005. ENHANCED COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (5 U.S.C. 601 note) is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) COMPLIANCE GUIDE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For each rule or group of related rules for which an agency is required to prepare a final regulatory flexibility analysis under section 605(b) of title 5, United States Code, the agency shall publish 1 or more guides to assist small entities in complying with the rule and shall entitle such publications 'small entity compliance guides'.

''(2) PUBLICATION OF GUIDES.—The publication of each guide under this subsection shall include—

''(A) the posting of the guide in an easily identified location on the website of the agency; and

''(B) distribution of the guide to known industry contacts, such as small entities, associations, or industry leaders affected by the rule.

''(3) PUBLICATION DATE.—An agency shall publish each guide (including the posting and distribution of the guide as described under paragraph (2))—

''(A) on the same date as the date of publication of the final rule (or as soon as possible after that date); and

''(B) not later than the date on which the requirements of that rule become effective.

''(4) COMPLIANCE ACTIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Each guide shall explain the actions a small entity is required to take to comply with a rule.

''(B) EXPLANATION.—The explanation under subparagraph (A)—

''(i) shall include a description of actions needed to meet the requirements of a rule, to enable a small entity to know when such requirements are met; and

''(ii) if determined appropriate by the agency, may include a description of possible procedures, such as conducting tests, that may assist a small entity in meeting such requirements, except that, compliance with any procedures described pursuant to this section does not establish compliance with the rule, or establish a presumption or inference of such compliance.

''(C) PROCEDURES.—Procedures described under subparagraph (B)(ii)—

''(i) shall be suggestions to assist small entities; and

''(ii) shall not be additional requirements, or diminish requirements, relating to the rule.

''(5) AGENCY PREPARATION OF GUIDES.—The agency shall, in its sole discretion, taking into account the subject matter of the rule and the language of relevant statutes, ensure that the guide is written using sufficiently plain language likely to be understood by affected small entities. Agencies may prepare separate guides covering groups or classes of similarly affected small entities and may cooperate with associations of small entities to develop and distribute such guides. An agency may prepare guides and apply this section with respect to a rule or a group of related rules.

''(6) REPORTING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007, and annually thereafter, the head of each agency shall submit a report to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate, the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives, and any other committee of relevant jurisdiction describing the status of the agency's compliance with paragraphs (1) through (5).''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 211(3) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (5 U.S.C. 601 note) is amended by inserting ''and entitled'' after ''designated''.

SEC. 7006. SMALL BUSINESS CHILD CARE GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'') shall establish a program to award grants to States, on a competitive basis, to assist States in providing funds to encourage the establishment and operation of employer-operated child care programs.

(b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a State shall prepare and submit to the Secretary an application at

such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including an assurance that the funds required under subsection (e) will be provided.

(c) AMOUNT AND PERIOD OF GRANT.—The Secretary shall determine the amount of a grant to a State under this section based on the population of the State as compared to the population of all States receiving grants under this section. The Secretary shall make the grant for a period of 3 years.

(d) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A State shall use amounts provided under a grant awarded under this section to provide assistance to small businesses (or consortia formed in accordance with paragraph (3)) located in the State to enable the small businesses (or consortia) to establish and operate child care programs. Such assistance may include—

(A) technical assistance in the establishment of a child care program;

(B) assistance for the startup costs related to a child care program;

(C) assistance for the training of child care providers;

(D) scholarships for low-income wage earners;

(E) the provision of services to care for sick children or to provide care to school-aged children;

(F) the entering into of contracts with local resource and referral organizations or local health departments;

(G) assistance for care for children with disabilities;

(H) payment of expenses for renovation or operation of a child care facility; or

(I) assistance for any other activity determined appropriate by the State.

(2) APPLICATION.—In order for a small business or consortium to be eligible to receive assistance from a State under this section, the small business involved shall prepare and submit to the State an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the State may require.

(3) PREFERENCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In providing assistance under this section, a State shall give priority to an applicant that desires to form a consortium to provide child care in a geographic area within the State where such care is not generally available or accessible.

(B) CONSORTIUM.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), a consortium shall be made up of 2 or more entities that shall include small businesses and that may include large businesses, nonprofit agencies or organizations, local governments, or other appropriate entities.

(4) LIMITATIONS.—With respect to grant funds received under this section, a State may not provide in excess of $500,000 in assistance from such funds to any single applicant.

(e) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a State shall provide assurances to the Secretary that, with respect to the costs to be incurred by a covered entity receiving assistance in carrying out activities under this section, the covered entity will make available (directly or through donations from public or private entities) non-Federal contributions to such costs in an amount equal to—

(1) for the first fiscal year in which the covered entity receives such assistance, not less than 50 percent of such costs ($1 for each $1 of assistance provided to the covered entity under the grant);

(2) for the second fiscal year in which the covered entity receives such assistance, not less than 66⅔ percent of such costs ($2 for each $1 of assistance provided to the covered entity under the grant); and

(3) for the third fiscal year in which the covered entity receives such assistance, not less than 75 percent of such costs ($3 for each $1 of assistance provided to the covered entity under the grant).

(f) REQUIREMENTS OF PROVIDERS.—To be eligible to receive assistance under a grant awarded under this section, a child care provider—

(1) who receives assistance from a State shall comply with all applicable State and local licensing and regulatory requirements and all applicable health and safety standards in effect in the State; and

(2) who receives assistance from an Indian tribe or tribal organization shall comply with all applicable regulatory standards.

(g) STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES.—A State may not retain more than 3 percent of the amount described in subsection (c) for State administration and other State-level activities.

(h) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) STATE RESPONSIBILITY.—A State shall have responsibility for administering a grant awarded for the State under this section and for monitoring covered entities that receive assistance under such grant.

(2) AUDITS.—A State shall require each covered entity receiving assistance under the grant awarded under this section to conduct an annual audit with respect to the activities of the covered entity. Such audits shall be submitted to the State.

(3) MISUSE OF FUNDS.—

(A) REPAYMENT.—If the State determines, through an audit or otherwise, that a covered entity receiving assistance under a grant awarded under this section has misused the assistance, the State shall notify the Secretary of the misuse. The Secretary, upon such a notification, may seek from such a covered entity the repayment of an amount equal to the amount of any such misused assistance plus interest.

(B) APPEALS PROCESS.—The Secretary shall by regulation provide for an appeals process with respect to repayments under this paragraph.

(i) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) 2-YEAR STUDY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the Secretary first awards grants under this section, the Secretary shall conduct a study to determine—

(i) the capacity of covered entities to meet the child care needs of communities within States;

(ii) the kinds of consortia that are being formed with respect to child care at the local level to carry out programs funded under this section; and

(iii) who is using the programs funded under this section and the income levels of such individuals.

(B) REPORT.—Not later than 28 months after the date on which the Secretary first awards grants under this section, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the results of the study conducted in accordance with subparagraph (A).

(2) 4-YEAR STUDY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years after the date on which the Secretary first awards grants under this section, the Secretary shall conduct a study to determine the number of child care facilities that are funded through covered entities that received assistance through a grant awarded under this section and that remain in operation, and the extent to which such facilities are meeting the child care needs of the individuals served by such facilities.

(B) REPORT.—Not later than 52 months after the date on which the Secretary first awards grants under this section, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the results of the study conducted in accordance with subparagraph (A).

(j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ''covered entity'' means a small business or a consortium formed in accordance with subsection (d)(3).

(2) INDIAN COMMUNITY.—The term ''Indian community'' means a community served by an Indian tribe or tribal organization.

(3) INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The terms ''Indian tribe'' and ''tribal organization'' have the meanings given the terms in section 658P of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858n).

(4) SMALL BUSINESS.—The term ''small business'' means an employer who employed an average of at least 2 but not more than 50 employees on the business days during the preceding calendar year.

(5) STATE.—The term ''State'' has the meaning given the term in section 658P of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858n).

(k) APPLICATION TO INDIAN TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—In this section:

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (f)(1), and in paragraphs (2) and (3), the term ''State'' includes an Indian tribe or tribal organization.

(2) GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCES.—The term ''State'' includes an Indian community in subsections (c) (the second and third place the term appears), (d)(1) (the second place the term appears), (d)(3)(A) (the second place the term appears), and (i)(1)(A)(i).

(3) STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES.—The term ''State-level activities'' includes activities at the tribal level.

(l) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, $50,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

(2) STUDIES AND ADMINISTRATION.—With respect to the total amount appropriated for such period in accordance with this subsection, not more than $2,500,000 of that amount may be used for expenditures related to conducting studies required under, and the administration of, this section.

(m) TERMINATION OF PROGRAM.—The program established under subsection (a) shall terminate on September 30, 2012.

SEC. 7007. STUDY OF UNIVERSAL USE OF ADVANCE PAYMENT OF EARNED INCOME CREDIT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall report to Congress on a study of the benefits, costs, risks, and barriers to workers and to businesses (with a special emphasis on small businesses) if the advance earned income tax credit program (under section 3507 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) included all recipients of the earned income tax credit (under section 32 of such Code) and what steps would be necessary to implement such inclusion.

SEC. 7008. RENEWAL GRANTS FOR WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(m) CONTINUED FUNDING FOR CENTERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A nonprofit organization described in paragraph (2) shall be eligible to receive, subject to paragraph (3), a 3-year grant under this subsection.

''(2) APPLICABILITY.—A nonprofit organization described in this paragraph is a nonprofit organization that has received funding under subsection (b) or (l).

''(3) APPLICATION AND APPROVAL CRITERIA.—

''(A) CRITERIA.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Administrator shall develop and publish criteria for the consideration and approval of applications by nonprofit organizations under this subsection.

''(B) CONTENTS.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the conditions for participation in the grant program under this subsection shall be the same as the conditions for participation in the program under subsection (l), as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

''(C) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the deadline to submit applications for each fiscal year, the Administrator shall approve or deny any application under this subsection and notify the applicant for each such application.

''(4) AWARD OF GRANTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator shall make a grant for the Federal share of the cost of activities described in the application to each applicant approved under this subsection.

''(B) AMOUNT.—A grant under this subsection shall be for not more than $150,000, for each year of that grant.

''(C) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share under this subsection shall be not more than 50 percent.

''(D) PRIORITY.—In allocating funds made available for grants under this section, the Administrator shall give applications under this subsection or subsection (l) priority over first-time applications under subsection (b).

''(5) RENEWAL.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may renew a grant under this subsection for additional 3-year periods, if the nonprofit organization submits an application for such renewal at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Administrator may establish.

''(B) UNLIMITED RENEWALS.—There shall be no limitation on the number of times a grant may be renewed under subparagraph (A).

''(n) PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A women's business center may not disclose the name, address, or telephone number of any individual or small business concern receiving assistance under this section without the consent of such individual or small business concern, unless—

''(A) the Administrator is ordered to make such a disclosure by a court in any civil or criminal enforcement action initiated by a Federal or State agency; or

''(B) the Administrator considers such a disclosure to be necessary for the purpose of conducting a financial audit of a women's business center, but a disclosure under this subparagraph shall be limited to the information necessary for such audit.

''(2) ADMINISTRATION USE OF INFORMATION.—This subsection shall not—

''(A) restrict Administration access to program activity data; or

''(B) prevent the Administration from using client information (other than the information described in subparagraph (A)) to conduct client surveys.

''(3) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator shall issue regulations to establish standards for requiring disclosures during a financial audit under paragraph (1)(B).''.

(b) REPEAL.—Section 29(l) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(l)) is repealed effective October 1 of the first full fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) TRANSITIONAL RULE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a grant or cooperative agreement that was awarded under subsection (l) of section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656), on or before the day before the date described in subsection (b) of this section, shall remain in full force and effect under the terms, and for the duration, of such grant or agreement.

SEC. 7009. REPORTS ON ACQUISITIONS OF ARTICLES, MATERIALS, AND SUPPLIES MANUFACTURED OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

Section 2 of the Buy American Act (41 U.S.C. 10a) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Notwithstanding'' and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) REPORTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the end of each of fiscal years 2007 through 2011, the head of each Federal agency shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives a report on the amount of the acquisitions made by the agency in that fiscal year of articles, materials, or supplies purchased from entities that manufacture the articles, materials, or supplies outside of the United States.

''(2) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall separately include, for the fiscal year covered by such report—

''(A) the dollar value of any articles, materials, or supplies that were manufactured outside the United States;

''(B) an itemized list of all waivers granted with respect to such articles, materials, or supplies under this Act, and a citation to the treaty, international agreement, or other law under which each waiver was granted;

''(C) if any articles, materials, or supplies were acquired from entities that manufacture articles, materials, or supplies outside the United States, the specific exception under this section that was used to purchase such articles, materials, or supplies; and

''(D) a summary of—

''(i) the total procurement funds expended on articles, materials, and supplies manufactured inside the United States; and

''(ii) the total procurement funds expended on articles, materials, and supplies manufactured outside the United States.

''(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The head of each Federal agency submitting a report under paragraph (1) shall make the report publicly available to the maximum extent practicable.

''(4) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—This subsection shall not apply to acquisitions made by an agency, or component thereof, that is an element of the intelligence community as specified in, or designated under, section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401a(4)).''.

Subtitle C—Small Business Tax Incentives

SEC. 7510. SHORT TITLE; AMENDMENT OF CODE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This subtitle may be cited as the ''Small Business and Work Opportunity Tax Act of 2007''.

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

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

Subtitle C—Small Business Tax Incentives

Sec. 7510. Short title; amendment of Code; table of contents.

PART I—SMALL BUSINESS TAX RELIEF PROVISIONS

SUBPART A—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 7511. Extension and modification of work opportunity tax credit.

Sec. 7512. Extension and increase of expensing for small business.

Sec. 7513. Determination of credit for certain taxes paid with respect to employee cash tips.

Sec. 7514. Waiver of individual and corporate alternative minimum tax limits on work opportunity credit and credit for taxes paid with respect to employee cash tips.

Sec. 7515. Family business tax simplification.

SUBPART B—GULF OPPORTUNITY ZONE TAX INCENTIVES

Sec. 7521. Extension of increased expensing for qualified section 179 Gulf Opportunity Zone property.

Sec. 7522. Extension and expansion of low-income housing credit rules for buildings in the GO Zones.

Sec. 7523. Special tax-exempt bond financing rule for repairs and reconstructions of residences in the GO Zones.

Sec. 7524. GAO study of practices employed by State and local governments in allocating and utilizing tax incentives provided pursuant to the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005.

SUBPART C—SUBCHAPTER S PROVISIONS

Sec. 7531. Capital gain of S corporation not treated as passive investment income.

Sec. 7532. Treatment of bank director shares.

Sec. 7533. Special rule for bank required to change from the reserve method of accounting on becoming S corporation.

Sec. 7534. Treatment of the sale of interest in a qualified subchapter S subsidiary.

Sec. 7535. Elimination of all earnings and profits attributable to pre-1983 years for certain corporations.

Sec. 7536. Deductibility of interest expense on indebtedness incurred by an electing small business trust to acquire S corporation stock.

PART II—REVENUE PROVISIONS

Sec. 7541. Increase in age of minor children whose unearned income is taxed as if parent's income.

Sec. 7542. Suspension of certain penalties and interest.

Sec. 7543. Modification of collection due process procedures for employment tax liabilities.

Sec. 7544. Permanent extension of IRS user fees.

Sec. 7545. Increase in penalty for bad checks and money orders.

Sec. 7546. Understatement of taxpayer liability by return preparers.

Sec. 7547. Penalty for filing erroneous refund claims.

Sec. 7548. Time for payment of corporate estimated taxes.

PART I—SMALL BUSINESS TAX RELIEF PROVISIONS

Subpart A—General Provisions

SEC. 7511. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 51(c)(4)(B) (relating to termination) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2007'' and inserting ''August 31, 2011''.

(b) INCREASE IN MAXIMUM AGE FOR DESIGNATED COMMUNITY RESIDENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (5) of section 51(d) is amended to read as follows:

''(5) DESIGNATED COMMUNITY RESIDENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'designated community resident' means any individual who is certified by the designated local agency—

''(i) as having attained age 18 but not age 40 on the hiring date, and

''(ii) as having his principal place of abode within an empowerment zone, enterprise community, renewal community, or rural renewal county.

''(B) INDIVIDUAL MUST CONTINUE TO RESIDE IN ZONE, COMMUNITY, OR COUNTY.—In the case of a designated community resident, the term 'qualified wages' shall not include wages paid or incurred for services performed while the individual's principal place of abode is outside an empowerment zone, enterprise community, renewal community, or rural renewal county.

''(C) RURAL RENEWAL COUNTY.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'rural renewal county' means any county which—

''(i) is outside a metropolitan statistical area (defined as such by the Office of Management and Budget), and

''(ii) during the 5-year periods 1990 through 1994 and 1995 through 1999 had a net population loss.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subparagraph (D) of section 51(d)(1) is amended to read as follows:

''(D) a designated community resident,''.

(c) CLARIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF INDIVIDUALS UNDER INDIVIDUAL WORK PLANS.—Subparagraph (B) of section 51(d)(6) (relating to vocational rehabilitation referral) is amended by

striking ''or'' at the end of clause (i), by striking the period at the end of clause (ii) and inserting '', or'', and by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(iii) an individual work plan developed and implemented by an employment network pursuant to subsection (g) of section 1148 of the Social Security Act with respect to which the requirements of such subsection are met.''.

(d) TREATMENT OF DISABLED VETERANS UNDER THE WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT.—

(1) DISABLED VETERANS TREATED AS MEMBERS OF TARGETED GROUP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 51(d)(3) (relating to qualified veteran) is amended by striking ''agency as being a member of a family'' and all that follows and inserting ''agency as—

''(i) being a member of a family receiving assistance under a food stamp program under the Food Stamp Act of 1977 for at least a 3-month period ending during the 12-month period ending on the hiring date, or

''(ii) entitled to compensation for a service-connected disability, and—

''(I) having a hiring date which is not more that 1 year after having been discharged or released from active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States, or

''(II) having aggregate periods of unemployment during the 1-year period ending on the hiring date which equal or exceed 6 months.''.

(B) DEFINITIONS.—Paragraph (3) of section 51(d) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(C) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the terms 'compensation' and 'service-connected' have the meanings given such terms under section 101 of title 38, United States Code.''.

(2) INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF WAGES TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR DISABLED VETERANS.—Paragraph (3) of section 51(b) is amended—

(A) by inserting ''($12,000 per year in the case of any individual who is a qualified veteran by reason of subsection (d)(3)(A)(ii))'' before the period at the end, and

(B) by striking ''ONLY FIRST $6,000 OF'' in the heading and inserting ''LIMITATION ON''.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to individuals who begin work for the employer after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7512. EXTENSION AND INCREASE OF EXPENSING FOR SMALL BUSINESS.

(a) EXTENSION.—Subsections (b)(1), (b)(2), (b)(5), (c)(2), and (d)(1)(A)(ii) of section 179 (relating to election to expense certain depreciable business assets) are each amended by striking ''2010'' and inserting ''2011''.

(b) INCREASE IN LIMITATIONS.—Subsection (b) of section 179 is amended—

(1) by striking ''$100,000 in the case of taxable years beginning after 2002'' in paragraph (1) and inserting ''$125,000 in the case of taxable years beginning after 2006'', and

(2) by striking ''$400,000 in the case of taxable years beginning after 2002'' in paragraph (2) and inserting ''$500,000 in the case of taxable years beginning after 2006''.

(c) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—Subparagraph (A) of section 179(b)(5) is amended—

(1) by striking ''2003'' and inserting ''2007'',

(2) by striking ''$100,000 and $400,000'' and inserting ''$125,000 and $500,000'', and

(3) by striking ''2002'' in clause (ii) and inserting ''2006''.

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

SEC. 7513. DETERMINATION OF CREDIT FOR CERTAIN TAXES PAID WITH RESPECT TO EMPLOYEE CASH TIPS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (B) of section 45B(b)(1) is amended by inserting ''as in effect on January 1, 2007, and'' before ''determined without regard to''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to tips received for services performed after December 31, 2006.

SEC. 7514. WAIVER OF INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX LIMITS ON WORK OPPORTUNITY CREDIT AND CREDIT FOR TAXES PAID WITH RESPECT TO EMPLOYEE CASH TIPS.

(a) ALLOWANCE AGAINST ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX.—Subparagraph (B) of section 38(c)(4) is amended by striking ''and'' at the end of clause (i), by inserting a comma at the end of clause (ii), and by adding at the end the following new clauses:

''(iii) the credit determined under section 45B, and

''(iv) the credit determined under section 51.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to credits determined under sections 45B and 51 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2006, and to carrybacks of such credits.

SEC. 7515. FAMILY BUSINESS TAX SIMPLIFICATION.

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

''(f) QUALIFIED JOINT VENTURE.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) NET EARNINGS FROM SELF-EMPLOYMENT.—

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

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

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

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

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

Subpart B—Gulf Opportunity Zone Tax Incentives

SEC. 7521. EXTENSION OF INCREASED EXPENSING FOR QUALIFIED SECTION 179 GULF OPPORTUNITY ZONE PROPERTY.

Paragraph (2) of section 1400N(e) (relating to qualified section 179 Gulf Opportunity Zone property) is amended—

(1) by striking ''this subsection, the term'' and inserting ''this subsection—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term'', and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(B) EXTENSION FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY.—In the case of property substantially all of the use of which is in one or more specified portions of the GO Zone (as defined by subsection (d)(6)), such term shall include section 179 property (as so defined) which is described in subsection (d)(2), determined—

''(i) without regard to subsection (d)(6), and

''(ii) by substituting '2008' for '2007' in subparagraph (A)(v) thereof.''.

SEC. 7522. EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF LOW-INCOME HOUSING CREDIT RULES FOR BUILDINGS IN THE GO ZONES.

(a) TIME FOR MAKING LOW-INCOME HOUSING CREDIT ALLOCATIONS.—Subsection (c) of section 1400N (relating to low-income housing credit) is amended by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6) and by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

''(5) TIME FOR MAKING LOW-INCOME HOUSING CREDIT ALLOCATIONS.—Section 42(h)(1)(B) shall not apply to an allocation of housing credit dollar amount to a building located in the Gulf Opportunity Zone, the Rita GO Zone, or the Wilma GO Zone, if such allocation is made in 2006, 2007, or 2008, and such building is placed in service before January 1, 2011.''.

(b) EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR TREATING GO ZONES AS DIFFICULT DEVELOPMENT AREAS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 1400N(c)(3) is amended by striking ''2006, 2007, or 2008'' and inserting ''the period beginning on January 1, 2006, and ending on December 31, 2010''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Clause (ii) of section 1400N(c)(3)(B) is amended by striking ''such period'' and inserting ''the period described in subparagraph (A)''.

(c) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DETERMINING IF BUILDINGS ARE FEDERALLY SUBSIDIZED.—Subsection (c) of section 1400N (relating to low-income housing credit), as amended by this Act, is amended by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7) and by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:

''(6) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DETERMINING IF BUILDINGS ARE FEDERALLY SUBSIDIZED.—For purpose of applying section 42(i)(2)(D) to any building which is placed in service in the Gulf Opportunity Zone, the Rita GO Zone, or the Wilma GO Zone during the period beginning on January 1, 2006, and ending on December 31, 2010, a loan shall not be treated as a below market Federal loan solely by reason of any assistance provided under section 106, 107, or 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 by reason of section 122 of such Act or any provision of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2006, or the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006.''.

SEC. 7523. SPECIAL TAX-EXEMPT BOND FINANCING RULE FOR REPAIRS AND RECONSTRUCTIONS OF RESIDENCES IN THE GO ZONES.

Subsection (a) of section 1400N (relating to tax-exempt bond financing) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(7) SPECIAL RULE FOR REPAIRS AND RECONSTRUCTIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 143 and this subsection, any qualified GO Zone repair or reconstruction shall be treated as a qualified rehabilitation.

''(B) QUALIFIED GO ZONE REPAIR OR RECONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term 'qualified GO Zone repair or reconstruction' means any repair of damage caused by Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita, or Hurricane Wilma to a building located in the Gulf Opportunity Zone, the Rita GO Zone, or the Wilma GO Zone (or reconstruction of such building in the case of damage constituting destruction) if the expenditures for such repair or reconstruction are 25 percent or more of the mortgagor's adjusted basis in the residence. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the mortgagor's adjusted basis shall be determined as of the completion of the repair or reconstruction or, if later, the date on which the mortgagor acquires the residence.

''(C) TERMINATION.—This paragraph shall apply only to owner-financing provided after the date of the enactment of this paragraph and before January 1, 2011.''.

SEC. 7524. GAO STUDY OF PRACTICES EMPLOYED BY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN ALLOCATING AND UTILIZING TAX INCENTIVES PROVIDED PURSUANT TO THE GULF OPPORTUNITY ZONE ACT OF 2005.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the practices employed by State and local governments, and subdivisions thereof, in allocating and utilizing tax incentives provided pursuant to the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005 and this Act.

(b) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit a report on the findings of the study conducted under subsection (a) and shall include therein recommendations (if any) relating to such findings. The report shall be submitted to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate.

(c) CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS.—In the case that the report submitted under this section includes findings of significant fraud, waste or abuse, each Committee specified in subsection (b) shall, within 60 days after the date the report is submitted under subsection (b), hold a public hearing to review such findings.

Subpart C—Subchapter S Provisions

SEC. 7531. CAPITAL GAIN OF S CORPORATION NOT TREATED AS PASSIVE INVESTMENT INCOME.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1362(d)(3) is amended by striking subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), (E), and (F) and inserting the following new subparagraph:

''(B) PASSIVE INVESTMENT INCOME DEFINED.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subparagraph, the term 'passive investment income' means gross receipts derived from royalties, rents, dividends, interest, and annuities.

''(ii) EXCEPTION FOR INTEREST ON NOTES FROM SALES OF INVENTORY.—The term 'passive investment income' shall not include interest on any obligation acquired in the ordinary course of the corporation's trade or business from its sale of property described in section 1221(a)(1).

''(iii) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN LENDING OR FINANCE COMPANIES.—If the S corporation meets the requirements of section 542(c)(6) for the taxable year, the term 'passive investment income' shall not include gross receipts for the taxable year which are derived directly from the active and regular conduct of a lending or finance business (as defined in section 542(d)(1)).

''(iv) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN DIVIDENDS.—If an S corporation holds stock in a C corporation meeting the requirements of section 1504(a)(2), the term 'passive investment income' shall not include dividends from such C corporation to the extent such dividends are attributable to the earnings and profits of such C corporation derived from the active conduct of a trade or business.

''(v) EXCEPTION FOR BANKS, ETC.—In the case of a bank (as defined in section 581) or a depository institution holding company (as defined in section 3(w)(1) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813(w)(1)), the term 'passive investment income' shall not include—

''(I) interest income earned by such bank or company, or

''(II) dividends on assets required to be held by such bank or company, including stock in the Federal Reserve Bank, the Federal Home Loan Bank, or the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Bank or participation certificates issued by a Federal Intermediate Credit Bank.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Clause (i) of section 1042(c)(4)(A) is amended by striking ''section 1362(d)(3)(C)'' and inserting ''section 1362(d)(3)(B)''.

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

SEC. 7532. TREATMENT OF BANK DIRECTOR SHARES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1361 (defining S corporation) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) RESTRICTED BANK DIRECTOR STOCK.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Restricted bank director stock shall not be taken into account as outstanding stock of the S corporation in applying this subchapter (other than section 1368(f)).

''(2) RESTRICTED BANK DIRECTOR STOCK.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'restricted bank director stock' means stock in a bank (as defined in section 581) or a depository institution holding company (as defined in section 3(w)(1) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813(w)(1)), if such stock—

''(A) is required to be held by an individual under applicable Federal or State law in order to permit such individual to serve as a director, and

''(B) is subject to an agreement with such bank or company (or a corporation which controls (within the meaning of section 368(c)) such bank or company) pursuant to which the holder is required to sell back such stock (at the same price as the individual acquired such stock) upon ceasing to hold the office of director.

''(3) CROSS REFERENCE.—

''For treatment of certain distributions with respect to restricted bank director stock, see section 1368(f)''.

(b) DISTRIBUTIONS.—Section 1368 (relating to distributions) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) RESTRICTED BANK DIRECTOR STOCK.—If a director receives a distribution (not in part or full payment in exchange for stock) from an S corporation with respect to any restricted bank director stock (as defined in section 1361(f)), the amount of such distribution—

''(1) shall be includible in gross income of the director, and

''(2) shall be deductible by the corporation for the taxable year of such corporation in which or with which ends the taxable year in which such amount in included in the gross income of the director.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2006.

(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR TREATMENT AS SECOND CLASS OF STOCK.—In the case of any taxable year beginning after December 31, 1996, restricted bank director stock (as defined in section 1361(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by this section) shall not be taken into account in determining whether an S corporation has more than 1 class of stock.

SEC. 7533. SPECIAL RULE FOR BANK REQUIRED TO CHANGE FROM THE RESERVE METHOD OF ACCOUNTING ON BECOMING S CORPORATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1361, as amended by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(g) SPECIAL RULE FOR BANK REQUIRED TO CHANGE FROM THE RESERVE METHOD OF ACCOUNTING ON BECOMING S CORPORATION.—In the case of a bank which changes from the reserve method of accounting for bad debts described in section 585 or 593 for its first taxable year for which an election under section 1362(a) is in effect, the bank may elect to take into account any adjustments under section 481 by reason of such change for the taxable year immediately preceding such first taxable year.''.

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

SEC. 7534. TREATMENT OF THE SALE OF INTEREST IN A QUALIFIED SUBCHAPTER S SUBSIDIARY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (C) of section 1361(b)(3) (relating to treatment of terminations of qualified subchapter S subsidiary status) is amended—

(1) by striking ''For purposes of this title,'' and inserting the following:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this title,'', and

(2) by inserting at the end the following new clause:

''(ii) TERMINATION BY REASON OF SALE OF STOCK.—If the failure to meet the requirements of subparagraph (B) is by reason of the sale of stock of a corporation which is a qualified subchapter S subsidiary, the sale of such stock shall be treated as if—

''(I) the sale were a sale of an undivided interest in the assets of such corporation (based on the percentage of the corporation's stock sold), and

''(II) the sale were followed by an acquisition by such corporation of all of its assets (and the assumption by such corporation of all of its liabilities) in a transaction to which section 351 applies.''.

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

SEC. 7535. ELIMINATION OF ALL EARNINGS AND PROFITS ATTRIBUTABLE TO PRE-1983 YEARS FOR CERTAIN CORPORATIONS.

In the case of a corporation which is—

(1) described in section 1311(a)(1) of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, and

(2) not described in section 1311(a)(2) of such Act,

the amount of such corporation's accumulated earnings and profits (for the first taxable year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act) shall be reduced by an amount equal to the portion (if any) of such accumulated earnings and profits which were accumulated in any taxable year beginning before January 1, 1983, for which such corporation was an electing small business corporation under subchapter S of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

SEC. 7536. DEDUCTIBILITY OF INTEREST EXPENSE ON INDEBTEDNESS INCURRED BY AN ELECTING SMALL BUSINESS TRUST TO ACQUIRE S CORPORATION STOCK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (C) of section 641(c)(2) (relating to modifications) is amended by inserting after clause (iii) the following new clause:

''(iv) Any interest expense paid or accrued on indebtedness incurred to acquire stock in an S corporation.''.

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

PART II—REVENUE PROVISIONS

SEC. 7541. INCREASE IN AGE OF MINOR CHILDREN WHOSE UNEARNED INCOME IS TAXED AS IF PARENT'S INCOME.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 1(g)(2) (relating to child to whom subsection applies) is amended to read as follows:

''(A) such child—

''(i) has not attained age 18 before the close of the taxable year, or

''(ii)(I) has attained age 18 before the close of the taxable year and meets the age requirements of section 152(c)(3) (determined without regard to subparagraph (B) thereof), and

''(II) whose earned income (as defined in section 911(d)(2)) for such taxable year does not exceed one-half of the amount of the individual's support (within the meaning of section 152(c)(1)(D) after the application of section 152(f)(5) (without regard to subparagraph (A) thereof)) for such taxable year,''.

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

SEC. 7542. SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN PENALTIES AND INTEREST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraphs (1)(A) and (3)(A) of section 6404(g) are each amended by striking ''18-month period'' and inserting ''36-month period''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to notices provided by the Secretary of the Treasury, or his delegate, after the date which is 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7543. MODIFICATION OF COLLECTION DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES FOR EMPLOYMENT TAX LIABILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6330(f) (relating to jeopardy and State refund collection) is amended—

(1) by striking ''; or'' at the end of paragraph (1) and inserting a comma,

(2) by adding ''or'' at the end of paragraph (2), and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

''(3) the Secretary has served a disqualified employment tax levy,''.

(b) DISQUALIFIED EMPLOYMENT TAX LEVY.—Section 6330 of such Code (relating to notice and opportunity for hearing before levy) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(h) DISQUALIFIED EMPLOYMENT TAX LEVY.—For purposes of subsection (f), a disqualified employment tax levy is any levy in connection with the collection of employment taxes for any taxable period if the person subject to the levy (or any predecessor thereof) requested a hearing under this section with respect to unpaid employment taxes arising in the most recent 2-year period before the beginning of the taxable period with respect to which the levy is served. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the term 'employment taxes' means any taxes under chapter 21, 22, 23, or 24.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to levies served on or after the date that is 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7544. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF IRS USER FEES.

Section 7528 (relating to Internal Revenue Service user fees) is amended by striking subsection (c).

SEC. 7545. INCREASE IN PENALTY FOR BAD CHECKS AND MONEY ORDERS.

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

(1) by striking ''$750'' and inserting ''$1,250'', and

(2) by striking ''$15'' and inserting ''$25''.

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

SEC. 7546. UNDERSTATEMENT OF TAXPAYER LIABILITY BY RETURN PREPARERS.

(a) APPLICATION OF RETURN PREPARER PENALTIES TO ALL TAX RETURNS.—

(1) DEFINITION OF TAX RETURN PREPARER.—Paragraph (36) of section 7701(a) (relating to income tax preparer) is amended—

(A) by striking ''income'' each place it appears in the heading and the text, and

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''subtitle A'' each place it appears and inserting ''this title''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A)(i) Section 6060 is amended by striking ''**INCOME TAX RETURN PREPARERS**'' in the heading and inserting ''**TAX RETURN PREPARERS**''.

(ii) Section 6060(a) is amended—

(I) by striking ''an income tax return preparer'' each place it appears and inserting ''a tax return preparer'',

(II) by striking ''each income tax return preparer'' and inserting ''each tax return preparer'', and

(III) by striking ''another income tax return preparer'' and inserting ''another tax return preparer''.

(iii) The item relating to section 6060 in the table of sections for subpart F of part III of subchapter A of chapter 61 is amended by striking ''income tax return preparers'' and inserting ''tax return preparers''.

(iv) Subpart F of part III of subchapter A of chapter 61 is amended by striking ''**Income Tax Return Preparers**'' in the heading and inserting ''**Tax Return Preparers**''.

(v) The item relating to subpart F in the table of subparts for part III of subchapter A of chapter 61 is amended by striking ''income tax return preparers'' and inserting ''tax return preparers''.

(B) Section 6103(k)(5) is amended—

(i) by striking ''income tax return preparer'' each place it appears and inserting ''tax return preparer'', and

(ii) by striking ''income tax return preparers'' each place it appears and inserting ''tax return preparers''.

(C)(i) Section 6107 is amended—

(I) by striking ''**INCOME TAX RETURN PREPARER**'' in the heading and inserting ''**TAX RETURN PREPARER**'',

(II) by striking ''an income tax return preparer'' each place it appears in subsections (a) and (b) and inserting ''a tax return preparer'',

(III) by striking ''INCOME TAX RETURN PREPARER'' in the heading for subsection (b) and inserting ''TAX RETURN PREPARER'', and

(IV) in subsection (c), by striking ''income tax return preparers'' and inserting ''tax return preparers''.

(ii) The item relating to section 6107 in the table of sections for subchapter B of chapter 61 is amended by striking ''Income tax return preparer'' and inserting ''Tax return preparer''.

(D) Section 6109(a)(4) is amended—

(i) by striking ''an income tax return preparer'' and inserting ''a tax return preparer'', and

(ii) by striking ''INCOME RETURN PREPARER'' in the heading and inserting ''TAX RETURN PREPARER''.

(E) Section 6503(k)(4) is amended by striking ''Income tax return preparers'' and inserting ''Tax return preparers''.

(F)(i) Section 6694 is amended—

(I) by striking ''**INCOME TAX RETURN PREPARER**'' in the heading and inserting ''**TAX RETURN PREPARER**'',

(II) by striking ''an income tax return preparer'' each place it appears and inserting ''a tax return preparer'',

(III) in subsection (c)(2), by striking ''the income tax return preparer'' and inserting ''the tax return preparer'',

(IV) in subsection (e), by striking ''subtitle A'' and inserting ''this title'', and

(V) in subsection (f), by striking ''income tax return preparer'' and inserting ''tax return preparer''.

(ii) The item relating to section 6694 in the table of sections for part I of subchapter B of chapter 68 is amended by striking ''income tax return preparer'' and inserting ''tax return preparer''.

(G)(i) Section 6695 is amended—

(I) by striking ''**INCOME**'' in the heading, and

(II) by striking ''an income tax return preparer'' each place it appears and inserting ''a tax return preparer''.

(ii) Section 6695(f) is amended—

(I) by striking ''subtitle A'' and inserting ''this title'', and

(II) by striking ''the income tax return preparer'' and inserting ''the tax return preparer''.

(iii) The item relating to section 6695 in the table of sections for part I of subchapter B of chapter 68 is amended by striking ''income''.

(H) Section 6696(e) is amended by striking ''subtitle A'' each place it appears and inserting ''this title''.

(I)(i) Section 7407 is amended—

(I) by striking ''**INCOME TAX RETURN PREPARERS**'' in the heading and inserting ''**TAX RETURN PREPARERS**'',

(II) by striking ''an income tax return preparer'' each place it appears and inserting ''a tax return preparer'',

(III) by striking ''income tax preparer'' both places it appears in subsection (a) and inserting ''tax return preparer'', and

(IV) by striking ''income tax return'' in subsection (a) and inserting ''tax return''.

(ii) The item relating to section 7407 in the table of sections for subchapter A of chapter 76 is amended by striking ''income tax return preparers'' and inserting ''tax return preparers''.

(J)(i) Section 7427 is amended—

(I) by striking ''**INCOME TAX RETURN PREPARERS**'' in the heading and inserting ''**TAX RETURN PREPARERS**'', and

(II) by striking ''an income tax return preparer'' and inserting ''a tax return preparer''.

(ii) The item relating to section 7427 in the table of sections for subchapter B of chapter 76 is amended to read as follows:

''Sec. 7427. Tax return preparers.''.

(b) MODIFICATION OF PENALTY FOR UNDERSTATEMENT OF TAXPAYER'S LIABILITY BY TAX RETURN PREPARER.—Subsections (a) and (b) of section 6694 are amended to read as follows:

''(a) UNDERSTATEMENT DUE TO UNREASONABLE POSITIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Any tax return preparer who prepares any return or claim for refund with respect to which any part of an understatement of liability is due to a position described in paragraph (2) shall pay a penalty with respect to each such return or claim in an amount equal to the greater of—

''(A) $1,000, or

''(B) 50 percent of the income derived (or to be derived) by the tax return preparer with respect to the return or claim.

''(2) UNREASONABLE POSITION.—A position is described in this paragraph if—

''(A) the tax return preparer knew (or reasonably should have known) of the position,

''(B) there was not a reasonable belief that the position would more likely than not be sustained on its merits, and

''(C)(i) the position was not disclosed as provided in section 6662(d)(2)(B)(ii), or

''(ii) there was no reasonable basis for the position.

''(3) REASONABLE CAUSE EXCEPTION.—No penalty shall be imposed under this subsection if it is shown that there is reasonable cause for the understatement and the tax return preparer acted in good faith.

''(b) UNDERSTATEMENT DUE TO WILLFUL OR RECKLESS CONDUCT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Any tax return preparer who prepares any return or claim for refund with respect to which any part of an understatement of liability is due to a conduct described in paragraph (2) shall pay a penalty

with respect to each such return or claim in an amount equal to the greater of—

''(A) $5,000, or

''(B) 50 percent of the income derived (or to be derived) by the tax return preparer with respect to the return or claim.

''(2) WILLFUL OR RECKLESS CONDUCT.—Conduct described in this paragraph is conduct by the tax return preparer which is—

''(A) a willful attempt in any manner to understate the liability for tax on the return or claim, or

''(B) a reckless or intentional disregard of rules or regulations.

''(3) REDUCTION IN PENALTY.—The amount of any penalty payable by any person by reason of this subsection for any return or claim for refund shall be reduced by the amount of the penalty paid by such person by reason of subsection (a).''.

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

SEC. 7547. PENALTY FOR FILING ERRONEOUS REFUND CLAIMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part I of subchapter B of chapter 68 (relating to assessable penalties) is amended by inserting after section 6675 the following new section:

''SEC. 6676. ERRONEOUS CLAIM FOR REFUND OR CREDIT.

''(a) CIVIL PENALTY.—If a claim for refund or credit with respect to income tax (other than a claim for a refund or credit relating to the earned income credit under section 32) is made for an excessive amount, unless it is shown that the claim for such excessive amount has a reasonable basis, the person making such claim shall be liable for a penalty in an amount equal to 20 percent of the excessive amount.

''(b) EXCESSIVE AMOUNT.—For purposes of this section, the term 'excessive amount' means in the case of any person the amount by which the amount of the claim for refund or credit for any taxable year exceeds the amount of such claim allowable under this title for such taxable year.

''(c) COORDINATION WITH OTHER PENALTIES.—This section shall not apply to any portion of the excessive amount of a claim for refund or credit which is subject to a penalty imposed under part II of subchapter A of chapter 68.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for part I of subchapter B of chapter 68 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 6675 the following new item:

''Sec. 6676. Erroneous claim for refund or credit.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to any claim filed or submitted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7548. TIME FOR PAYMENT OF CORPORATE ESTIMATED TAXES.

Subparagraph (B) of section 401(1) of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 is amended by striking ''106.25 percent'' and inserting ''114.25 percent''.

This Act may be cited as the ''U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007''.

And the Senate agree to the same.

DAVID R. OBEY,
ROSA L. DELAURO,
JOHN P. MURTHA,
PETER J. VISCLOSKY,
NITA LOWEY,
CAROLYN KILPATRICK,
NORMAN D. DICKS,
CHET EDWARDS,
ALAN B. MOLLOHAN,
JOHN OLVER,
JOSÉ E. SERRANO,
DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ,
JAMES E. CLYBURN,
Managers on the Part of the House.

ROBERT C. BYRD
DANIEL K. INOUYE,
PATRICK J. LEAHY,
TOM HARKIN,
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI,
HERB KOHL,
PATTY MURRAY,
BYRON L. DORGAN,
DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
RICHARD J. DURBIN,
TIM JOHNSON,
MARY L. LANDRIEU,
JACK REED,
FRANK R. LAUTENBERG,
BEN NELSON,
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. 1591) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, submit the following joint statement to the House and the Senate in explanation of the effects of the action agreed upon by the managers and recommended in the accompanying conference report.

Report language included by the House in the report accompanying H.R. 1591 (H. Rept. 110–60) and included by the Senate in the report accompanying S. 965 (S. Rept. 110–37) should be complied with unless specifically addressed in this statement of the managers. The statement of the managers, while repeating some report language for emphasis, is not intended to negate the language referred to above unless expressly provided herein.

The conference agreement designates amounts in title I as emergency requirements pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress) and as making appropriations for contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism and other unanticipated defense-related operations pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 376 (109th Congress). Further, the agreement designates amounts in titles II, III, V, and VI as emergency requirements pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress) and pursuant to section 501 of H. Con. Res. 376 (109th Congress). The House proposed designations under H. Con. Res. 376 on an item-by-item basis, while the Senate included designations under H. Con. Res. 95 title-by-title.

TITLE I—SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

CHAPTER 1—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

PUBLIC LAW 480 TITLE II GRANTS

The conference agreement provides $460,000,000, to be available until expended, for Public Law 480 Title II grants, instead of $450,000,000 as proposed by the House and $475,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 required the establishment of a micronutrient fortification program relating to the utilization of foods for humanitarian assistance programs such as title II of Public Law 480. The conferees encourage the Secretary of Agriculture to move forward with such a program. The conferees direct that any such funds used for this purpose during fiscal year 2007 should be used for internal federal agency operations to develop a framework for this program and not be used for the purpose of executing any grant, contract, or cooperative agreement with a non-federal entity.

GENERAL PROVISION THIS CHAPTER

SEC. 1101. The conference agreement provides $40,000,000, instead of $82,000,000 as proposed by the Senate, for replenishment of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust.

The conferees direct the Secretary to provide quarterly reports to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the available cash, amount of commodity by type, and detail of disbursements made during that quarterly period.

CHAPTER 2—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LEGAL ACTIVITIES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES

The conference agreement includes $1,648,000 for General Legal Activities for the Criminal Division as proposed by the House, instead of $4,093,000 as proposed by the Senate and requested by the President. The funds are provided for litigation support services to the Special Inspector General for Iraqi Reconstruction for ongoing investigations and cases involving corruption in the reconstruction of Iraq. The conference agreement does not include $2,445,000 as requested by the President and as proposed by the Senate to create Iraq and Afghanistan Support Units within General Legal Activities, Criminal Division. While the conferees support these activities, they can be provided for with funds available to the Secretary of State.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

The conference agreement includes $5,000,000 for the United States Attorneys as proposed by the House and requested by the President, instead of $12,500,000 as proposed by the Senate. The funds are provided for extraordinary litigation expenses associated with terrorism prosecutions.

UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The conference agreement includes $6,450,000 for the United States Marshals Service, instead of $2,750,000 as proposed by the House and $32,500,000 as proposed by the Senate. The funds are provided for security at high-threat terrorist trials in the United States and to support judicial and witness security in Afghanistan.

The conference agreement does not include a rescission of $15,000,000 from funds made available in this Act for Department of State Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs, as proposed by the Senate.

The conferees are aware of substandard conditions in space occupied by U.S. Marshals Service employees in the Moultrie Courthouse Building in the District of Columbia. The Senate bill included funds within chapter 2 of title I for the U.S. Marshals to address some of the problems, but the conference agreement does not include these funds. The conferees direct the U.S. Marshals and the District of Columbia Courts to work together in a coordinated manner to develop a renovation and improvement plan that addresses these issues. The conferees believe that the Committees on Appropriations should consider progress in these plans when developing the fiscal year 2008 appropriations bills.

The conferees also direct that the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct a review of the health, safety, and security conditions in the Moultrie Courthouse Building space occupied by the U.S. Marshals. Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations a written report that contains the

findings of the review and includes recommendations, as may be appropriate.

NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The conference agreement includes $1,736,000 for the National Security Division for investigations and prosecutions as proposed by the House and Senate.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The conference agreement includes $268,000,000 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) instead of $118,260,000 as proposed by the House and as requested by the President and $348,260,000 as proposed by the Senate. Funding is provided for counterterrorism and weapons of mass destruction operations and support requirements.

The conferees concur with the language in the Senate report regarding the March 2007 report by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) regarding the FBI's use of national security letters. The conferees are extremely concerned by the OIG report and the failings of the FBI to correct the actions earlier in the investigation. The conference agreement includes $10,000,000 as proposed by the Senate to ensure that the Inspector General's recommendations are implemented by the FBI in an expeditious manner. The conference agreement includes bill language transferring $500,000 to the OIG from the FBI for continued audits and investigations related to national security letters.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The conference agreement includes $12,166,000 for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) instead of $8,468,000 as proposed by the House and as requested by the President and $25,100,000 as proposed by the Senate. The funds provided above the amount requested by the President are provided to hire additional DEA special agents and support personnel related to the Global War on Terror. The conferees concur with language in the House report directing the DEA Administrator to submit a report on a plan to target and arrest Afghan Drug Kingpins.

BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The conference agreement includes $4,000,000 for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, as proposed by the House and the Senate and as requested by the President.

FEDERAL PRISON SYSTEM

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The conference agreement includes $17,000,000 for the Federal Prison System, as proposed by the House and the Senate and as requested by the President.

CHAPTER 3

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—MILITARY

The conference agreement provides $95,528,670,000 for the Department of Defense, instead of $95,529,712,000, as proposed by the House, and $93,532,793,000, as proposed by the Senate.

The following table provides details of the supplemental appropriations for the Department of Defense—Military.

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
CHAPTER 3			
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE - MILITARY			
Military Personnel			
Military Personnel, Army (emergency)	8,878,899	8,870,270	8,853,350
Military Personnel, Navy (emergency)	1,100,410	1,100,410	1,100,410
Military Personnel, Marine Corps (emergency)	1,495,828	1,495,827	1,495,827
Military Personnel, Air Force (emergency)	1,229,334	1,218,587	1,218,587
Reserve Personnel, Army (emergency)	173,244	147,244	147,244
Reserve Personnel, Navy (emergency)	82,800	77,523	86,023
Reserve Personnel, Marine Corps (emergency)	15,000	---	5,660
Reserve Personnel, Air Force (emergency)	14,100	9,073	11,573
National Guard Personnel, Army (emergency)	552,725	474,978	545,286
National Guard Personnel, Air Force (emergency)	24,600	41,533	44,033
Subtotal	13,566,940	13,435,445	13,507,993
Operation and Maintenance			
Operation and Maintenance, Army (emergency)	20,897,672	20,373,379	20,373,379
Operation and Maintenance, Navy (emergency)	5,115,397	4,865,003	4,676,670
(Transfer to Coast Guard) (emergency)	(-120,293)	(-120,293)	(-120,293)
Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps (emergency)	1,503,694	1,101,594	1,146,594
Operation and Maintenance, Air Force (emergency)	6,909,259	6,685,881	6,650,881
Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide (emergency)	2,855,993	2,790,669	2,714,487
Operation and Maintenance, Army Reserve (emergency)	74,049	74,049	74,049
Operation and Maintenance, Navy Reserve (emergency)	111,066	111,066	111,066
Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps Reserve (emergency)	13,591	13,591	13,591
Operation and Maintenance, Air Force Reserve (emergency)	10,160	10,160	10,160
Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard (emergency)	133,569	83,569	83,569
Operation and Maintenance, Air National Guard (emergency)	38,429	38,429	38,429
Afghanistan Security Forces Fund (emergency)	5,906,400	5,906,400	5,906,400
Iraq Security Forces Fund (emergency)	3,842,300	3,842,300	3,842,300
Iraq Freedom Fund (emergency)	155,600	455,600	355,600
Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund (emergency)	2,432,800	2,432,800	2,432,800
Strategic Reserve Readiness Fund (emergency)	2,500,000	---	2,000,000
Subtotal	52,499,979	48,784,490	50,429,975
Procurement			
Aircraft Procurement, Army (emergency)	461,850	619,750	619,750
Missile Procurement, Army (emergency)	160,173	111,473	111,473
Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army (emergency)	3,474,389	3,400,315	3,404,315
Procurement of Ammunition, Army (emergency)	681,500	681,500	681,500
Other Procurement, Army (emergency)	10,197,399	10,589,272	11,076,137
Aircraft Procurement, Navy (emergency)	995,797	963,903	1,090,287
Weapons Procurement, Navy (emergency)	171,813	163,813	163,813
Procurement of Ammunition, Navy and Marine Corps (emergency)	159,833	159,833	159,833
Other Procurement, Navy (emergency)	937,407	722,506	748,749
Procurement, Marine Corps (emergency)	1,885,383	1,703,389	2,252,749
Aircraft Procurement, Air Force (emergency)	2,474,916	1,431,756	2,106,468
Missile Procurement, Air Force (emergency)	140,300	78,900	94,900
Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force (emergency)	95,800	6,000	6,000
Other Procurement, Air Force (emergency)	2,042,183	1,972,131	2,096,200
Procurement, Defense-Wide (emergency)	934,930	903,092	980,050
National Guard and Reserve Equipment (emergency)	---	1,000,000	---
Subtotal	24,813,673	24,507,633	25,592,224

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation			
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army (emergency)	60,781	125,576	100,006
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy (emergency)	295,737	308,212	298,722
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force (emergency)	132,928	233,869	187,176
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-wide (emergency)	545,904	522,804	512,804
Subtotal	1,035,350	1,190,461	1,098,708
Revolving And Management Funds			
Defense Working Capital Funds (emergency)	1,315,526	1,315,526	1,315,526
National Defense Sealift Fund (emergency)	5,000	5,000	5,000
Subtotal	1,320,526	1,320,526	1,320,526
Other Department of Defense Programs			
Defense Health Program (emergency)	2,789,703	2,466,847	3,251,853
Operation and maintenance (emergency)	(2,289,703)	(2,277,147)	(2,802,153)
Procurement (emergency)	---	(118,000)	(118,000)
Research, development, test and evaluation (emergency)	(500,000)	(71,700)	(331,700)
Medical support fund (emergency)	---	---	---
Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense (emergency)	259,115	254,665	254,665
Subtotal	3,048,818	2,721,512	3,506,518
Related Agencies			
Intelligence Community Management Account (emergency)	57,426	71,726	71,726
General Provisions			
Sec. 1302. New transfer authority (emergency)	(3,500,000)	(3,500,000)	(3,500,000)
Sec. xxxx. Additional transfer authority (emergency)	---	---	---
Sec. 1305. Defense Cooperative Account transfer authority (emergency)	1,000	1,000	1,000
Sec. xxxx. Procurement, Marine Corps MRAP (emergency)	---	1,500,000	---
Sec. xxxx. Contractor efficiency savings (emergency)	-815,000	---	---
Sec. xxxx. Army IG disability claims recommendations	1,000	---	---
Sec. 1322. Military Construction, Army (by transfer) (emergency)	---	---	(-6,250)
Sec. 1323. Economic Support Fund (Department of State) (by transfer) (emergency)	(-100,000)	---	(-110,000)
Total, Chapter 3	95,529,712	93,532,793	95,528,670

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the congressional defense committees within 30 days after the date of enactment of this legislation on the allocation of the funds within the accounts listed in this chapter. The Secretary shall submit updated reports 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter until funds listed in this chapter are no longer available for obligation. The conferees direct that these reports shall include: a detailed accounting of obligations and expenditures of appropriations provided in this chapter by program and sub activity group for the continuation of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan; a listing of equipment procured using funds provided in this chapter. The conferees expect that in order to meet unanticipated requirements, the Department of Defense may need to transfer funds within these appropriations accounts for purposes other than those specified in this report. The conferees direct the Department of Defense to follow normal prior approval reprogramming procedures should it be necessary to transfer funding between different appropriations accounts in this chapter.

MINE RESISTANT AMBUSH PROTECTED VEHICLES (MRAPS)

The amended supplemental budget request includes $1,832,300,000 for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAPs) Vehicles. These vehicles provide superior protection to our troops trom Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). Recognizing the survivability enhancements brought to our warfighters by MRAPs, Congress previously appropriated $592,000,000 for MRAPs in fiscal year 2007. Since IEDs continue to be the biggest threat to our troops in theater, the conferees believe it is imperative that these critical force protection items be provided to the warfighter as quickly as possible. Therefore, based on the most current information provided by the military services, the conferees provide $1,200,000,000 above the request for a total of $3,032,300,000 for MRAPs in the conference agreement. Further, the conferees designate MRAPs as a congressional interest item. The table below delineates MRAP funding in the conference agreement by appropriations account.

Given this program's critical importance, the conferees expect funds to be placed on contract expeditiously and direct the military services to jointly report to the congressional defense committees no later than 30 days after the enactment of this Act on the MRAP program's status, requirements, and the execution of funds provided in the conference agreement. Further, the conferees direct the services to provide updates to the congressional defense committees every 30 days thereafter until all funds provided in the conference agreement are fully obligated.

FY 2007 SUPPLEMENTAL MRAP FUNDING

[In thousands of dollars]

	Supplemental Request	Conference	Conference vs. Request
Operation and Maintenance, Navy	24,000	24,000	.....
Other Procurement Army, line 129	770,000	1,217,000	+447,000
Other Procurement, Navy, line 124	122,000	130,040	+8,040
Procurement, Marine Corps, line 70	678,000	1,263,360	+585,360
Other Procurement, Air Force, line 8 (Air Force)	15,200	139,040	+123,840
Procurement, Defense-wide, line 59 (SOCOM)	73,100	108,860	+35,760
Procurement, Defense-wide, line 61 (SOCOM)	150,000	150,000	.....

FY 2007 SUPPLEMENTAL MRAP FUNDING—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	Supplemental Request	Conference	Conference vs. Request
Total, MRAPs	1,832,300	3,032,300	+1,200,000

CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS

Recommended adjustments to classified programs are addressed in a classified annex accompanying this conference report.

MILITARY PERSONNEL

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
RECAPITULATION			
MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMY	8,878,899	8,870,270	8,853,350
MILITARY PERSONNEL, NAVY	1,100,410	1,100,410	1,100,410
MILITARY PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS	1,495,828	1,495,827	1,495,827
MILITARY PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE	1,229,334	1,218,587	1,218,587
RESERVE PERSONNEL, ARMY	173,244	147,244	147,244
RESERVE PERSONNEL, NAVY	82,800	77,523	86,023
RESERVE PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS	15,000	---	5,660
RESERVE PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE	14,100	9,073	11,573
NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, ARMY	552,725	474,978	545,286
NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE	24,600	41,533	44,033
GRAND TOTAL, MILITARY PERSONNEL	13,566,940	13,435,445	13,507,993

The conference agreement provides $13,507,993,000 for Military Personnel, instead of $ 13,566,940,000 as proposed by the House, and $13,435,445,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conferees provide $1,148,369,000 above the President's request to fully fund all identified shortfalls for Basic Allowance for Housing for the remainder of fiscal year 2007.

The conferees are encouraged by the recent success of the Armed Forces to meet or exceed their established recruiting and retention goals and urge the Services to continue pursuing innovative and cost-effective programs to attract and retain high-quality personnel. However, recruiting and retaining challenges still exist, particularly within highly specialized occupational disciplines.

For this reason, the conference agreement fully funds the supplemental request for recruiting and retention incentives and provides an additional $10,000,000 to specific reserve components that identified recruitment and retention shortfalls.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMY

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
50 MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMY			
100 ACTIVITY 1: PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF OFFICERS			
150 BASIC PAY	479,185	493,534	493,534
200 RETIRED PAY ACCRUAL	166,037	169,837	169,837
250 BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING	476,045	487,919	411,479
300 BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR SUBSISTENCE	15,552	16,060	16,060
350 SPECIAL PAYS	404,368	415,457	415,457
400 SOCIAL SECURITY TAX	34,931	36,012	36,012
450 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 1	1,576,118	1,618,819	1,542,379
500 ACTIVITY 2: PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF ENLISTED PERSONNEL			
550 BASIC PAY	1,297,546	1,323,548	1,323,548
600 RETIRED PAY ACCRUAL	459,397	466,287	466,287
650 BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING	1,560,492	1,350,445	1,409,965
700 SPECIAL PAYS	1,860,843	1,896,707	1,896,707
750 SOCIAL SECURITY TAX	99,068	101,057	101,057
800 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 2	5,277,346	5,138,044	5,197,564
850 ACTIVITY 4: SUBSISTENCE OF ENLISTED PERSONNEL			
900 BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR SUBSISTENCE	152,830	155,782	155,782
950 SUBSISTENCE-IN-KIND	1,131,175	1,216,195	1,216,195
1000 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 4	1,284,005	1,371,977	1,371,977
1050 ACTIVITY 5: PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION			
1100 ACCESSION TRAVEL	19,679	19,679	19,679
1150 OPERATIONAL TRAVEL	182,113	182,113	182,113
1200 ROTATIONAL TRAVEL	218,906	218,906	218,906
1250 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 5	420,698	420,698	420,698
1300 ACTIVITY 6: OTHER MILITARY PERSONNEL COSTS			
1350 INTEREST ON SOLDIERS DEPOSITS	21,779	21,779	21,779
1400 RESERVE INCOME REPLACEMENT PROGRAM	8,208	8,208	8,208
1450 UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	144,489	144,489	144,489
1500 DEATH GRATUITIES	95,056	95,056	95,056
1550 SGLI/TSGLI INSURANCE PREMIUM	51,200	51,200	51,200
1700 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 6	320,732	320,732	320,732
1750 TOTAL, MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMY	8,878,899	8,870,270	8,853,350

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[In thousands of dollars]

	Budget Request [1/]	House [2/]	Senate	Conference
MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMY				
BA-1: PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF OFFICERS				
Basic Allowance for Housing	379,919	476,045	487,919	411,479
BA-2: PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF ENLISTED				
Basic Allowance for Housing	1,098,445	1,560,492	1,350,445	1,409,965

1/ Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March 12, 2007.

2/ House action relative to the official fiscal year 2007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 budget.

ARMY PHYSICAL DISABILITY SYSTEM

The conferees direct the Secretary of the Army to take the necessary actions to implement the recommendations of the Army Inspector General to improve legal representation for soldiers pursuing claims through the Army Physical Disability Evaluation System.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, NAVY

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
1800 MILITARY PERSONNEL, NAVY			
1850 ACTIVITY 1: PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF OFFICERS			
1900 BASIC PAY	78,148	78,148	78,148
1950 RETIRED PAY ACCRUAL	20,681	20,681	20,681
2000 BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING	121,604	20,374	20,374
2050 BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR SUBSISTENCE	2,233	2,233	2,233
2100 SPECIAL PAYS	43,929	43,929	43,929
2150 SOCIAL SECURITY TAX	5,966	5,966	5,966
2200 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 1	272,561	171,331	171,331
2250 ACTIVITY 2: PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF ENLISTED PERSONNEL			
2300 BASIC PAY	145,279	145,279	145,279
2350 RETIRED PAY ACCRUAL	38,494	38,494	38,494
2400 BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING	369,944	471,174	471,174
2450 SPECIAL PAYS	152,440	152,440	152,440
2500 SOCIAL SECURITY TAX	11,110	11,110	11,110
2550 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 2	717,267	818,497	818,497
2600 ACTIVITY 4: SUBSISTENCE OF ENLISTED PERSONNEL			
2650 BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR SUBSISTENCE	14,103	14,103	14,103
2700 SUBSISTENCE-IN-KIND	13,149	13,149	13,149
2750 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 4	27,252	27,252	27,252
2800 ACTIVITY 5: PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION			
2850 ACCESSION TRAVEL	7,911	7,911	7,911
2950 OPERATIONAL TRAVEL	15,936	15,936	15,936
3000 ROTATIONAL TRAVEL	4,437	4,437	4,437
3050 SEPARATION TRAVEL	6,216	6,216	6,216
3150 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 5	34,500	34,500	34,500
3200 ACTIVITY 6: OTHER MILITARY PERSONNEL COSTS			
3300 RESERVE INCOME REPLACEMENT PROGRAM	3,000	3,000	3,000
3350 UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	28,200	28,200	28,200
3400 DEATH GRATUITIES	11,001	11,001	11,001
3450 SGLI/TSGLI INSURANCE PREMIUM	6,629	6,629	6,629
3600 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 6	48,830	48,830	48,830
3650 TOTAL, MILITARY PERSONNEL, NAVY	1,100,410	1,100,410	1,100,410

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[In thousands of dollars]

	Budget Request [1/]	House [2/]	Senate	Conference
MILITARY PERSONNEL, NAVY:				
BA-1: PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF OFFICERS				
Basic Allowance for Housing	20,374	121,604	20,374	20,374
BA-2: PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF ENLISTED				
Basic Allowance for Housing	62,891	369,944	471,174	471,174

1/ Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March 12, 2007.

2/ House action relative to the official fiscal year 2007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 budget.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
3700 MILITARY PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS			
3750 ACTIVITY 1: PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF OFFICERS			
3800 BASIC PAY	185,119	185,119	185,119
3850 RETIRED PAY ACCRUAL	49,056	49,056	49,056
3900 BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING	89,649	89,649	63,537
3950 BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR SUBSISTENCE	5,839	5,839	5,839
4000 SPECIAL PAYS	27,331	27,331	27,331
4050 SOCIAL SECURITY TAX	14,162	14,162	14,162
4100 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 1	371,156	371,156	345,044
4150 ACTIVITY 2: PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF ENLISTED PERSONNEL			
4200 BASIC PAY	241,654	241,654	241,654
4250 RETIRED PAY ACCRUAL	64,039	64,039	64,039
4300 BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING	215,803	215,803	241,915
4350 SPECIAL PAYS	438,169	438,168	438,168
4400 SOCIAL SECURITY TAX	18,487	18,487	18,487
4450 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 2	978,152	978,151	1,004,263
4500 ACTIVITY 4: SUBSISTENCE OF ENLISTED PERSONNEL			
4550 BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR SUBSISTENCE	38,624	38,624	38,624
4650 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 4	38,624	38,624	38,624
4700 ACTIVITY 5: PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION			
4750 ACCESSION TRAVEL	4,131	4,131	4,131
4850 OPERATIONAL TRAVEL	43,038	43,038	43,038
5050 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 5	47,169	47,169	47,169
5100 ACTIVITY 6: OTHER MILITARY PERSONNEL COSTS			
5250 UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	20,500	20,500	20,500
5300 DEATH GRATUITIES	31,121	31,121	31,121
5350 SGLI/TSGLI INSURANCE PREMIUM	9,106	9,106	9,106
5500 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 6	60,727	60,727	60,727
5550 TOTAL, MILITARY PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS	1,495,828	1,495,827	1,495,827

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[In thousands of dollars]

	Budget Request [1/]	House [2/]	Senate	Conference
MILITARY PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS:				
BA-1: PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF OFFICERS				
Basic Allowance for Housing	63,337	89,649	89,649	63,537
BA-2: PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF ENLISTED				
Basic Allowance for Housing	133,159	215,803	215,803	241,915

1/ Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March 12, 2007.

2/ House action relative to the official fiscal year 2007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 budget.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
5600 MILITARY PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE			
5650 ACTIVITY 1: PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF OFFICERS			
5700 BASIC PAY	142,957	143,092	143,092
5750 RETIRED PAY ACCRUAL	40,146	40,182	40,182
5800 BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING	87,597	91,989	91,989
5850 BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR SUBSISTENCE	5,152	5,156	5,156
5900 SPECIAL PAYS	6,642	6,721	6,721
5950 ALLOWANCES	4,608	4,650	4,650
6000 SOCIAL SECURITY TAX	11,589	11,599	11,599
6050 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 1	298,691	303,389	303,389
6100 ACTIVITY 2: PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF ENLISTED PERSONNEL			
6150 BASIC PAY	348,598	348,642	348,642
6200 RETIRED PAY ACCRUAL	99,297	99,309	99,309
6250 BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING	252,808	259,124	259,124
6300 SPECIAL PAYS	44,777	44,859	44,859
6350 ALLOWANCES	16,586	16,623	16,623
6400 SOCIAL SECURITY TAX	28,665	28,668	28,668
6450 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 2	790,731	797,225	797,225
6500 ACTIVITY 4: SUBSISTENCE OF ENLISTED PERSONNEL			
6550 BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR SUBSISTENCE	34,421	34,424	34,424
6600 SUBSISTENCE-IN-KIND	66,790	66,848	66,848
6650 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 4	101,211	101,272	101,272
6700 ACTIVITY 5: PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION			
6850 OPERATIONAL TRAVEL	5,500	5,500	5,500
7050 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 5	5,500	5,500	5,500
7100 ACTIVITY 6: OTHER MILITARY PERSONNEL COSTS			
7250 UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	16,200	16,200	16,200
7300 DEATH GRATUITIES	8,453	8,453	8,453
7350 SGLI/TSGLI INSURANCE PREMIUM	8,548	8,548	8,548
7500 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 6	33,201	33,201	33,201
7510 ADJUSTMENT TO PAY AND ALLOWANCES	---	-22,000	-22,000
7550 TOTAL, MILITARY PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE	1,229,334	1,218,587	1,218,587

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[In thousands of dollars]

	Budget Request [1/]	House [2/]	Senate	Conference
MILITARY PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE:				
BA-1: PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF OFFICERS				
Basic Allowance for Housing	54,189	87,597	91,989	91,989
BA-2: PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF ENLISTED				
Basic Allowance for Housing	157,624	252,808	259,124	259,124
Adjustment to Pay and Allowances - Transfer to National Guard Personnel, Air Force			-22,000	-22,000

1/ Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March 12, 2007.

2/ House action relative to the official fiscal year 2007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 budget.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, ARMY

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
7600 RESERVE PERSONNEL, ARMY			
7650 ACTIVITY 1: RESERVE COMPONENT TRAINING AND SUPPORT			
7660 SPECIAL TRAINING (PRE/POST MOB TRAINING)	1,103	1,103	1,103
7700 SPECIAL TRAINING (PRE/POST MOB TRAINING)(BAH)	32,397	6,397	6,397
7750 RECRUITING AND RETENTION	139,744	139,744	139,744
7900 TOTAL RESERVE PERSONNEL, ARMY	173,244	147,244	147,244

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[In thousands of dollars]

	Budget Request [1/]	House [2/]	Senate	Conference
RESERVE PERSONNEL, ARMY				
BA-1: RESERVE COMPONENT TRAINING & SUPPORT				
Special Training (PRE/POST MOB Training) (BAH)	6,397	32,397	6,397	6,397

1/ Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March 12, 2007.

2/ House action relative to the official fiscal year 2007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 budget.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, NAVY

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
7950 RESERVE PERSONNEL, NAVY			
8000 ACTIVITY 1: RESERVE COMPONENT TRAINING AND SUPPORT			
8050 UNIT TRAINING	35,000	35,000	35,000
8060 SPECIAL TRAINING (PRE/POST MOB TRAINING)	22,689	22,689	22,689
8100 SPECIAL TRAINING (PRE/POST MOB TRAINING) (BAH)	7,111	6,834	10,334
8110 SCHOOL TRAINING (PRE/POST MOB TRAINING)	11,960	11,960	11,960
8150 SCHOOL TRAINING (PRE/POST MOB TRAINING)(BAH)	1,040	1,040	1,040
8160 RECRUITING AND RETENTION	5,000	---	5,000
8200 TOTAL, RESERVE PERSONNEL, NAVY	82,800	77,523	86,023

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[In thousands of dollars]

	Budget Request [1/]	House [2/]	Senate	Conference
RESERVE PERSONNEL, NAVY:				
BA-1: RESERVE COMPONENT TRAINING & SUPPORT				
Special Training (PRE/POST MOB Training) (BAH)	2,111	7,111	6,834	10,334
Recruitment and Retention		5,000		5,000

1/ Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March 12, 2007.

2/ House action relative to the official fiscal year 2007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 budget.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
8250 RESERVE PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS			
8300 ACTIVITY 1: RESERVE COMPONENT TRAINING AND SUPPORT			
8340 SPECIAL TRAINING (PRE/POST MOB TRAINING) (BAH).....	10,000	---	5,660
8360 RECRUITING AND RETENTION	5,000	---	---
8400 TOTAL, RESERVE PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS.....	15,000	---	5,660

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[In thousands of dollars]

	Budget Request [1/]	House [2/]	Senate	Conference
RESERVE PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS:				
BA-1: RESERVE COMPONENT TRAINING & SUPPORT				
Special Training (PRE/POST MOB Training) (BAH)		10,000		5,660
Recruitment and Retention		5,000		0

1/ Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March 12, 2007.

2/ House action relative to the official fiscal year 2007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 budget.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
8450 RESERVE PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE			
8500 ACTIVITY 1: RESERVE COMPONENT TRAINING AND SUPPORT			
8550 SPECIAL TRAINING (PRE/POST MOB TRAINING)	3,000	3,000	3,000
8555 SPECIAL TRAINING (PRE/POST MOB TRAINING) (BAH).....	6,100	6,073	6,073
8560 RECRUITING AND RETENTION	5,000	---	2,500
8600 TOTAL, RESERVE PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE.....	14,100	9,073	11,573

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[In thousands of dollars]

	Budget Request [1/]	House [2/]	Senate	Conference
RESERVE PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE:				
BA-1: RESERVE COMPONENT TRAINING & SUPPORT				
Special Training (PRE/POST MOB Training) (BAH)		6,100	6,073	6,073
Recruitment and Retention		5,000		2,500

1/ Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March 12, 2007.

2/ House action relative to the official fiscal year 2007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 budget.

NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, ARMY

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
8650 NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, ARMY			
8700 ACTIVITY 1: RESERVE COMPONENT TRAINING AND SUPPORT			
8800 SPECIAL TRAINING (PRE/POST MOB TRAINING)	24,666	24,666	24,666
8810 SPECIAL TRAINING (PRE/POST MOB TRAINING) (BAH)	120,032	42,285	112,593
8850 SCHOOL TRAINING (PRE/POST MOB TRAINING)	15,475	15,475	15,475
8860 SCHOOL TRAINING (PRE/POST MOB TRAINING) (BAH)	7,766	7,766	7,766
8900 RECRUITING AND RETENTION	339,600	339,600	339,600
8910 RECRUITING AND RETENTION (BAH)	40,786	40,786	40,786
8950 DISABILITY AND DEATH GRATUITY	4,400	4,400	4,400
9000 TOTAL, NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, ARMY	552,725	474,978	545,286

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[In thousands of dollars]

	Budget Request [1/]	House [2/]	Senate	Conference
NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, ARMY:				
BA-1: RESERVE COMPONENT TRAINING & SUPPORT				
Special Training (PRE/POST MOB Training) (BAH)	3,332	120,032	42,285	112,593

1/ Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March 12, 2007.

2/ House action relative to the official fiscal year 2007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 budget.

NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
9010 NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE			
9015 ACTIVITY 1: RESERVE COMPONENT TRAINING AND SUPPORT			
9020 SPECIAL TRAINING (PRE/POST MOB TRAINING) (BAH).....	19,600	19,533	19,533
9035 RECRUITING AND RETENTION	5,000	---	2,500
9037 ADJUSTMENT TO PAY AND ALLOWANCES.....	---	22,000	22,000
9040 TOTAL, NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE.....	24,600	41,533	44,033

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[In thousands of dollars]

	Budget Request [1/]	House [2/]	Senate	Conference
NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE:				
BA-1: RESERVE COMPONENT TRAINING & SUPPORT				
Special Training (PRE/POST MOB Training) (BAH)		19,600	19,533	19,533
Recruitment and Retention		5,000		2,500
Adjustments to Pay and Allowances - Transfer from Military Personnel, Air Force			22,000	22,000

1/ Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March 12, 2007.

2/ House action relative to the official fiscal year 2007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 budget.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
RECAPITULATION			
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY	20,897,672	20,373,379	20,373,379
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY	5,115,397	4,865,003	4,676,670
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS	1,503,694	1,101,594	1,146,594
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE	6,909,259	6,685,881	6,650,881
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE	2,855,993	2,790,669	2,714,487
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY RESERVE	74,049	74,049	74,049
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY RESERVE	111,066	111,066	111,066
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS RESERVE	13,591	13,591	13,591
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE RESERVE	10,160	10,160	10,160
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD	133,569	83,569	83,569
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR NATIONAL GUARD	38,429	38,429	38,429
AFGHANISTAN SECURITY FORCES FUND	5,906,400	5,906,400	5,906,400
IRAQ SECURITY FORCES FUND	3,842,300	3,842,300	3,842,300
IRAQ FREEDOM FUND	155,600	455,600	355,600
JOINT IED DEFEAT FUND	2,432,800	2,432,800	2,432,800
STRATEGIC RESERVE READINESS FUND	2,500,000	---	2,000,000
GRAND TOTAL, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE	52,499,979	48,784,490	50,429,975

The conference agreement provides $50,429,975,000 for Operation and Maintenance, instead of $52,499,979,000 as proposed by the House, and $48,784,490,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conferees provide a net increase $171,368,000 above the President's request. The level of funding agreed to by the conferees fully funds critical ground combat operations, flying hours, military intelligence activities, logistical support, fuel purchases, base support, depot maintenance and over-ocean transportation related to the. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The conferees believe that military operations in Afghanistan are vital to defeating terrorism and therefore provide an additional $750,000,000 for OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM above the original budget request as follows:

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

($'s in millions)

Army	+510
Navy	+100
Marine Corps	+45
Air Force	+80
Defense-wide	+15
Total OEF	+750

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

655

Continued

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
50 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY			
70 BUDGET ACTIVITY 1: OPERATING FORCES			
90 ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES	17,631,309	17,606,616	17,606,616
95 OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM OPTEMPO	500,000	---	---
110 COMMANDER'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM	456,000	456,400	456,400
150 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 1	18,587,309	18,063,016	18,063,016
165 BUDGET ACTIVITY 4: ADMIN & SERVICEWIDE ACTIVITIES			
170 SECURITY PROGRAMS	597,614	597,614	597,614
190 SERVICE-WIDE TRANSPORTATION	1,712,749	1,712,749	1,712,749
195 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 4	2,310,363	2,310,363	2,310,363
211 TOTAL, O&M, ARMY	20,897,672	20,373,379	20,373,379

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS

[In thousands of dollars]

O-1	Budget Request 1/	House 2/	Senate	Conference
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY				
BA-1: OPERATING FORCES				
OEF OPTEMPO	0	**500,000**	0	0
Additional Activities	**17,656,616**	**17,631,309**	**17,606,616**	**17,606,616**
Correction of budget submission error		456,000		0
Mobilization training		88,500		0
Readiness Enhancements		200,000		0
Unjustified request			-50,000	-50,000
Commanders' Emergency Response Program	**456,400**	**456,000**	**456,400**	**456,400**
Correction of budget submission error		-50,400		

1/ Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March 12, 2007.

2/ House action relative to the official 2007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 Budget.

COMMANDERS' EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM

Within the funds provided for Operation and Maintenance, Army, the conference agreement includes $456,400,000 for the Commanders' Emergency Response Program (CERP). Within this amount, $350,400,000 shall be for CERP activities in Iraq and $106,000,000 for activities in Afghanistan.

The following table provides details within Operation and Maintenance, Army line items recommended by the conferees:

	Line and Category	Conference Recommendation
135	OIF/OEF Operations and Sustainment	3,472,494
135	LOGCAP	2,511,402
135	Subsistence	965,300
135		IBA/RFI/Other Force Protection
135	Predeployment Training and Support	1,484,768
135	Active Component Overstrength (30K)	386,189
135	Soldier and Family Support	863,365
135	Contract Linguists/Cultural Advisors	884,902
135	CONUS Base Support/Security	851,903
135	Recruiting and Retention	215,869
135	Reconstruction Support (GRD/PCO)	790,082
135	BCT Acceleration	177,245
135	Theater Plus Up/Surge	3,029,745
135	COCOM Regional War on Terror	90,832
135	Other GWOT	218,949
135	Intelligence Activities	119,859
	Subtotal Additional Activities	17,606,616
136	CERP	456,400
411	Security programs	597,614
421	Second Destination Transportation	1,712,749
	Grand Total, Operation and Maintenance, Army	20,373,379

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
270 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY			
290 BUDGET ACTIVITY 1: OPERATING FORCES			
310 MISSION & OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS	1,309,203	1,121,040	1,121,040
330 FLEET AIR TRAINING	41,661	41,661	41,661
350 INTERMEDIATE MAINTENANCE	1,420	1,420	1,420
370 AIR OPERATIONS AND SAFETY SUPPORT	6,614	6,614	6,614
390 AIR SYSTEMS SUPPORT	6,005	6,005	6,005
410 AIRCRAFT DEPOT MAINTENANCE	190,304	184,663	56,104
430 MISSION & OTHER SHIP OPERATIONS	824,606	767,758	767,758
450 SHIP OPERATIONAL SUPPORT/TRAINING	15,417	15,417	15,417
470 SHIP DEPOT MAINTENANCE	278,235	269,009	109,235
490 SHIP DEPOT OPERATIONS SUPPORT	11,463	11,463	11,463
510 COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS	10,656	10,656	10,656
530 ELECTRONIC WARFARE	9,088	9,088	9,088
550 SPACE SYSTEMS & SURVEILLANCE	3,190	3,190	3,190
570 WARFARE TACTICS	11,861	11,861	11,861
590 OP METEOROLOGY AND OCEANOGRAPHY	4,919	4,919	4,919
610 COMBAT SUPPORT FORCES	1,683,241	1,074,667	1,074,667
630 EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	8,991	8,991	8,991
650 IN-SERVICE WEAPONS SYSTEMS SUPPORT	23,316	23,316	23,316
670 WEAPONS MAINTENANCE	6,671	6,671	6,671
690 OTHER WEAPONS SYSTEMS SUPPORT	463	463	463
710 FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MOD (FSRM)	27,665	27,665	27,665
730 BASE OPERATING SUPPORT (BOS)	491,069	491,069	491,069
750 UNEXECUTABLE FY 2007 FUNDING	-306,000	---	---
760 OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM OPTEMPO	200,000	---	100,000
765 ADJUSTMENT TO CORRECT OFFICIAL BUDGET REQUEST	-554,855	---	---
770 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 1	4,305,203	4,097,606	3,909,273
790 BUDGET ACTIVITY 2: MOBILIZATION			
810 SHIP PREPOSITIONING & SURGE	187,302	162,761	162,761
850 FLEET HOSPITAL PROGRAM	7,903	7,903	7,903
860 ADJUSTMENT TO CORRECT OFFICIAL BUDGET REQUEST	-24,000	---	---
870 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 2	171,205	170,664	170,664

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
890 BUDGET ACTIVITY 3: TRAINING AND RECRUITING			
910 OFFICER ACQUISITION	71	71	71
950 SPECIALIZED SKILL TRAINING	84,292	67,849	67,849
970 FLIGHT TRAINING	8,656	8,656	8,656
990 RECRUITING & ADVERTISING	1,152	1,152	1,152
1010 ADJUSTMENT TO CORRECT OFFICIAL BUDGET REQUEST	-16,272	---	---
1050 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 3	77,899	77,728	77,728
1070 BUDGET ACTIVITY 4: ADMIN & SERVICEWIDE ACTIVITIES			
1090 ADMINISTRATION	6,027	6,027	6,027
1110 EXTERNAL RELATIONS	98	98	98
1130 MILITARY MANPOWER/PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT	1,188	1,188	1,188
1150 OTHER PERSONNEL SUPPORT	2,392	2,392	2,392
1170 SERVICE-WIDE COMMUNICATIONS	72,089	71,489	71,489
1190 SERVICE-WIDE TRANSPORTATION	346,938	194,011	194,011
1210 PLANNING, ENGINEER & DESIGN	3	3	3
1230 ACQUISITION AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT	109,817	54,212	54,212
1250 COMBAT/WEAPONS SYSTEM	436	436	436
1270 SPACE & ELECTRONIC WARFARE SYSTEM	55	55	55
1290 SECURITY PROGRAMS	106,962	65,147	65,147
1310 NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE	3,654	3,654	3,654
1330 ADJUSTMENT TO CORRECT OFFICIAL BUDGET REQUEST	-208,862	---	---
1350 TRANSFER TO COAST GUARD	120,293	120,293	120,293
1390 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 4	561,090	519,005	519,005
1410 TOTAL, O&M, NAVY	5,115,397	4,865,003	4,676,670

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS

[In thousands of dollars]

	Budget Request 1/	House 2/	Senate	Conference
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY				
BA-1: OPERATING FORCES				
Amended Budget (correction of submission error)	**0**	**-554,855**	**0**	**0**
OEF OPTEMPO	**0**	**200,000**	**0**	**100,000**
Mission & Other Flight Operations	**1,121,040**	**1,208,965**	**1,121,040**	**1,121,040**
Marine Corps Flying hours		80,000		0
Aircraft Depot Maintenance	**190,304**	**53,304**	**184,663**	**56,104**
Funds not executable in FY 2007		-137,000	-8,441	-137,000
Aircraft survivability equipment (Marine Corps)			2,800	2,800
Ship Depot Maintenance	**278,235**	**109,235**	**269,009**	**109,235**
Funds not executable in FY 2007		-169,000	-9,226	-169,000
Combat Support Forces Maintenance	**1,235,279**	**0**	**1,074,667**	**1,074,667**
Funds not executable in FY 2007			-160,612	-160,612

1/ Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March 12, 2007.

2/ House action relative to the official 2007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 Budget.

UNEXECUTABLE DEPOT MAINTENANCE

In the fiscal year 2007 emergency supplemental request, the Navy requested funding for additional depot maintenance associated with the surge of combat forces to Iraq and the CENTCOM area of responsibility. Based on more recent analysis of depot maintenance requirements subsequent to the budget submission, the conferees reduce the amount of funding identified by the Navy as being unexecutable in fiscal year 2007.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
1430 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS			
1450 BUDGET ACTIVITY 1: OPERATING FORCES			
1490 OPERATIONAL FORCES	664,833	514,633	514,633
1510 FIELD LOGISTICS	531,632	381,632	381,632
1570 SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION, AND MODERNIZATION	19,186	19,186	19,186
1590 BASE SUPPORT	33,474	33,474	33,474
1592 OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM OPTEMPO	100,000	---	45,000
1595 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 1	1,349,125	948,925	993,925
1605 BUDGET ACTIVITY 3: TRAINING AND RECRUITING			
1610 RECRUIT TRAINING	1,900	---	---
1650 TRAINING SUPPORT	62,936	62,936	62,936
1670 RECRUITING AND ADVERTISING	24,000	24,000	24,000
1675 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 3	88,836	86,936	86,936
1685 BUDGET ACTIVITY 4: ADMIN & SERVICEWIDE ACTIVITIES			
1730 SERVICE-WIDE TRANSPORTATION	65,733	65,733	65,733
1735 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 4	65,733	65,733	65,733
1750 TOTAL, O&M, MARINE CORPS	1,503,694	1,101,594	1,146,594

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS

[In thousands of dollars]

	Budget Request 1/	House 2/	Senate	Conference
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS				
BA-1: OPERATING FORCES				
OEF OPTEMPO	**0**	**100,000**	**0**	**45,000**
Operational Forces	**664,633**	**664,833**	**514,633**	**514,633**
Additional individual equipment		200		0
Unexecutable Funding			-150,000	-150,000
Field Logistics	**531,632**	**531,632**	**381,632**	**381,632**
Unexecutable Funding			-150,000	-150,000
BA-3: TRAINING AND RECRUITING	**86,936**	**88,836**	**86,936**	**86,936**
Recruit Training		1,900		0

1/ Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March 12, 2007.

2/ House action relative to the official 2007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 Budget.

UNEXECUTABLE FUNDING

Subsequent to the budget submission, the Marine Corps identified $300,000,000 that is unexecutable in fiscal year 2007 based on unanticipated lag time associated with current funding execution.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
1770 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE			
1790 BUDGET ACTIVITY 1: OPERATING FORCES			
1810 PRIMARY COMBAT FORCES	1,281,232	1,252,192	1,252,192
1830 PRIMARY COMBAT WEAPONS	2,427	2,427	2,427
1850 COMBAT ENHANCEMENT FORCES	91,586	91,586	91,586
1890 COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS	339,480	339,480	339,480
1910 DEPOT MAINTENANCE	85,400	85,400	85,400
1930 FSRM	184,505	184,505	184,505
1950 BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	1,711,157	1,811,157	1,711,157
1970 GLOBAL C3I AND EARLY WARNING	20,872	20,872	20,872
1990 NAVIGATION AND WEATHER SUPPORT	6,344	6,344	6,344
2010 OTHER COMBAT OPS SUPPORT	270,506	257,732	257,732
2030 MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL	104,503	95,139	95,139
2050 TACTICAL INTEL & OTHER SUPPORT	930	930	930
2070 LAUNCH FACILITIES	1,103	1,103	1,103
2090 LAUNCH VEHICLES	20	20	20
2110 SPACE CONTROL SYSTEMS	572	572	572
2130 SATELLITE SYSTEMS	73	73	73
2150 OTHER SPACE OPERATIONS	7,949	7,949	7,949
2170 FSRM	157	157	157
2190 BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	9,058	9,058	9,058
2195 OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM OPTEMPO	140,000	---	65,000
2210 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 1	4,257,874	4,166,696	4,131,696
2225 BUDGET ACTIVITY 2: MOBILIZATION			
2230 AIRLIFT OPERATIONS	1,683,783	1,551,583	1,551,583
2270 AIRLIFT OPERATIONS C3I	12,284	12,284	12,284
2290 MOBILIZATION PREPAREDNESS	19,988	19,988	19,988
2310 DEPOT MAINTENANCE	209,000	209,000	209,000
2330 FSRM	1,464	1,464	1,464
2350 BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	95,302	95,302	95,302
2370 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 2	2,021,821	1,889,621	1,889,621

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
2385 BUDGET ACTIVITY 3: TRAINING AND RECRUITING			
2390 RECRUIT TRAINING	54	54	54
2430 BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	1,510	1,510	1,510
2450 SPECIALIZED SKILL TRAINING	65,036	65,036	65,036
2470 FLIGHT TRAINING	25	25	25
2490 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING	692	692	692
2510 TRAINING SUPPORT	1,241	1,241	1,241
2530 FSRM	2,406	2,406	2,406
2550 BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	15,000	15,000	15,000
2570 RECRUITING AND ADVERTISING	72	72	72
2590 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 3	86,036	86,036	86,036
2605 BUDGET ACTIVITY 4: ADMIN & SERVICEWIDE ACTIVITIES			
2610 LOGISTICS OPERATIONS	191,550	191,550	191,550
2650 TECHNICAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES	1,101	1,101	1,101
2670 SERVICE-WIDE TRANSPORTATION	113,776	113,776	113,776
2690 FSRM	145	145	145
2710 BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	15,124	15,124	15,124
2730 ADMINISTRATION	1,421	1,421	1,421
2750 SERVICE-WIDE COMMUNICATION	40,765	40,765	40,765
2770 PERSONNEL PROGRAMS	222	222	222
2790 OTHER SERVICE-WIDE ACTIVITIES	47,486	47,486	47,486
2810 OTHER PERSONNEL SUPPORT	2,603	2,603	2,603
2830 BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	2,862	2,862	2,862
2850 SECURITY PROGRAMS	102,842	102,842	102,842
2870 INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT	23,631	23,631	23,631
2890 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 4	543,528	543,528	543,528
2910 TOTAL, O&M, AIR FORCE	6,909,259	6,685,881	6,650,881

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS

[In thousands of dollars]

	Budget Request 1/	House 2/	Senate	Conference
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE				
BA-1: OPERATING FORCES				
OEF OPTEMPO	**0**	**140,000**	**0**	**65,000**
Base Operating Support	**2,011,157**	**1,711,157**	**1,811,157**	**1,711,157**
Unjustified Growth		-300,000	-200,000	-300,000
Airlift Operations	**1,701,583**	**1,683,783**	**1,551,583**	**1,551,583**
Unjustified Growth			-150,000	-150,000

1/ Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March 12, 2007.

2/ House action relative to the official 2007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 Budget.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
2930 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE			
2950 BUDGET ACTIVITY 1: OPERATING FORCES			
2970 THE JOINT STAFF (TJS)	35,200	61,904	60,200
2990 US SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND (US SOCOM)	653,147	667,197	653,147
3010 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 1	688,347	729,101	713,347
3025 BUDGET ACTIVITY 4: ADMIN & SERVICEWIDE ACTIVITIES			
3030 AMERICAN FORCES INFORMATION SERVICE (AFIS)	18,785	18,785	18,785
3050 DEFENSE CONTRACT AUDIT AGENCY (DCAA)	16,372	15,000	16,372
3070 DEFENSE CONTRACT MANAGEMENT AGENCY (DCMA)	6,169	5,882	6,169
3090 DEFENSE HUMAN RESOURCES ACTIVITY (DHRA)	21,681	6,551	6,551
3110 DEFENSE INFORMATION SYSTEMS AGENCY (DISA)	76,347	162,347	76,347
3130 DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY (DLA)	24,600	---	---
3170 DOD EDUCATION ACTIVITY (DODEA)	136,900	119,922	129,922
3190 DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY (DSCA)	650,000	500,000	500,000
3210 DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY (DTRA)	11,900	1,200	1,200
3230 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE	40,180	40,180	45,180
3250 WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS SERVICES (WHS)	4,800	4,800	4,800
3270 CLASSIFIED	1,129,912	1,186,901	1,180,814
3275 OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM OPTEMPO	30,000	---	15,000
3300 TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 4	2,167,646	2,061,568	2,001,140
3310 TOTAL, O&M, DEFENSE-WIDE	2,855,993	2,790,669	2,714,487

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[in thousands of dollars]

	Budget Request 1/	House 2/	Senate	Conference
The Joint Staff (TJS)	**61,904**	**35,200**	**61,904**	**60,200**
Combatant Commander Initiative Fund (CCIF)		-25,000		
Contingency planning database (CPD) and effects-based assessment system (EBASS)		-1,704		-1,704
US Special Operations Command (US SOCOM)	**667,197**	**653,147**	**667,197**	**653,147**
Program reduction		-14,050		-14,050
Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA)	**15,000**	**16,372**	**15,000**	**16,372**
Iraq reconstruction efforts: civilian personnel		1,263		1,263
Iraq reconstruction efforts: temporary/additional duty		13		13
Iraq reconstruction efforts: miscellaneous contracts		96		96
Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA)	**5,882**	**6,169**	**5,882**	**6,169**
Contract oversight of Iraq and Afghanistan mission requirements: pay		287		287
Defense Human Resources Activity (DHRA)	**21,681**	**21,681**	**6,551**	**6,551**
Homeland Security Presidential Directive No. 12			-15,130	-15,130
Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA)	**162,347**	**76,347**	**162,347**	**76,347**
Expeditionary virtual network (EVNO)		-86,000		-86,000
Defense Logistics Agency (DLA)	**24,600**	**24,600**	**0**	**0**
Lithium battery program adjustment			-24,600	-24,600
DoD Education Activity (DoDEA)	**119,922**	**136,900**	**119,922**	**129,922**
Guantanamo Bay quality of life		-38,322		
Family assistance for Guard and Reserve		7,000		4,000
Child care for Guard and Reserve		10,000		6,000
Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA)	**950,000**	**650,000**	**500,000**	**500,000**
Support to coalition partners: global lift and sustain		-50,000	-50,000	-50,000
Support to coalition partners: global train and equip		-300,000	-300,000	-300,000
Coalition support reduction			-100,000	-100,000
Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)	**1,200**	**11,900**	**1,200**	**1,200**
Office of the Secretary of Defense	**40,180**	**40,180**	**40,180**	**45,180**
Transfer from Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force only for Handgun Replacement Study				5,000
Classified	**1,185,809**	**1,129,912**	**1,186,901**	**1,180,814**
OEF OPTEMPO	**0**	**30,000**	**0**	**15,000**

1/ Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March 12, 2007.
2/ House action relative to the official fiscal year 2007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 Budget.

EXPEDITIONARY VIRTUAL NETWORK (EVNO)

The conference agreement deletes funds requested within the Defense Information Systems Agency for the expeditionary virtual network. The conferees direct that these activities shall be funded within funds made available in this Act for the Iraq Security Forces Fund.

SOAR VIRTUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The conferees direct that the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy shall release a request for proposal as soon as practicable for funding provided in the fiscal year 2007 Defense Appropriations Act for Student Online Achievement Resources (SOAR Virtual School District), an Internet-based initiative designed to assist children from military families reap the greatest benefit from their public education, especially as families relocate and students move from school to school. This effort shall involve online assessments to identify strengths and weaknesses in both literacy and math and will be provided by a teacher education program of an institution of higher education that has experience working with teachers to provide curricula for children of Armed Forces personnel. Further, this project shall link schools through a ''virtual school district,'' providing a vehicle by which a student's individual performance records can transfer to a student's new school.

FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS

The conference agreement provides $10,000,000 for Family Advocacy Programs, instead of $17,000,000 as proposed by the House. Of the additional amounts provided, $4,000,000 is to fund initiatives to bolster Guard and Reserve family pre-deployment and post deployment support programs. These initiatives should utilize Joint Reserve & Guard Family Assistance Centers. The conferees also provide $6,000,000 to support the child care needs of deployed Guard and Reserve members in their local communities, to include respite and emergency child care.

The conferees also are aware of and concerned about the growing need for family members to have access to professional counseling to help alleviate the mental stresses associated with deployments. At select bases around the country, it has been reported that children of service members are experiencing higher truancy rates and falling grades in school. As such, the conferees urge the family advocacy programs to work with the Department's Health Affairs office, specifically the Defense Health Program, to coordinate efforts to ensure that counseling is provided to all family members of the active duty and reserve component members on deployment or preparing for deployment overseas.

GLOBAL TRAIN AND EQUIP

The conference report does not contain an emergency appropriation requested by the Administration for Global Train and Equip authorized under section 1206 of the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense Authorization Act. Based upon discussions with the Department of Defense, the conferees understand that the Department, working with other federal agencies, has identified requirements associated with Global Train and Equip activities, and is developing a reprogramming request for consideration by the congressional defense committees. The conferees await such a request and anticipate favorable consideration of the reprogramming, provided that the sources of funds meet the committees' approval.

HANDGUN REPLACEMENT STUDY

The conferees provide $5,000,000 only for a study that examines joint sidearm requirements (including service-unique requirements, as appropriate), the M9 9mm handgun's capabilities (including its lethality), and handgun and ammunition alternatives that address these requirements. The conferees understand that it will be necessary to purchase up to 50 handguns and associated ammunition to conduct this study. In order to inform deliberations on the fiscal year 2008 appropriations bill for the Department of Defense, the conferees direct that the results of the study be provided in a written report to the congressional defense committees by August 31, 2007.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY RESERVE

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars)		
	House	Senate	Conference
3330 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY RESERVE			
3351 ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES	74,049	74,049	74,049
3370 TOTAL, O&M, ARMY RESERVE	74,049	74,049	74,049

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY RESERVE

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
3410 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY RESERVE			
3430 MISSION & OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS	43,601	43,601	43,601
3450 INTERMEDIATE MAINTENANCE	9,110	9,110	9,110
3470 MISSION & OTHER SHIP OPERATIONS	22,151	22,151	22,151
3490 COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS	1,170	1,170	1,170
3510 COMBAT SUPPORT FORCES	29,000	29,000	29,000
3530 BASE OPERATING SUPPORT (BOS)	6,034	6,034	6,034
3550 TOTAL, O&M, NAVY RESERVE	111,066	111,066	111,066

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS RESERVE

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars)		
	House	Senate	Conference
3570 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS RESERVE			
3590 OPERATIONAL FORCES	13,591	13,591	13,591
3650 TOTAL, O&M, MARINE CORPS RESERVE	13,591	13,591	13,591

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE RESERVE

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars)		
	House	Senate	Conference
3670 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE RESERVE			
3710 PRIMARY COMBAT FORCES	7,100	7,100	7,100
3730 BASE SUPPORT	3,060	3,060	3,060
3750 TOTAL, O&M, AIR FORCE RESERVE	10,160	10,160	10,160

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
3770 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD			
3850 ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES	133,569	83,569	83,569
3870 TOTAL, O&M, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD	133,569	83,569	83,569

EXPLANTION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[in thousands of dollars]

	Budget Request 1/	House 2/	Senate Conference	
Additional Activities	**83,569**	**133,569**	**83,569**	**83,569**
Additional activities: recruitment and retention		50,000		0

1/ Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March 12, 2007.
2/ House action relative to the official fiscal year 2007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 Budget.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
3890 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR NATIONAL GUARD			
3910 AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS	27,200	27,200	27,200
3930 MISSION SUPPORT OPERATIONS	11,229	11,229	11,229
3951 TOTAL, O&M, AIR NATIONAL GUARD	38,429	38,429	38,429

AFGHANISTAN SECURITY FORCES FUND

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
4010 AFGHANISTAN SECURITY FORCES FUND			
4030 MINISTRY OF DEFENSE FORCES:			
4050 INFRASTRUCTURE	209,900	209,900	209,900
4070 EQUIPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION	3,214,500	3,214,500	3,214,500
4090 TRAINING	185,900	185,900	185,900
4110 SUSTAINMENT	255,200	255,200	255,200
4130 MINISTRY OF INTERIOR FORCES:			
4150 INFRASTRUCTURE	594,200	594,200	594,200
4170 EQUIPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION	624,200	624,200	624,200
4190 TRAINING	414,800	414,800	414,800
4210 SUSTAINMENT	399,500	399,500	399,500
4230 RELATED ACTIVITIES	8,200	8,200	8,200
4250 TOTAL, AFGHANISTAN SECURITY FORCES FUND	5,906,400	5,906,400	5,906,400

IRAQ SECURITY FORCES FUND

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
4270 IRAQ SECURITY FORCES FUND			
4290 MINISTRY OF DEFENSE FORCES:			
4310 INFRASTRUCTURE	264,800	264,800	264,800
4330 EQUIPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION	1,739,800	1,584,300	1,584,300
4350 TRAINING	51,700	51,700	51,700
4370 SUSTAINMENT	1,079,600	1,079,600	1,079,600
4390 MINISTRY OF INTERIOR FORCES:			
4410 INFRASTRUCTURE	205,000	205,000	205,000
4430 EQUIPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION	373,600	373,600	373,600
4450 TRAINING	52,900	52,900	52,900
4470 SUSTAINMENT	72,900	72,900	72,900
4490 RELATED ACTIVITIES	2,000	157,500	157,500
4530 TOTAL, IRAQ SECURITY FORCES FUND	3,842,300	3,842,300	3,842,300

IRAQ SECURITY FORCES FUND

The conference agreement includes $3,842,300,000, the same level as proposed by both the House and the Senate for the Iraq Security Forces Fund. Within this amount, the conference agreement includes $155,500,000 for assistance to the Government of Iraq to disarm, demobilize and reintegrate militias and illegal armed groups. The House had proposed to delete these funds.

The conference agreement modifies a general provision proposed by the House that required certain reports before the obligation of more than 50 percent of the funds made available under this heading.

The conference agreement deletes the withholding of funds under this heading until the reports are provided and, in lieu thereof, requires the submission of the aforementioned reports to the congressional defense committees. The conferees note the pressing need for the data mandated in these reports and fully expect the Department of Defense and the Office of Management and Budget to submit these reports, and any updates thereto, within the timeframes identified in the provision.

IRAQ FREEDOM FUND

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
4550 IRAQ FREEDOM FUND			
4570 JOINT RAPID ACQUISITION FOR GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR.....	50,000	100,000	100,000
4590 REMAINS, TRANSPORTATION.....	105,600	105,600	105,600
4595 STATE OWNED FACTORY RESTART, IRAQ.....	---	100,000	50,000
4600 PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAMS, IRAQ.....	---	150,000	100,000
4610 TOTAL, IRAQ FREEDOM FUND.....	155,600	455,600	355,600

JOINT IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DEFEAT FUND

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
4630 JOINT IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE (IED) DEFEAT FUND			
4650 ATTACK THE NETWORK	834,500	834,500	834,500
4670 DEFEAT THE DEVICE	1,485,700	1,485,700	1,485,700
4690 TRAIN THE FORCE	112,600	112,600	112,600
4730 TOTAL, JOINT IED DEFEAT FUND	2,432,800	2,432,800	2,432,800

JOINT IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DEFEAT FUND

The conference agreement provides $2,432,800,000 for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO), as requested, and proposed by both the House and the Senate. Both chambers have expressed concerns with JIEDDO's management practices, and the conferees concur with the findings made by the respective Committees. The conferees direct the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization to adhere to the reporting requirements as set forth in Senate Report 110–37 and the direction and reprogramming requirements as set forth in House Report 110–60.

The conferees agree to provide substantial resources to the JIEDDO in support of the prescribed objective to develop and field innovative solutions and countermeasures to mitigate the critical threat posed by improvised explosive devices. However, the conferees remain concerned with the organization's financial management practices, including its continued failure to provide a plan for obligation and expenditures for previously appropriated and for currently requested funding. The conferees are concerned that the organization is not effectively managing its resources to deliver effective counter-IED solutions to theater. Furthermore, the conferees are concerned with the JIEDDO's inability to provide timely and detailed responses to the congressional defense committees' inquiries for specific information regarding its budget requests. The conferees will be hard-pressed to fully fund future budget requests unless the JIEDDO improves its financial management practices and its responsiveness.

STRATEGIC RESERVE READINESS FUND

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars)		
	House	Senate	Conference
4750 STRATEGIC RESERVE READINESS FUND.....	2,500,000	---	2,000,000

STRATEGIC RESERVE READINESS FUND

The conference agreement provides $2,000,000,000 to establish the Strategic Reserve Readiness Fund, instead of $2,500,000,000 as proposed by the House. From the amount provided, $1,000,000,000 shall be transferred to the National Guard and Reserve Equipment appropriation to support improvements to the readiness of the Army National Guard.

PROCUREMENT

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
SUMMARY			
ARMY			
AIRCRAFT	461,850	619,750	619,750
MISSILES	160,173	111,473	111,473
WEAPONS, TRACKED COMBAT VEHICLES	3,474,389	3,400,315	3,404,315
AMMUNITION	681,500	681,500	681,500
OTHER	10,197,399	10,589,272	11,076,137
TOTAL, ARMY	14,975,311	15,402,310	15,893,175
NAVY			
AIRCRAFT	995,797	963,903	1,090,287
WEAPONS	171,813	163,813	163,813
AMMUNITION	159,833	159,833	159,833
OTHER	937,407	722,506	748,749
MARINE CORPS	1,885,383	1,703,389	2,252,749
TOTAL, NAVY	4,150,233	3,713,444	4,415,431
AIR FORCE			
AIRCRAFT	2,474,916	1,431,756	2,106,468
MISSILES	140,300	78,900	94,900
AMMUNITION	95,800	6,000	6,000
OTHER	2,042,183	1,972,131	2,096,200
TOTAL, AIR FORCE	4,753,199	3,488,787	4,303,568
DEFENSE-WIDE			
DEFENSE-WIDE	934,930	903,092	980,050
NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE EQUIPMENT			
NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE EQUIPMENT	---	1,000,000	---
TOTAL PROCUREMENT	24,813,673	24,507,633	25,592,224

AIRCRAFT COMBAT LOSSES

The conferees have agreed to fund procurement of aircraft to replace combat losses. The conference agreement includes funding for three F/A-18E/F aircraft to directly replace F/A–18 aircraft lost in combat and to fund a single EA–18G aircraft which is a functional replacement for an EA–6B Prowler combat loss. Additionally, funding is provided to bolster the readiness and capabilities of aviation assets operating in extremely high rates. As such, the conferees agree to fund six UH–60 helicopters and five C–130 aircraft.

FUNDING FOR EFFORTS IN BASE BUDGET

The conferees agree to delete funding for procurement items that are better suited to receive funding through the normal budget process. Replacing obsolete computer equipment and installing non-emergency equipment modifications or upgrades should be funded as part of the base budget. The Department of Defense is encouraged to appropriately identify their needs so that only emergency items are requested in the supplementals and routine procurements are funded in the normal budget process. Additionally, the Department is reminded that supplemental funding should not be requested for items that can not be executed in a timely fashion.

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, ARMY

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

		(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
50	AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, ARMY			
100	ARMED RECONNAISSANCE HELICOPTER	38,000	---	---
150	UH-60M BLACKHAWK (MYP)	30,403	136,303	136,303
250	GUARDRAIL MODS (TIARA)	33,000	33,000	33,000
300	ARL MODS (TIARA)	15,000	15,000	15,000
350	AH-64 MODS	64,200	64,200	64,200
400	CH-47 CARGO HELICOPTER MODS	30,000	120,000	120,000
450	ASE INFRARED CM	231,555	231,555	231,555
500	COMMON GROUND EQUIPMENT	1,811	1,811	1,811
550	AIRCREW INTEGRATED SYSTEMS	10,200	10,200	10,200
600	AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL	7,681	7,681	7,681
650	TOTAL, AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, ARMY	461,850	619,750	619,750

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[in thousands of dollars]

P-1		Budget Request 1/	House 2/	Senate	Conference
3	**Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter**	**38,000**	**38,000**	**0**	**0**
	Baseline budget requirement			-38,000	-38,000
5	**UH-60M Blackhawk Multiyear**	**106,303**	**30,403**	**136,303**	**136,303**
	Defer acquisition funding for non-battle loss replacement aircraft		-75,900		0
	War Replacement Aircraft			30,000	30,000
12	**CH-47 Cargo Helicopter Mods**	**120,000**	**30,000**	**120,000**	**120,000**
	Defer acquisition funding for non-battle loss replacement aircraft		-90,000		0
	(Note: The conference agreement includes one SOCOM CH-47 battle loss and three CH-47s for the Army National Guard)				

1/ Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March12, 2007.
2/ House action relative to the official fiscal year 2007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 budget.

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

		(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
700	MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY			
750	JAVELIN	103,673	74,673	74,673
800	GUIDED MLRS ROCKET	19,700	---	---
850	ITAS/TOW MODIFICATIONS	36,800	36,800	36,800
900	TOTAL, MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY	160,173	111,473	111,473

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[in thousands of dollars]

P-1	Budget Request 1/	House 2/	Senate	Conference
5 Javelin	**103,673**	**103,673**	**74,673**	**74,673**
Unexecutable Request			-29,000	-29,000
15 GMLRS	**19,700**	**19,700**	**0**	**0**
Unit Cost Efficiencies			-19,700	-19,700

1/ Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March 12, 2007.
2/ House action relative to the official fiscal year 2007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 Budget.

PROCUREMENT OF WEAPONS AND TRACKED COMBAT VEHICLES, ARMY

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

		(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
950	PROCUREMENT OF W&TCV, ARMY			
1000	BRADLEY BASE SUSTAINMENT (G80718)	520,800	520,800	520,800
1150	STRYKER VEHICLE (G85100)	857,685	767,685	767,685
1200	CARRIER, MOD (GB1930)	36,191	36,191	36,191
1250	FIST VEHICLE (MOD) (GZ2300)	16,257	16,257	16,257
1300	BFVS SERIES (MOD) (GZ2400)	115,190	115,190	115,190
1350	HOWITZER, MED SP FT 155MM M109A6 (MOD) (GA0400)	15,785	15,785	15,785
1400	IMPROVED RECOVERY VEHICLE (M88 MOD) (GA0570)	65,635	57,635	61,635
1500	M1 ABRAMS TANK (MOD) (GA0700)	75,259	75,259	75,259
1550	SYSTEM ENHANCEMENT PGM: (SEP M1A2) (GA0730)	325,000	325,000	325,000
1600	HOWITZER, LIGHT, TOWED, 105MM, M119 (G01300)	17,696	17,696	17,696
1650	M240 MEDIUM MACHINE GUN (7.62MM) (G13000)	66,165	72,277	72,277
1700	M249 SAW MACHINE GUN, 5.56MM (G12900)	3,314	3,314	3,314
1750	MK-19 GRENADE MACHINE GUN (40MM) (G13400)	36,462	41,871	41,871
1800	MORTAR SYSTEMS (G02200)	35,212	35,212	35,212
1850	M107, CAL 50, SNIPER RIFLE (G01500)	719	719	719
1900	XM110 SEMI -AUTOMATIC SNIPER SYSTEM (SASS) (G01505)	317	317	317
1950	M4 CARBINE (G14904)	94,912	98,412	98,412
2000	SHOTGUN, MODULAR ACCESSORY SYSTEM (MASS) (G18300)	4,000	---	---
2050	COMMON REMOTELY OPERATED WEAPONS STATION (CROWS) (G047	220,000	220,000	220,000
2100	M4 CARBINE MODS (GB3007)	127,341	129,752	129,752
2150	M2 50 CAL MACHINE GUN MODS (GB4000)	4,000	4,000	4,000
2200	M249 SAW MACHINE GUN MODS (GZ1290)	13,556	13,556	13,556
2250	M240 SAW MACHINE GUN MODS (GZ1300)	3,591	3,591	3,591
2300	PHALANX MODS (GL1000)	150,000	150,000	150,000
2350	M16 RIFLE MODS (GZ2800)	1,947	1,947	1,947
2400	MODS LESS THAN $5.0M (WOCV-WTCV) (GC0925)	21,454	21,900	21,900
2450	ITEMS LESS THAN $5.0M (WOCV-WTCV) (GL3200)	4,074	4,996	4,996
2500	SMALL ARMS EQUIPMENT (SOLDIER ENH PROG) (GC0076)	8,202	8,202	8,202
2550	REF SMALL ARMS (G15400)	560	560	560
2600	MACHINE GUN, CAL .50 M2 ROLL (GB2000)	32,480	41,369	41,369
2650	XM320 GRENADE LAUNCHER MODULE (GLM) (G01501)	4,234	4,471	4,471
2700	ABRAMS UPGRADE PROGRAM (M1A2 SEP) (GA0750)	596,351	596,351	596,351
2750	TOTAL, PROCUREMENT OF W&TCV, ARMY	3,474,389	3,400,315	3,404,315

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[in thousands of dollars]

P-1		Budget Request 1/	House 2/	Senate	Conference
5	**Stryker Vehicle (G85100)**	**857,685**	**857,685**	**767,685**	**767,685**
	Premature Funding Request, Mobile Gun System			-90,000	-90,000
12	**Improved Recovery Vehicle (M88 MOD) (GA0570)**	**65,635**	**65,635**	**57,635**	**61,635**
	Pricing Adjustment			-8,000	-4,000
20	**M240 Medium Machine Gun (7.62MM) (G13000)**	**72,277**	**66,165**	**72,277**	**72,277**
22	**M-19 Grenade Machine Gun (40MM) (G13400)**	**41,871**	**36,462**	**41,871**	**41,871**
27	**M4 Carbine (G14904)**	**98,412**	**94,912**	**98,412**	**98,412**
28	**Shotgun, Modular Accessory System (G18300)**	**4,000**	**4,000**	**0**	**0**
	Premature Funding			-4,000	-4,000
32	**M4 Carbine MODS (GB3007)**	**129,752**	**127,341**	**129,752**	**129,752**
40	**MODS Less than $5.0 Million**	**21,900**	**21,454**	**21,900**	**21,900**
41	**Items Less than $5.0 Million**	**4,996**	**4,074**	**4,996**	**4,996**
48	**Machine Gun, Cal .50 M2 (GB2000)**	**41,369**	**32,480**	**41,369**	**41,369**
49	**XM320 Grenade Launcher Module (GO1501)**	**4,471**	**4,234**	**4,471**	**4,471**

1/ Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March 12, 2007.
2/ House action relative to the official fiscal year 2007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 Budget.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

		(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
2800	PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY			
2900	7.62MM ALL TYPES	25,000	25,000	25,000
2950	CTG, .50 CAL, ALL TYPES	39,300	39,300	39,300
3000	20MM ALL TYPES	38,100	38,100	38,100
3050	25MM ALL TYPES	15,000	15,000	15,000
3100	30MM ALL TYPES	40,000	40,000	40,000
3150	40MM ALLTYPES	165,200	165,200	165,200
3200	CTG, TANK, 120MM TACTICAL, ALL TYPES	8,000	8,000	8,000
3250	MACS	20,000	20,000	20,000
3300	MINE CLEARING CHARGE ALL TYPES	6,000	6,000	6,000
3350	SHOULDER FIRED ROCKETS ALL TYPES	30,000	30,000	30,000
3400	ROCKET, HYDRA 70, ALL TYPES	28,000	28,000	28,000
3450	DEMOLITION MUNITIONS ALL TYPES	23,500	23,500	23,500
3500	GRENADES ALL TYPES	2,000	2,000	2,000
3550	SIGNALS ALL TYPES	163,900	163,900	163,900
3600	SIMULATORS ALL TYPES	12,000	12,000	12,000
3650	NON-LETHAL AMMUNITION ALL TYPES	55,500	55,500	55,500
3700	ITEMS LESS THAN $5M	10,000	10,000	10,000
3750	TOTAL, PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY	681,500	681,500	681,500

OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

		(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
3800	OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY			
3850	TACTICAL TRAILERS/DOLLY SETS (DA0100)	4,977	11,417	11,417
3900	SEMITRAILERS, FLATBED: (D01001)	8,234	27,544	27,544
3950	SEMITRAILERS, TANKERS (D02001)	6,173	---	6,173
4000	HI MOB MULTI-PURP WLHD (HMMWV) (D15400)	866,791	953,548	953,548
4300	FAMILY OF MEDIUM TACTICAL VEH (FMTV) (D15500)	1,610,692	1,471,661	1,541,661
4350	FAMILY OF HEAVY TACTICAL VEH (FTHV) (DA0500)	572,762	574,432	574,432
4450	ARMORED SECURITY VEHICLES (ASV) (D02800)	301,498	301,498	301,498
4500	TRUCK, TRACTOR, LIN HAUL, M915/M915 (DA0600)	5,448	181,873	181,873
4650	MODIFICATION OF IN SVC EQUIP (DA0924)	1,159,889	1,159,889	1,159,889
4700	PASSENGER CARRYING VEHICLES (D23000)	6,149	---	---
4750	NON TACTICAL VEHICLES, OTHER (D3000)	133,072	193,721	193,721
4760	ADD-ON ARMOR FOR COMMERCIAL VEHICLES	---	7,400	7,400
4800	DEFENSE ENTERPRISE WIDEBAND SATCOM SYS (SPACE) (BB8500	19,200	19,200	19,200
4850	SAT TERM, EMUT (SPACE) (K77200)	17,600	17,600	17,600
4950	NAVSTAR GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (SPACE) (K47800)	32,532	34,398	34,398
5000	SMART-T (SPACE) (BC4002)	8,960	8,960	8,960
5050	GLOBAL BRDCST SVC - GBS (BC4120)	1,800	1,800	1,800
5100	MOD OF IN-SVC EQUIP (TAC SAT) (BB8417)	12	12	12
5150	ARMY DATA DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (DATA RADIO) (BU1400)	58,127	58,127	58,127
5200	SINCGARS FAMILY (BW0006)	532,544	433,250	458,709
5250	BRIDGE TO FUTURE NETWORKS (BB1500)	390,723	390,723	390,723
5300	COMBAT SURVIVOR EVADER LOCATOR (CSEL) (B03200)	49,360	49,360	49,360
5350	RADIO, IMPROVED HF (COTS) FAMILY (BU8100)	461,608	509,260	509,260

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
5450 MEDICAL COMM FOR CBT CASUALTY CARE (MC4) (MA8046)	56,997	56,997	56,997
5500 TSEC - ARMY KEY MGT SYS (AKMS) (BA1201)	313	1,517	1,517
5550 INFORMATION SYSTEM SECURITY PROGRAM-ISSP (TA0600)	78,496	55,201	55,201
5600 INFORMATION SYSTEMS (BB8650)	1,000	1,000	1,000
5650 ALL SOURCE ANALYSIS SYS (ASAS) (MIP) (KA4400)	40,800	40,858	40,858
5700 JTT/CIBS-M (MIP) (V29600)	840	840	840
5750 PROPHET GROUND (MIP) (BZ7326)	23,000	23,000	23,000
5800 TACTICAL UNMANNED AERIAL SYS (TUAS)MIP (B00301)	197,479	197,479	197,479
5950 SMALL UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEM (SUAS) (B00303)	5,372	5,372	5,372
6000 DIGITAL TOPOGRAPHIC SPT SYS (DTSS) (MIP) (KA2550)	17,000	17,000	17,000
6050 TACTICAL EXPLOITATION SYSTEM (MIP) (BZ7317)	19,500	19,500	19,500
6100 DCGS-A (MIP) (BZ7316)	67,105	69,705	69,705
6150 CI HUMINT INFO MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CHIMS) (MIP) (BK5275	1,928	1,928	1,928
6200 ITEMS LESS THAN $5.0M (MIP) (BK5278)	33,827	33,827	33,827
6250 LIGHTWEIGHT COUNTER MORTAR RADAR (B05201)	10,470	10,470	10,470
6300 WARLOCK (VA8000)	---	13,250	---
6350 COUNTERINTELLIGENCE/SECURITY COUNTERMEASURES (BL5283)	206,233	206,233	206,233
6400 NIGHT VISION DEVICES (KA3500)	131,339	144,696	144,696
6450 LONG RANGE ADVANCED SCOUT SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (K38300)	14,073	14,073	14,073
6500 NIGHT VISION, THERMAL WPN SIGHT (K22900)	86,701	109,547	109,547
6550 ARTILLERY ACCURACY EQUIP (AD3200)	3,500	3,500	3,500
6600 PROFILER (K27900)	16,195	16,195	16,195
6650 MOD OF IN-SVC EQUIP (FIREFINDER RADARS) (BZ7325)	64,556	64,556	64,556
6700 FORCE XXI BATTLE CMD BRIGADE & BELOW (FBCB2) (W61900)	307,800	347,295	347,295
6750 LIGHTWEIGHT LASER DESIGNATOR/RANGEFINDER (LLDR) (K3110	91,200	91,200	91,200
6800 COMPUTER BALLISTICS: LHMBC XM32 (K99200)	11,446	11,446	11,446
6850 MORTAR FIRE CONTROL SYSTEM (K99300)	3,474	---	---
6900 TACTICAL OPERATIONS CENTERS (BZ9865)	162,472	162,472	162,472
6950 AFATDS	6,878	3,378	3,378
7000 LWTFDS	23	23	23

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
7050 BATTLE COMMAND SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT SYSTEM (BCS3) (W346	1,249	1,249	1,249
7100 FAAD C2 (AD5050)	21,500	21,500	21,500
7150 AIR & MSL DEFENSE PLANNING & CONTROL SYS (AMD PCS)	65,248	65,248	65,248
7200 FED	8,514	8,514	8,514
7250 KNIGHT FAMILY (B78504)	3,488	3,488	3,488
7300 LIFE CYCLE SOFTWARE SUPPORT (LCSS) (BD3955)	3,316	3,316	3,316
7350 LOGTECH	24,000	24,000	24,000
7400 TC AIMS II (BZ8900)	12,403	32,403	12,403
7450 TACTICAL INTERNET MANAGER (B93900)	12,472	12,472	12,472
7500 MANEUVER CONTROL SYSTEM (MCS) (BA9320)	58,654	58,654	58,654
7550 SINGLE ARMY LOGISTICS ENTERPRISE (SALE) (W10801)	94,036	---	---
7600 AUTOMATED DATA PROCESSING EQUIP (BD3000)	12,100	12,100	12,100
7650 CSS COMMUNICATIONS (BD3501)	37,423	74,857	37,423
7750 CBRN SOLDIER PROTECTION (M01001)	134,830	134,830	134,830
7800 SMOKE & OBSCURANT FAMILY: SOF (NONAAO ITEM) (MX0600)	107	107	107
7850 TACTICAL BRIDGE (MX0100)	26,000	26,000	26,000
7900 TACTICAL BRIDGE, FLOAT-RIBBON (MA8890)	13,000	13,000	13,000
7950 HANDHELD STANDOFF MINE DETECTION SYSTEM (R68200)	5,551	5,551	5,551
8000 GRND STANDOFF MINE DETECTION SYSTEMS (R68200)	689,640	939,640	1,386,640
8050 EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL EQUIP (MA9200)	6,600	6,600	6,600
8100 HEATERS AND ECU'S (MF9000)	12,772	12,772	12,772
8150 LAUNDRIES, SHOWERS, AND LATRINES (M82700)	12,300	12,300	12,300
8250 SOLDIER ENHANCEMENT (MA6800)	9,662	9,662	9,662
8300 FIELD FEEDING EQUIPMENT (M65800)	7,032	7,032	7,032
8350 ITEMS LESS THAN $5M (ENG SPT) (ML5301)	611	611	611
8400 QUALITY SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT (MB6400)	42,220	42,220	42,220
8450 DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS, PETROLEUM & WATER (MA6000)	3,093	3,283	3,283
8500 WATER PURIFICATION SYSTEMS (R05600)	9,401	9,401	9,401
8550 COMBAT SUPPORT MEDICAL (MN1000)	24,579	20,579	24,579
8600 SHOP EQ CONTACT MAINTENANCE TRK MTD (M61500)	52,474	52,474	52,474
8650 WELDING SHOP, TRAILER MTD (M62700)	7,171	7,171	7,171

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
8700 ITEMS LESS THAN $5.0M (MAINT EQ) (ML5345)	68,912	67,912	67,912
8800 LOADERS (R04500)	145	145	145
8850 HYDRAULIC EXCAVATOR (X01500)	10	10	10
8900 TRACTOR FULL TRACKED (M05800)	1,435	1,435	1,435
8950 CRANES (M06700)	25	25	25
9000 HIGH MOBILITY ENGINEER EXCAVATOR (HMEE) FOS (R05901)	7,740	7,740	7,740
9050 ITEMS LESS THAN $5.0M (CONST. EQUIP)	1,487	1,487	1,487
9150 GENERATORS AND ASSOCIATED EQUIP (MA9800)	62,992	50,792	50,792
9200 ROUGH TERRAIN CONTAINER HANDLER (M41200)	15,400	---	---
9250 ALL TERRAIN LIFTING ARMY SYSTEM (M41800)	4,809	5,548	5,548
9300 COMBAT TRAINING CENTERS (CTC) SUPPORT (MA6601)	309	309	309
9350 TRAINING DEVICES, NONSYSTEM (NA0100)	15,819	15,819	15,819
9400 CALIBRATION SETS EQUIPMENT (N1000)	17,100	17,100	17,100
9450 INTEGRATED FAMILY OF TEST EQUIPMENT (MB4000)	96,303	96,303	96,303
9500 TEST EQUIPMENT MODERNIZATION (TEMOD) (N11000)	10,920	10,920	10,920
9550 RAPID EQUIPPING SOLDIER SUPPORT EQUIP (M80101)	20,036	20,036	20,036
9600 PHYSICAL SECURITY SYSTEMS (OPA3) (MA0780)	152,678	152,678	152,678
9650 MODIFICATION OF IN-SVC EQUIP (OPA3) (MA4500)	9,917	---	4,917
9700 BUILDING PRE-FAB RELOCATABLE (MA9160)	93,603	93,603	93,603
9750 INITIAL SPARES FOR LARGE AREA SMOKE OBSCURANT SYS. (M5	948	948	948
9800 SEQUOYAH FOREIGN LANGUAGE TRANSLATION SYSTEM (B88605)	12,813	12,813	12,813
9850 COUNTER-ROCKET ARTILLERY & MORTAR (CRAM)	245,000	245,000	245,000
9900 FIRE SUPPORT C2 FAMILY (B28501)	987	987	987
9950 CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	527	527	527
10000 AMC CRITICAL ITEMS	37,870	37,870	37,870
10150 TOTAL, OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY	10,197,399	10,589,272	11,076,137

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[in thousands of dollars]

P-1		Budget Request 1/	House 2/	Senate	Conference
1	**Tactical Trailers/Dolly Sets (DA0100)**	11,417	4,977	11,417	11,417
2	**Semitrailers, Flatbed: (D01001)**	31,544	8,234	27,544	27,544
	Premature Funding Request			-4,000	-4,000
3	**Semitrailers, Tankers (D02001)**	24,165	6,173	0	6,173
	Premature Funding Request			-24,165	-17,992
4	**HMMWV (D15400)**	953,548	866,791	953,548	953,548
5	**Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV) (D15500)**	1,616,661	1,610,692	1,471,661	1,541,661
	Stabilize Production Rate			-145,000	-75,000
7	**Family of Heavy Tactical Vehicles (FMTV) (DA0500)**	574,432	572,762	574,432	574,432
10	**Truck, Tractor, Line Haul, M915/M916 (DA0600)**	181,873	5,448	181,873	181,873
17	**Passenger Carrying Vehicles (D23000)**	6,149	6,149	0	0
	Funded in IFF			-6,149	-6,149
18	**Non Tactical Vehicles, Other (D3000)**	203,572	133,072	193,721	193,721
	Funded in IFF			-9,851	-9,851
NEW	**Add-On Armor for Commercial Vehicles**	7,400	0	7,400	7,400
25	**Navstar Global Positioning System (K47800)**	34,398	32,532	34,398	34,398
34	**SINCGARS Family (BW0006)**	533,709	532,544	433,250	458,709
	Unexecutable Request			-100,459	-75,000
42	**Radio, Improved HF (COTS) Family (BU8100)**	509,260	461,608	509,260	509,260
45	**TSEC - Army Key Mgt Sys (BA1201)**	1,517	313	1,517	1,517
46	**Information System Security Program (TA0600)**	78,501	78,496	55,201	55,201
	Transfer to RDT&E, A, line 174 for Execution			-23,300	-23,300
52	**Information Systems**	13,200	1,000	1,000	1,000
	Information Systems Equipment Adjustment		-12,200		-12,200
	Excess to Need			-12,200	0
59	**All Source Analysis Sys (MIP) (KA4400)**	40,858	40,800	40,858	40,858
67	**DCGS-A (MIP) (BZ7316)**	69,705	67,105	69,705	69,705
74	**Warlock**	13,250	0	13,250	0
	Duplicates funding provided in Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund		-13,250		-13,250

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EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[in thousands of dollars]

P-1		Budget Request 1/	House 2/	Senate	Conference
77	**Night Vision Devices (KA3500)**	**144,696**	**131,339**	**144,696**	**144,696**
80	**Night Vision, Thermal Weapon Sight (K22900)**	**109,547**	**86,701**	**109,547**	**109,547**
89	**Force XXI Battle Command Brigade & Below**	**347,295**	**307,800**	**347,295**	**347,295**
92	**Mortar Fire Control System (K99300)**	**3,474**	**3,474**	**0**	**0**
	Slow Execution			-3,474	-3,474
96	**AFATDS**	**6,878**	**6,878**	**3,378**	**3,378**
	Baseline Budget Requirement			-3,500	-3,500
106	**TC AIMS II**	**32,403**	**12,403**	**32,403**	**12,403**
	Defer non-emergency TC AIMS II procurement		-20,000		-20,000
110	**Single Army Logistics Enterprise (SALE)**	**0**	**94,036**	**0**	**0**
	Defer non-emergency STAMIS Tactical Computers upgrades		-82,000		0
115	**CSS Communications (BD3501)**	**74,857**	**37,423**	**74,857**	**37,423**
	Defer non-emergency upgrades in CSS Communications		-37,000		-37,434
129	**Ground Standoff Mine Detection Systems (R68200)**	**939,640**	**689,640**	**939,640**	**1,386,640**
	Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Vehicles				447,000
144	**Distribution Systems, Petroleum & Water (MA6000)**	**3,283**	**3,093**	**3,283**	**3,283**
146	**Combat Support Medical (MN1000)**	**20,579**	**24,579**	**20,579**	**24,579**
	Medical Equipment Modernization and Replacement		4,000		4,000
149	**Items Less than $5 Million (Maint Eq) (ML5345)**	**67,912**	**68,912**	**67,912**	**67,912**
165	**Generators and Associated Equipment (MA9800)**	**50,792**	**62,992**	**50,792**	**50,792**
166	**Rough Terrain Container Handler (M41200)**	**15,400**	**15,400**	**0**	**0**
	Premature Funding Request			-15,400	-15,400
167	**All Terrain Lifting Arm System (M41800)**	**5,548**	**4,809**	**5,548**	**5,548**
179	**Modification of In-Service Equipment (MA4500)**	**9,917**	**9,917**	**0**	**4,917**
	Baseline Budget Requirement			-9,917	-5,000

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SINGLE CHANNEL GROUND AND AIRBORNE RADIO SYSTEM (SINCGARS) FAMILY

The conferees are concerned that the Army may not be using all the available and qualified industrial capacity to deliver funded quantities of SINCGARS radios to units in the field. The conferees strongly encourage the Army to pursue aggressively the necessary industrial capacity to produce the needed SINCGARS radios and to equip the units of the Army, including the Army Reserve Components, in a timely manner. The conferees recommend $458,709,000 for SINCGARS radios, a reduction of $75,000,000 from the amended budget request. Additionally, $175,000,000 of the amount provided may not be obligated by the Army until 15 days after the Secretary of the Army provides a report to the congressional defense committees that includes an evaluation of SINCGARS capable commercial off-the-shelf tactical radios that can meet operational needs and that explains the Army's strategy to leverage available industrial capacity in order to produce the needed radios at a significantly faster rate.

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

		(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
10200	AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY			
11350	EA-18G	83,000	75,000	75,000
11400	F/A-18E/F (FIGHTER) HORNET (MYP)	208,000	16,000	208,000
11450	UH-1Y/AH-1Z	---	50,000	50,000
11460	C-12	---	21,000	21,000
11500	EA-6 SERIES	178,495	178,495	178,495
11550	AV-8 SERIES	9,850	9,850	9,850
11600	F-18 SERIES	85,614	96,814	90,014
11650	H-46 SERIES	49,905	70,505	70,505
11700	AH-1W SERIES	21,100	42,200	21,100
11750	H-53 SERIES	181,848	181,848	181,848
11800	SH-60 SERIES	15,956	15,956	15,956
11850	H-1 SERIES	18,007	18,007	18,007
11900	P-3 SERIES	18,800	24,300	18,800
11950	E-2 SERIES	7,000	7,000	7,000
12000	C-130 SERIES	29,815	29,815	29,815
12050	CARGO/TRANSPORT ACFT SERIES	4,259	4,259	4,259
12100	SPECIAL PROJECT ACFT	5,120	5,120	5,120
12150	AVIATION LIFE SUPPORT MODS	486	486	486
12200	COMMON ECM EQUIPMENT	42,900	92,900	71,900
12250	V-22 (TILT/ROTOR ACFT) OSPREY SERIES	3,510	---	---
12300	SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS	29,332	21,548	10,332
12350	COMMON GROUND EQUIPMENT	2,800	2,800	2,800
12400	TOTAL, AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY	995,797	963,903	1,090,287

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[in thousands of dollars]

P-1		Budget Request [1/]	House [2/]	Senate	Conference
2	**EA-18G**	**75,000**	**83,000**	**75,000**	**75,000**
	Fund 1 EA-6B combat loss replacement		-367,000		0
4	**F/A-18E/F (Fighter) Hornet (MYP)**	**16,000**	**208,000**	**16,000**	**208,000**
	3 F/A-18's combat loss replacements		192,000		192,000
9	**UH-1Y/AH-1Z**	**50,000**	**0**	**50,000**	**50,000**
	NRE for AH-1Z new build aircraft		-50,000		0
16A	**C-12**	**0**	**0**	**21,000**	**21,000**
	2 C-12 Aircraft for USMC (ASE for USMC)			21,000	21,000
28	**F-18 Series**	**96,814**	**85,614**	**96,814**	**90,014**
	JHMCS modification - requires R&D funding		-3,400		-3,400
	Station 4 integration - incomplete effort		-7,800		-3,400
29	**H-46 Series**	**28,805**	**49,905**	**70,505**	**70,505**
	CH-46E IR Engine Suppression (ASE for USMC)		11,700	22,700	22,700
	CH-46E Wire Strike (ASE for USMC)		4,500	9,100	9,100
	CH-46E Countermeasures (ALE-47) (ASE for USMC)		3,600	7,200	7,200
	CH-46E Ramp Mounted Weapon System (ASE)		1,300	2,700	2,700
30	**AH-1W Series**	**42,200**	**21,100**	**42,200**	**21,100**
	Fund installations through FY 2009 only		-21,100		-21,100
31	**H-53 Series**	**46,848**	**181,848**	**181,848**	**181,848**
	DIRCM protection upgrades (ASE for USMC)		135,000	135,000	135,000
35	**P-3 Series**	**24,300**	**18,800**	**24,300**	**18,800**
	Non-emergency obsolesence upgrades		-5,500		-5,500
50	**Common ECM Equipment**	**34,900**	**42,900**	**92,900**	**71,900**
	Non-emergency obsolesence and testing upgrades		-21,000		-21,000
	AAR-47B(V) (Rotary Wing Common ECM) (ASE)		29,000	58,000	58,000
54	**V-22 (Tilt/Rotor Acft) Osprey Series**	**3,510**	**3,510**	**0**	**0**
	Change to program plan			-3,510	-3,510
55	**Spares and Repair Parts**	**40,548**	**29,332**	**21,548**	**10,332**
	Support facilities		-11,216		-11,216
	SHARP Spares - buying ahead of need			-19,000	-19,000

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WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

		(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
12450	WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY			
12600	JT STANDOFF WEAPON (JSOW)	8,000	---	---
12650	HELLFIRE	400	400	400
12700	SMALL ARMS AND WEAPONS	72,113	72,113	72,113
12750	GUN MOUNT MODS	72,000	72,000	72,000
12800	MARINE CORPS TACTICAL UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEM	19,300	19,300	19,300
12850	TOTAL, WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY	171,813	163,813	163,813

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[in thousands of dollars]

P-1		Budget Request 1/	House 2/	Senate	Conference
7	**JT Standoff Weapon (JSOW)**	**8,000**	**8,000**	**0**	**0**
	JSOW unjustified request			-8,000	-8,000

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PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

		(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
12900	PROCUREMENT OF AMMO, NAVY & MARINE CORPS			
12950	AIRBORNE ROCKETS, ALL TYPES	15,553	15,553	15,553
13000	AIR EXPENDABLE COUNTERMEASURES	7,966	7,966	7,966
13050	5 INCH/54 GUN AMMUNITION	11,000	11,000	11,000
13100	INTERMEDIATE CALIBER GUN AMMO	27	27	27
13150	OTHER SHIP GUN AMMUNITION	18,412	18,412	18,412
13200	SMALL ARMS & LNDG PARTY AMMO	21,862	21,862	21,862
13250	PYROTECHNIC AND DEMOLITION	274	274	274
13300	5.56 MM, ALL TYPES	4,658	4,658	4,658
13350	7.62 MM, ALL TYPES	2,132	2,132	2,132
13400	LINEAR CHARGES, ALL TYPES	2,412	2,412	2,412
13450	.50 CALIBER	2,420	2,420	2,420
13500	40 MM, ALL TYPES	4,093	4,093	4,093
13550	60 MM, ALL TYPES	9,864	9,864	9,864
13600	81 MM, ALL TYPES	10,088	10,088	10,088
13650	120 MM, ALL TYPES	7,779	7,779	7,779
13700	CTG 25 MM, ALL TYPES	80	80	80
13750	9 MM ALL TYPES	155	155	155
13800	GRENADES, ALL TYPES	1,138	1,138	1,138
13850	ROCKETS, ALL TYPES	5,125	5,125	5,125
13900	ARTILLERY, ALL TYPES	13,045	13,045	13,045
13950	DEMOLITION MUNITIONS, ALL TYPES	705	705	705
14000	FUZE, ALL TYPES	661	661	661
14050	NON LETHALS	4,891	4,891	4,891
14100	AMMO MODERNIZATION	15,394	15,394	15,394
14150	ITEMS LESS THAN $5 MILLION	99	99	99
14200	TOTAL, PROCUREMENT AMMUNITION, NAVY	159,833	159,833	159,833

OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

		(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
14250	OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY			
14500	CHEMICAL WARFARE DETECTORS	436	436	436
14550	STANDARD BOATS	35,614	35,614	35,614
14600	TACTICAL SUPPORT CENTER	5,850	5,850	5,850
14650	SHIPBOARD IW EXPLOIT	45,750	45,750	45,750
14700	GCCS-M EQUIPMENT	6,966	6,966	6,966
14750	MATCALS	10,890	10,890	10,890
14800	PORTABLE RADIOS	75,850	25,850	25,850
14850	SHIP COMMUNICATIONS AUTOMATION	5,784	5,784	5,784
14900	COMMUNICATIONS ITEMS UNDER $5M	10,777	10,777	10,777
14950	NAVAL SHORE COMMUNICATIONS	1,077	1,077	1,077
15000	METEOROLOGICAL EQUIPMENT	---	7,497	---
15050	AVIATION LIFE SUPPORT	3,300	3,300	3,300
15100	GENERAL PURPOSE TRUCKS	961	---	---
15150	CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT	225,261	173,861	199,561
15200	FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT	700	700	700
15250	TACTICAL VEHICLES	258,890	207,290	215,330
15300	ITEMS UNDER $5 MILLION	28,446	28,446	28,446
15350	MATERIALS HANDLING EQUIPMENT	46,810	46,810	46,810
15400	SPECIAL PURPOSE SUPPLY SYSTEMS	5,900	5,900	5,900
15450	COMMAND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	54,639	28,720	28,720
15500	INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	8,400	8,400	8,400
15550	OPERATING FORCES SUPT EQUIP	33,500	25,500	25,500
15600	PHYSICAL SECURITY EQUIPMENT	42,684	8,166	8,166
15650	SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS	28,922	28,922	28,922
15750	TOTAL, OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY	937,407	722,506	748,749

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[in thousands of dollars]

P-1		Budget Request 1/	House 2/	Senate	Conference
1	**LM-2500 Gas Turbine**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
	Non-emergency Digital Fuel Control upgrade		-970		0
2	**Allison 501K Gas Turbine**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
	Non-emergency Digital Controls upgrade		-4,000		0
73	**Portable Radios**	**40,850**	**75,850**	**25,850**	**25,850**
	ELMR - Baseline Budget requirement			-15,000	-15,000
93	**Meteorological Equipment**	**7,497**	**0**	**7,497**	**0**
	Non-emergency NITES upgrades		-7,497		-7,497
122	**Construction & Maint Equip**	**173,861**	**225,261**	**173,861**	**199,561**
	Seabee equipment		51,400		25,700
124	**Tactical Vehicles**	**207,290**	**258,890**	**207,290**	**215,330**
	Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Vehicles		51,600		8,040
134	**Command Support Equipment**	**36,639**	**54,639**	**28,720**	**28,720**
	NMCMPS			-7,919	-7,919
138	**Operating Forces Supt Equip**	**25,500**	**33,500**	**25,500**	**25,500**
					0
141	**Physical Security Equipment**	**8,166**	**42,684**	**8,166**	**8,166**
					0

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PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

		(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
15800	PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS			
15850	AAV7A1 PIP	48,352	48,352	48,352
16050	M1A1 FIREPOWER ENHANCEMENTS	4,470	4,470	4,470
16100	HIGH MOBILITY ARTILLERY ROCKET SYSTEM	20,571	20,571	20,571
16150	WPNS & CMBT VEHS UNDER $5 MILLION	16,162	16,162	16,162
16200	MODULAR WEAPON SYSTEM	2,589	2,589	2,589
16250	WEAPONS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM	21,170	21,170	21,170
16300	JAVELIN	1,200	1,200	1,200
16400	MODIFICATION KITS	34,623	34,623	34,623
16650	UNIT OPERATIONS CENTER	57,100	57,100	57,100
16700	REPAIR AND TEST EQUIPMENT	5,214	5,214	5,214
16750	COMBAT SUPPORT SYSTEM	85	85	85
16800	MODIFICATION KITS	16,571	16,571	16,571
16850	AIR OPERATIONS C2 SYSTEMS	56,800	---	---
16900	RADAR SYSTEMS	20,900	20,900	20,900
16950	FIRE SUPPORT SYSTEM	21,282	21,282	21,282
17000	INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	32,073	32,073	32,073
17050	NIGHT VISION EQUIPMENT	73,431	73,431	73,431
17100	COMMON COMPUTER RESOURCES	27,631	27,631	27,631
17150	COMMAND POST SYSTEMS	18,083	18,083	18,083
17200	RADIO SYSTEMS	263,278	147,084	111,084
17250	COMM SWITCHING & CONTROL SYSTEMS	7,273	7,273	7,273
17300	COMM & ELEC INFRASTRUCTURE SUPT	1,606	1,606	1,606
17350	5/4T TRUCK HMMWV (MYP)	69,985	69,985	69,985

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
17400 MOTOR TRANSPORT MODIFICATIONS	52,000	52,000	52,000
17450 MEDIUM TACTICAL VEH REPL	26,215	26,215	26,215
17500 LOGISTICS VEHICLE SYSTEM REP	16,800	16,800	16,800
17550 FAMILY OF TACTICAL TRAILERS	2,818	2,818	2,818
17600 ITEMS LESS THAN $5 MILLION	2,370	2,370	2,370
17650 ENV CNTRL EQUIP ASSORTED	143	143	143
17700 BULK LIQUID EQUIPMENT	28	28	28
17750 TACTICAL FUEL SYSTEMS	168	168	168
17800 POWER EQUIPMENT ASSORTED	364	364	364
17850 EOD SYSTEMS	480,664	730,664	1,316,024
17855 MRAP	259,000	---	---
18000 MATERIAL HANDLING EQUIP	40,000	40,000	40,000
18050 FIELD MEDICAL EQUIPMENT	692	692	692
18100 TRAINING DEVICES	110,043	110,043	110,043
18150 CONTAINER FAMILY	2,172	2,172	2,172
18200 FAMILY OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT	45,000	45,000	45,000
18300 FAMILY OF INTERNALLY TRANS VEH (ITV)	7,875	7,875	7,875
18350 RAPID DEPLOYABLE KITCHEN	391	391	391
18500 ITEMS LESS THAN $5 MILLION	18,191	18,191	18,191
18700 TOTAL, PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS	1,885,383	1,703,389	2,252,749

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[in thousands of dollars]

P-1		Budget Request 1/	House 2/	Senate	Conference
33	**Air Operations C2 Systems**	**56,800**	**56,800**	**0**	**0**
	Premature Request			-56,800	-56,800
50	**Radio Systems**	**299,278**	**263,278**	**147,084**	**111,084**
	E-Land Mobile Radios - Baseline budget requirement			-152,194	-152,194
	Communications Installs on US Navy Ships Program Delay		-36,000		-36,000
70	**EOD Systems**	**730,664**	**480,664**	**730,664**	**1,316,024**
	Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Vehicles				585,360
70A	**Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Vehicles**		**259,000**	**0**	**0**
	Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Vehicles		259,000		0
72	**Physical Security Equipment**	**143,332**	**0**	**0**	**0**
	Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment (RAID)/Ground-Based Operational Surveillance System (G-BOSS)		-143,332	-143,332	-143,332

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AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

		(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
18750	AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE			
18850	C -17	111,100	---	---
18900	C-130J	388,000	---	388,000
18950	CV-22 OSPREY	146,300	---	99,252
19000	PREDATOR UAV	487,900	398,700	443,700
19100	B-1	6,880	---	6,880
19150	A-10	239,486	163,886	163,886
19200	F-15	49,962	122,562	112,762
19250	C-5	54,300	5,600	35,600
19300	C-17	191,600	92,000	122,000
19350	C-37	112,400	112,400	112,400
19400	C-40	90,500	90,500	90,500
19450	C-130	296,363	222,663	252,663
19500	COMPASS CALL	23,700	23,700	23,700
19550	DARP	15,000	15,000	15,000
19600	E-8C	17,500	---	---
19650	OTHER AIRCRAFT	23,950	33,570	23,950
19700	INITIAL SPARES/REPAIR PARTS	2,480	2,480	2,480
19750	B-2A ICS	4,000	4,000	4,000
19800	OTHER PRODUCTION CHARGES	213,495	144,695	209,695
19850	TOTAL, AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE	2,474,916	1,431,756	2,106,468

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[In thousands of dollars]

P-1		Budget Request 1/	House 2/	Senate	Conference
7	**C-17**	**111,100**	**111,100**	**0**	**0**
	Premature funding request			-111,100	-111,100
11	**C-130J**	**0**	**388,000**	**0**	**388,000**
	Five Aircraft				388,000
18	**CV-22 Osprey**	**0**	**146,300**	**0**	**99,252**
	One Aircraft				146,300
	Transfer to Procurement, Defense-Wide, Line 42, for CV-22 SOF Modifications				-47,048
25	**Predator UAV**	**398,700**	**487,900**	**398,700**	**443,700**
	Predator UAV		29,000		10,000
	Reaper UAV		60,200		35,000
27	**B-1**	**6,880**	**6,880**	**0**	**6,880**
	Premature funding request			-6,880	0
30	**A-10**	**249,786**	**239,486**	**163,886**	**163,886**
	Hellfire II Launch Rails		-10,000		0
	Unjustified request			-32,400	-32,400
	Premature funding request for missile rails and EIRCM			-53,500	-53,500
31	**F-15**	**191,962**	**49,962**	**122,562**	**112,762**
	AESA		-72,000		-9,200
	JHMCS		-70,000		-70,000
	Premature funding request			-69,400	0
35	**C-5**	**5,600**	**54,300**	**5,600**	**35,600**
	LAIRCM for C-5B Aircraft only		48,700		30,000
38	**C-17**	**92,000**	**191,600**	**92,000**	**122,000**
	LAIRCM		99,600		30,000
53	**C-130**	**222,663**	**296,363**	**222,663**	**252,663**
	LAIRCM		73,700		30,000
61	**E-8C**	**17,500**	**17,500**	**0**	**0**
	Premature funding request			-17,500	-17,500
65	**Other Aircraft**	**33,570**	**23,950**	**33,570**	**23,950**
	TARS Block 40/50 Modification		-4,320		-4,320
	TARS Initial Spares		-5,300		-5,300
80	**Other Production Charges**	**148,495**	**213,495**	**144,695**	**209,695**
	Classified Requirement		65,000		65,000
	Baseline budget requirement			-3,800	-3,800

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MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

		(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
19900	MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE			
19950	PREDATOR HELLFIRE MISSILE	104,300	78,900	78,900
20000	SMALL DIAMETER BOMB	36,000	---	16,000
20050	TOTAL, MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE	140,300	78,900	94,900

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[In thousands of dollars]

P-1	Budget Request 1/	House 2/	Senate	Conference
6 Hellfire	**104,300**	**104,300**	**78,900**	**78,900**
Unexecutable request			-25,400	-25,400
7 Small Diameter Bomb	**36,000**	**36,000**	**0**	**16,000**
Unjustified request			-36,000	-20,000

1/ Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March 12, 2007.
2/ House action relative to the official fiscal year 2007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 budget.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
20100 PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE			
20150 CARTRIDGES	19,100	---	---
20200 EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL (EOD)	3,000	3,000	3,000
20250 SMALL ARMS	73,700	3,000	3,000
20300 TOTAL, PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE	95,800	6,000	6,000

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[In thousands of dollars]

P-1	Budget Request [1/]	House [2/]	Senate	Conference
2 Cartridges	**19,100**	**19,100**	**0**	**0**
Handgun Replacement Program - Baseline budget requirement			-19,100	-19,100
16 Small Arms	**73,700**	**73,700**	**3,000**	**3,000**
Handgun Replacement Program - Baseline budget requirement			-70,700	-65,700
Transfer to Operation & Maintenance, Defense-Wide, only for the Handgun Replacement Study				-5,000

1/ Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March 12, 2007.
2/ House action relative to the official fiscal year 2007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 budget.

HANDGUN REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

The supplemental request includes $89,800,000 to replace the Air Force M9 9mm handgun and associated ammunition. The conferees understand that the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Special Operations

Command procure the M9 9mm handgun as their standard issue sidearm. Therefore, the conferees believe that a replacement or upgrade to the 9mm handgun should address joint requirements. Since this coordination did not occur prior to the supplemental budget submission, the conferees deny the requested funding for a single service replacement program. However, recognizing the importance of a reliable and lethal sidearm to the warfighter, the conferees provide $5,000,000 only for a study that examines joint sidearm requirements (including service-unique requirements, as appropriate), the M9 9mm handgun capabilities (including its lethality), and handgun and ammunition alternatives that address these requirements. The conferees understand that it will be necessary to purchase up to 50 handguns and associated ammunition to conduct this study. In order to inform deliberations on the fiscal year 2008 appropriations bill for the Department of Defense, the conferees direct that the results of the study be provided in a written report to the congressional defense committees by August 31, 2007.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

		(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
20350	OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE			
20500	PASSENGER CARRYING VEHICLES	360	360	360
20550	MEDIUM TACTICAL VEHICLE	30,300	30,300	154,140
20600	FIRE FIGHTING/CRASH RESCUE VEHICLES	23,213	18,888	18,888
20650	HALVORSEN LOADER	620	620	620
20700	RUNWAY SNOW REMOVAL AND CLEANING EQUIPMENT	400	400	400
20750	ITEMS LESS THAN $5 MILLION (VEHICLES)	4,440	4,440	4,440
20800	INTELLIGENCE COMM EQUIPMENT	16,600	16,600	16,600
20850	TRAFFIC CONTROL/LANDING	3,300	7,500	3,300
20900	NATIONAL AIRSPACE SYSTEM	---	9,000	9,000
20950	THEATER AIR CONTROL SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT	14,800	14,800	14,800
21000	WEATHER OBSERVATION FORECAST	2,433	2,433	2,433
21050	AIR FORCE PHYSICAL SECURITY SYSTEM	10,680	10,680	10,680
21100	AIR OPERATIONS CENTER (AOC)	1,250	1,250	1,250
21150	MILSATCOM SPACE	35,000	---	---
21200	TACTICAL CE EQUIPMENT	34,750	34,750	34,750
21250	COMBAT SURVIVOR EVADER LOCATER	44,010	44,010	44,010
21300	RADIO EQUIPMENT	5,400	5,400	5,400
21350	BASE COMM INFRASTRUCTURE	19,020	19,020	19,020
21400	COMM ELECT MODS	16,000	16,000	16,000
21450	NIGHT VISION GOGGLES	9,317	9,317	9,317
21500	BASE PROCURED EQUIPMENT	10,530	10,530	10,530
21550	AIR BASE OPERABILITY	7,200	7,200	7,200
21600	ITEMS LESS THAN $5 MILLION (BASE SUPPORT)	18,000	18,000	18,000
21650	DARP, MRIGS	21,607	21,607	21,607
21700	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	1,682,953	1,669,026	1,658,455
21710	OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM OPTEMPO	30,000	---	15,000
21750	TOTAL, OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE	2,042,183	1,972,131	2,096,200

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[In thousands of dollars]

P-1		Budget Request 1/	House 2/	Senate	Conference
8	**Medium Tactical Vehicles**	**30,300**	**30,300**	**30,300**	**154,140**
	Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles				123,840
22	**Fire Fighting / Crash Rescue Vehicles**	**23,213**	**23,213**	**18,888**	**18,888**
	HAZMAT Vehicles - Baseline Budget Request			-4,325	-4,325
40	**Traffic Control/Landing**	**7,500**	**3,300**	**7,500**	**3,300**
	USAFE Instrument Landing System		-4,200		-4,200
41	**National Airspace System**	**9,000**	**0**	**9,000**	**9,000**
	Radar Approach Control for PACAF		-9,000		0
66	**MILSATCOM Space**	**35,000**	**35,000**	**0**	**0**
	GBS-RPRS Premature funding request			-35,000	-35,000
999	**Classified Programs**	**1,750,324**	**1,712,953**	**1,669,026**	**1,658,455**
	Program Adjustment		-37,371	-81,298	-91,869
	Operation Enduring Freedom OPTEMPO	**0**	**30,000**	**0**	**15,000**

1/ Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March 12, 2007.
2/ House action relative to the official fiscal year 2007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 budget.

GLOBAL BROADCAST SERVICE—RUCKSACK PORTABLE RECEIVE SUITE

The conferees understand that additional research and development would further reduce the weight of the Global Broadcast Service—Rucksack Portable Receive Suite (GBS–RPRS). Due to the premature request, the conferees deny funding for this item, without prejudice. The conferees encourage the Air Force to proceed with the development effort and intend to review the program should a request be received for funding in fiscal year 2008.

PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

		(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
21800	PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE			
22400	GLOBAL COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM	3,142	3,142	3,142
22450	TELEPORT	3,670	3,670	3,670
22500	NET-CENTRIC ENTERPRISE SERVICES (NCES)	975	975	975
22550	DEFENSE INFORMATION SYSTEMS NETWORK (DISN)	5,324	5,324	5,324
22600	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, DLA	1,600	1,600	1,600
22650	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, TJS	32,700	59,450	32,700
22660	MH-47 SLEP	22,000	---	22,000
22670	CV-22 MODIFICATIONS	---	---	47,048
22700	C-130 MODS	49,833	49,833	49,833
22750	SOF ORDNANCE REPLENISHMENT	45,788	45,788	45,788
22800	SOF ORDNANCE ACQUISITION	54,976	51,376	53,176
22850	COMM EQPT & ELECTRONICS	58,032	78,342	78,342
22900	SOF INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS	33,883	5,120	5,120
22950	SMALL ARMS AND WEAPONS	49,775	57,805	57,805
23000	SOF COMBATANT CRAFT SYSTEMS	30,500	16,900	16,900
23050	TACTICAL VEHICLES	108,550	129,340	165,100
23100	MISSION TRAINING AND PREPARATION SYS	5,300	---	5,300
23150	COMBAT MISSION REQUIREMENTS	150,000	150,000	150,000
23200	UNMANNED VEHICLES	76,231	107,731	107,731
23250	MISC EQUIPMENT	52,880	1,000	1,000
23300	SOF OPERATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS	86,653	65,678	65,678
23350	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	61,962	68,862	60,662
23400	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	1,156	1,156	1,156
23450	TOTAL, PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE	934,930	903,092	980,050

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[in thousands of dollars]

P-1		Budget Request 1/	House 2/	Senate	Conference
25	**Major Equipment, TJS**	**59,450**	**32,700**	**59,450**	**32,700**
	Request in excess of validated requirement		-26,750		-26,750
38	**MH-47 SLEP**	**0**	**22,000**	**0**	**22,000**
	MH-47 Mods for Battle-loss MH-47		22,000		22,000
42	**CV-22 SOF Modifications**				**47,048**
	CV-22 SOF Modifications (Transferred from AP,AF Line 18 for execution)				47,048
49	**SOF Ordnance Acquisition**	**54,976**	**54,976**	**51,376**	**53,176**
	SOPGM - Unexecutable request			-3,600	-1,800
50	**Comm Eqpt & Electronics**	**58,032**	**58,032**	**78,342**	**78,342**
	TACLAN - E - Unexecutable Request			-300	-300
	Forward Deployed Equipment - Transfer from Line 67			20,610	20,610
51	**SOF Intelligence Systems**	**33,883**	**33,883**	**5,120**	**5,120**
	MERLIN - Unjustified request			-29,983	-29,983
	Forward Deployed Equipment - Transfer from line 67			1,220	1,220
52	**Small Arms and Weapons**	**49,775**	**49,775**	**57,805**	**57,805**
	Forward Deployed Equipment - Transfer from Line 67			8,030	8,030
56	**SOF Combatant Craft Systems**	**30,500**	**30,500**	**16,900**	**16,900**
	IBS Upgrade - Unexecutable request			-13,600	-13,600
59	**Tactical Vehicles**	**108,550**	**108,550**	**129,340**	**165,100**
	Lightweight ATV - Unexecutable Request			-750	-750
	Forward Deployed Equipment - Transfer from Line 67			21,540	21,540
	Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Vehicles				35,760
60	**Mission Training and Preparation Systems**	**5,300**	**5,300**	**0**	**5,300**
	AC-130 BMC - Baseline budget request			-5,300	0
63	**Unmanned Vehicles**	**107,731**	**76,231**	**107,731**	**107,731**
	Program Reduction for undetermined needs		-31,500		0
67	**Misc Equipment**	**52,880**	**52,880**	**1,000**	**1,000**
	Forward Deployed Equipment - Transfer to Lines 50,51,52,59 for execution			-51,410	-51,410
	MK 5 Clamshell - Unexecutable request			-470	-470
69	**SOF Operational Enhancements**	**86,653**	**86,653**	**65,678**	**65,678**
	Program Adjustments			-20,975	-20,975
999	**Classified Programs**	**70,162**	**61,962**	**68,862**	**60,662**

1/ Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March 12, 2007.
2/ House action relative to the official fiscal year 2007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 Budget.

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE EQUIPMENT

The conference agreement provides funding for National Guard and Reserve Equipment for the Army National Guard in the Strategic Reserve Readiness Fund instead of in the National Guard and Reserve Equipment account as proposed by the Senate.

		(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
23500	NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE EQUIPMENT			
23510	ARMY NATIONAL GUARD	---	1,000,000	---
23600	TOTAL, PROC., NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE EQUIPMENT	---	1,000,000	---

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
RECAPITULATION			
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army	60,781	125,576	100,006
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy.....	295,737	308,212	298,722
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force.	132,928	233,869	187,176
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide.....	545,904	522,804	512,804
GRAND TOTAL.....	1,035,350	1,190,461	1,098,708

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, ARMY

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

		(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
50	RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, ARMY			
100	COMBAT VEHICLE AND AUTOMOTIVE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY.....	---	3,560	---
150	SOLDIER SUPPORT AND SURVIVABILITY.....	---	27,625	7,625
200	ALL SOURCE ANALYSIS SYSTEM (ASAS).....	3,400	---	3,400
250	INFANTRY SUPPORT WEAPONS.....	8,158	8,158	8,158
300	AIR DEFENSE COMMAND, CONTROL AND INTELLIGENCE.....	38,900	38,900	38,900
400	MATERIEL SYSTEMS ANALYSIS.....	---	5,410	---
450	INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY PROGRAM.....	---	31,600	31,600
550	TACTICAL WHEELED VEHICLE (TWV) PRODUCT.....	10,323	10,323	10,323
600	TOTAL, RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, ARMY.....	60,781	125,576	100,006

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[in thousands of dollars]

R-1		Budget Request 1/	House 2/	Senate	Conference
34	**Combat Vehicle and Automotive Advanced Technology**	**3,560**	**0**	**3,560**	**0**
	Duplicates funding provided in Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund		-3,560		-3,560
63	**Soldier Support and Survivability**	**27,625**	**0**	**27,625**	**7,625**
	Duplicates funding provided in Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund		-27,625		-20,000
82	**ASAS - Human Tracking System**	**3,400**	**3,400**	**0**	**3,400**
	Unjustified Request			-3,400	0
102	**Automatic Test Equipment Development**	**6,500**	**0**	**0**	**0**
	Defer non-emergency development of aviation test equipment		-6,500		-6,500
	Unjustified request			-6,500	0
141	**Materiel Systems Analysis**	**5,410**	**0**	**5,410**	**0**
	Duplicates funding provided in Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund		-5,410		-5,410
174	**Information Systems Security Program**	**8,300**	**0**	**31,600**	**31,600**
	Defer non-emergency development		-8,300		0
	Transfer from OPA, Line 46 for Execution			23,300	23,300
177	**WWMCCS/Global Command and Control System**	**3,800**	**0**	**0**	**0**
	Database interoperability applications for situational awareness		-3,800		-3,800
	Unjustified Request			-3,800	0

1/ Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March 12, 2007.
2/ House action relative to the official fiscal year 2007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 budget.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, NAVY

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

		(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
650	RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, NAVY			
1000	MARINE CORPS GRND CMBT/SUPT SYS	---	10,000	5,000
1050	TACTICAL CRYPTOLOGIC SYSTEMS	5,000	---	5,000
1060	OTHER HELO DEVELOPMENT	13,000	13,000	13,000
1070	H-1 UPGRADES	---	18,000	18,000
1100	V-22A	3,800	---	---
1150	ELECTRONIC WARFARE (EW) DEV	1,245	1,245	1,245
1200	MARINE CORPS PROGRAM WIDE SUPT	---	5,000	2,000
1250	HARM IMPROVEMENT	---	2,230	---
1300	AVIATION IMPROVEMENTS	---	500	500
1350	MARINE CORPS COMMS SYSTEMS	41,540	68,800	41,540
1400	MC GROUND CMBT SPT ARMS SYS	---	4,000	2,000
1450	MARINE CORPS CMBT SERVICES SUPT	15,566	14,851	14,851
1500	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	150,500	105,500	130,500
1550	MANNED RECONNAISSANCE SYS	65,086	65,086	65,086
1600	TOTAL, RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, NAVY	295,737	308,212	298,722

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[in thousands of dollars]

R-1		Budget Request 1/	House 2/	Senate	Conference
58	**Marine Corps Ground Combat/Support System**	**36,800**	**0**	**10,000**	**5,000**
	Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV)		-36,800	-26,800	-31,800
140	**Tactical Cryptologic Systems**	**5,000**	**5,000**	**0**	**5,000**
	Unjustified request			-5,000	0
84	**Other Helo Development**	**0**	**13,000**	**13,000**	**13,000**
	DIRCM Integration (ASE for USMC)		1,000	1,000	1,000
	NRE for LW/DIRCM (ASE for USMC)		12,000	12,000	12,000
93	**H-1 Upgrades**	**0**	**0**	**18,000**	**18,000**
	Aircraft survivability (DIRCM) for H-1(ASE for USMC)			18,000	18,000
95	**V-22A**	**3,800**	**3,800**	**0**	**0**
	Excess to need			-3,800	-3,800
158	**Marine Corps Program Wide Supt**	**10,100**	**0**	**5,000**	**2,000**
	Program Wide Support		-10,100	-5,100	-8,100
179	**Harm Improvement**	**2,230**	**0**	**2,230**	**0**
	Defer Thermobaric Modification		-2,230		-2,230
183	**Aviation Improvements**	**500**	**0**	**500**	**500**
	Aircraft mooring		-500		0
186	**Marine Corps Communications Systems**	**165,348**	**41,540**	**68,800**	**41,540**
	C2PC		-14,000		0
	Commom Operations Center		-18,000		0
	Battle Tracking Identification Systems		-1,500		0
	G-BOSS (funded in JIEDDO)		-30,000		0
	GCSS-MC		-8,900		0
	CREW (funded in JIEDDO)		-7,000		0
	G/ATOR		-19,508		0
	MCEITS		-2,400		0
	CAC2S		-29,500		0
	Funds near-term deliverables			-96,548	-123,808
187	**Marine Corps Ground Combat Support Arms System**	**4,000**	**0**	**4,000**	**2,000**
	Ground Weaponry PIP		-4,000		-2,000
188	**Marine Corps Cmbt Services Supt**	**15,566**	**15,566**	**14,851**	**14,851**
	Funds near-term deliverables			-715	-715
xx	**Classified Programs**	**150,500**	**150,500**	**105,500**	**130,500**
	Classified Program Adjustment			-45,000	-20,000

1/ Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March 12, 2007.
2/ House action relative to the official fiscal year 20007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 Budget.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, AIR FORCE

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

		(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
1650	RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, AF			
1700	INTEGRATED BROADCAST SERVICE	9,000	4,000	4,000
1750	B-1B	17,030	17,030	17,030
1800	SPACE BASED INFRARED SYSTEM (SBIRS) HIGH EMD	2,000	2,000	2,000
1850	B-52 SQUADRONS	---	24,500	24,500
1900	A-10 SQUADRONS	---	10,000	10,000
1950	MISSION PLANNING SYSTEMS	13,300	13,300	13,300
2000	DRAGON U-2 (JMIP)	---	660	---
2050	AIRBORNE RECONNAISSANCE SYSTEMS	---	6,000	---
2100	MANNED RECONNAISSANCE SYSTEMS	20,540	20,540	20,540
2150	PREDATOR UAV (JMIP)	20,000	20,000	20,000
2200	GLOBAL HAWK UAV	---	19,033	---
2250	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	51,058	96,806	75,806
2300	TOTAL, RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, AF	132,928	233,869	187,176

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[In thousands of dollars]

R-1	Budget Request [1/]	House [2/]	Senate	Conference
50 Integrated Broadcast Service	**9,000**	**9,000**	**4,000**	**4,000**
CO-GINS Funding ahead of need			-5,000	-5,000
121 B-52 Squadrons	**24,500**	**0**	**24,500**	**24,500**
ATP Integration		-24,500		0
129 A-10 Squadrons	**10,000**	**0**	**10,000**	**10,000**
Hellfire II		-10,000		0
199 Dragon U-2 (JMIP)	**660**	**0**	**660**	**0**
SYERS-2 Qualification and Certification Testing		-660		-660
200 Airborne Reconnaissance Systems	**6,000**	**0**	**6,000**	**0**
TARS Integration on Block 40/50 F-16 Aircraft		-6,000		-6,000
204 Global Hawk UAV	**19,033**	**0**	**19,033**	**0**
MASINT and SIGINT Capability Development		-19,033		-19,033
999 Classified Programs	**78,658**	**51,058**	**96,806**	**75,806**
Program Adjustment		-27,600	18,148	-2,852

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2/ House action relative to the official fiscal year 2007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 budget.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, DEFENSE-WIDE

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars) House	Senate	Conference
2350 RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, DW			
2400 CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (CIP)	15,700	15,700	15,700
2450 CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	530,204	507,104	497,104
2500 TOTAL, RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, DW	545,904	522,804	512,804

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[in thousands of dollars]

R-1	Budget Request [1/]	House [2/]	Senate	Conference
999 Classified Programs	**635,164**	**530,204**	**507,104**	**497,104**
Classified Program Adjustment		-104,960	-128,060	-138,060

1/ Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March 12, 2007.
2/ House action relative to the official fiscal year 20007 emergency supplemental request submitted as part of the fiscal year 2008 Budget.

REVOLVING AND MANAGEMENT FUNDS

DEFENSE WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS

The conference agreement provides $1,315,526,000, as proposed by both the House and the Senate.

NATIONAL DEFENSE SEALIFT FUND

The conference agreement provides $5,000,000 as proposed by both the House and the Senate.

OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS

DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

	(In thousands of dollars)		
	House	Senate	Conference
Defense Health Program (emergency)	2,789,703	2,466,847	3,251,853
Operation and maintenance (emergency)	(2,289,703)	(2,277,147)	(2,802,153)
Procurement (emergency)	---	(118,000)	(118,000)
Research, development, test and evaluation (emergency)	(500,000)	(71,700)	(331,700)
Medical support fund (emergency)	---	---	---

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[In thousands of dollars]

	Budget Request	House	Senate	Conference
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE	**1,073,147**	**2,289,703**	**2,277,147**	**2,802,153**
Amputee Care	28,600	61,950	28,600	61,950
Bethesda Emergency Preparedness Plan		5,000		5,000
Blast Injury Prevention, Mitigation & Treatment	7,100	14,800	7,100	14,800
Improved Identification and Access to Mental Health/PTSD Treatment		200,000	40,000	300,000
Improved Identification and Access to Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment		200,000	20,000	300,000
Care Givers Support Program		12,000		12,000
Burn Care	7,800	14,800	7,800	14,800
Comprehensive Combat Casualty Care (C5)	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500
BAMC Infrastructure (Elevators)		1,500		1,500
WRAMC Infrastructure (Building 18 & other infrastructure)		20,000	20,000	20,000
Efficiency Wedge			382,000	382,000
Restores Funding for Legislative Proposal not adopted		730,000	742,000	660,750
PROCUREMENT			**118,000**	**118,000**
Efficiency Wedge				118,000
RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION		**500,000**	**71,700**	**331,700**
Peer Reviewed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Research				150,000
Peer Reviewed Traumatic Brain Injury Research				150,000
Peer Reviewed Burn, Orthopedic, and Trauma Research				31,700
MEDICAL SUPPORT FUND	**50,000/1**		**0**	**0**

/1 Reflects the official budget amendments for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the President on March 12, 2007

The conference agreement provides $3,251,853,000 for the Defense Health Program, instead of $2,789,703,000 as proposed by the House and $2,466,847,000 as proposed by the Senate.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI) AND POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD) TREATMENT AND RESEARCH

The conferees believe that, if a service member is correctly diagnosed with TBI or PTSD, the better chance he or she has of a full recovery. It is critical that health care providers are given the resources necessary to make accurate, timely referrals for appropriate treatment and that service members have high priority access to such services. Therefore, the conference agreement provides $900,000,000 for access, treatment and research for TBI and PTSD. Of the amount provided, $600,000,000 is for operation and maintenance and $300,000,000 is for research, development, test and evaluation to conduct peer reviewed research.

By increasing funding for TBI and PTSD, the conferees believe that the Defense Department now will have significant resources to dramatically improve screening for risk factors, diagnosis, treatment, counseling, research, facilities and equipment to prevent or treat these illnesses.

If the Secretary of Defense determines that funds made available within the operation and maintenance account for the treatment of TBI and PTSD are excess to the requirements of the Department of Defense, the conference agreement provides the authority to transfer excess amounts to the Department of Veterans Affairs to be available only for the same purpose.

CARE GIVER SUPPORT PROGRAMS

The conference agreement provides $12,000,000 for care giver support programs, to be allocated as recommended in House Report 110–60, in order to assist the military medical facilities' nurses and doctors who are treating the wounded by ensuring they have sufficient stress prevention and management programs.

AMPUTEE HEALTH CARE

The conference agreement provides a total of $61,950,000 for amputee health care. The additional monies, to be allocated consistent with House Report 110–60, will enhance health care services and operations at Walter Reed, Brooke Army Medical Center/Center for the Intrepid, Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and National Naval Medical Center—Balboa.

SUSTAINING THE MILITARY HEALTH CARE BENEFIT

When the fiscal year 2007 budget request was submitted, it assumed savings anticipated from legislation that would have significantly increased fees and premiums paid by military members. The legislation was not enacted by Congress. The conference agreement provides $660,750,000 to fully fund the Defense Health Program for fiscal year 2007. The conferees strongly urge the Department to examine other ways to sustain the benefit without relying on Congress to enact legislation that would increase the out-of-pocket costs to the beneficiaries.

MILITARY HEALTH CARE BUDGET—''EFFICIENCY WEDGE''

The conference agreement provides $500,000,000 in operation and maintenance and procurement funding to reverse ''efficiency wedge'' savings mandated by the Department of Defense. The monies are to be allocated consistent with Senate Report 110–37 and will return funding to appropriate levels within the Direct Care system and allow the services to address critical needs.

HEALTH CARE IN SUPPORT OF ARMY MODULAR FORCE CONVERSION AND GLOBAL POSITIONING

The conferees are concerned that the Army has been directed to cover costs associated with health care support of Army modular force (AMF) conversion and global positioning. The cost of these movements is estimated at $68,000,000 and will enable the Army to provide the capacity to meet increases in the demand for health care created as the Army repositions forces. This necessary funding is required to ensure that soldiers, particularly those returning from combat, and their families are able to access military health care.

The conferees direct the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and the Surgeon General of the Army to coordinate an effort and report back to the congressional defense committees by June 29, 2007, on how these anticipated costs will be funded to ensure soldiers and their families affected by AMF and global positioning will have access to the health care they deserve.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

The conferees direct the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs to submit a report to the congressional defense committees regarding the extent of, treatment of, and outreach to patients with traumatic brain injury, through military hospitals and outpatient clinics and their families. The report shall be submitted within 120 days after enactment of this Act, and it shall describe the Department's diagnosis and screening processes, communication procedures and policies for family members, and provide an accounting of funds budgeted and expended for this type of injury.

DRUG INTERDICTION AND COUNTER-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEFENSE

The conference agreement provides $254,665,000, as proposed by the Senate, instead of $259,115,000 as proposed by the House.

The conference agreement on items addressed by either the House or the Senate is as follows:

EXPLANATION OF PROJECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
[In thousands of dollars]

	Budget Request	House	Senate	Conference
Afghan National Interdiction Unit Counternarcotics Police (Training/Equipment/Facilities)	108,515	108,515	108,515	108,515
Afghan National Interdiction Unit Counternarcotics Police (Air Mobility)	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Intelligence Fusion Centers	500	500	500	500
Afghan Counternarcotics Border Policy (Training/Equipment)	15,500	15,500	15,500	15,500
Intelligence and Technology	45,700	45,700	45,700	45,700
Other Program Support	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Other Nation Support				
Tajikistan	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
Turkmenistan	9,400	9,400	9,400	9,400
Yemen	1,000	1,000	0	0
Pakistan	41,950	41,950	41,950	41,950
Kyrgyzstan	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Kazakhstan	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100
Turkey	1,000	1,000	0	0
Horn of Africa	2,450	2,450	0	0

RELATED AGENCIES

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT

The conference agreement provides $71,726,000 as proposed by the Senate instead of $57,426,000 as proposed by the House.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

The conference agreement retains a provision (Section 1301), as proposed by both the House and Senate, which provides for the obligation of appropriations made available in this chapter until September 30, 2007.

The conference agreement includes a provision (Section 1302), as proposed by the Senate, relating to general transfer authority.

The conference agreement retains a provision (Section 1303), as proposed by both the House and Senate, which provides for the obligation and expenditure of funds related to activities pursuant to section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947.

The conference agreement retains a provision (Section 1304), as proposed by both the House and Senate, which prohibits funds provided in this chapter to finance programs or activities denied by Congress, or to initiate a new start program without prior notification to the congressional defense committees.

The conference agreement includes a provision (Section 1305), as proposed by the Senate, relating to amounts transferred or credited to the Defense Cooperation Account.

The conference agreement modifies a provision (Section 1306), as proposed by both the House and Senate, which provides funds for support for counter-drug activities of the Governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The conference agreement includes a provision (Section 1307), as proposed by the Senate, relating to the Commanders' Emergency Response Program.

The conference agreement includes a provision (Section 1308), as proposed by the House, relating to submission of the Measuring Stability in Iraq report.

The conference agreement includes a provision (Section 1309), as proposed by the Senate, relating to supervision and administrative costs associated with construction contracts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The conference agreement retains a provision (Section 1310), as proposed by both the House and Senate, relating to U.S. contributions to NATO common-funded budgets.

The conference agreement retains a provision (Section 1311), as proposed by both the House and Senate, relating to permanent bases in Iraq.

The conference agreement includes a provision (Section 1312), as proposed by the Senate, which prohibits funds to contravene laws or regulations promulgated to implement the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

The conference agreement deletes a provision, as proposed by the House (Section 1312), permitting the transfer of up to $100,000,000 from Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide to the Department of State ''Economic Support Fund'' to support provincial reconstruction teams in Iraq and Afghanistan. The conference agreement includes funds for this activity within the appropriation for the Iraq Freedom Fund.

The conference agreement modifies a provision (Section 1313), as proposed by the House, relating to the withholding of funds appropriated under certain headings until the Department of Defense and the Office of Management and Budget submit certain reports relating to Iraq and Afghanistan security forces.

The conference agreement modifies a provision (Section 1314), as proposed by the House, relating to contractor award fees.

The conference agreement modifies a provision (Section 1315), as proposed by the House, relating to the cost of Department of Defense contracts and number of contracted personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan by deleting the reduction of $815,000,000, increasing the amounts withheld pending a DoD report on contract costs and personnel, and clarifying the reporting requirements.

The conference agreement includes a provision (Section 1316), as proposed by the House, which provides temporary authority to allow service members to designate a portion of their death gratuity benefit to someone other than next of kin.

The conference agreement includes a provision (Section 1317), as proposed by the Senate, which provides up to 287 heavy armored vehicles for force protection purposes in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The conference agreement modifies a provision (Section 1318), as proposed by the Senate, which requires the Secretary of Defense to inspect all military medical treatment facilities and military quarters housing medical hold and medical holdover personnel.

The conference agreement does not include a provision, as proposed by the House (Section 1320), relating to the legal representation for soldiers pursuing claims through the Army Physical Disability Evaluation System. The conference agreement addresses this matter elsewhere in the joint explanatory statement.

The conference agreement includes a provision (Section 1319), as proposed by the Senate, regarding the disarming of militias.

The conference agreement modifies a provision (Section 1320), as proposed by the Senate, relating to an independent assessment of the capabilities of the Iraqi security forces.

The conference agreement includes a provision (Section 1321) which provides a one-time waiver of time limitations for the award of the Medal of Honor.

The conference agreement includes a provision (Section 1322) that from funds appropriated in ''Other Procurement, Army'', in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2006, $6,250,000 shall be transferred to ''Military Construction, Army''.

The conference agreement includes a provision (Section 1323) permitting the transfer of up to $110,000,000 from various appropriations to the Department of State ''Economic Support Fund'' to support programs in Pakistan.

The conference agreement deletes a provision, as proposed by the House (Section 1319), which would have amended section 1403(a) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2001 (as amended).

The conference agreement deletes a provision, as proposed by the Senate (Section 1318), relating to the redevelopment of the industrial sector in Iraq. The conference agreement addresses this issue within the appropriation for the Iraq Freedom Fund.

The conference agreement deletes a provision, as proposed by the Senate (Section 1319), to provide $1,500,000,000 for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles. This matter is addressed within various appropriations in this chapter.

CHAPTER 4

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION

The conference agreement provides $150,000,000 for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation activities by the National Nuclear Security Administration, as proposed by the House instead of $63,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. Within the amounts provided, $136,000,000 is included for the International Nuclear Materials Protection and Cooperation program, including $25,000,000 for Rosatom Weapons Complex activities to begin comprehensive security upgrades at Mayak plutonium facilities where Russia recently agreed to allow access to U.S. teams for cooperative security work; $87,000,000 for the Megaports initiative to accelerate activities in host countries with seaports that have signed implementation agreements but are currently not funded to complete deployment of radiation detection equipment for scanning cargo containers; and $24,000,000 for additional high priority activities. Further the recommendation includes $14,000,000 for the Global Threat Reduction Initiative for Kazakhstan spent fuel security activities.

Sec. 1401. The conference agreement includes a provision regarding National Nuclear Security Administration transfer authority.

CHAPTER 5

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT

The conferees agree with the Senate's concern that the management and administrative challenges facing the Department will increase unless a stronger focus is placed on hiring, training, and maintaining career leaders. In particular, the conferees are concerned that the Department and its components will not be able to function effectively when the change in administration occurs in 2009. The conferees direct the Department to provide, by July 20, 2007, a report on senior staffing, as proposed by the Senate. The conferees further direct the Government Accountability Office to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the report within 90 days after the Department submits the report. In addition, the conferees provide $900,000 in title IV of the bill for the Under Secretary for Management to award a grant or contract to the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) to undertake a study to compare the Department of Homeland Security's reported senior career and political staffing levels and senior career training programs with those of similarly structured cabinet-level agencies. NAPA is an independent, non-partisan organization chartered by Congress to assist Federal, State, and local governments in improving their effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability. The conferees direct the Department to execute such grant or contract no later than the July 20, 2007, report submission date, and for NAPA to submit its report within six months thereafter.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

The Chief Information Officer is directed to submit to the Committees on Appropriations no later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act a report on the full costs to transition information to the Department of Homeland Security's primary data center. This report is to include, by departmental component: a schedule for data transition; costs for each fiscal year required to complete the transition; identification of items associated with the transition required to be procured and related procurement schedule; and identification of any transition costs provided in fiscal year 2007 or requested in the fiscal year 2008 President's budget. A report on the same elements for the data center to be selected in the summer of 2007 shall be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations no later than 30 days after a final selection has been made.

ANALYSIS AND OPERATIONS

The conferees provide an additional $15,000,000 in support of the State and local fusion center program, instead of $35,000,000 as proposed by the House. The Senate bill

contains no similar provision. These funds, along with amounts made available to date in fiscal year 2007, will allow DHS to support 35 fully-operational centers by the end of 2008.

Consistent with the House report, the conferees direct the Department's Chief Intelligence Officer to provide on-going, quarterly updates to the Committees on Appropriations, starting on July 1, 2007, that detail progress in placing DHS homeland security intelligence professionals in State and local fusion centers. These reports shall include: the qualification criteria used by DHS to decide where and how to place DHS intelligence analysts and related technology; total expenditures to support each center to date and during the most recent quarter of the current fiscal year, in the same categorization as materials submitted to the Committees on Appropriations on March 23, 2007; the location of each fusion center, including identification of those with DHS personnel, both operational and planned; the schedule for operational stand-up of planned fusion centers; the number of DHS-funded employees located at each fusion center, including details on whether the employees are contract or government staff; the privacy protection policies of each center, including the number of facility personnel trained in Federal privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties laws and standards; and the number of local law enforcement agents at each center approved or pending approval to receive and review classified intelligence information.

UNITED STATES CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The conferees provide an additional $115,000,000 for Salaries and Expenses, instead of $100,000,000 as proposed by the House and $140,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. Included in this amount are funds to:

(1) implement Security and Accountability For Every Port Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–347) requirements and advance goals of the Secure Freight Initiative to improve significantly the ability of United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to target and analyze U.S.-bound cargo containers; expand the screening of such cargo overseas and the capacity to physically inspect containers; procure and integrate non-intrusive inspection equipment into inspection and radiation detection operations; and improve supply chain security, to include enhanced analytic and targeting systems using data collected via commercial and government technologies and databases;

(2) support hiring of not less than an additional 600 CBP Officers, and additional intelligence and trade specialist and support positions for targeting and screening on the Northern Border, at overseas locations, and at the National Targeting Center, and staffing required for Northern Border Air and Marine Operations; and

(3) transfer up to $5,000,000 to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center for basic training costs associated with the additional personnel funded in this Act.

The conferees direct CBP to submit expenditure and staffing plans for these additional funds to the Committees on Appropriations no later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act and prior to the obligation of the funds.

The conferees direct CBP to sustain the current level of Border Patrol staffing on the Northern Border and to inform the Committees on Appropriations immediately if CBP does not expect to achieve its plan of having at least 1,179 Border Patrol agents permanently deployed to the Northern Border by the end of fiscal year 2007.

ALIEN SMUGGLING TRACKING

The conferees are aware that CBP has established an Office of Alien Smuggling Interdiction (ASI), including three field-level Regional Carrier Liaison Groups. According to CBP, ASI facilitates the exchange of intelligence and information within CBP and between CBP and external agencies related to alien trafficking and smuggling; coordinates such efforts within CBP; and maintains close working relationships with other offices, including the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center (HSTC), the Border Patrol, and the U.S. Coast Guard. The conferees agree such efforts are consistent with the CBP mission to interdict smuggling, but also coordination requires active CBP participation in the multi-agency HSTC. The conferees direct CBP and ICE jointly to brief the Committees on Appropriations no later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act on the role each agency plays in enforcing laws against human smuggling, how those missions are coordinated, and the timeline for placement of CBP detailees at the HSTC.

CONSTRUCTION

The conferees have recently become aware of significant CBP construction program management lapses that may adversely impact deployment of new Border Patrol agents and endanger the successful implementation of border security initiatives. The conferees direct CBP to review and assess the staffing levels committed to facilities management and oversight and submit the Construction Master Plan required by Public Law 109–295 to the Committees on Appropriations as expeditiously as possible.

PERMANENT BORDER PATROL CHECKPOINT

The conferees understand that CBP agrees that no permanent checkpoint will be planned for Southern Arizona without significant and direct community involvement. Any planned permanent checkpoint must: (1) be part of an overall network of border security technology and infrastructure, as well as an increase in personnel; (2) be designed to significantly reduce the number of illegal immigrants and the amount of contraband entering the U.S. through Arizona, and increase the security of our nation by employing technology and capabilities to detect individuals or implements associated with terrorism; and (3) contain attributes that reduce to a minimum the impact on the commerce and quality of life of communities. Prior to the operation of a possible permanent checkpoint in Southern Arizona, CBP must ensure that any temporary checkpoint be administered in a manner consistent with current case law, and address the checkpoint's impact on residents, legitimate travelers, and public safety.

AIR AND MARINE INTERDICTION, OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND PROCUREMENT

The conferees provide an additional $120,000,000 for Air and Marine Interdiction, Operations, Maintenance, and Procurement, instead of $150,000,000 as proposed by the House and $75,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. Included in this amount are funds to accelerate planned deployment of Northern Border Air and Marine operations. This includes: establishment of the final Northern Border air wing; procurement of assets, such as fixed wing aircraft, helicopters, unmanned aerial systems, marine and riverine vessels, and other equipment; relocation of aircraft; site acquisition; and the design and building of facilities. The conferees direct CBP to submit an expenditure plan for the use of these funds to the Committees on Appropriations no later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act and prior to the obligation of the funds.

UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The conferees provide an additional $10,000,000 for Salaries and Expenses instead of $20,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The House bill contains no similar provision. Of this amount, $5,000,000 is provided to create a security advisory opinion review unit within the Visa Security Program consistent with the Senate report. The remaining $5,000,000 is provided for the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center (HSTC). The conferees intend that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) serve as the Department's lead at the HSTC, but also direct CBP, given its border protection, inspection, and interdiction missions, to fully participate in the HSTC. The conferees direct ICE to submit an expenditure plan for the use of the HSTC funds to the Committees on Appropriations no later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act and prior to the obligation of the funds.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

AVIATION SECURITY

The conferees provide an additional $970,000,000 for Aviation Security instead of $1,250,000,000 as proposed by the House and $660,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. Within this total, $815,000,000 is for the procurement and installation of checked baggage explosives detection systems; $45,000,000 is for the expansion of checkpoint explosives detection pilot systems; and $110,000,000 is for air cargo security. Funding for the procurement and installation of checked baggage explosives detection systems and checkpoint explosives detection pilots is available until expended. Funding for air cargo security is available until September 30, 2009.

The conferees direct the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to utilize funding for explosives detection systems at airports that would derive significant security benefits, consistent with the optimal screening solutions prioritized in TSA's strategic plan for electronic baggage screening. As directed by the Senate, TSA shall submit a revised fiscal year 2007 explosives detection system expenditure plan to the Committees on Appropriations no later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

The conferees provide $45,000,000 for the deployment and pilot testing of advanced checkpoint explosives detection equipment and screening technologies to determine preferred operational and equipment protocols. The fiscal year 2008 budget request identifies a number of emerging technologies that could be expedited so that airline passengers and carry-on baggage are screened for explosives, weapons, and other threat objects by the most advanced equipment currently under development. TSA has lagged behind in this area and should use this funding to accelerate this work. The conferees are disappointed that TSA failed to meet a January 23, 2007, deadline to submit a strategic plan for deployment of checkpoint technologies and direct TSA to expeditiously submit that strategic plan, as directed in the joint explanatory statement of managers accompanying the fiscal year 2007 conference report (Report 109–699), and include these additional funds as part of this effort.

The conferees provide $110,000,000 for air cargo security. This funding sets a path for all cargo carried on passenger aircraft to be screened. Within the amount provided, the conferees direct TSA to: (1) hire no fewer than 150 additional air cargo inspectors to establish a more robust enforcement and compliance regime; (2) complete air cargo vulnerability assessments, as described in TSA's recent report on air cargo security for

all Category X airports; (3) expand the National Explosives Detection Canine Program by no fewer than 170 additional canine teams; and (4) procure and install explosives detection systems, explosives trace machines, and other technologies to screen air cargo. The conferees permit a portion of these funds to be used for proprietary canine teams led by TSA, as proposed by the Senate. In addition, the conferees direct TSA to pursue canine screening methods utilized internationally, which focus on air samples taken from air cargo for explosives detection. Within 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, TSA shall provide an expenditure plan detailing how it will utilize the $110,000,000 to increase the screening of air cargo carried on passenger aircraft.

FEDERAL AIR MARSHALS

The conferees provide an additional $8,000,000 for Federal Air Marshals instead of $15,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The House bill contains no similar provision. Funding shall be used to support higher coverage on critical flights that would otherwise have had insufficient coverage. The conferees direct TSA to report back within 30 days from the date of enactment of this Act on how these additional funds will be allocated.

NATIONAL PROTECTION AND PROGRAMS

INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION AND INFORMATION SECURITY

The conferees provide an additional $37,000,000 for Infrastructure Protection and Information Security instead of $25,000,000 as proposed by the House and $18,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. Of this total amount, $25,000,000 shall be to develop State and local interoperability plans in support of the state interoperable grant program; and $12,000,000 shall be to support implementation of new chemical security regulations.

As outlined in the House report, the conferees direct the Office of Emergency Communications to work in conjunction with the Science and Technology Office of Interoperable Communications and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to support the efforts of State and local governments as they develop state interoperable communications plans. Within 30 days from the date of enactment of this Act, DHS is directed to provide the Committees on Appropriations a detailed expenditure plan for execution of a nationwide state interoperable communications planning effort, including key milestones for achievement of the decisions necessary to support the Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program. The conferees encourage the Department to allow States that do not use reallocated public safety spectrum to be eligible for the Public Safety Interoperable grant funds as long as their systems are compatible with those using reallocated spectrum.

The conferees provide $12,000,000 to ensure that DHS is able to implement chemical facility security regulations efficiently and effectively as described in the Senate report.

The conferees are concerned with the process used by the Office of Cyber Security to acquire access to a facility for a Secret Service-led computer forensics training program. While the conferees strongly support the Department's efforts to fight cyber-crime, the Department's first notification to Congress of this program was via a press release announcing the Secretary's ribbon cutting at the planned center. This approach represents a violation of the spirit, if not the letter, of section 503 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 109–295). Within 30 days from the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary is directed to submit to the Committees on Appropriations a report providing a detailed description of the source and amount of funds to be used in support of the new program, the original purpose of each of the funding sources, a legal opinion providing the legal basis for the actions taken in establishing this activity, and the process that will be used in the future to ensure that Congress is informed in advance of any activity that could be construed as either creating new programs or making awards that do not involve an appropriate competitive solicitation of participants or service providers. In addition, the report shall include a justification outlining why this activity is properly undertaken by the Secret Service and DHS rather than the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice.

OFFICE OF HEALTH AFFAIRS

The conferees provide $15,000,000 for the Office of Health Affairs instead of $18,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The House bill contains no similar funding. Of this amount, $4,000,000 is to support medical readiness, planning, and other activities tasked to this Office.

The remaining $11,000,000 is for nuclear event public health assessment and planning. The Office of Health Affairs, in conjunction with appropriate agencies and national labs, shall: expeditiously develop plans for the response to, and model the effects of, a 0.1, 1.0 and 10 kiloton nuclear explosion on each tier one Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) city, where such analysis has not already been completed; assess whether current response and recovery plans of all levels of government provide the greatest public health benefit; document what modifications and appropriate practices for responding to such an event would improve health outcomes; assess if identified affected distribution systems would be sufficient to support the proposed response; and set a strategy, in consultation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other appropriate agencies, to ensure consistent and sufficient delivery of information to the public, medical community, and first responders on appropriate protective actions to prepare for and respond to a nuclear attack.

The Office of Health Affairs shall provide quarterly briefings to the Committees on Appropriations on the status of this assessment beginning three months after the date of enactment of this Act.

In addition, of the amount made available for the assessment, up to $2,000,000 is for the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to evaluate the Department's estimates of the effects of a nuclear attack and the current level of preparation in tier one UASI cities. NAS shall report on: available healthcare capacity to treat the affected population; treatments available for pertinent radiation illnesses; efficacy of medical countermeasures; the likely capability of the Federal, State, and local authorities to deliver available medical countermeasures in a timely enough way to be effective; and the overall expected benefit of available countermeasures and those in the development pipeline. NAS shall also assess the availability, quality, and benefit of public and medical education in reducing the illness and death associated with a nuclear attack. NAS shall submit its report to the Committees on Appropriations within 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

The conferees note the Department has not finalized its Protective Action Guides for Radiological Dispersal Devices and Improvised Nuclear Device Incidents for Federal agencies, State and local governments, emergency responders, and the general public. This guidance would be critical in planning and responding to radiological incidents. The conferees direct the Department to finalize this guidance as quickly as possible.

The conferees direct the Office of Health Affairs to submit an expenditure plan prior to the obligation of any funds provided under this heading. Funds are available until September 30, 2008.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

The conferees provide $25,000,000 for Management and Administration instead of $25,000,000 as proposed by the House for Salaries and Expenses and $20,000,000 as proposed by the Senate for Administrative and Regional Operations. Within the funding provided, $10,000,000 is for disaster communications equipment to be placed in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regions across the country; $2,500,000 is to strengthen interstate mutual aid agreements; $5,000,000 is for regional strike teams; $6,000,000 is for improvements for financial and information systems; $500,000 is for the Law Enforcement Liaison Office; $500,000 is for the Disability Coordinator; and $500,000 is for the National Advisory Council. The conferees include bill language prohibiting the obligation of this $25,000,000 until the Committees on Appropriations receive and approve an expenditure plan. Such plan should be submitted within 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act. Funds are available until September 30, 2008.

The ''Management and Administration'' account combines the former ''Administrative and Regional Operations'' and ''Readiness, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery'' accounts. A provision is included to transfer all funds in the ''Administrative and Regional Operations'' and ''Readiness, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery'' accounts into the new ''Management and Administration'' account.

NUCLEAR PREPAREDNESS

The conferees are concerned that cities have little guidance available to them to better prepare their populations to react in the critical moments shortly after a nuclear event. The conferees direct FEMA, in conjunction with the Office of Health Affairs, to report on the general status and adequacy of public fallout shelters and other protective measures, as appropriate, and pre-planned guidance to the public in the tier one UASI cities. Further, FEMA shall report on how it is coordinating with State and local governments and the Department of Health and Human Services for delivery of prepackaged announcements with major radio and television outlets to assure immediate and helpful guidance after a nuclear attack.

STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS

The conferees provide an additional $552,500,000 for State and Local Programs instead of $415,000,000 as proposed by the House and $850,000,000 proposed by the Senate. Within the funding provided, $190,000,000 is for port security grants pursuant to the Security and Accountability For Every Port Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–347); $325,000,000 is for intercity rail passenger transportation, freight rail, and transit security grants; $35,000,000 is for regional catastrophic event planning grants and regional technical assistance; and $2,500,000 is for technical assistance programs.

The conferees continue to be concerned about the Department's poor track record for awarding security grants on a timely basis. The additional funding provided in this Act for port security and rail and mass transit security grants shall be awarded by September 30, 2007. The conferees direct the Department to provide potential grant recipients with pending applications an opportunity to apply for these additional funds.

The conferees provide $35,000,000 for all-hazard regional catastrophic event planning grants and regional technical assistance as proposed by the Senate. These funds are provided for grants and technical assistance to tier one UASI cities and other participating governments for the purpose of developing all-hazard regional catastrophic event plans and preparedness. FEMA Regional Offices are directed to work with the UASI areas in this effort. Plans and preparedness efforts must address every risk and include logistics, response (including mass evacuation and shelter-in-place), recovery, public education, and business outreach. The conferees include bill language prohibiting the obligation of funds for regional catastrophic event planning grants and regional technical assistance until the Committees on Appropriations receive and approve an expenditure plan. The conferees direct FEMA to provide the expenditure plan by July 1, 2007, so as not to delay this important initiative. The Department shall report to the Committees on Appropriations no later than January 15, 2008, regarding the results of this effort.

The conferees recognize that the majority of grant dollars are spent on first responder equipment at the State and local level. To be effective, it is imperative that first responders are also trained to properly use and maintain the equipment. Therefore, the conferees provide $2,500,000 to the technical assistance program for operation and maintenance training on detection and response equipment. The program must be competitively awarded. Funds are available until September 30, 2007.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANTS

The conferees provide an additional $100,000,000 for Emergency Management Performance Grants. The conferees do not include bill language proposed by the Senate to provide funds for expenses related to the Nationwide Plan Review.

The conferees are concerned by the findings of the Department's Plan Review, which found that emergency management plans across the country are not up-to-date or systematic. State and local emergency management agencies use Emergency Management Performance Grants to enhance their emergency management capabilities and to link efforts regionally and nationwide. The conferees direct FEMA to provide guidelines encouraging State and local governments to address the findings identified in the Nationwide Plan Review. The conferees also direct FEMA to brief the Committees on Appropriations regarding the status of successfully addressing the Nationwide Plan Review findings no later than June 29, 2007.

UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

The conferees agree to provide an additional $10,000,000 for United States Citizenship and Immigration Services instead of $30,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The House bill contains no similar provision. The conferees understand that there are approximately 170,000 immigration applications and petitions awaiting security checks by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. These funds are provided under the terms and conditions listed in the Senate report, including a restriction from obligation until the Committees on Appropriations receive a specific plan that describes how this security check backlog will be addressed comprehensively.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, ACQUISITION, AND OPERATIONS

The conferees provide an additional $10,000,000 for Research, Development, Acquisition, and Operations instead of $15,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The House bill contains no similar provision. The conferees direct that this funding be used for research on improved air cargo screening technologies to protect aircraft from explosives and other harmful materials, as discussed in the Senate report. None of the funds shall be used to continue, beyond the current timeframe, ongoing air cargo pilots. The benefits and findings from these pilots should be made available to all stakeholders as quickly as possible.

DOMESTIC NUCLEAR DETECTION OFFICE

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND OPERATIONS

The conferees provide an additional $39,000,000 for Research, Development and Operations as proposed by the Senate. The House bill contains no similar provision. Within the funding provided, $5,000,000 is to enhance detection links between seaports and railroads as authorized in Section 121(i) of Security and Accountability For Every Port Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–347); $8,000,000 is to accelerate development and deployment of detection systems at international rail border crossings; and $26,000,000 is for development and deployment of a variety of screening technologies at aviation facilities as discussed in the Senate report. Funding is available until expended.

SYSTEMS ACQUISITION

The conferees provide an additional $223,500,000 for Systems Acquisition instead of $400,000,000 as proposed by the House. The Senate bill contains no similar provision. Funding shall be used to acquire and deploy additional radiation portal monitors at all locations DHS determines necessary. No funds shall be used to acquire advanced spectroscopic portal monitors until the Secretary of Homeland Security certifies that these systems will achieve a significant increase in operational effectiveness. If the Secretary is unable to certify an increase in operational effectiveness, the conferees direct the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office to acquire currently available radiation portal monitors. Funds are available until expended.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1501.—The conferees modify a provision proposed by both the House and Senate that clarifies Federal preemption of State and local chemical site security regulations. The conferees also modify a House provision on information security standards for chemical facility vulnerability information.

Sec. 1502.—The conferees include a provision proposed by the Senate that precludes the Department from using funds in this Act or provided by P.L. 109–295 to carry out reorganization authority. The House bill contains no similar provision.

Sec. 1503.—The conferees include a provision proposed by the Senate that mandates that the Department of Homeland Security require all contracts that provide award fees to link such fees to successful acquisition outcomes. The House bill contains no similar provision.

The conferees do not include a provision proposed by the Senate regarding the Domestic Preparedness Equipment Technical Assistance Program.

CHAPTER 6

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The conferees agree to provide $6,437,000 for the House of Representatives for business continuity and disaster recovery. Inasmuch as this item relates solely to the House, and in accord with long practice under which each body determines its own housekeeping requirements and the other concurs without intervention, the managers on the part of the Senate, at the request of the managers on the part of the House, have receded to the amendment of the House.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The conference agreement provides $374,000 to the Government Accountability Office to remain available until September 30, 2008. This is the same amount as proposed by the Senate. The House bill carried no such provision.

CHAPTER 7

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

NATO Security Investment Program (NSIP) reimbursement for military construction in Afghanistan.—The conferees understand that military construction projects carried out in Afghanistan may be eligible for reimbursement under NSIP. The conferees therefore direct the Department of Defense to aggressively pursue NSIP funding for military construction in Afghanistan and review all future projects for NSIP eligibility.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

The conferees agree to provide $1,255,890,000 for Military Construction, Army, instead of $1,329,240,000 as proposed by the House and $1,261,390,000 as proposed by the Senate. The funds are provided as follows:

Location	Project description	Request	Conference Agreement
CO Fort Carson	Unit Operations Facilities		18,000,000
GA: Fort Stewart	Unit Operations Facilities		30,500,000
KS: Fort Riley	Site Prep, Accelerated BCT	1,500,000	1,500,000
KS: Fort Riley	Unit Operations Facilities		24,000,000
KY: Fort Campbell	Unit Operations Facilities		18,000,000
MD: Fort Meade	Military Intelligence Admin/Ops Center	42,000,000	42,000,000
MO: Fort Leonard Wood	Trainee Barracks Complex		77,100,000
NY: Fort Drum	Unit Operations Facilities		14,600,000
NC: Fort Bragg	Unit Operations Facilities		11,800,000
TX: Fort Bliss	Unit Operations Facilities		38,000,000
TX: Fort Hood	Unit Operations Facilities		
WW: Unspecified	Growing the Force Projects, Various Locs	250,000,000	
Afghanistan: Bagram AB	Bulk Fuel Storage, Phase 1	9,500,000	9,500,000
Afghanistan: Bagram AB	Bulk Fuel Storage, Phase 2	25,000,000	25,000,000
Afghanistan: Bagram AB	CMU Barracks	17,000,000	17,000,000
Afghanistan: Bagram AB	Communications System Facility	8,200,000	8,200,000
Afghanistan: Bagram AB	Electrical Distribution/Utility Chase	17,500,000	17,500,000
Afghanistan: Bagram AB	New Roads	26,000,000	
Afghanistan: Bagram AB	Perimeter Fence and Guard Towers	8,900,000	8,900,000

Location	Project description	Request	Conference Agreement
Afghanistan: Bagram AB	RSOI Surge Area	14,000,000	14,000,000
Afghanistan: Bagram AB	Storm Water Collection	5,600,000	5,600,000
Afghanistan: Bagram AB	Water Treatment and Distribution	22,000,000	22,000,000
Afghanistan: Bagram AB	WWTP and Sewer Collection	16,500,000	16,500,000
Afghanistan: Various Locations	Road—Freedom/Asabalad to Blessing	17,500,000	17,500,000
Afghanistan: Various Locations	Road—Naray to Kamdash	27,000,000	27,000,000
Afghanistan: Various Locations	Road—Asmar to Naray	9,700,000	9,700,000
Afghanistan: Various Locations	Road—Jalalabad to Shali Kot	15,000,000	15,000,000
Afghanistan: Various Locations	Road—South of Jalalabad	6,800,000	6,800,000
Afghanistan: Various Locations	Road—Through Sharana	7,300,000	7,300,000
Afghanistan: Various Locations	Road—West of Orgun-E	7,300,000	7,300,000
Afghanistan: Various Locations	Road—South of Sharana	33,000,000	33,000,000
Afghanistan: Various Locations	Road—Khowst to BSP9	7,900,000	7,900,000
Afghanistan: Various Locations	Road—FB Chamkani to Pakistan Border	13,000,000	13,000,000
Afghanistan: Various Locations	Road—West of Khowst	9,700,000	9,700,000
Afghanistan: Various Locations	Road—North of Waza Kwah	36,000,000	36,000,000
Afghanistan: Various Locations	Road—Qalat to Mazan	30,000,000	30,000,000
Afghanistan: Various Locations	Road—Qalat to Shinkay	57,000,000	57,000,000
Afghanistan: Various Locations	Road—Tarin Kowt to Oshay	34,000,000	34,000,000
Afghanistan: Various Locations	Road—Crossings 1 to 2 (BAF to Kabul)	3,550,000	3,550,000
Afghanistan: Various Locations	Road—Crossings 2 to 3 (BAF to Kabul)	790,000	790,000
Afghanistan: Various Locations	Road—Crossing 3 to 5KM (BAF to Kabul)	3,550,000	3,550,000
Afghanistan: Various Locations	Dry Stream Bed Crossing 1 (BAF to Kabul)	8,300,000	8,300,000
Afghanistan: Various Locations	Dry Stream Bed Crossing 2 (BAF to Kabul)	8,300,000	8,300,000
Afghanistan: Various Locations	Dry Stream Bed Crossing 3 (BAF to Kabul)	34,000,000	34,000,000
Iraq: Al Asad	Detainee Interrogation Facility	5,500,000	
Iraq: Al Asad	Electrical Infrastructure Upgrades	14,600,000	14,600,000
Iraq: Al Asad	Heavy Aircraft Apron	14,400,000	14,400,000
Iraq: Al Asad	Runway With Shelters	13,600,000	13,600,000
Iraq: Al Asad	Transient Aircraft Apron	4,150,000	4,150,000
Iraq: Al Asad	Water Storage Tanks	14,000,000	14,000,000
Iraq: Camp Anaconda	CJSOAC Operations Center	3,450,000	3,450,000
Iraq: Camp Anaconda	North Entry Control Point	7,400,000	7,400,000
Iraq: Camp Anaconda	POL Tanks	9,900,000	9,900,000
Iraq: Camp Anaconda	South Entry Control Point	7,500,000	7,500,000
Iraq: Camp Anaconda	Truck Lane Access Road	2,600,000	2,600,000
Iraq: Camp Anaconda	Water Storage Tanks	10,000,000	10,000,000
Iraq: Camp Anaconda	Water Wells	2,200,000	2,200,000
Iraq: Various Locations	Facilities Replacement	96,000,000	
Iraq: Al Asad	Facilities Replacement		23,000,000
Iraq: Camp Adder	Facilities Replacement		1,800,000
Iraq: Camp Anaconda	Facilities Replacement		7,000,000
Iraq: Camp Speicher	Facilities Replacement		19,000,000
Iraq: Qayyarah West	Facilities Replacement		1,800,000
Iraq: Scania	Facilities Replacement		2,400,000
Iraq: Victory Base	Facilities Replacement		33,000,000
Iraq: Various Locations	Facilities Replacement—AT/FP		8,000,000
Iraq: Various Locations	Life Support Areas	75,000,000	
Iraq: Al Asad	Life Support Areas		16,500,000
Iraq: Camp Adder	Life Support Areas		8,500,000
Iraq: Camp Anaconda	Life Support Areas		8,500,000
Iraq: Camp Speicher	Life Support Areas		8,500,000
Iraq: Victory Base	Life Support Areas		33,000,000
Worldwide: Unspecified	Planning and Design (Growing the Force)	151,700,000	151,700,000
Worldwide: Unspecified	Planning and Design (GWOT)	23,900,000	22,000,000
Total		1,289,290,000	1,255,890,000

Coordination of military road construction in Afghanistan.—The conferees agree to include a provision, as proposed by the House, to prohibit the obligation or expenditure of $369,690,000 in funds until the Secretary of Defense submits a detailed report on the coordination of military road construction in Afghanistan with NATO and coalition nations. The Senate bill contained no similar provision.

Growing the Force, Army.—The conferees agree to provide $401,700,000 for construction and planning and design efforts in support of the Army's proposed permanent end-strength increase of up to 65,000 soldiers. The conferees are concerned, however, about the lack of an overall plan to station and accommodate these increases with the necessary facilities. The conferees therefore agree to include language that prohibits the obligation and expenditure of these funds until the Secretary of Defense submits a Grow the Force Stationing Plan that includes the following for the entire 65,000–soldier increase: the new units to be created and the number of soldiers in each such unit; the specific increases in the number of soldiers to existing units; the installation where each new unit or augmented unit will be located; the estimated dates of initial operational capability and full operational capability of each new unit; the types of temporary and permanent facilities required (including family housing) and the estimated cost; and any other pertinent information. This report also shall provide the same information, where appropriate, for the proposed increase of 8,200 personnel to the Army National Guard and the proposed increase of 1,000 personnel to the Army Reserve.

Permanent bases in Iraq.—The conferees agree to include a provision, as proposed by the Senate, to prohibit the obligation or expenditure of $274,800,000 in funds until the Secretary of Defense certifies that none of these funds are to be used for the permanent basing of U.S. military personnel in Iraq. The House bill contained no similar provision.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

The conferees agree to provide $370,990,000 for Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps, instead of $389,300,000 as proposed by the House and $347,890,000 as proposed by the Senate. The funds are provided as follows:

Location	Project description	Request	Conference Agreement
AZ: MCAS Yuma	Grow the Force Interim Facilities Site Prep	—	1,200,000
CA: MCAS Miramar	Grow the Force Interim Facilities Site Prep	—	4,800,000
CA: Camp Pendleton	Grow the Force Interim Facilities Site Prep	—	39,730,000
CA: Twentynine Palms	Grow the Force Interim Facilities Site Prep	—	27,340,000
HI: MCB Hawaii	Grow the Force Interim Facilities Site Prep	—	2,170,000
NC: Camp Lejeune	3/9 Maintenance/Operations Complex	41,490,000	41,490,000
NC: Camp Lejeune	BEO, Hadnot Point	40,560,000	40,560,000
NC: Camp Lejeune	EOD Building FC292 Addition	2,570,000	2,570,000
NC: Camp Lejeune	Mess Hall	16,100,000	16,100,000
NC: Camp Lejeune	MP Company Operations Complex	5,800,000	5,800,000
NC: Camp Lejeune	Regimental Headquarters Addition	8,600,000	8,600,000
NC: Camp Lejeune	Truck Company Maintenance/Ops Complex	9,150,000	9,150,000
NC: Camp Lejeune	Grow the Force Interim Facilities Site Prep	—	50,660,000
NC: MCAS Cherry Point	Grow the Force Interim Facilities Site Prep	—	27,050,000
NC: MCAS New River	Grow the Force Interim Facilities Site Prep	—	850,000
Djibouti: Camp Lemonier	Electrical Power Plant	17,990,000	17,990,000
Djibouti: Camp Lemonier	Wastewater Treatment	19,700,000	19,700,000
Djibouti: Camp Lemonier	Water Production	18,310,000	—
Djibouti: Camp Lemonier	Water Storage	5,630,000	5,630,000
Worldwide: Unspecified	Unspecified Construction	153,800,000	—
Worldwide: Unspecified	Planning and Design (GWOT)	4,600,000	3,400,000
Worldwide: Unspecified	Planning and Design (Growing the Force)	46,200,000	46,200,000
Total		390,500,000	390,500,000

Growing the Force, Marine Corps.—The conferees agree to provide $324,270,000 for construction and planning and design efforts in support of the Marine Corps' proposed permanent end-strength increase of up to 27,000 marines. The conferees are concerned, however, about the lack of an overall plan to station and accommodate these increases with the necessary facilities. The conferees therefore agree to include language that prohibits the obligation and expenditure of these funds until the Secretary of Defense submits a Grow the Force Stationing Plan that includes the following for the entire 27,000-marine increase: the new units to be created and the number of marines in each such unit; the specific increases in the number of marines to existing units; the installations where each new unit or augmented unit will be located; the estimated dates of initial operational capability and full operational capability of each new unit; the types of temporary and permanent facilities required (including family housing) and the estimated cost; and any other pertinent information.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

The conferees agree to provide $43,300,000 for Military Construction, Air Force, instead of $60,200,000 as proposed by the House and $34,700,000 as proposed by the Senate. The funds are provided as follows:

Location	Project description	Request	Conference Agreement
Afghanistan: Bagram AB.	Hot Cargo Pad and Access Road.	7,300,000	7,300,000
Afghanistan: Bagram AB.	Parallel Taxiway	49,000,000	33,000,000
Worldwide: Unspecified.	Planning and Design	3,900,000	3,000,000
Total		60,200,000	43,300,000

Parallel Taxiway, Bagram, Afghanistan.—The conferees agree to provide $33,000,000 to extend the existing parallel taxiway at Bagram, rather than the $49,000,000 requested to build a new taxiway. One of the justifications for this project provided by the Deparment of Defense is to allow for parking expansion to accommodate wide-body aircraft. The conferees note, however, that the Administration's March 9 revisions deleted the Strategic Aircraft Ramp from the original request, indicating that it no longer considers such expansion to be a priority.

BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE ACCOUNT 2005

The conferees agree to provide $3,136,802,000 for the Base Realignment and Closure Account 2005 as proposed by both the House and the Senate.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

The conferees agree to include a modified general provision related to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

The conferees agree to include a general provision proposed by the Senate related to the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. The House bill contained no similar provision.

CHAPTER 8

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND RELATED AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement includes $870,658,000 for Diplomatic and Comular Programs, instead of $966,954,000 as proposed by the House and $815,796,000 as proposed by the Senate. Within the total under this heading, $96,500,000 is for World Wide Security Upgrades and is available until expended, instead of $102,155,000 as proposed by the House and $70,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The conference agreement includes the transfer of $258,000 to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom from within the funds provided under the heading as proposed by the House. The Senate included no similar provision.

The conference agreement includes $20,000,000 under this heading for public diplomacy programs, as proposed by the Senate. The House included the same amount for this purpose, but did not include the language in the bill.

The conferees recognize that public diplomacy activities, when effectively implemented, engage and inform foreign audiences, communicate and advocate policies of the United States, and convey shared interests and values across the globe. These activities are important in building the goodwill and cooperation that is necessary for the United States to achieve our foreign policy and national security goals. The conferees believe that although there has been increased attention on public diplomacy efforts since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, a more focused interagency effort is necessary. Therefore, the conferees direct that the Secretary of State develop a comprehensive, interagency strategy for public diplomacy programming in predominantly Muslim countries, as proposed by the Senate, including programming efforts via various media. The conferees expect the plan to include planned expenditures, by category, of funding available in fiscal year 2007 for public diplomacy activities, as proposed by the House. The conferees direct the report to be provided to the Committees on Appropriations not later than 45 days after the enactment of this Act.

The conference agreement includes $750,000,000 for Diplomatic and Consular Programs relating to Iraq, instead of $790,641,000 as proposed by the House and $723,896,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conferees understand that a Memorandum of Agreement between the Departments of State and Defense was finalized on February 27, 2007, specifying operational requirements, authorities, and responsibilities shared between the U.S. Mission in Iraq and the Multi-National Forces in Iraq. The conferees recognize that the assumptions on which the request was based may have changed. Therefore, the conference agreement includes bill language withholding from obligation twenty percent of the amount made available under this heading for Iraq operations until the Committes on Appropriations receive and approve a detailed expenditure plan of funding for such operations, similar to language proposed by the House. The Senate bill included no similar provision.

The fiscal year 2005 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act (P.L. 109–13) included $592,000,000 for the construction of a new embassy compound in Baghdad, Iraq, based on a number of 1,157 desks and 619 beds. The conferees are dismayed to learn that the Department of State continues to plan for an increase in staffing of thirty percent in desks and an increase of ninety-six percent in beds above the amount approved by the Congress. Therefore, the conferees direct the Secretary of State, in consultation with the U.S. Chief of Mission in Iraq, to undertake a review of the current personnel plan for the Mission in Iraq and provide justification for the deviation from the 2005-approved plan prior to obligation of funding under this heading. The conferees expect a report on the new embassy compound personnel requirements in light of the available office space, including a housing plan from the Overseas Buildings Operations Bureau, not later than 45 days of enactment of this Act.

The conference agreement does not include language under this heading included in the House bill providing up to $50,000,000 to establish and maintain a civilian reserve corps. Instead, the conference agreement includes a modified general provision similar to language in section 1712 of the Senate bill.

The conference agreement includes a provision directing the Office of Management and Budget to apportion $15,000,000 appropriated in the fiscal year 2006 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act (P.L. 109–148) for Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service funding, as proposed by the Senate. The House included no similar provision.

The conference agreement includes a provision similar to that proposed by the Senate authorizing the transfer of up to $20,000,000 from funds made available under this heading to the Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service account only for the payment of terrorism rewards. The House bill included no similar provision.

The conferees concur with language included in the House report denying funds requested for salaries and allowances for new domestic staff positions and to lease additional space.

Funds under this heading are provided on an emergency basis.

The conference agreement allocates funding as follows:

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS

(In thousands)

Account	Request	House	Senate	Conference
Afghanistan	$47,155	$82,155	$55,000	$79,000
World Wide Security Upgrades (non-add)	47,155	82,155	55,000	79,000
Iraq	823,941	790,641	723,896	750,000
Sudan	21,900	21,900	16,900	19,400
World Wide Security Upgrades (non-add)	20,000	20,000	15,000	17,500
Public Diplomacy	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Bureau of Intelligence and Research	0	2,000	0	2,000
U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom	0	258	0	258

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS—Continued

(in thousands)

Account	Request	House	Senate	Conference
Civilian Reserve Corps (up to authority) [1]	0	50,000	[50,000]	[50,000]
Total—Diplomatic and Consular Programs	912,996	966,954	815,796	870,658

[1] Note: Numbers in brackets are "non-adds".

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement includes $36,500,000 for the Office of the Inspector General as proposed by the Senate, instead of $46,800,000 as proposed by the House. Within the amount provided under this heading, $35,000,000 is for a transfer to the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (SIGIR) to conduct oversight work on reconstruction projects in Iraq, $1,300,000 is for the Department of State Inspector General's oversight work related to operations in Iraq, and $200,000 is for the Department of State Inspector General's oversight work related to operations in Afghanistan.

The conferees direct the SIGIR to report to the Committees on Appropriations not later than 90 days of enactment of this Act on the number of personnel, contract services, and budgetary needs of SIGIR at the time of the report and the projected operational requirements for the remainder of fiscal year 2007 and fiscal year 2008. The conferees intend that the report specifically address the personnel and resource requirements of section 2 of P.L. 109–440. The SIGIR shall inform the Committees on Appropriations regarding the enactment of any legislation subsequent to the submission of the report which imposes additional oversight responsibilities on SIGIR or which otherwise affects its operational requirements.

Funds under this heading are provided on an emergency basis.

EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

The conference agreement includes $20,000,000 for Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs as proposed by the House, instead of $10,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The conferees concur with language in the Senate report regarding support for a pilot program, which would create a two-way exchange component of the Youth Exchange and Study program.

Funds under this heading are provided on an emergency basis.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The conference agreement includes $50,000,000 for Contributions to International Organizations, instead of $59,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The House bill included no similar provision.

These funds are intended to pay arrears to organizations that are involved in global efforts to combat international terrorism and to prevent the spread of avian influenza.

Funds under this heading are provided on an emergency basis.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITIES

The conference agreement provides $288,000,000 for assessed costs of U.N. peacekeeping operations as proposed by the House instead of $200,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. Within the total provided under this heading, $184,000,000 is for the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon, $16,000,000 is for the U.N. Mission in Timor Leste, and $88,000,000 is intended for a potential U.N. mission in Chad, as proposed by the House. The Senate bill included funding for Chad under the Peacekeeping Operations account.

The conferees direct that if funds are not obligated for a U.N. mission in Chad by August 15, 2007, the Department of State should consult with the Committees on Appropriations on the funding needs for other priority missions within the Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities account.

Funds under this heading are provided on an emergency basis.

RELATED AGENCY

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING OPERATIONS

The conference agreement includes $10,000,000 for International Broadcasting Operations as proposed by the House and the Senate.

Funds under this heading are provided on an emergency basis.

BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

CHILD SURVIVAL AND HEALTH PROGRAMS FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement includes $161,000,000 for the Child Survival and Health Programs Fund account, as proposed by the House and the Senate.

The conference agreement includes language, similar to that proposed by the Senate, providing authority to the President to use funding under the Millennium Challenge Corporation and Global HIV/AIDS Initiative accounts to combat an avian influenza pandemic, if he determines that the human-to-human transmission of the avian influenza virus is efficient and sustained, and is spreading internationally. The conferees note that this is the highest threat level of the World Health Organization's Global Influenza Preparedness Plan. The conferees expect the Office of Management and Budget to request reimbursement of any funds used from the Millennium Challenge Corporation and Global HIV/AIDS Initiative accounts in the event the President exercises this authority.

The conferees endorse House report language requiring a report on planned expenditures not later than 45 days of enactment of this Act.

Funds under this heading are provided on an emergency basis.

INTERNATIONAL DISASTER AND FAMINE ASSISTANCE

The conference agreement includes $165,000,000 for International Disaster and Famine Assistance, instead of $135,000,000 as proposed by the House and $187,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Within the total provided under this heading, not less than $45,000,000 is for Iraq, not less than $44,000,000 is for Sudan, not less than $20,000,000 is for Somalia, and not less than $16,000,000 is for assistance for internally displaced persons in and near Kabul, Afghanistan. The remaining $40,000,000 is included for unmet or unforeseen humanitarian assistance requirements in countries such as the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Uganda.

Funds under this heading are provided on an emergency basis.

OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The conference agreement includes $8,700,000 for operating expenses of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), instead of $10,700,000 as proposed by the House and $5,700,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conferees provide additional funding for security and other operating costs associated with USAID personnel in Afghanistan.

Funds under this heading are provided on an emergency basis.

OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

The conference agreement includes $3,500,000 for operating expenses of the USAID Office of Inspector General as proposed by the House instead of $4,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conferees intend that the additional funding is for expenses associated with oversight of the expanded programs in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Funds under this heading are provided on an emergency basis.

OTHER BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND

The conference agreement includes $2,649,300,000 for Economic Support Fund, instead of $2,953,000,000 as proposed by the House and $2,602,200,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The conference agreement includes $1,574,000,000 for Iraq under this heading, instead of $1,887,000,000 as proposed by the House and $1,524,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Of the amounts provided for Iraq, the conferees include $57,400,000 for economic and social development programs in areas of conflict in Iraq, and intend these funds to be used to counter extremist elements in that country. The conferees provide the U.S. Chief of Mission in Iraq with the responsibility for policy decisions and justification for the use of these funds. The conferees do not support the Department of State proposal to provide assistance directly to Iraqi political parties, as contained in the budget request justification materials, and note that these funds are in lieu of those requested for the Political Participation Fund and the National Institutions Fund.

The conference agreement includes not less than $95,000,000 for the Community Action Program, instead of $75,000,000 as proposed by the House and $100,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. Of the funds provided for the Community Action Program under this heading, the conferees instruct that not less than $5,000,000 be provided for the Marla Ruzicka Iraqi War Victims Fund as proposed by the Senate. The House did not include a similar provision.

The conferees concur with language in the House report requiring a report on the ethnic and geographic distribution of U.S. assistance programs in Iraq, specifically to the Nineveh Plain region.

The conference agreement includes $737,000,000 for assistance for Afghanistan, instead of $743,000,000 as proposed by the House and $686,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. Of the funds provided for Afghanistan, the conference agreement provides

$10,000,000 for the Afghan Civilian Assistance Program as proposed by the Senate. The House included no similar provision.

The conference agreement provides $295,000,000 for assistance for Lebanon, instead of $300,000,000 as proposed by the House and $265,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conferees note that language establishing conditions on assistance for Lebanon is included under the general provisions for this chapter.

The conference agreement includes $3,000,000 for environmental remediation and health activities in Vietnam, instead of $3,200,000 as proposed by the Senate. The House did not include a similar provision. The conferees endorse language in the Senate report regarding this matter, and stipulate that prior to the obligation of these funds the Committees on Appropriations be consulted on the planned use of the funds. The conferees recommend that these funds be matched, to the maximum extent possible, with contributions from other public and private sources.

The conference agreement includes $2,000,000 for assistance for Uganda as proposed by the Senate. The House did not include a similar provision. The conferees endorse language in the Senate report regarding this matter, and stipulate that prior to the obligation of these funds the Committees on Appropriations be consulted on the planned use of the funds.

The conference agreement includes $5,000,000 for assistance for Nepal, instead of $6,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The House did not include a similar provision. The conferees intend these funds be used to support elections and for demobilization and reintegration of former combatants. The conferees endorse language in the Senate report regarding this matter, and stipulate that prior to the obligation of these funds the Committees on Appropriations be consulted on the planned use of the funds.

The conference agreement includes $5,000,000 for typhoon reconstruction assistance for the Philippines, instead of $6,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The House did not include a similar provision.

The conference agreement includes $10,300,000 for assistance for Jordan under this heading. The conferees intend these funds to be used to improve basic education, health, water and sanitation services in Jordanian communities that have experienced a significant influx of Iraqi refugees.

The conference agreement does not provide $110,000,000 for Pakistan under this heading, as proposed by the Senate. The House did not include a similar provision.

Funds under this heading are provided on an emergency basis.

The conference agreement allocates funding as follows:

ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND

Account ($ in thousands)	Request	House	Senate	Conference
Iraq:				
Security:				
Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs)	720,000	620,000	660,000	620,000
Community Action Program (CAP)	50,000	75,000	100,000	95,000
Marla Ruzicka Iraqi War Victims Fund	0	0	5,000	5,000
Community Stabilization Program (CSP)	384,000	354,000	384,000	354,000
Local Governance Program	100,000	100,000	90,000	90,000
Subtotal Security	1,254,000	1,149,000	1,234,000	1,159,000
Economic:				
Private Sector Agribusiness Development	75,000	75,000	70,000	70,000
Strengthen Financial Markets	12,500	12,500	10,000	10,000
Financial Market Development	12,500	12,500	10,000	10,000
Targeted Development Programs	—	—	—	57,400
Subtotal Economic	100,000	100,000	90,000	147,400
Political:				
National Capacity Development	180,000	160,000	140,000	140,000
Policy, Subsidy, Legal and Regulatory Reform	110,000	90,000	60,000	60,000
Democracy	428,000	388,000	—	—
Civil Society Development	—	—	—	67,600
Subtotal Political	718,000	638,000	200,000	267,600
Provided under Democracy Fund	—	—	[385,000]	[250,000]
Subtotal—Iraq ESF	2,072,000	1,887,000	1,524,000	1,574,000
Afghanistan:				
Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs)	117,000	217,000	144,000	174,000
Rural Development	120,000	160,000	125,000	155,000
Agriculture	13,000	13,000	25,000	19,000
Governance Capacity Building	21,000	21,000	[25,000]	25,000
New Power Generation Construction	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Rural Road Construction	342,000	292,000	342,000	314,000
Civilian Assistance Program	—	—	10,000	10,000
Subtotal—Afghanistan ESF	653,000	743,000	686,000	737,000
Lebanon:				
Budget Support	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Project Assistance	50,000	50,000	15,000	45,000
Provided under Democracy Fund	—	—	[35,000]	[5,000]
Subtotal—Lebanon ESF	300,000	300,000	265,000	295,000
Sierra Leone Special Court	—	3,000	—	3,000
Jordan:				
Basic Education and Health Activities	—	—	—	10,300
Permissive Transfer from Iraq PRT Funding (non-add)	—	—	(100,000)	—
Subtotal—Jordan ESF	—	—	—	10,300
Nepal Elections and Peace Process	—	—	6,000	5,000
Democratic Republic of the Congo Governance and Peace Process	—	15,000	—	15,000
Liberian Presidential Personal Security	—	5,000	—	[1]
Uganda Peace Process	—	—	2,000	2,000
Vietnam Environment and Health Programs	—	—	3,200	3,000
Philippines Reconstruction	—	—	6,000	5,000
Total—ESF	3,135,000	2,953,000	2,602,200	2,649,300

[1] Funding for this purpose is included under the Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Programs account.

ASSISTANCE FOR EASTERN EUROPE AND THE BALTIC STATES

The conference agreement includes $229,000,000 for Assistance for Eastern Europe and the Baltic States for assistance for Kosovo, instead of $239,000,000 as proposed by the House and $214,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conferees endorse the reporting requirement included in the House report regarding the proposed pledge of funds.

Funds under this heading are provided on an emergency basis.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEMOCRACY FUND

The conference agreement provides $260,000,000 for Democracy Fund, instead of $465,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The House provided funding for this purpose under the requested accounts. The conference agreement includes the following amounts in the accounts requested: $125,000,000 for assistance for Iraq; $25,000,000 for assistance for Afghanistan; $15,000,000 for assistance for Kosovo; and $30,000,000 for assistance for Lebanon.

The conference agreement provides a total of $250,000,000 for democracy, human rights and rule of law programs in Iraq, of which $190,000,000 is for the Human Rights and Democracy Fund (HRDF) of the Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, and $60,000,000 is for USAID. The conferees direct that funds included under this heading for assistance for Lebanon be made available to the HRDF, and that of the funds included for media and democracy programs in Somalia, $3,000,000 be made available to USAID, and $2,000,000 to the HRDF.

The conference agreement includes language, similar to that proposed by the Senate, requiring the Secretary of State to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act describing a comprehensive, long-term strategy, with goals and expected results, for strengthening and advancing democracy in Iraq. This report should be developed in consultation with USAID, and should include the anticipated funding required for successful implementation of the strategy in subsequent fiscal years.

The conferees endorse language in the Senate report regarding the conduct of appropriate rule of law programs concurrently with activities to professionalize the Afghan National Police.

Funds under this heading are provided on an emergency basis.

The conference agreement allocates funding as follows:

DEMOCRACY FUND

Account ($ in thousands)	Request	House	Senate	Conference
Afghanistan	[21,000]	[1]	25,000	[2]
Iraq				
Continuation of Democracy Programs	[181,600]	[1]	200,000	200,000
Political Participation Fund	[42,800]	[1]	19,400	[2]
National Institutions Fund (including Parliament)	[76,000]	[1]	38,000	[2]
Human Rights	[40,000]	[1]	40,000	40,000
Women's Programs	[10,000]	[1]	10,000	10,000
Provincial Funds via PRTs	[32,000]	[1]	32,000	[2]
Security for International Election Monitors	[17,600]	[1]	17,600	[2]
International Visitors Program	[8,000]	[1]	8,000	[2]
Support for Media	[20,000]	[1]	20,000	[2]
Subtotal—Iraq	[428,000]	[388,000]	385,000	250,000
Kosovo				
Legislative Reform	[2,000]	[1]	2,000	[2]
Conflict Mitigation	[5,000]	[1]	5,000	[2]
Institution/Capacity Building	[8,000]	[1]	8,000	[2]
Subtotal—Kosovo	[15,000]	[1]	15,000	[2]
Lebanon				
Strength the Rule of Law		[1]	10,000	[2]
Municipal Capacity Building		[1]	20,000	[2]
Promote Consensus Building		[1]	5,000	
Democracy Programs				5,000
Subtotal—Lebanon	[35,000]	[1]	35,000	5,000
Somalia				
Media and Democracy Programs			5,000	5,000
Subtotal—Somalia			5,000	5,000
Total—DF			465,000	260,000

[1] The House included these funds in the accounts requested.
[2] The conference agreement includes these funds in the accounts requested.

INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement includes $257,000,000 for International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement, instead of $334,500,000 as proposed by the House and $210,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conference agreement includes the rescission of $13,000,000 in prior appropriations as proposed by the Senate. House bill did not include a similar provision.

The conferees endorse language included in the Senate report denying funding for construction of corrections facilities.

Funds under this heading are provided on an emergency basis.

The conference agreement allocates funding as follows:

INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Account ($ in thousands)	Request	House	Senate	Conference
Iraq	200,000	180,000	150,000	150,000
Afghanistan		94,500		47,000
Lebanon	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Total—INCLE	260,000	334,500	210,000	257,000

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

The conference agreement includes $130,500,000 for Migration and Refugee Assistance, instead of $111,500,000 as proposed by the House and $143,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The conference agreement provides not less than $5,000,000 to rescue Iraqi scholars, as proposed by the Senate. The House bill did not include a similar provision. The conferees endorse language on this matter in the Senate report and urge the Department of State to act expeditiously to develop and implement a plan for resettling Iraqi scholars.

Funds under this heading are provided on an emergency basis.

The conference agreement allocates funding as follows:

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

Account ($ in thousands)	Request	House	Senate	Conference
Afghanistan			18,000	16,000
Iraq	15,000	15,000	65,000	45,000
Allocated to Other Countries	0	0	60,000	0
Unallocated for Unforeseen Requirements	56,500	96,500		69,500
Total—MRA	71,500	111,500	143,000	130,500

UNITED STATES EMERGENCY REFUGEE AND MIGRATION ASSISTANCE FUND

The conference agreement includes $55,000,000 for the United States Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund as proposed by the Senate, instead of $35,000,000 as proposed by the House.

Funds under this heading are provided on an emergency basis.

NONPROLIFERATION, ANTI-TERRORISM, DEMINING AND RELATED PROGRAMS

The conference agreement includes $57,500,000 for Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Programs, instead of $87,500,000 as proposed by the House and $27,500,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conferees $25,000,000 for border security programs in Jordan, and include $5,000,000, as proposed in the House bill under ''Economic Support Fund'', for the protection of the Liberian President.

The conferees direct the Secretary of State to submit to the Committees on Appropriations not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act a report on strengthening the personal security of President of South Sudan. This report shall include a spending plan for the use of funds appropriated in fiscal year 2007, including from Peacekeeping Operations or Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Programs.

Funds under this heading are provided on an emergency basis.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The conference agreement includes $2,750,000 for International Affairs Technical Assistance as proposed by both the House and the Senate.

Funds under this heading are provided on an emergency basis.

MILITARY ASSISTANCE

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

FOREIGN MILITARY FINANCING PROGRAM

The conference agreement includes $265,000,000 for the Foreign Military Financing Program, instead of $260,000,000 as proposed by the House and $220,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conference agreement includes $220,000,000 for assistance for Lebanon and $45,000,000 for assistance for Jordan.

The conferees recognize that Jordan is a key ally of the United States in the region and affirm the special transfer authorities of the President under section 614(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 should additional emergency security assistance for Jordan be required.

Funds under this heading are provided on an emergency basis.

PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

The conference agreement includes $230,000,000 for Peacekeeping Operations, instead of $225,000,000 as proposed by the House and $323,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The conferees endorse language in the House report directing the Department of State to report on the status of implementation of the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) mandate and to provide a timetable for a hybrid U.N./AMIS peacekeeping force in Darfur.

The conferees direct the Secretary of State to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, and every 30 days thereafter until September 30, 2008, detailing the obligation and expenditure of funds made available under this heading. The conferees request that this information be provided on a country-by-country basis, with descriptive information on activities supported.

Funds under this heading are provided on an emergency basis.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

Section 1801. Authorization of Funds—The conference agreement includes a general provision authorizing the expenditure of funds provided by this title, as proposed by the Senate (sec. 1701). The House bill did not include a similar provision.

The conference agreement does not include a general provision proposed by the Senate extending the availability of funds (sec. 1702).

Sec. 1802. Extension of Oversight Authority—The conference agreement includes a general provision extending the authority of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction through fiscal year 2007, as proposed by the Senate (sec. 1703). The House proposed a similar provision (sec. 1801) extending the authority for both fiscal years 2007 and 2008.

Sec. 1803. Lebanon—The conference agreement includes a general provision restricting certain assistance for Lebanon, similar to language proposed by the House (sec. 1802) and the Senate (sec. 1706).

Sec. 1804. Debt Restructuring—The conference agreement includes a general provision permitting the use of funds made available in fiscal year 2007 for debt restructuring to assist Liberia, as proposed by both the House and Senate.

The conference agreement does not include a general provision authorizing the transfer of funds under the Economic Support Fund account to other accounts for assistance for Jordan, as proposed by the Senate (sec. 1705).

Sec. 1805. Government Accountability Office—The conference agreement includes a new provision requiring that the Department of State support personnel from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) for periods of not less than 45 days to conduct oversight in Iraq. The conferees expect that housing and office space, appropriate for handling classified materials, for three GAO personnel would be provided in Baghdad's International Zone.

Sec. 1806. Human Rights and Democracy Fund—The conference agreement includes a general provision regarding the management responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, as proposed by the Senate (sec. 1707). The House bill included no similar provision.

Sec. 1807. Inspector General Oversight of Iraq and Afghanistan—The conference agreement modifies a general provision from the Senate bill (sec. 1708) regarding certain authorities of the Department of State's Inspector General. The House bill included no similar provision.

Sec. 1808. Funding Tables—The conference agreement modifies a general provision from the Senate bill (sec. 1709) requiring that certain funds provided in this chapter be made available for programs and countries in the amounts contained in the respective tables included in this Statement of Managers, subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations. The House bill included no similar provision.

Sec. 1809. Spending Plan and Notification Procedures—The conference agreement modifies a general provision included in the Senate bill (sec. 1711) regarding the submission of a report detailing planned expenditures for funds appropriated under the headings in this chapter. The House bill included no similar general provision.

Sec. 1810. Conditions on Assistance for Pakistan—The conference agreement includes a provision requiring the Secretary of State to submit an implementation plan to the Committees on Appropriations before any nonproject assistance is made available to the Government of Pakistan. This report shall detail the process by which the use of these funds will be determined and overseen, as well as outline the benchmarks for the use of these funds. The report shall also detail the United States and Pakistani entities responsible for implementation and oversight, and assess their operational capacity. The conferees expect the spending plan to include detailed information on assistance by sector and program, project, and activity. This report shall also indicate which ''FATA Sustainable Development Plan'' sub-sector is supported by each program, project, or activity. The conferees also direct that $5,000,000 of the funds made available for Pakistan under the heading ''Economic Support Fund'' be provided for political party development and election observation programs to the Human Rights and Democracy Fund.

Sec. 1811. Civilian Reserve Corps—The conference agreement modifies language proposed by the House (under the heading ''Diplomatic and Consular Programs'') and by the Senate (sec. 1712) authorizing the Secretary of State to make available up to $50,000,000 to support and maintain a civilian reserve corps.

Sec. 1812. Coordinator for Iraq Assistance—The conference agreement includes a provision concerning the appointment and duties of a new Coordinator for Iraq Assistance, as proposed by the House. The Senate bill included no similar provision. The conferees expect the Coordinator to consult on a regular and ongoing basis with the U.S. Chief of Mission in Iraq.

CHAPTER 9

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

The conference agreement includes a provision proposed by the House related to the mission capabilities of units deployed to Iraq.

The conference agreement includes a provision proposed by the House related to the deployment of units in Iraq.

The conference agreement includes a provision proposed by the House related to the early redeployment of troops to Iraq.

The conference agreement includes modified House and Senate language establishing benchmarks and timetables for the redeployment of U.S. combat forces from Iraq.

TITLE II—ADDITIONAL HURRICANE DISASTER RELIEF AND RECOVERY

Funding in this title provides continuing support for hurricane disaster relief and recovery. One of the groups that has been most adversely affected are the children in the Gulf Coast region. The conferees provide additional funding of $4,610,000,000 to the Federal Emergency Management Agency Disaster Relief fund. This funding can help continue to address the needs of the estimated 372,000 students affected by Hurricane Katrina. The Disaster Relief fund includes support for public assistance grants to repair and reconstruct school buildings, replace contents in schools including books and desks, and provide portable classrooms. A provision included in this legislation mandates that the full cost of the assistance to affected States, applied for prior to enactment of this Act, is borne by the federal government.

The supplemental also provides $30,000,000 in emergency assistance for the public elementary and secondary schools most severely impacted by the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes in order to help them recruit and retain high quality classroom teachers for the children returning to these communities.

The supplemental also extends the availability of $550,000,000 in emergency funds provided for the Title XX Social Services Block Grant in 2006 that will otherwise expire on September 30, 2007. A portion of these funds will be used to provide behavioral health services, foster care, protective, and day care services for children.

CHAPTER 1

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

GENERAL PROVISION—THIS CHAPTER

Sec. 2101. The conference agreement includes a general provision that would allow the Secretary of Agriculture to continue to enroll eligible participants into the Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program (EFCRP) as proposed by the Senate. The EFCRP was created in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to assist forest landowners with the restoration of damaged timber stands.

The conference agreement does not include additional hurricane disaster assistance for livestock, irrigated crops, or citrus as proposed by the House. Qualifying losses are covered under the Agriculture Assistance title.

CHAPTER 2

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

The conference agreement includes $50,000,000 for Edward Byrne Discretionary Grants for State and local law enforcement, instead of $170,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The House did not include this funding. This funding is provided for local law enforcement initiatives in the Gulf Coast region related to the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The conferees agree that funding shall be distributed to the States in relation to their level of violent crime as estimated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Report for 2005.

The conference agreement does not include $100,000,000 for Edward Byrne Discretionary Grants for State and local law enforcement for security related to the 2008 Presidential Conventions. As proposed by the Senate, the funds would have been distributed equally between the host cities of Denver, Colorado and St. Paul, Minnesota. The House proposed no funding.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

The conference agreement includes $110,000,000 under this heading, instead of $120,000,000 as proposed by the House and $165,900,000 as proposed by the Senate. Within this amount, the Senate proposal included $60,400,000 for a salmon fishery disaster along the Klamath River. The House provided funding for this purpose in a different title. The conferees agree to provide funding for the consequences of this disaster in Title III of this Act.

The conferees provide: $24,000,000 for the Office of Coast Survey and the Office of Response and Restoration to conduct scanning and mapping as well as to provide debris removal in Louisiana's traditional fishing grounds; $85,000,000 for assistance programs authorized under section 115 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, of which funding shall be distributed to eligible

recipients in States most affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and $1,000,000 for real-time observations and forecasts for critical marine navigation at the next highest priority seaports along the northern Gulf of Mexico, and to continue to repair and replace tide gauge stations throughout the entire region which are critical components to coastal shipboard navigation and storm surge information.

The conferees direct the Department of Commerce to work with the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama and other appropriate entities to distribute assistance funding based on an assessment of the needs of the fishing industries in those States. The conferees direct the Department of Commerce to notify the Committees on Appropriations on the allocation of funds provided under this heading for the above activities no later than 15 days prior to obligaion of such funds.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

EXPLORATION CAPABILITIES

The conference agreement includes $35,000,000 for risk mitigation projects at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), as proposed by the House. The Senate did not include funding under this heading.

GENERAL PROVISION—THIS CHAPTER

The conference agreement includes language to allow NASA to use previously appropriated emergency funds to cover hurricane response expenses incurred in fiscal year 2005.

CHAPTER 3

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

CONSTRUCTION

The conference agreement provides $25,300,000 for ''Construction'', instead of $37,080,000 as proposed by the House and $150,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. These funds are provided for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricane Katrina and other hurricanes of the 2005 season, and may be used to continue construction of projects related to interior drainage for the greater New Orleans metropolitan area.

FLOOD CONTROL AND COASTAL EMERGENCIES

The conference agreement provides $1,407,700,000 for ''Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies'' as proposed by the Senate instead of $1,300,000,000 as proposed by the House. Additional funding for this account is provided under title III.

The Conferees include $107,700,000 to construct interim flood and storm damage reduction measures recommended in the Chief of Engineers report dated December 31, 2006, entitled'' Mississippi Coastal Improvements Program, Interim Report'', at full federal expense.

Funds provided in Public Law 109–148, the third emergency supplemental appropriations act of 2006, were intended to complete the West Bank and vicinity and Lake Pontchartrain and vicinity, Louisiana, projects. However, the magnitude of the effort required to provide the pre-Katrina authorized levels of protection is now recognized to be much greater than originally anticipated. Accordingly, $1,300,000,000 is included to complete the pre-Katrina authorized level of protection for the West Bank and vicinity project as well as make progress toward providing authorized protection for the remaining portions of the Lake Pontchartrain and vicinity project.

The Conferees are aware that the Corps of Engineers is considering the placement of interim protective structures at the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal to provide an enhanced measure of protection against storm surges traveling up the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet or the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway until authorized permanent protective measures can be designed and built. The Conferees support this use of Flood Control and Coastal Emergency funds made available under P.L. 109–234. The Corps is reminded that a potentially catastrophic emergency situation continues to exist at the Inner Harbor and encourages the Corps to employ all legitimate emergency means and authorities to ensure that some enhanced level of interim protection can be put into place during 2007, and that permanent protective structures can be completed by 2010.

Additionally, a provision is included to allow the reallocation of funds provided in chapter 3 of Public Law 109–234 under the heading ''Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies'' for projects in the greater New Orleans area. The provision requires any reallocation of funds be approved by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations. The Conferees are aware of only one instance where the reallocation of funds is advisable, the provision of permanent protection at the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal. While the Conferees recognize there may be future circumstances where the use of this authority will be desirable, the Corps is instructed to use it judiciously.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

Sec. 2301. The conference agreement includes a provision relating to reimbursements to local governments for expenses incurred for eligible storm and flood damage reduction activities.

Sec. 2302. The conference agreement includes a provision related to the utilization of funds provided under Public Law 109–234.

Sec. 2303. The conference agreement includes a provision directing the study of the effectiveness of pumping stations and other alternatives at specific sites in New Orleans.

Sec. 2304. The conference agreement includes a provision directing the acceleration of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet study, as practicable.

CHAPTER 4

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

DISASTER LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement modifies the House and Senate proposals and provides for the use of $25,069,000 in unobligated balances of the Disaster Loans Program Account to be used for administrative expenses. The House and Senate recommended $25,069,000 as a new appropriation.

The conference agreement also provides that $25,000,000 in unobligated balances shall be used for the Small Business Administration Disaster Loans Program for Economic Injury Disaster Loans. Not more than $8,750,000 may be used for administrative expenses. The Senate proposed a direct appropriation as part of section 2401. The House did not include similar language.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

The conference agreement does not include language proposed as Senate section 2401 regarding Economic Injury Disaster Loans.

The conference agreement does not include language proposed as Senate section 2402 to extend the HUBZone program and to terminate the Small Business Competitive Demonstration Program.

The conference agreement does not include language proposed as Senate section 2403 to modify the Reservist Program.

CHAPTERS

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL COORDINATOR FOR GULF COAST REBUILDING

The conferees understand the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding is working on several initiatives, such as working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to advance public assistance projects, including those that focus on education and criminal justice; working with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on a public housing plan; and developing a plan to transition evacuees into permanent housing. The conferees agree that the housing problem in the Gulf Coast is especially daunting and expect the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding to take a leadership role in order to ensure progress is made. The focus of the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding should not only be on public housing but also on other HUD programs including Section 202, Section 811, and rental assistance. The conferees expect that a near-term goal is to develop housing solutions for all evacuees. The conferees direct the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding to provide quarterly progress reports to the Committees on Appropriations outlining monthly progress on ongoing initiatives, factors delaying progress, and the goals and expectations against which progress is being measured.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

DISASTER RELIEF

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The conferees provide $4,610,000,000 for Disaster Relief instead of $4,310,000,000 as proposed by the House and Senate. The conferees agree with the House report requiring the Government Accountability Office to review how FEMA develops its estimates of the funds needed to respond to any given disaster.

The conferees provide that $4,000,000 of the amount provided be transferred to the Office of Inspector General to increase oversight of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma expenditures and eliminate waste, fraud and abuse, as proposed by the House.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 2501.—The conferees include provisions proposed by the House and Senate eliminating the State and local match requirement for certain Federal assistance applied for prior to enactment of this Act pursuant to Title IV of the Stafford Act in response to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Wilma, and Dennis in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Florida, and Alabama. The conferees direct FEMA to apply the cost share waiver to all eligible projects for which a ''request for public assistance from'' has been submitted and for other needs assistance that has been applied for by an individual prior to enactment of this Act.

Section 2502.—The conferees include a provision proposed by the House and Senate restoring FEMA's ability to forgive Community Disaster Loans that were issued in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. This is consistent with previous disasters. This provision is retroactive to the date of enactment of P.L. 109–234 and P.L. 109–88, as proposed by the House.

Section 2503.—The conferees include a provision proposed by the House and Senate extending the availability of utilities assistance for those leases negotiated by State and local governments and reimbursed by FEMA. This provision is retroactive to the date of enactment of P.L. 109–234, as proposed by the House.

CHAPTER 6

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

The conference agreement provides $10,000,000 for the historic preservation fund instead of $15,000,000 as recommended by the Senate and no funding recommended by the House. The agreement includes the bill language and instructions recommended by the Senate.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Section 2601. The conference agreement modifies language proposed by the Senate. The conference agreement makes a technical correction to P.L. 109–234 permitting $500,000 of emergency Hurricane Katrina disaster funds provided in fiscal year 2006 to be transferred from the National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund account to the National Recreation and Preservation account. These funds will be used for hurricane related reconstruction activities.

CHAPTER 7

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

HIGHER EDUCATION

The conference agreement includes $30,000,000 for grants to institutions of higher education impacted by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita. The House bill and Senate amendment also proposed $30,000,000 for grants to institutions of higher education, but used different eligibility criteria to define how the funds should be allocated. The conferees direct the Secretary to allocate funds to interested eligible institutions based on their share of unreimbursed expenses, including tuition and fees revenue lost, expenses incurred in remediating the effects of the hurricanes, and estimated construction costs for repairing and replacing campus buildings. These data should reflect revenue lost and expenses incurred through the current semester of this academic year.

The conferees direct the Department to disburse these funds within 60 days of the date of enactment of this act. The conferees also direct the Department to brief the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate on the proposed methodology for allocating these funds prior to any action notifying the public of the availability of these funds.

HURRICANE EDUCATION RECOVERY

The conference agreement provides $30,000,000 for grants to hurricane-impacted States and local educational agencies to build the capacity of public schools that were forced to suspend operations due to Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita. The House bill and Senate amendment also proposed $30,000,000 for this purpose, but used different criteria regarding the use and distribution of the funds. The conferees request that the Department of Education provide quarterly reports to the House Committee on Education and Labor; the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; and the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on the use of this emergency assistance, including amounts paid for recruitment incentives such as performance pay, relocation, and housing.

PROGRAMS TO RESTART SCHOOL OPERATIONS

The conference agreement modifies bill language proposed by the House and Senate to expand the uses of funds provided for emergency aid to restart school operations appropriated in Public Law 109–148 to include costs associated with recruitment and retention of educators and other activities to assist in building the capacity of public schools that were forced to suspend operations due to Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita. The House bill and Senate amendment had similar language.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

Sec. 2701. The conference agreement modifies bill language proposed by the House and Senate providing flexibility to eligible States and local educational agencies in the use of emergency aid to restart school operations appropriated in Public Law 109–148.

Sec. 2702. The conference agreement includes a provision similar to that proposed by the House and the Senate that extends until September 30, 2009, the availability of emergency title XX Social Services Block Grant funds provided to the States affected by the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes under the Department of Defense, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and Pandemic Influenza Act, 2006.

Sec. 2703. The conference agreement includes language permitting the Secretary of Health and Human Services to grant waivers modifying three provisions of the Ryan White State HIV/AIDS grants for four States affected by the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes. The Senate amendment included similar language. The House bill did not include a similar provision.

CHAPTER 8

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAYS

EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement includes $682,942,000 for the Emergency Relief Program, instead of $388,903,000 as proposed by the Senate. The House had no similar funding provision. The conference agreement also includes language that waives the per-State per-disaster limitation for the 2005–2006 winter storms which severely impacted forty counties in the State of California. In taking this action, the conferees make eligible the costs associated with this disaster that exceed the statutory limitation but do not prioritize them above the costs associated with any other disaster eligible for emergency relief assistance. The conference agreement eliminates the total current backlog of formal and pending requests for emergency relief funding.

The cost of providing these funds is offset by a rescission of an equal amount of the unobligated balances of funds apportioned to the states under chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, excluding safety programs and funds set aside within the state for population areas. The conferees direct the FHWA to administer the rescission by allowing each state maximum flexibility in making adjustments among the apportioned highway programs.

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

FORMULA GRANTS

The conference agreement includes $35,000,000, instead of $75,000,000 as proposed by the Senate, for the Federal Transit Administration's formula grant program for emergency expenses associated with the continuation of transit services in communities severely impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The conferees direct that funding shall be allocated by the Secretary both for operating expenses necessary to keep transit services affordable for local residents as well as for capital costs associated with the replacement of rolling stock destroyed by the hurricanes. The conferees direct the Federal Transit Administration to make this assistance available without requirement for local match. The House included no similar appropriation.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

The conference agreement provides $7,000,000 for the Office of the Inspector General instead of $10,240,000 as proposed by the House and $5,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. These funds shall be used to meet the necessary HUD OIG expenses related to the auditing and oversight of HUD funds provided previously to address the consequences of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. These funds shall remain available until expended, as proposed by the Senate. The conferees believe that the oversight of emergency CDBG funds is an important responsibility for the HUD IG to ensure that disaster funds provided for the Gulf are used efficiently and effectively. The conferees expect the OIG to establish benchmarks to identify the effective use of these funds.

Since this is a substantial increase of funding for the OIG, the conferees direct that these supplemental funds not be used solely to increase the number of OIG staff. The conferees cannot be certain that resources will be available to annualize the costs of such a substantial staffing boost. Rather, the conferees expect the OIG to view these supplemental resources as non-recurring and focus these resources on a multi-year effort targeted solely on HUD-related investigations and audits related to the emergency CDBG and other HUD funds provided to rebuild the Gulf region and house low-income tenants.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

The conference agreement includes a general provision as proposed by the House to extend until December 31, 2007 the existing authority to waive Section 8 income eligibility and tenant contribution requirements for the Disaster Voucher Program. The Senate did not include a similar provision.

The conference agreement modifies a general provision proposed by both the House and Senate that temporarily exempts specific categories of public housing authorities from the new 12–month formula for the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance program. To the extent a demonstration of need is made, the specific categories are as follows: 1) public housing agencies impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and 2) public housing agencies that are under receivership or declared to be in breach of their Annual Contributions Contract. Public housing agencies that spent more than the total of their allocated funds for 2005 and 2006 may not receive a higher allocation. The conference agreement does not include an exemption for public housing authorities operating under the Moving to Work program as proposed by the House.

The conference agreement includes a new general provision that extends until December 31, 2007, the provision of Sec. 901 of Public Law 109–148. This provision will continue to allow public housing authorities in the most heavily impacted areas in Mississippi and Louisiana the flexibility to combine separate funding streams to assist tenants and reconstruct and rehabilitate low-income rental housing.

The conference agreement does not include language proposed by the House to extend the funds associated with the Disaster Voucher Program because Congress has been assured by senior level officials from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that HUD will obligate all remaining funds prior to September 30, 2007.

TITLE III—OTHER EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS

CHAPTER 1

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

The conferees provide $60,400,000, as proposed by the House and the Senate, for disaster relief for commercial salmon fishermen and other eligible entities along the coasts of California and Oregon due to the 2006 salmon fishery failure in the Klamath River as designated under section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a(a)) and declared by the Secretary of Commerce on August 10, 2006.

CHAPTER 2

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The conference agreement provides $3,000,000 for ''Operation and Maintenance'' as proposed by the Senate. Funds are provided for emergency dredging needs due to the effects of hurricanes of the 2005 season.

FLOOD CONTROL AND COASTAL EMERGENCIES

The conference agreement provides $150,000,000 for ''Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies'' as proposed by the Senate in title II. Funds are provided for repairs to eligible Federal facilities damaged by natural disasters and emergency drought assistance.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES

The conference agreement provides $18,000,000 for ''Water and Related Resources'' as proposed by the Senate.

CHAPTER 3

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement provides $100,000,000 of emergency funding for wildland fire management activities of the Department of the Interior as proposed by both the House and the Senate.

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The conference agreement provides $7,398,000 of emergency funding for activities related to avian flu within the resource management account as recommended by both the House and the Senate.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

The conference agreement provides $525,000 of emergency funding for activities related to avian flu within the Operation of the National Park System account as recommended by both the House and the Senate.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SURVEYS, INVESTIGATIONS, AND RESEARCH

The conference agreement provides $5,270,000 of emergency funding for activities related to avian flu within the Surveys, Investigations, and Research account as recommended by both the House and the Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREST SERVICE

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

The conference agreement includes $12,000,000 of emergency funding for the national forest system as recommended by the Senate instead of no funding as recommended by the House. The conference agreement is consistent with the Senate proposal to increase drug eradication on national forest system lands and clarifies that these funds should be used for law enforcement against all types of drug traffickers. The managers agree that funding should be directed for increased staffing, equipment, training and cooperative agreements to increase protection of national forest lands in areas that face the highest concentration of drug-trafficking activity.

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement provides $400,000,000 of emergency funding for wildland fire management activities of the Forest Service as proposed by both the House and the Senate.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

Section 3301. The conference agreement replaces language recommended by the House in section 4501 and language recommended by the Senate in Title II, section 2601, dealing with payments for county schools and other purposes. The agreement makes one-time payments to States in the same amounts and in the same manner, to the maximum extent practicable, as were done in 2006 under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. The agreement allows certain revenues, fees, penalties or miscellaneous receipts for both the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, not to exceed $100,000,000, to be distributed, to the maximum extent practicable, in the same amounts, for the same purposes, and in the same manner as were made to States and counties in 2006 under that Act. The agreement also appropriates $425,000,000 of emergency funding to cover any shortfall for payments made under this section from funds not otherwise appropriated. Lastly, the agreement amends this Act to allow the resource advisory committees to function for another full year.

CHAPTER 4

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

DISEASE CONTROL, RESEARCH AND TRAINING

The conference agreement provides $13,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008, for research to develop mine safety technology, including necessary repairs and improvements to leased laboratories as proposed by the Senate. The House bill did not include a similar provision.

The conference agreement includes a bill language provision, as proposed by the Senate, that quarterly progress reports on technology development shall be submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, the House Committee on Education and Labor, and the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. The House bill did not include a similar provision.

The conference agreement also includes $50,000,000 to remain available until expended for health monitoring and treatment of rescue and recovery workers who responded to the attacks of September 11, 2001 as specified under section 5011 (b) of the Department of Defense, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and Pandemic Influenza Act, 2006. These funds will continue baseline and follow-up screening, clinical examinations, long-term medical health monitoring, and analysis for rescue and recovery personnel who were exposed to toxins during their service in response to the attacks, and support treatment services for those rescue and recovery personnel suffering illness or injuries related to their exposure. The Senate amendment proposed $3,589,000 for this purpose. The House bill had no similar provision.

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

LOW—INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE

The conference agreement provides $400,000,000 for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, including $200,000,000 for State block grants and $200,000,000 for the contingent emergency reserve. The Senate amendment included $640,000,000 (equally divided between the State block grants and the emergency reserve) and the House bill included $400,000,000 (also equally divided).

The conference agreement does not include bill language proposed by the House permitting a State, or other grantee, to obligate the block grant through September 30, 2008, to address home energy needs in the event of an emergency or for crisis intervention. The Senate amendment did not contain similar language.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES EMERGENCY FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement provides $625,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the Department of Health and Human Services to prepare for and respond to an influenza pandemic. The House bill included $969,650,000 and the Senate amendment included $820,000,000 for this purpose. These funds are intended to be used to purchase antivirals, establish high-volume domestic surge capacity through vaccine purchases and retrofitting of production facilities, and accelerate development of cell-based vaccine capabilities as proposed by the Administration.

The conference agreement includes bill language provisions proposed by both the House and Senate giving the Secretary various authorities to purchase goods for the.stockpile, enter into contracts for the construction or renovation of privately owned facilities for the production of pandemic vaccine or other biologicals, and to transfer funds to other HHS accounts.

The conferees direct the Secretary to provide on a monthly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a table identifying the obligation, as well as any unobligated balances, of funds received for pandemic influenza preparedness. The level of detail provided in the report should be at the program level identified in the table on the second page of the December 29, 2006, report to Congress on pandemic influenza preparedness spending. This table should be in addition to the semi-annual report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations that identifies the disbursement of pandemic influenza preparedness funds at the level of detail specified in the statement of managers accompanying the conference report for the Department of Defense, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and Pandemic Influenza Act, 2006.

COVERED COUNTERMEASURE PROCESS FUND

The conference agreement includes $25,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the compensation fund established by the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act. The House bill and the Senate amendment had proposed $50,000,000 for this purpose.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

Sec. 3401. (a) The conference agreement includes three provisions rescinding unobligated balances from the Training and Employment Services account under the Department of Labor: $3,589,000 from the 2001 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States (Public Law 107–8); $834,000 from the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–211); and $71,000 from the Emergency Supplement Act, 2002 (Public Law 107–117). The Department of Labor has indicated that these balances are no longer needed for their original purposes. The Senate amendment included only the rescission of $3,589,000 from Public Law 107–38. The House bill did not contain any rescissions of Training and Employment Services funds.

(b) The conference agreement rescinds $4,100,000 from unobligated balances available from the State Unemployment Insurance and Employment Service Operations account under the Department of Labor pursuant to Emergency Supplemental Act, 2002 (Public Law 107–117). Neither the House bill nor the Senate amendment included this rescission.

Sec. 3402. The conference agreement includes a provision similar to one proposed by the Senate providing $8,594,000 for Safe and Drug-Free Schools to address youth violence and related issues in schools that are identified as persistently dangerous under section 9532 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. The House bill did not contain a similar provision.

CHAPTER 5

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

CAPITOL POWER PLANT

The conference agreement includes $50,000,000 to the Architect of the Capitol for utility tunnel repairs and asbestos abatement. The conferees agree to language that the Architect of the Capitol may not obligate any of the funds appropriated under this heading without approval of an obligation plan by the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives, as proposed by the Senate. This is the same amount as proposed by the House for asbestos abatement and other improvements, instead of $25,000,000 as proposed by the Senate for emergency utility tunnel repairs and asbestos abatement. The conferees direct the Government Accountability Office to assist the Committees on Appropriations in their oversight of the project through monitoring the Architect of the Capitol's strategic planning and use of resources related to this project.

CHAPTER 6

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS

The conferees have not included funding in this account for a pilot program of benefits medical examinations as proposed by the House. The Senate bill contained no similar provision. Instead, the conferees have included funding under General Operating Expenses for authorized examinations to assist in claims processing.

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

MEDICAL SERVICES

The conferees have agreed to provide $466,778,000 for Medical Services, instead of $414,982,000 as proposed by the House and $454,131,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conference agreement includes $228,982,000 for treatment of OIF/OEF veterans; $30,000,000 for at least one new Level I polytrauma care center; $25,000,000 for prosthetics; $100,000,000 for enhancement to mental health services; $9,440,000 for the establishment of residential transitional rehabilitation programs; $10,000,000 for additional caseworkers to facilitate seamless transition; $20,000,000 for substance abuse treatment programs; $20,000,000 for readjustment counseling efforts; $10,000,000 for blind rehabilitation services; $8,000,000 for polytrauma support clinic teams; and $5,356,000 for additional polytrauma points of contact.

The conferees direct the Secretary to provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate within 60 days of enactment of this Act detailing the number of Level I polytrauma centers to be opened and sites selected. The report should include an analysis of projected demand in areas of the country where Level I polytrauma centers are not readily accessible.

MEDICAL ADMINISTRATION

The conferees have agreed to provide $250,000,000 for Medical Administration as proposed by the Senate instead of $256,300,000 as proposed by the House.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

The conferees have agreed to provide $595,000,000 for Medical Facilities as proposed by both the House and the Senate. The amount provided includes $45,000,000 for facility and equipment upgrades at existing polytrauma care centers. In addition, $550,000,000 is provided for non-recurring maintenance and is to be allocated in a manner not subject to the Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation model.

The conferees have included language in the bill which requires the Department to submit an expenditure plan within 30 days for the use of the non-recurring maintenance funding appropriated. In addition, the Department is to provide semi-annual updates on the expenditure of these funds.

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

The conferees have agreed to provide $32,500,000 for Medical and Prosthetic Research, instead of $35,000,000 as proposed by the House and $30,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The conferees have agreed to provide $83,200,000 for General Operating Expenses, instead of $62,000,000 as proposed by the House and $46,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The amount provided includes $20,000,000 for disability medical examinations. Additionally, $60,750,000 is to be used for the expenses related to hiring and training additional disability claims processors and $1,250,000 is to be for digitization of military service records.

The conferees are concerned that effective management structures and inter-agency coordination processes must be in place to ensure that services of the Department of Veterans Affairs are provided in a timely and efficient manner, especially to returning OEF/OIF veterans. In particular, the conferees are concerned about the bureaucratic process many OEF/OIF veterans are encountering in transition from active duty to veteran status. Therefore, the conferees have included funding for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award a grant or contract to the National Academy of Public Administration, an independent, non-partisan organization, which was charted by Congress to assist Federal, State, and local governments in improving their effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability. Such grant or contract shall be to conduct a study of Department management structures in place to provide health care to veterans and active duty personnel of OEF/OIF, and benefits to veterans of OEF/OIF. The study also should look at the organization and management structure of the Department as it relates to providing health care and benefits to the approximately 7.9 million veterans currently enrolled in the system. The conferees direct the Department to execute such grant or contract no later than 30 days after enactment of this Act.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

The conferees have agreed to provide $35,100,000 for Information Technology Systems, instead of $35,000,000 as proposed by the House and $36,100,000 as proposed by the Senate. The amount provided includes $15,100,000 for electronic data breach remediation and prevention as proposed by the Senate. Also included in the bill is $20,000,000 for system improvements for processing OIF/OEF veterans.

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

The conferees have included no funding for Construction, Major Projects, as proposed by the Senate instead of $23,800,000 as proposed by the House.

CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

The conferees have agreed to provide $326,000,000 for Construction, Minor Projects, instead of $260,000,000 as proposed by the House and $355,907,000 as proposed by the Senate. Of the amount provided, up to $36,000,000 may be used for construction of polytrauma residential transitional rehabilitation facilities.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

The conferees have agreed to include a general provision which directs the Congressional Budget Office to report on the future funding projections for costs associated with providing necessary health care to OIF/OEF veterans, as proposed by the Senate.

The conferees have not included a general provision, proposed by the Senate, which would direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to contract with the National Academy of Public Administration for a study of management practices. The conferees have included similar language in the General Operating Expenses paragraph of the bill.

The conferees have included a general provision which permits the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to transfer facilities to the State of Texas, as proposed by the Senate.

The conferees have included a modified general provision, proposed by the Senate, which provides for contributions to the Department of Defense/Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund to remain available until expended.

TITLE IV—OTHER MATTERS

CHAPTER 1

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The conference agreement provides $37,500,000 for 'Salaries and Expenses' of the Farm Service Agency instead of $48,000,000 as proposed by the House and $75,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The conference agreement includes language that these funds shall only be used for network and database/application stabilization to address immediate needs identified by the Department. The conferees direct the Secretary to provide a monthly update to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the progress of this project, including usage of funds as proposed by the Senate.

The conferees note that the Farm Service Agency computer system that is responsible

for processing payments for all Farm Bill programs administered by the Farm Service Agency has been experiencing periodic shutdowns due to capacity overload, causing the efficiency of thousands of Farm Service Agency county office employees to decrease dramatically. The conferees are aware that a plan to upgrade this system is being developed by USDA. The conferees direct the Secretary to submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the agriculture authorizing committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report that has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget and reviewed by the Government Accountability Office. The report shall include: (1) an enterprise architecture; (2) an Information Technology Human Capital Plan; (3) a capital investment plan for implementing the enterprise architecture; (4) a description of the information technology capital planning and investment control process; and (5) a spending plan. The spending plan shall include each specific project funded, key milestones, all funding sources for each project, details of annual and lifecycle costs, and projected savings or cost avoidance to be achieved by the project.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

Section 4101. The conference agreement includes language regarding the Food and Drug Administration as proposed by the House.

Section 4102. The conference agreement includes language to prevent the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) from implementing a risk-based inspection program in any Iocation until the USDA Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has studied the program, including a review of the adequacy of the FSIS plan for evaluating pilot projects, and reported its findings to FSIS and the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate; and FSIS has addressed and resolved issues identified by the OIG.

The conferees emphasize that FSIS should continue other activities related to the implementation of the program, such as data collection and public meetings. The conferees recognize that moving forward with the risk-based inspection program without comprehensive and accurate scientific data to rank product risk and an unbiased system for determining establishment risk would have the potential of jeopardi21ing public health.

The conference agreement does not include a rescission of unobligated balances from the Trade Adjustment Assistance program as proposed by the Senate.

The conference agreement does not include language regarding the implementation of the Wetlands Reserve Program and the Farmland Protection Program as propose by the Senate.

The conference agreement does not include language regarding the Rural Utilities Service Guaranteed Underwriting Program as proposed by the Senate.

CHAPTER 2

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

Section 4201. The Committee has included a provision designating all Federal employees at the National Energy Technology Laboratory as inherently governmental.

Section 4202. The Committee has included a provision related to the Bonneville Power Administration.

CHAPTER 3

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

Section 4301. The conference agreement modifies a provision proposed by the House (section 4301) to amend section 102(a)(3)(B) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 by striking ''January 1, 2006'' and inserting ''March 1, 2008''. The Senate bill did not include similar language.

Section 4302. The conference agreement includes a provision proposed by the Senate (section 3301) requiring the components of the Office of National Drug Control Policy to remain as they were on October 1, 2006, and requiring approval of the Committees on Appropriations to implement a reorganization. The House bill did not include similar language.

Section 4303. The conference agreement includes language proposed by the Senate (section 3304) authorizing the National Archives and Records Administration to spend fiscal year 2007 funds for activities of the Public Interest Declassification Board. The House bill did not include similar language.

Section 4304. The conference agreement includes language proposed by the Senate (section 3307) to provide flexibility to reallocate $1,000,000 in fiscal year 2007 funds for the District of Columbia Courts. The House bill did not include similar language.

Sec. 4305. The conference agreement includes modified language proposed by the Senate (section 3307) requiring that the Treasury Department, in coordination with the Securities and Exchange Commission and in consultation with the Departments of State and Energy, prepare and submit a report, with a classified annex as necessary, to Congress concerning companies known to conduct business operations relating to natural resource extraction in Sudan. The language further directs the General Services Administration to notify Congress of any existing Federal contracts with the identified companies. The House bill did not include similar language.

Section 4306. The conference agreement modifies a provision proposed by the Senate (section 3308) extending the availability of $4,500,000 in fiscal year 2007 funding for the General Services Administration, Office of Inspector General. The House bill did not include similar language.

Section 4307. The conference agreement includes language proposed by the Senate (section 3309) which allows the District of Columbia to use funds made available for foster care improvements according to a spending plan submitted to Congress within 60 days. The House bill did not include similar language.

The conference agreement does not include language proposed as Senate section 3302 concerning funds made available in section 21075 of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007.

The conference agreement does not include language proposed as Senate section 3303 to make a technical correction to a recipient of funds under section 613 of P.L. 109–108.

The conference agreement does not include language proposed as Senate section 3305 to require the resubmission of a fiscal year 2007 spending plan by the General Services Administration within 7 days.

The conference agreement does not include language proposed as Senate section 3310 to authorize a cost of living adjustment for federal judges and justices for fiscal year 2007.

CHAPTER 4

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

Section 4401.—The conferees modify a provision proposed by the Senate to address a funding shortfall in the United States Coast Guard ''Retired Pay'' appropriation. The House bill contains no similar provision. The conferees note that estimates for this appropriation have been woefully inaccurate over the past several years and direct the Coast Guard to take immediate action to improve the quality and reliability of the data used in its estimates. Within 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Coast Guard shall submit a report on steps being taken to improve the accuracy of its estimates for the ''Retired Pay'' appropriation. In addition, the conferees direct the Coast Guard to submit quarterly information to the Committees on Appropriations on the use of unobligated balances made available by this Act to address the projected shortfall in this appropriation, as well as updated estimates for fiscal year 2008.

Sec. 4402.—The conferees modify provisions proposed by the House and Senate regarding Coast Guard contracting and the Integrated Deepwater Systems program.

Sec. 4403.—The conferees include a provision proposed by the Senate regarding Coast Guard's Civil Engineering Program. The House bill contains no similar provision.

Sec. 4404.—The conferees modify a provision proposed by the House and rescind $30,900,000 from unobligated balances made available pursuant to section 505 of Public Law 109-90. The House bill rescinds $89,800,000. The Senate bill contains no similar provision. The conferees note the Department's poor planning and slow use of funds available pursuant to section 505. In addition, to address an urgent operational need, the conferees provide $30,000,000 for Coast Guard ''Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements'' to help mitigate the patrol boat operational gap. No additional appropriation was included in either the House or Senate bills. The Coast Guard is currently operating 25,000 hours, or twenty-five percent, short of its needed patrol boat mission hours. This ''gap'' means that undocumented migrants, drugs, and other unlawful activity are less likely to be intercepted by the Coast Guard. Funding provided in this section is to be used to acquire four new Coastal Patrol Boats, as was requested by the Department of Homeland Security via official correspondence on March 11, 2007. This includes the production, warranty, training, spares, outfitting and project management costs for all four patrol boats. The Coast Guard has indicated these new Coastal Patrol Boats will partially relieve the burden on existing 110′ patrol boats until a replacement patrol boat can be placed in service. Currently, Florida-based 110′ patrol boats average more than 5,500 mission hours annually which can be performed by the smaller 87′ Coastal Patrol Boats operating out of the three primary Florida ports of Tampa, Miami and Key West. This will allow the 110′ patrol boats currently operating in these areas to be utilized farther south where undocumented migrant traffic and drug smuggling are more prevalent. In addition, the conferees provide $900,000 for the Under Secretary for Management to award a grant or contract to the National Academy of Public Administration to compare the Department of Homeland Security's reported senior career and political staffing levels and senior career training programs with those of similarly structured cabinet-level agencies.

Sec. 4405.—The conferees include a provision proposed by the House regarding limitations on lead system integrators. The Senate bill contains no similar provision.

The conferees do not include a provision proposed by the House regarding Border Patrol checkpoints. The Senate bill includes no similar provision.

CHAPTER 5

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

Sec. 4501 includes a technical correction to the Bureau of Indian Affairs language in P.L. 110–5 as recommended by the Senate in Title III, section 3501 so the Bureau may pay certain contract support costs. The House had a similar provision in section 4502.

Sec. 4502 includes a technical correction to P.L. 110–5 as recommended by the Senate in Title III, section 3502, to allow the Indian Health Service to pay certain contract support costs and transfer $7,300,000 from ''Services'' to ''Facilities''. The House had a similar provision in section 4503.

Sex. 4503 provides a technical correction to P.L. 110–5 designating the funding level for the Save America's Treasures program of the National Park Service, Historic Preservation Fund which was recommended by both the House and the Senate.

Sec. 4504 modifies a provision recommended by the Senate in Title III, section 3504 that allows the Fish and Wildlife Service to use land acquisition funds for land conservation partnerships authorized by the Highlands Conservation Act of 2004. The House had no similar provision.

The conference agreement does not include the proposal in Senate Title II, Chapter 6, section 2601 to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. The conference agreement deals with this issue in Title III.

The conference agreement does not include Senate recommended sections 3505, regarding the Water Environment Research Foundation, and 3506 related to EPA grant funding.

CHAPTER 6

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement includes language proposed by the House transferring $49,500,000 from the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, to the Office of the Secretary, Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund, to support advanced research and development of biodefense countermeasures. This work is to be conducted by the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, consistent with the authority provided in the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act. The Senate amendment included similar language.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

In addition to the funds transferred above, the conference agreement includes language which transfers $49,500,000 from the National Institutes of Health, Office of the Director, to the Office of the Secretary, Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund. These funds would further increase funding for advanced research and development of biodefense countermeasures, consistent with the authority provided in the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act. Neither the House bill nor Senate amendment included this component of the advanced development transfer.

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The conference agreement includes $300,000, to remain available until expended, for expenses related to meeting the requirements of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act, pertaining to emergency preparedness planning to address the needs of individuals with disabilities. Neither the House bill nor the Senate amendment included this provision.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS AND RECISSION)

Section 4601. The conference agreement includes language authorizing the transfer of $7,000,000 from the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation to the Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) for the development of the EFAST2 electronic Form 5500 filing system, as proposed by both the House bill and Senate amendment. These funds, together with not less than $5,000,000 available from the fiscal year 2007 appropriation for the EBSA, shall be available for obligation for the EFAST2 system until September 30, 2008. The House bill required that $7,500,000 from EBSA's fiscal year 2007 appropriation be used for the EFAST2 system and allowed the funds to be available for obligation for two years, while the Senate amendment proposed funding of not less than $5,000,000, without extended availability.

The conferees expect EBSA to contribute an additional amount of $2,500,000 from its fiscal years 2007 and 2008 appropriations for this system, generated by one-time cost savings proposed in the last two years' budget requests. The conferees also expect EBSA to minimize any potential negative impact of the project's financing on enforcement activities, and compliance outreach and education programs. The conferees request a briefing on EBSA's plans for the EFAST2 system prior to the announcement of the availability of funds for its development.

Sec. 4602. The conference agreement includes a provision amending the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 that designates $9,666,000 for the Women's Bureau within the appropriation for ''Departmental Management, Salaries and Expenses'' under the Department of Labor. Neither the House bill nor the Senate amendment included this provision.

The conferees are concerned that the progress being made by International Labor Organization's International Program to Eliminate Child Labor (IPEC), which is aimed at eradicating the most abusive forms of child labor could be jeopardized by the Department of Labor's plans not to make the United States contribution to this program for FY 2007. Last May the ILO reported that the number of exploited children fell by 11 percent between 2000 and 2004, and that the organization believes that if the current pace of decline were to be sustained, the global commitment to stop child labor could feasibly eliminate most of the worst forms of this practice within 10 years. This is a longstanding program with a unique approach that relies on the obligations of ILO Member States under the requirements of ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor. The conferees are concerned that if the United States—the largest contributor—pulls its funding commitment to this program, that action would set back the global partnership and have real consequences in specific countries where IPEC projects are underway.

The conferees believe the Department has the flexibility to continue this program under its own procurement guidelines. The conferees expect that any alternative approach should yield equal or better results. Therefore, the conferees direct the Department to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives that justifies any proposed approach for the use of these funds by providing information to demonstrate that the alternative approach will be as effective as the IPEC tripartite program before any of these funds are obligated to alternative entities.

Sec. 4603. The conference agreement includes a provision that designates $23,000,000 for poison control centers within the appropriation for ''Health Resources and Services'' under the Department of Health and Human Services. Neither the House bill nor the Senate amendment included this provision. The conferees direct HRSA to submit a revised operating plan within fifteen days of enactment of this Act to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate with respect to any changes to that plan that result from this provision.

Sec. 4604. The conference agreement rescinds $1,000,000 from the Office of the Secretary in the Department of Health and Human Services as proposed by the Senate and deletes a Senate provision pertaining to Public Law 108–406. The House bill did not include these provisions.

The conferees are concerned about delays in receiving technical assistance from the Department of Health and Human Services. There have been several instances in which the Department has not responded to Committee requests for information in a prompt, timely fashion. In addition, after repeated complaints, communications between the Department and the Committee staff continue to be a major problem. The conferees direct the Department to expedite future information requests through the Office of Resources and Technology and request that the Office of Legislative Affairs and the Office of Resources and Technology coordinate their efforts to keep Committee staff fully informed on matters concerning the Committee.

Sec. 4607. The conference agreement includes bill language permitting the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to transfer not more than $1,360,000 from ''National and Community Services Programs, Operating Expenses'' to CNCS ''Salaries and Expenses'' as proposed by the Senate. The House bill did not include a similar provision.

The conferees direct that this funding be taken from the Innovations, Assistance, and Other Activities budget line to complete the Service Center Consolidation Plan rather than the National Service Trust.

Sec. 4608. The conference agreement includes a provision proposed by the Senate modifying section 1310.12(a) of title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations with respect to Head Start transportation vehicles. The conferees expect that the ultimate regulation governing the safety of Head Start transit vehicles will be consistent with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration study on occupant protection on Head Start Transit vehicles. The conferees intend the interim rule to be in effect only until the Department has reviewed such study and has made any necessary revisions to be consistent with the study outcomes.

The conference agreement does not include language proposed by the Senate which would have created exceptions for two hospitals in Minnesota and Mississippi so that they could be certified as Medicare critical access hospitals. The House bill contained no similar provision.

The conference agreement does not include a provision proposed by the Senate rescinding $2,000,000 from student aid administration in the Department of Education and providing $2,000,000 for a grant to the University of Vermont or the provision also proposed by the Senate repealing the former provision. The House bill did not include similar provisions.

The conference agreement does not include a provision proposed by the Senate to create an authorization of appropriations for a grant to the Delta Health Alliance. The House bill did not contain a similar provision.

The conference agreement does not include a provision proposed by the House extending the availability of a portion of funds previously appropriated for veterans employment and training activities with the Department of Labor. The Senate amendment

did not include this provision. The conferees agree that the House provision is not needed because the Department already has the authority to incur obligations for this program through December 31, 2007.

CHAPTER 7

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PAYMENT TO WIDOWS AND HEIRS OF DECEASED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

The conference agreement provides $165,200 for payment to Gloria W. Norwood, widow of Charles W. Norwood, late a Representative from the State of Georgia, as proposed by the House. Inasmuch as this item relates solely to the House, the managers on the part of the Senate, at the request of the managers on the part of the House, have receded to the amendment of the House.

CHAPTER 8

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSIONS

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION,

UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

CONSTRUCTION.

The conference agreement does not include an appropriation to augment funding in fiscal year 2007 for the Rio Grande Flood Control System Rehabilitation project, as proposed by the House. The Senate included no similar provision.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

The conference agreement does not include a provision proposed by the Senate (sec. 3901) concerning the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission. The House bill included no similar provision.

Sec. 4801. Technical Amendment—The conference agreement includes a provision clarifying the availability of certain funds in fiscal year 2007, making a technical change to the composition of the Board of the Middle East Foundation and clarifying the availability of funding in fiscal year 2007 for the Foreign Military Financing Program, as proposed by the Senate. The House bill included the same provision regarding the Middle Foundation.

Sec. 4802. Funding Limitation—The conference agreement includes a provision proposed by the House (sec. 4802) concerning the modification of funding limitations on the Department of State's Bureau of Legislative Affairs for fiscal year 2007. The Senate bill included no similar provision.

The conferees direct that funding for the Bureau not exceed $11,383,000, the amount requested in the fiscal year 2007 budget.

CHAPTER 9

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

OFFICE OF FEDERAL HOUSING ENTERPRISE OVERSIGHT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement provides $6,150,000 for the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight instead of $7,568,000 as proposed by the House and $4,800,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conference agreement includes language as proposed by the Senate that reduces this appropriation to zero dollars through offsetting collections.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

The conference agreement includes a general provision proposed by the Senate regarding a pilot program on cross-border trucking between the United States and Mexico. The House did not include a similar provision.

The conference agreement modifies a general provision proposed by the House that allows funds provided in fiscal year 2007 for the National Transportation Safety Board to be used to make capital lease payments due in fiscal year 2007. The Senate did not include a similar provision.

The conference agreement includes a general provision proposed by both the House and the Senate to clarify the fiscal year 2007 levels of funding for the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance account.

The conference agreement includes a general provision proposed by the House to allow housing projects subsidized with project-based certificates to be renewed under the Project-Based Rental Assistance program. The Senate did not include a similar provision.

The conference agreement does not include a provision proposed by the House making a technical change to a proviso regarding the ''Moving to Work'' program.

The conference agreement does not include a provision proposed by the Senate regarding asset-based management because the Department of Housing and Urban Development has administratively changed the compliance date to October 1, 2007.

TITLE V

AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE

The conferees direct the Secretary to adhere to all existing federal statutes, program regulations, executive orders and program guidance or directives to ensure that compensation is provided only where appropriate and allowed under such reglations, orders or guidance and that the integrity of the program is maintained without exception.

Section. 5101. The conference agreement includes language regarding Crop Disaster Assistance providing financial assistance to producers on a farm who incurred qualifying quantity or quality losses for a 2005, 2006 or 2007 crop before February 28, 2007 due to damaging weather or any related condition.

The conference agreement does not include a separate provision for sugar beet and sugar cane disaster assistance as proposed by the Senate. Qualifying losses are covered under the Crop Disaster Assistance provision.

Sec. 5102. The conference agreement includes language providing financial assistance through the Livestock Compensation Program and the Livestock Indemnity Program for livestock losses and livestock indemnity payments to producers on farms that have incurred livestock losses between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007.

Sec. 5103. The conference agreement provides $20,000,000 for the Emergency Conservation Program as proposed by the House instead of $35,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The conference agreement does not include a separate provision for the tree assistance program as proposed by the Senate. Qualifying losses are covered under the Emergency Conservation Program provision.

Sec. 5104. The conference agreement includes language regarding payment limitations.

Sec. 5105. The conference agreement includes provisions regarding the administration of the foregoing sections.

Sec. 5106. The conference agreement includes language regarding the National Dairy Market Loss Payment program.

Sec. 5107. The conference agreement provides $20,000,000 instead of $95,000.00 as proposed by the Senate for payments to dairy producers for losses in counties designated as disaster areas.

Sec. 5108. The conference agreement includes language to clarify the use of claims adjustors.

Sec. 5109. The conference agreement does not provide funding for the Small Business Economic Loss Grant Program. Instead, the conference agreement provides $21,000,000 to carry out activities authorized under section 2281 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 5177a) to provide emergency grants to assist low-income migrant and seasonal farmworkers. The conferee are aware that storms and other natural disasters have caused serious disruption to local economies and individuals who are involved in agriculture but will not otherwise qualify for assistance under this title.

Sec. 5110. The conference agreement includes language regarding the Conservation Security Program as proposed by the Senate. In fiscal year 2007, producers hold previously executed contracts with the Department of Agriculture on which they have relied for undertaking various conservation measures. As a consequence of current federal funding levels, many producers will be unable this fiscal year to recover costs already incurred that are associated with their contract performance. The conference agreement will allow the Department of Agriculture to meet the intended outcome of contracts executed between the Department and the affected producers, and to take other measures as appropriate under existing authorities.

Sec. 5111. The conference agreement provides $30,000,000, as proposed by the Senate, to cover necessary costs related to the administration of programs, of which $8,500,000, as identified by the Farm Service Agency, is for information technology upgrades to assist in carrying out the agricultural disaster assistance provisions of this title.

Sec. 5112. The conference agreement includes language to clarify participation in a crop Insurance pilot program.

The conference agreement does not provide funding for fresh spinach growers and first handlers as proposed by the House.

The conference agreement does not include language regarding payments to fresh spinach growers and first handlers as proposed by the Senate.

The conference agreement does not provide funding for the peanut storage costs program as proposed by the House.

The conference agreement does not provide funding for aquaculture losses as proposed by the House.

The conference agreement does not provide funding for flooded crop and grazing land as proposed by the Senate.

The conference agreement does not provide funding for insect infestations as proposed by the Senate.

TITLE VI

ELIMINATION OF SCHIP SHORTFALL AND OTHER MATTERS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES

STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE FUND

The conference agreement includes an appropriation of $650,000,000 to eliminate anticipated State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) funding shortfalls for fiscal year 2007 for 14 States. The House bill provided $750,000,000; the Senate amendment included an appropriation of such sums as necessary.

Sec. 6001. The conference agreement includes language similar to provisions in both the House bill and Senate amendment which amend the authorizing law to describe the States considered to be in shortfall.

Sec. 6002. The conference agreement includes language which prohibits the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services from taking action in the next year to finalize or otherwise implement a proposed regulation affecting the Medicaid program or any regulation restricting payments for graduate medical education under

the Medicaid progam. The Senate amendment had similar language prohibiting implementation of the rules for two years. The House bill did not contain a similar provision.

The bill includes a provision to offset the estimated cost of blocking the Medicaid rules in this section. This provision: (1) requires States, as a condition of receiving Federal matching funds in Medicaid, to require all providers to use tamper-proof prescription drug pads when writing prescriptions for Medicaid beneficiaries; and (2) extends certain Pharmacy Plus waivers under the Medicaid program. The Senate amendment contained a different offset, which increased the required rebate for drugs sold through the Medicaid program. The House bill contained no similar provision.

TITLE VII

FAIR MINIMUM WAGE AND TAX RELIEF

SUBTITLE A—FAIR MINIMUM WAGE

The conference agreement includes provisions to increase the Federal minimum wage in the United States to $7.25 an hour over two years as proposed by both the House and the Senate. The conference agreement also provides for Federal minimum wage increases of $0.50 per hour, beginning 60 days after enactment, and annually thereafter, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa, until their minimum wage reaches that of the United States. In addition, the agreement requires that the Department of Labor, through the Bureau of Labor Statistics, transmit a report to Congress assessing the impact of wage increases in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa not later than 32 months after enactment.

The House bill included a phased increase of $0.50 upon enactment, and $1.00 annually thereafter, in the Federal minimum wage for both the Commonwealth of the Northern Manana Islands and American Samoa until their minimum wage reaches that of the United States, while the Senate amendment provided a phased increase of $0.50 upon enactment, and $1.00 annually thereafter, in the Federal minimum wage for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, but no increase in American Samoa.

SUBTITLE B—SMALL BUSINESS INCENTIVES

The conference agreement modifies small business and work opportunity provisions in the Senate amendment that provide enhanced compliance assistance for small businesses, authorize a program for small business child care grants at the Department of Health and Human Services, require a study on certain aspects of the Earned Income Tax Credit, authorize renewal grants for women's business centers, and require a report under the Buy American Act. The House bill did not contain similar provisions.

SUBTITLE C

SMALL BUSINESS TAX INCENTIVES

The conference agreement modifies provisions in the House bill and Senate amendment regarding small business incentives. The conference agreement extends the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (''WOTC'') through August 31, 2011, later than the House proposed but sooner than the Senate proposed. The conference agreement expands WOTC to include more veterans with service-connected disabilities, ''high risk youth,'' and employees in ''outward migration counties.'' The House and the Senate had proposed various enhancements.

The conference agreement enhances the tip credit for certain small businesses by freezing the minimum wage level for purposes of calculating the credit. The House had similar language, but the Senate did not.

The conference agreement permanently waives both individual and corporate alternative minimum tax limitations on WOTC and tip credits. The House had similar language, but the Senate did not.

The conference agreement extends small business expensing under section 179 through 2010 and increases the expensing limit from the current $112,000 to $125,000, as the House had proposed. The Senate had similar language.

The conference agreement extends and expands several tax provisions affecting Gulf Opportunity Zones affected by hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma. The agreement modifies language proposed by the Senate. The House did not include similar language.

The conference agreement makes several changes to the treatment of Subchapter S corporations. The Senate had proposed similar language. The House did not include similar language.

The conference agreement raises the age of children whose unearned income is taxed as their patents' income. The House and Senate both had similar language.

The conference agreement modifies IRC section 6404(g) which provides for suspension of interest and certain penalties, from the current 18 months after filing to 36 months. The House had proposed 22 months and the Senate had proposed repeal of suspensions.

The conference agreement increases the penalty for bad checks and money orders, creates a new penalty on claims for refunds filed without any reasonable basis, and expands the penalties on tax return preparers. Both House and Senate proposed similar language.

The conference agreement increases the estimated tax payments due July through September, 2012 for corporations with assets in excess of $1 billion. The House had similar language, but the Senate did not.

CONTRACTING REFORM

The conference agreement does not include language proposed by the House (as title V of the House bill) relating to federal contracting reform.

NOTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY LEGISLATION

The congressional budget resolution (H. Con. Res. 95) agreed to by Congress for fiscal year 2006, and both the House and Senate versions of the congressional budget resolution for fiscal year 2007 include provisions relating to the notification of emergency spending. These provisions require a statement of how the emergency provisions contained in the conference agreement meet the criteria for emergency spending as identified in the budget resolution.

The conference agreement contains emergency funding for fiscal year 2007 for the global war on terror, hurricane recovery in the gulf coast region, emerging threats to homeland security, pandemic influenza prevention, unmet veterans' healthcare needs, and agriculture disaster relief. The funding is related to unanticipated needs and is for situations that are sudden, urgent, and unforeseen, specifically the global war on terror and thy hurricanes of 2005. These needs meet the criteria for emergencies.

EARMARKS

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.

CONFERENCE TOTAL—WITH COMPARISONS

The total new budget (obligational) authority for the fiscal year 2007 recommended by the Committee of Conference, comparisons to the 2007 budget estimates, and the House and Senate bills for 2007 follow:

(In thousands of dollars)

Budget estimates of new (obligational) authority, fiscal year 2007	103,015,427
House bill, fiscal year 2007	124,315,636
Senate bill, fiscal year 2007	122,807,084
Conference agreement, fiscal year 2007	124,173,007
Conference agreement compared with:	
Budget estimates of new (obligational) authority, fiscal year 2007	+21,157,580
House bill, fiscal year 2007	−142,629
Senate bill, fiscal year 2007	+1,365,923

DAVID R. OBEY,
ROSA L. DELAURO,
JOHN P. MURTHA,
PETER J. VISCLOSKY,
NITA LOWEY,
CAROLYN KILPATRICK,
NORMAN D. DICKS,
CHET EDWARDS,
ALAN B. MOLLOHAN,
JOHN OLVER,
JOSÉ E. SERRANO,
DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ,
JAMES E. CLYBURN,
Managers on the Part of the House.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
DANIEL K. INOUYE,
PATRICK J. LEAHY,
TOM HARKIN,
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI,
HERB KOHL,
PATTY MURRAY,
BYRON L. DORGAN,
DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
RICHARD J. DURBIN,
TIM JOHNSON,
MARY L. LANDRIEU,
JACK REED,
FRANK R. LAUTENBERG,
BEN NELSON,
Managers on the Part of the Senate.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

10,000 TEACHERS, 10 MILLION MINDS SCIENCE AND MATH SCHOLARSHIP ACT

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the instructions of the House on the motion to recommit, I report the bill, H.R. 362, back to the House with an amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment:

Amend section 204 to read as follows:

SEC. 204. CURRICULA.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall be construed to limit the authority of State governments or local school boards to determine the curricula of their students.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment.

The amendment was 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. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 389, nays 22, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 254]

YEAS—389

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Forbes
Fortenberry
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastert
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jindal
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Kingston
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—22

Barrett (SC)
Blackburn
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Conaway
Duncan
Flake
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett (NJ)
Hensarling
King (IA)
Lamborn
Mack
Manzullo
Miller (FL)
Paul
Pence
Poe
Sali
Shadegg
Tancredo

NOT VOTING—21

Bilirakis
Boucher
Brady (PA)
Buyer
Cubin
Davis (KY)
Davis, Jo Ann
Farr
Fattah
Fossella
Gohmert
Hastings (FL)
Kennedy
King (NY)
Kirk
Lampson
Myrick
Rangel
Ryan (OH)
Sutton
Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1708

Mr. POE changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 254, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 245—"yes"; 246—"yes"; 247—"yes"; 248—"no"; 249—"no"; 250—"yes"; 251—"yes"; 252—"yes"; 253—"yes"; and 254—"yea".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes Nos. 253 and 254.

I take my voting responsibility seriously, and if I had been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 253 and "yes" on rollcall No. 254.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 363, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

SOWING THE SEEDS THROUGH SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 318 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. 363.

□ 1710

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. 363) to authorize appropriations for basic research and research infrastructure in science and engineering, and for support of graduate fellowships, and for other purposes, with Mr. WATT 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 Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. GORDON of Tennessee asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, we spent quite a bit of time on the last bill talking about ''Rising above the Gathering Storm,'' the report. It charts a course for continuing American prosperity in the decades to

come. I recommend that my colleagues heed the warning of this report and pursue policies to implement its four major policy recommendations.

One of those recommendations is to ''sustain and strengthen the Nation's traditional commitment to long-term basic research that has the potential to be transformational, to maintain the flow of new ideas that fuel the economy and provide security and enhance the quality of life.'' The Gathering Storm report goes on to propose specific high-priority action items to realize this recommendation.

In this bill, H.R. 363, we have identified several of these action items that have broad bipartisan support. We call the bill the Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Act.

I want to thank my colleague, Mr. HALL from Texas, ranking minority member of the Committee on Science and Technology, who helped craft the current version of this bill.

Six weeks ago, the committee voted unanimously to favorably report this bill. We have heard from such groups as The Business Roundtable and the Council of Competitiveness expressing their support for the bill. These organizations represent a broad spectrum of business interests, understand that new technology ideas are necessary for the U.S. prosperity in a global 21st century economy. In fact, some economists have estimated that half of the economic growth in the United States since World War II can be attributed to technological innovation. H.R. 363 is needed to prevent the United States from falling behind other nations whose national commitments to research are increasing, just as ours have been decreasing. The fear is not just about falling behind scientifically, it's about falling behind economically.

The first two provisions of H.R. 363 focus on support for early-career scientists and engineers through grant programs at the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy. These grants will identify and support our best and brightest young researchers who are engaged in high-risk, high-reward research that is transformational or highly innovative. By focusing on young researchers, we promote new ideas and research on the frontiers of knowledge.

The bill also supports graduate student training grants for individuals interested in research areas relative to industry's technological needs, establishes a Presidential Award for Innovation, creates a planning mechanism for maintaining the Nation's major research facilities, authorizes the National Science Foundation to support research on innovation, directs reports on Federal efforts to recruit new scientists and engineers, identifies NASA as a key player in the national competitiveness policy.

This bill doesn't merely seek to fund all of science, it focuses on fostering the most innovative elements of a scientific enterprise. It is through research such as these that we lay a foundation for future of global economic competitiveness. In the future, a healthy scientific and technological enterprise spawns innovation, creating jobs that pay good wages and produces products that make our lives better.

□ 1715

We must pave the way to that future, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to support what is essentially the second piece of the Science Committee's innovation and competitiveness agenda package. I am pleased that this Congress continues to advance the innovation agenda that the President laid out 2 years ago.

Primarily, this bill enhances the Faculty Early Career Development Program at NSF to help researchers establish a lab and pursue risky research in emerging fields. It establishes a similar program at the Department of Energy. It also ensures that funding increases proportionately to the overall NSF budget for the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship, which supports graduate students in cutting-edge interdisciplinary fields.

Again, most of this bill was part of a Republican-led effort in the last Congress to incorporate many of the suggestions and various innovation and competitiveness reports without necessarily reinventing the wheel to do so. While H.R. 363 is similar to what we did last year, it does have some additions that were never vetted at the committee level, and I have some concern with that process. I hope as we continue the reauthorization process for NSF, the chairman will work with me, as he always has and as he does, and we can thoughtfully pass good legislation as we move forward.

With specific regard to H.R. 363, I do thank the chairman for working with us to restore a few of the provisions that had been previously accepted by the committee, particularly in NIST report language and a sense of the Congress that NASA also has a role to play in United States innovation and competitiveness.

It is important, Mr. Chairman, that our Nation continue to lead the world in technological innovation. To that end, we should support legislation that advances basic science research at the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy. Research conducted by these young scholars will yield countless advantages. Americans understand that if we are to become energy independent, we will need solutions that promote clean, affordable and reliable American energy resources. That is why we introduced the competitiveness agenda last year and that is why I continue to support this initiative. America's solutions for the future begin today.

This is a good bill. I thank the chairman for helping make it a good bill, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 363.

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

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 30 seconds to absolutely concur with Mr. HALL in that we will work as a partnership as this bill works its way through. He has been a constructive partner, and I want to continue that partnership.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. GIFFORDS), a valued member of our committee.

Ms. GIFFORDS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you Ranking Member HALL.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 363, the Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Act. In 2005, a bipartisan group of congressional legislators came together and asked the National Academies for a list of the top 10 action items that policymakers must take in order to assure that America stays globally competitive.

Their report, which was reduced, called ''Rising Above the Gathering Storm,'' found that the U.S. would stand to lose our global competitiveness if we did not act immediately. One of their recommendations was to invest in research in an effort to ''sustain and strengthen the Nation's traditional commitment to long-term basic research that has the potential to be transformational to maintain the flow of new ideas that fuel the economy, provide security, and enhance the quality of life.'' This bill does exactly that.

This legislation provides early-career awards for scientists and engineers at the National Science Foundation and at the Department of Energy. Young researchers and scientists can shift paradigms, break out of traditions, and think of new ideas within their field; and it is this outside-of-the-box thinking that we must promote.

The early-career awards in this bill awards young scientists for engaging in both high-risk, but also high-reward, research that is transformational and innovative.

This bill does not fund all science. This bill focuses on fostering the most innovative of elements in the scientific enterprise. With countries such as India and China becoming more and more competitive, we have to take every action possible to ensure that the United States of America stays globally competitive.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for bringing this bill forward. I am honored to be a sponsor.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY).

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I do rise today in strong support of

H.R. 363, the Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act.

This legislation, just like H.R. 362 which we just passed, is a fantastic opportunity for bipartisanship to support math and science education in this country. Taken in combination with that bill, 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds, we lay a crucial foundation in maintaining America's competitiveness worldwide.

The National Academies released a report entitled ''Rising Above the Gathering Storm.'' It looked at ways in which the Federal Government could enhance our country's science and technology enterprise so we can continue to compete and prosper in this global marketplace. In addition to its recommendations with respect to K–12 education, the commission came to the conclusion that there is a general lack of research in science and engineering in America.

Our country must face the reality that China and India are making significant strides and pouring major resources into science and engineering. Therefore, in order to stay competitive, we need to not only encourage young students to get excited by the possibilities that exist with technology advances, but we also need to support young scientist research. Since younger scientists are more likely to do innovative and transformative work, it is in our country's best interest to ensure that these young scientists indeed have the support that they need.

Mr. Chairman, the Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Act offers rewards for younger students in order to encourage them to continue their work in the fields of science and engineering.

This legislation also strengthens Federal support for science and engineering researchers at the early stages of their career by expanding the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship program at NSF, establishing a Presidential Innovation Award, and authorizing NSF to authorize research on innovation.

Again, I want to emphasize that I truly believe in order for our great Nation to remain competitive in the ever-advancing global marketplace, we need to sustain and strengthen our commitment to long-term basic research. This is research that has the potential to be transformational in maintaining the flow of new ideas that fuel our economy, provide security and enhance the quality of life for all Americans.

Mr. Chairman, I firmly believe this legislation is a great first step to address this impending crisis, both in America's workforce and our country's research institutions, and I am proud to support the bill, and I ask all of my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Chairman, before I conclude, and hopefully I will not run out of time, but I did want to at this point say that as much as I am for this bill, I have to oppose one of the amendments that is going to be offered by the gentlelady from New York, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the Gillibrand amendment. It is duplicative. We already do that under the Department of Education in regard to providing scholarships, merit scholarships for advanced students in our high schools. We already do that through the Department of Education, and it is a very well-funded program.

But more importantly, Mr. Chairman, the reason I am opposed to the amendment, in a way it contradicts what we just did in H.R. 362, where we said we will give these grants to these students to encourage them to study and pursue math and science and engineering types of advanced degrees in college with a payback, a two-for-one payback if they go into the teaching profession in a community where we have that great need for outstanding math and science teachers.

With that, Mr. Chairman, again, I support the bill. I am opposed to the Gillibrand amendment for the reasons outlined.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, let me thank my friend, Dr. GINGREY, for his support for this good bipartisan bill, and I yield 2 minutes to another active member of our committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY).

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong bipartisan support of H.R. 363, Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research. Before my election to Congress, I spent my entire academic and professional career as a scientist, as a mathematician and an engineer.

I was particularly concerned when I read the sobering conclusions of the National Academies' ''Rising Above the Gathering Storm'' about America's declining competitiveness in a science and technology-based global economy. The report calls for an immediate action to maintain America's competitive advantage, and I agree with those recommendations.

We are already moving forward to carry out some of the report's recommendations in an effort to renew interest in scientific development. H.R. 363 will provide grants to support young researchers in the early stages of their careers to engage in the high-risk, high-reward innovative research that challenges existing assumptions. The bill also establishes a Presidential Innovation Award to stimulate scientific and engineering advances in the public interest.

As a Nation, we face many daunting and almost overwhelming challenges, the solutions to which will require serious and dedicated scientific research. Conclusive research can take years, so we must work now to inspire today's students and researchers to take up such scientific pursuits. This bill provides just the right kind of specific incentives to compel young researchers to do the kind of pioneering and groundbreaking research that will yield dividends for the public interest.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL).

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to support this bill and thank Chairman GORDON and Ranking Member HALL, a fellow Texan, for their hard work and leadership on this issue.

I think we can all agree on the importance of ensuring America is competitive in science and engineering. As the National Academy of Sciences report ''Rising Above the Gathering Storm'' warned, this country is in danger of losing its leadership role in these fields.

Last year I sponsored the Research For Competitiveness Act to address this issue. Unfortunately, that legislation did not come to the floor of the House after being passed by the Science Committee. However, I am pleased in this Congress in a bipartisan fashion to note that H.R. 363 incorporates sections from last year's bill that establish early-career grants for young scientists and engineers. These grants will encourage scientists and engineers in the early stages of their academic careers to establish innovative lines of research. This approach continues the successful model of partnership between the Federal Government and America's universities.

As you know, many of the technologies we enjoy today, such as breakthroughs that enabled e-commerce to become a reality in the 1990s, are based on research initially conducted at universities like the University of Texas in my hometown of Austin.

When we fund programs such as these, we are investing in minds and helping create the next generation of America's high-tech workforce. Therefore, I strongly support this legislation and urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this bill.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I thank Mr. MCCAUL for his support for this good bipartisan bill, and I yield 3 minutes to another Texan (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), who is an active member of the Science and Technology Committee.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, thank you for our committee leadership.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 363, the Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act. This legislation was based on policy recommendations from the ''Rising Above the Gathering Storm'' report to Congress by the National Academy of Sciences.

One of the greatest challenges new researchers face is getting grant funding for their research. In Dallas, the University of Texas Southwest Medical School has four Nobel laureates, where they earned them right there, and UT-Dallas has at least one. Baylor University and others are stellar research institutions, and they compete at the national level for grants and perform award-winning scientific research.

□ 1730

These universities depend on Federal research funding.

When new faculty are hired at research universities in Texas and elsewhere, they are expected to be able to write grant proposals and successfully win funding from Federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, and others.

According to NIH, the average age at which the investigator first obtains RO1 major grant funding is age 42. If students are earning Ph.D.s in their late twenties, that means there are many years of struggle before they can establish themselves and eventually become full professors at these universities.

As a result, many scientists have dropped out of science. It is too hard to get funding. The stress level is too high.

Mr. Chairman, grant support targeted at new investigators is an important step toward resolving this problem. If Congress would fund Federal research as vigorously as our competitors overseas are doing, we wouldn't have such a problem.

H.R. 363 targets young investigator grant support at the National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, and other scientific research agencies under the purview of the Committee on Science and technology.

This is a good bill and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise with pleasure to support this bill.

The National Science Foundation for years has been one of the primary sources of research funding for outstanding research in this Nation. In addition, the Department of Energy Office of Science has been a leader in certain areas, particularly high energy or particle physics, but also in a number of other physics areas, including the high energy light sources such as we have at Berkeley and a few other labs.

I strongly support these programs, but a difficulty that has developed over the past few years is that we have some early career researchers, some young people just entering the field, and they really have difficulty obtaining funding because the tendency of the reviewers at the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy Office of Science is to say well, we have this group of very well-known good researchers. We know their backgrounds and we know they can produce and how well they can do; we should just give them the money because we don't know for sure about the early researchers. Now, I don't think they actually say that, but, unfortunately, I think it is in the back of the minds of the peer review folks as they consider proposals.

I experienced this personally with my son, who as a young scientist had trouble breaking into the field and had a number of proposals denied before he finally received funding. Even though he had made some national strides and was well-known in the field, yet it was difficult to get the funding.

These programs will be very, very helpful to support the early career researchers. But there is another aspect about which we need some new thinking and some change, and that is the fact that more and more science is becoming interdisciplinary, where you may have biology and physics, or biophysics; and you have relationships between biology and chemistry or chemistry and physics. You can go on and on. There are all sorts of different variations. Sometimes you may need five or six different disciplines represented in the research program to really cover all of the aspects of the research. When you submit a proposal, usually you are required to specify one field and if you specify interdisciplinary, sometimes the other fields are not adequately represented on the peer review panel.

I admit these are perhaps exceptions; but, nevertheless, we have to make sure that all of these bright young scientists or those wishing to branch out into another discipline, for example, having a very good background in physics and deciding they can really do some good work in biophysics. So we need to take account of that, and this bill will provide that within both the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy.

I strongly support this bill. I believe both agencies, I know NSF supports it, and I am sure that the Department of Energy Office of Science also supports this bill because they have also noted the need for these changes.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I thank Dr. EHLERS for his support for this bill, and his help in bringing it to the floor today.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Research and Science.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend and chairman.

This is a good day for science and research, and that means it is a good day for the United States of America and for our economic prosperity and for our children's future.

As Chair of the Research and Science Subcommittee, I rise today in support of H.R. 363, the Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Act, and I want to commend Chairman GORDON for his strong leadership on this bill that we are considering now, and on the one that passed earlier today.

I share Chairman GORDON's absolute commitment and belief that we must take bold steps now to ensure that American students and workers are prepared for the careers of the future and so our Nation is equipped to compete in the global economy.

To accomplish this, however, we must make sure our young scientists receive the support they need. That is why, as many of our prior speakers have pointed out, it is critically important to invest in the minds of young researchers now, because not only are they highly productive, but one day they will fill the ranks of our senior established and groundbreaking scientists on which our country's economy, competitiveness, and indeed our national security depend.

That is why I am so pleased we are considering H.R. 363 today. The bill will ensure continued innovation by supporting outstanding researchers in early career stages, and ensuring that graduate students in research fields of particular importance to our future competitiveness receive adequate funding. I also share Ranking Member EHLERS' commitment to the importance of interdisciplinary scientific studies which he so well articulated.

This bill and the one before it that we considered already and passed today, are critically important to the future prosperity of our country. I share Chairman GORDON's commitment to them, and I urge passage.

I also would like to take this opportunity briefly to express support for the amendment soon to be offered by Mrs. GILLIBRAND of New York. Her amendment will require the National Science Foundation to institute a program to award scholarships in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics to undergraduate scholars. As a former teacher of undergraduate scholars and researchers, I know how important this stage is to career development and I support her commitment to it, applaud her offering the amendment. I urge passage of that, as well as final passage of the bill.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank the distinguished chairman of the Science Committee, as well as the ranking member. We have had a long and I like to think of it as a productive relationship, and it is an honor to come and acknowledge that we are finally listening to the voices of the 21st century.

I want to hold up this document that claims the 110th Congress is a Congress that will move the innovation agenda. As a former member of the Science Committee I remember, as the century turned in 2000, listening to CEOs who indicated the crisis in both teaching, understanding and creative in math, science and technology.

Let me rise and belatedly say I have certainly supported the last legislative initiative dealing with 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds that we just passed, and I am delighted to be able to support the Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act of 2007 and to say this: Science is in fact the work of the 21st century, but we are falling behind.

We don't need to hear the statistics again of how many engineers China graduates, for example, compared to the United States. This workforce cannot be prepared for the 21st century without actual investment by this country, and understanding that without researchers and scientists and engineers, we do not create work.

Clearly, even though these might be considered passe and simple, but the light bulb, the typewriter, the car, all innovative aspects of our work, the airplane, created eons and years and decades of work.

This legislation in particular provides an opportunity for research, and the amendment provides an opportunity for research for undergraduate scholars.

At Texas Southern University, we have a transportation study program. It has a pharmacy school, all small aspects of science. It has a solar energy project that I was proud to take Members of Congress to in 2001.

There are budding opportunities all over America, but what must we do to ensure that it works? We have to invest and provide the resources. We have to encourage not only students, but teachers, and then researchers that their work is valued. NASA and our move to the moon all concentrate on having those who will be researchers, technologists, readers of software, and yes, we hope, astronauts.

I applaud this legislation for what it does for engineers and scientists and physicians who are pioneers of the work of the 20th century and now can be pioneers of the work of the 21st century.

I believe that we have a step further to go. We need geologists. As we look at global warming, we must find ways to be efficient in the securing of energy, balancing what we call the resources of the ground as well as nuclear as well as solar.

I think this is an outstanding bill, and I ask my colleagues to support it. I thank the distinguished chairman.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 363, the "Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act," of which I am proud to be a cosponsor. This bill is the second component of the new Democratic majority's Innovation Agenda, which is designed to make our nation more able to compete successfully in the global economy.

Mr. Chairman, it is essential that we invest in a workforce ready for global competition by creating a new generation of innovators and make a sustained commitment to federal research and development. We need to spur and expand affordable access to broadband, achieve energy independence, and provide small business with tools to encourage entrepreneurial innovation. H.R. 363 a critical first step.

Charles Drew, Benjamin Banneker, Clarence Elder, and David Crosthwait, Jr. are only a few of the names associated with great American scientific history. These engineers, scientist, and physicians were pioneers in their respective fields, and have touched all our lives in ways that we probably never consider. Whether it is enjoying the comfortable atmosphere of Radio City Music hall, navigating the streets of Washington, DC, or having a loved one receive a blood transfusion these men have all made significant contributions to America and the world. Yet, the beautiful thing about science is its' evolutionary nature. Innovation never sleeps, and great minds are always at work.

Therefore to continue the legacy of these great men, and to ensure that America is at the forefront of new technological and scientific discoveries, I rise in support of H.R. 363. Representing Houston, I realize the importance of institutions like NASA and the sense of national pride that NASA can produce when they are leading the global effort in advancing science and technology.

Mr. Chairman, according to the National Academies, the most important thing we can do for our future economic health is to increase the nation's expertise in science, technology, math, and engineering. H.R. 363 represents a critical down-payment toward achieving this goal. Therefore, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I just quickly yield myself the balance of my time to say this truly has been a collaborative, bipartisan effort. I thank Mr. HALL and his very able staff. We have worked together. We have a good bill, and we need to pass this bill.

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Chairman, tonight the House took a critical step in the effort to ensure that America remains at the leading edge of the global economy by passing H.R. 363, the Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Act. The provisions in the bill, including expanded grants through the National Science Foundation and Department of Energy for early career researchers, support for research in fields of national importance, and government recruitment of young scientists build on the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences and will help to rebuild our knowledge infrastructure. By doing so, the legislation will help America maintain its leadership in scientific research and allow American innovators to strengthen our economy by finding solutions to achieve energy independence, greater environmental protection, the development of new medical treatments, and a host of other goals. It is for these reasons that I voted to support H.R. 363.

However, I am deeply opposed to language, added to the bill through a motion to recommit, that prioritizes support for research into advanced nuclear reprocessing. Although supporters of nuclear power have renewed their efforts to increase America's reliance on nuclear power, the reality is that there are significant safety and environmental concerns associated with nuclear energy. The storage of spent nuclear fuel is a growing problem facing individual power plants and communities throughout the nation. At the Indian Point Energy Center, there is an ongoing leak of radioactive material from spent fuel pools into the Hudson River, and throughout the country communities that host nuclear facilities are being forced to contemplate the cleanup and security costs associated with the storage of nuclear waste.

We must also clearly understand that, at a time when nuclear terrorism is one of the greatest threats facing our nation, the process used to recycle spent fuel would create a significant proliferation risk by resulting in the production of plutonium that can be used in nuclear weapons. The language prioritizing support for a technology that threatens to damage our environment and undermine our national security is misguided, and tarnishes an otherwise laudable piece of legislation. I am hopeful that this language will not be included in the conference report.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act. Taking its name from the sixth chapter of the National Academies Report "Rising Above the Gathering Storm," H.R. 363 is part of an ambitious legislative portfolio that is part of the Innovation Agenda. I was proud to help craft the Innovation Agenda, on which our nation is dependent for its future prosperity.

Fifty thousand people hold postdoctoral appointments in the United States. In 1999, postdocs were 43% of the first authors in articles in the prestigious journal Science. Postdoctoral appointments are temporary by design and are compensated poorly. Postdocs are generally motivated by the idea of becoming professors, a goal to which three quarters of postdocs aspire. However, only 20 percent will attain faculty positions. This had led to an increasingly dramatic and problematic holding pattern which could select more for flexibility and perseverance than for talent and performance.

As science funding has become tighter, it's become more difficult for postdocs to find permanent academic positions and to remain in science. The availability of positions is entirely dependent on the likelihood of a new professor finding funding. As of 2002, the median age at which one receives a first NIH grant as a primary investigator is 42. In 1981, the median age was 35. In the biological sciences, in 1980, researchers under 40 years old received more than half of all competitive research grants. By 2003, this had fallen to less than 17 percent. At NSF, the funding rates for first-time grant recipients fell from 25 percent in 2000 to 17 percent in 2004.

H.R. 363 addresses this problem by setting aside funds specifically for early career researchers, which are defined as assistant professors or the equivalent thereof. Assistant professor is the role to which most postdocs aspire as their next step. It is one step short of having a tenured, permanent position in a research institution. H.R 363 also requires DOE and NIST to report on how they are doing with recruitment and retention of early career engineers and scientists.

H.R. 363 supports the early career part of the science and technology professional pipeline in other ways, as well. The act requires NSF to set aside at least 1.5 percent of funds appropriated for research and related activities to the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) program and permits the NSF to research the process of innovation and the teaching of inventiveness.

At present, the United States research infrastructure is deficient. In 2001, more than 60 percent of the Department of Energy Office of Science lab space was over 30 years old. This requires $2 billion to correct. In 1998, the NSF estimated that $11.4 billion were needed to

renovate U.S. academic research facilities. In 2001, the NIH estimated $5.6 billion in health research infrastructure needs.

This problem is in part caused by a 26 percent cap on reimbursement to universities from research grants for infrastructure costs. Since this cap was created in 1991, universities have been unable to find sufficient sources of funding to keep their scientific facilities competitive or, in some cases, adequate. At the same time, they are using these facilities to attempt to compete internationally for scientists.

H.R. 363 addresses this problem by instructing the Office of Science and Technology Policy to create a National Coordination Office for Research Infrastructure. This office would prioritize deficiencies in research facilities at universities and national labs and then work to coordinate a response to these deficiencies.

I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution. Without its reforms to our research infrastructure and science talent pipeline we will continue to deteriorate.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 363, the Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act.

I first want to thank Chairman GORDON for his leadership on the important issue of innovation, and commend our Committee's work towards investing in our research communities.

This past August, I invited Chairman GORDON to join me in a panel to discuss the subject of Innovation back in St. Louis. The Event was a tremendous success and sparked a conversation about competitiveness, STEM education and innovation that still continues with enthusiasm in St. Louis.

While this is an issue that warrants much discussion, the time has come for bold action.

Unfortunately, our nation's standing as the global leader in science and technology has slipped in recent years.

H.R. 363 will counteract this worrying trend by investing in long-term scientific research and encouraging young scientists and researchers to pursue high-risk and high-reward research.

Specifically, the bill administers awards to outstanding early-career researchers in academia and in nonprofit research organizations, provides graduate research assistantships in areas of national need and establishes a national coordination office to prioritize university and national research infrastructure needs. By investing in our young researchers, we invest in the ideas that will shape our country's future.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to advance our nation's status as a leader in the global economy.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 363, the Sowing the Seeds through Science and Engineering Research Act.

The bill authorizes appropriations for basic research in science and engineering, and provides support of graduate fellowships, as well as research grants, to scientists and engineers in the early phases of their careers.

As a member of the Science and Technology Committee, I commend Chairman GORDON for crafting this important legislation and bringing it to the House floor today.

We must take bold steps now to insure that American students and workers are prepared for the careers of the future and that our nation is equipped to compete in the global economy.

The bill is based on the recommendations of the National Academies' widely-acknowledged ''Rising Above the Gathering Storm'' report, which found that the U.S. stands to lose its competitive edge in the international economy unless immediate action is taken.

Statistics show that U.S. 12th-grade students performed below the international average of 21 countries on a test of general knowledge of math and science.

In 2004, America graduated 70,000 engineers, while China turned out 10 times as many.

We know that American high-tech companies often look abroad for workers who are willing to work for less pay.

I am very concerned about the issue of offshoring and outsourcing, and it troubles me when companies say they need to go overseas just to find employees who are skilled in math and science.

I believe there is a clear link between offshoring and outsourcing and how these trends relate to future employment opportunities and career choices of students in the science and engineering fields.

I believe we have to raise awareness of this issue and work together in a bipartisan manner in order to keep high-wage science and engineering jobs here in the U.S. and maintain our competitive edge.

H.R. 363 puts us on the right path and demonstrates our commitment to strengthening our science, technology, engineering, and mathematics educational programs in order produce a skilled and knowledgeable workforce here at home.

Maintaining U.S. innovation and leadership demands hard work and investment. While there are no quick fixes, we can take steps, like H.R. 363, now to accomplish these important goals.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chairman, today we are considering several bills to implement the Innovation Agenda including H.R. 363, the Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act.

In February I was pleased to support this legislation in Committee. H.R. 363 provides merit-based grants for researchers early in their careers, establishes a Presidential innovation award, and creates a national office to identify, prioritize, and coordinate research infrastructure needs at universities and national laboratories.

America needs innovators and leaders if we want to remain competitive in the global economy. This is especially true when it comes to science and engineering.

Retaining scientists and engineers, however, is often difficult, because they receive such low pay early-on in their careers.

If we don't invest early in our future innovators, we will fall behind.

H.R. 363 supports an important goal and I look forward to its passage today.

Mr. WU. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 363, a piece of legislation that is desperately needed to enhance tomorrow's scientific research.

We all know what it's like to start out on our own—the uncertainty of your financial footing, but with great faith in yourself and your ideas. Imagine that feeling on an exponential scale and that might be how a young, talented researcher feels as they work on a cure for autism, or traumatic brain injury for our troops, or a new source of cleaner, renewable energy.

The field of research is high-risk and high-yield, and the federal government is right to invest in research that benefits us all. H.R. 363 will help ''sustain and strengthen the nation's traditional commitment to long-term basic research . . . to maintain the flow of new ideas that fuel the economy, provide security, and enhance the quality of life,'' as prescribed by the National Academies report, Rising Above the Gathering Storm, that has been the focus of our work in the Science and Technology Committee, and mentioned many times today.

Young researchers are the key to innovation, as they are more likely than established researchers to shift paradigms, break with tradition, or bring new ideas to a discipline or to a combination of disciplines. The early-career awards outlined in this bill reward young researchers for engaging in high-risk/high-reward research that is likely to be transformative or highly innovative. The establishment of a presidential innovation award is designed to identify and recognize people who develop the unique scientific and engineering innovations in the national interest at the time they occur. This bill doesn't simply seek to fund all science; it focuses on fostering the most innovative elements of the scientific enterprise.

I would also like to thank Chairman GORDON, as well as Ranking Member HALL, on their hard work on this legislation, and the bipartisan manner in which the Science and Technology Committee is run to produce such substantial legislation.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 363

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 ''Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act''.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION EARLY CAREER AWARDS FOR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESEARCHERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall carry out a program to award grants to scientists and engineers at the early stage of their careers at institutions of higher education and organizations described in subsection (c)(2) to conduct research in fields relevant to the mission of the Foundation. The existing Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program may be designated as the mechanism for awarding such grants.

(b) SIZE AND DURATION OF AWARD.—The duration of awards under this section shall be 5 years, and the amount per year shall be at least $80,000.

(c) ELIGIBILITY.—Award recipients shall be individuals who are employed in a tenure-track

position as an assistant professor or equivalent title, or who hold an equivalent position, at—

(1) an institution of higher education in the United States; or

(2) an organization in the United States that is a nonprofit, nondegree-granting research organization such as a museum, observatory, or research laboratory.

(d) SELECTION.—Award recipients shall be selected on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis.

(e) SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA FOR AWARDS.—An applicant seeking funding under this section shall submit a proposal to the Director at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require. In evaluating the proposals submitted under this section, the Director shall consider, at a minimum—

(1) the intellectual merit of the proposed work;

(2) the innovative or transformative nature of the proposed research;

(3) the extent to which the proposal integrates research and education, including undergraduate education in science and engineering disciplines; and

(4) the potential of the applicant for leadership at the frontiers of knowledge.

(f) AWARDS.—In awarding grants under this section, the Director shall endeavor to ensure that the recipients are from a variety of types of institutions of higher education and nonprofit, nondegree-granting research organizations. In support of this goal, the Director shall broadly disseminate information about when and how to apply for grants under this section, including by conducting outreach to Historically Black Colleges and Universities that are part B institutions as defined in section 322(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2)) and minority institutions (as defined in section 365(3) of that Act (20 U.S.C. 1067k(3))).

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—For each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012, the Director shall allocate at least 3.5 percent of funds appropriated to the National Science Foundation for Research and Related Activities to the grants program under this section.

(h) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall transmit to the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing the distribution of the institutions from which individuals have participated in the Faculty Early Career Development Program since fiscal year 2001 among each of the categories of institutions of higher education defined by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the organizations in subsection (c)(2).

(i) EVALUATION.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall transmit to the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report evaluating the impact of the program carried out under this section on the ability of young faculty to compete for National Science Foundation research grants.

SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY EARLY CAREER AWARDS FOR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESEARCHERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of Science of the Department of Energy shall carry out a program to award grants to scientists and engineers at the early stage of their careers at institutions of higher education and organizations described in subsection (c)(2) to conduct research in fields relevant to the mission of the Department.

(b) SIZE AND DURATION OF AWARD.—The duration of awards under this section shall be up to 5 years, and the amount per year shall be at least $80,000.

(c) ELIGIBILITY.—Award recipients shall be individuals who are employed in a tenure-track position as an assistant professor or equivalent title, or who hold an equivalent position, at—

(1) an institution of higher education in the United States; or

(2) an organization in the United States that is a nonprofit, nondegree-granting research organization such as a museum, observatory, or research laboratory.

(d) SELECTION.— Award recipients shall be selected on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis.

(e) SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA FOR AWARDS.—An applicant seeking funding under this section shall submit a proposal to the Director of the Office of Science at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require. In evaluating the proposals submitted under this section, the Director shall consider, at a minimum—

(1) the intellectual merit of the proposed work;

(2) the innovative or transformative nature of the proposed research;

(3) the extent to which the proposal integrates research and education, including undergraduate education in science and engineering disciplines; and

(4) the potential of the applicant for leadership at the frontiers of knowledge.

(f) COLLABORATION WITH NATIONAL LABORATORIES.—In awarding grants under this section, the Director shall give priority to proposals in which the proposed work includes collaboration with the Department of Energy National Laboratories.

(g) AWARDS.—In awarding grants under this section, the Director shall endeavor to ensure that the recipients are from a variety of types of institutions of higher education and nonprofit, nondegree-granting research organizations. In support of this goal, the Director shall broadly disseminate information about when and how to apply for grants under this section, including by conducting outreach to Historically Black Colleges and Universities that are part B institutions as defined in section 322(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2)) and minority institutions (as defined in section 365(3) of that Act (20 U.S.C. 1067k(3))).

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Energy to carry out the Director's responsibilities under this section $25,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

(i) REPORT ON RECRUITING AND RETAINING EARLY CAREER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESEARCHERS AT THE NATIONAL LABORATORIES.—Not later than 3 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science shall transmit to the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on efforts to recruit and retain young scientists and engineers at the early stages of their careers at the Department of Energy National Laboratories. The report shall include—

(1) a description of Department of Energy and National Laboratory policies and procedures, including financial incentives, awards, promotions, time set aside for independent research, access to equipment or facilities, and other forms of recognition, designed to attract and retain young scientists and engineers;

(2) an evaluation of the impact of these incentives on the careers of young scientists and engineers at Department of Energy National Laboratories, and also on the quality of the research at the National Laboratories and in Department of Energy programs;

(3) a description of what barriers, if any, exist to efforts to recruit and retain young scientists and engineers, including limited availability of full time equivalent positions, legal and procedural requirements, and pay grading systems; and

(4) the amount of funding devoted to efforts to recruit and retain young researchers and the source of such funds.

SEC. 4. INTEGRATIVE GRADUATE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH TRAINEESHIP PROGRAM.

(a) FUNDING.—For each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall allocate at least 1.5 percent of funds appropriated for Research and Related Activities to the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship program.

(b) COORDINATION.—The Director shall coordinate with Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate, to expand the interdisciplinary nature of the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship program.

(c) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT FUNDS FROM OTHER AGENCIES.—The Director is authorized to accept funds from other Federal departments and agencies to carry out the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship program.

SEC. 5. PRESIDENTIAL INNOVATION AWARD.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall periodically present the Presidential Innovation Award, on the basis of recommendations received from the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy or on the basis of such other information as the President considers appropriate, to individuals who develop one or more unique scientific or engineering ideas in the national interest at the time the innovation occurs.

(b) PURPOSE.—The awards under this section shall be made to—

(1) stimulate scientific and engineering advances in the national interest;

(2) illustrate the linkage between science and engineering and national needs; and

(3) provide an example to students of the contribution they could make to society by entering the science and engineering profession.

(c) CITIZENSHIP.—An individual is not eligible to receive the award under this section unless at the time such award is made the individual—

(1) is a citizen or other national of the United States; or

(2) is an alien lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence who—

(A) has filed an application for naturalization in the manner prescribed by section 334 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1445); and

(B) is not permanently ineligible to become a citizen of the United States.

(d) PRESENTATION.—The presentation of the award shall be made by the President with such ceremonies as he may deem proper, including attendance by appropriate Members of Congress.

SEC. 6. NATIONAL COORDINATION OFFICE FOR RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Office of Science and Technology Policy shall establish a National Coordination Office for Research Infrastructure. Such Office shall—

(1) identify and prioritize the deficiencies in research facilities and major instrumentation located at academic institutions and at national laboratories that are available for use by academic researchers; and

(2) institute and coordinate the planning by Federal agencies for the acquisition, refurbishment, and maintenance of research facilities and major instrumentation required to address the deficiencies identified under paragraph (1).

In prioritizing the deficiencies identified under paragraph (1), the Office shall consider research needs in areas relevant to the Nation's economic competitiveness.

(b) STAFFING.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall appoint individuals to serve in the Office established under subsection (a) from among the principal Federal agencies that support research in the sciences, mathematics, and engineering, and shall at a minimum include individuals from the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy.

(c) REPORT.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall provide annually a report to Congress at the time of the President's budget proposal—

(1) describing the research infrastructure needs identified in accordance with subsection (a);

(2) listing research facilities projects and budget proposals, by agency, for major instrumentation acquisitions that are included in the President's budget proposal; and

(3) explaining how these facilities projects and instrumentation acquisitions relate to the deficiencies and priorities arrived at in accordance with subsection (a).

SEC. 7. RESEARCH ON INNOVATION AND INVENTIVENESS.

In carrying out its research programs on science policy and on the science of learning, the National Science Foundation may support research on the process of innovation and the teaching of inventiveness.

SEC. 8. REPORT ON NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY EFFORTS TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN EARLY CAREER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESEARCHERS.

Not later than 3 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall transmit to the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on efforts to recruit and retain young scientists and engineers at the early stages of their careers at the National Institute of Standards and Technology laboratories and joint institutes. The report shall include—

(1) a description of National Institute of Standards and Technology policies and procedures, including financial incentives, awards, promotions, time set aside for independent research, access to equipment or facilities, and other forms of recognition, designed to attract and retain young scientists and engineers;

(2) an evaluation of the impact of these incentives on the careers of young scientists and engineers at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and also on the quality of the research at the National Institute of Standards and Technology's laboratories and in the National Institute of Standards and Technology's programs;

(3) a description of what barriers, if any, exist to efforts to recruit and retain young scientists and engineers, including limited availability of full time equivalent positions, legal and procedural requirements, and pay grading systems; and

(4) the amount of funding devoted to efforts to recruit and retain young researchers and the source of such funds.

SEC. 9. NASA'S CONTRIBUTION TO INNOVATION.

(a) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) a balanced science program as authorized by section 101(d) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–155) contributes significantly to innovation in and the economic competitiveness of the United States; and

(2) a robust National Aeronautics and Space Administration, funded at the levels authorized under sections 202 and 203 of that Act, would offer a balance among science, aeronautics, exploration, and human space flight programs, all of which can attract and employ scientists, engineers, and technicians across a broad range of fields in science, technology, mathematics, and engineering.

(b) PARTICIPATION IN INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS PROGRAMS.—The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall fully participate in any interagency efforts to promote innovation and economic competitiveness through scientific research and development within the spending levels cited in subsection (a).

Amend the title so as to read: ''A bill to authorize programs for support of the early career development of science and engineering researchers, and for support of graduate fellowships, and for other purposes.''.

The CHAIRMAN. No amendment to the committee amendment is in order except those printed in House Report 110–99. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent of the amendment, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. HALL OF TEXAS

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 110–99.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 1 offered by Mr. HALL of Texas:

Page 4, line 15, insert '', except to the extent that a sufficient number of meritorious grant applications have not been received for a fiscal year'' after ''under this section''.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 318, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise to encourage my colleagues to support my amendment. One of the key elements of this bill is a grant program at NSF designed to help scientists and engineers at early stages of their careers at institutions of higher learning.

Eligible applicants are tenure-track faculty, and allow the existing faculty early career development program to be designed and designated as the mechanism for awarding such grants that we are talking about here.

We also require the director of the NSF to allocate at least 3.5 percent of funds appropriated to the NSF research and related activities account for the purposes in the bill.

This amendment would modify the 3.5 percent allocation provision to include the following clause: ''except to the extent that a sufficient number of meritorious grant applications have not been received for a fiscal year.''

I did this out of concern that the bill required the allocation of 3.5 percent of the funds appropriated to the earlier career awards for science and engineering, without taking into account there may be years in which there are not sufficient meritorious grant applications in that area and NSF could use the funds more effectively maybe in another area.

I hope my good friend, Chairman GORDON, and my colleagues will join me in support of this amendment.

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

□ 1745

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, this is a good amendment and a thoughtful amendment and I recommend its passage.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank the distinguished chairman, and I thank the distinguished ranking member.

If I might inquire of Mr. HALL, your amendment does not cut funds, it just refines the use? That is what I was trying to understand. Does your amendment cut funds?

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. HALL of Texas. No, absolutely not.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. It just sends it back if they are not utilized?

Mr. HALL of Texas. Yes. It really provides a way for them to use the funds in other areas if they are not used up.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Reprogrammed?

Mr. HALL of Texas. Yes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Let me thank you. I know this is not in the bill, but I just wanted to mention a school district I have been working with where I tried to draw in private interests in helping with math and science labs.

I know that as you look at the Innovation Agenda, I want to make sure we do not frighten away the private financiers as well. This happens to be a large energy company, and I am going to openly say to them, I hope you have not abandoned the commitment to the North Forest Independent School District where we were committed to science labs and math labs and math scholar teachers. So it is tracking the same innovativeness of this particular bill, and I think we can work together as a partner.

I want to support the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I thank Ms. JACKSON-LEE for her addition to this informational session here; and once again, let me say that I think Mr. HALL has a good amendment, and I support that amendment.

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

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MRS. TAUSCHER

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 110–99.

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 2 offered by Mrs. TAUSCHER:

Page 4, line 10, insert ''In awarding grants under this section, the Director shall give special consideration to eligible early-career researchers who have followed alternative career paths such as working part-time or in nonacademic settings, or who have taken a significant career break or other leave of absence.'' after ''(20 U.S.C. 1067k(3)).''.

Page 10, line 9, strike ''needs; and'' and insert ''needs;''.

Page 10, line 10, redesignate paragraph (3) as paragraph (4).

Page 10, after line 9, insert the following new paragraph:

(3) show the potential of such innovation to substantively enhance the economic competitiveness of the United States through development of commercializable intellectual property; and

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 318, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my friend Chairman GORDON for reporting these two critical bills out of the Science Committee, one focused on math and science education and the second on science and engineering.

Taken together, these two bills are a critical step toward restoring our American technological base as well as giving students, engineers, and researchers the tools they need to compete in a global economy.

And they are a great way to kick off the Innovation Agenda, an effort that is vital to America's competitiveness, economy and security, and an effort the New Democrat Coalition, which I chair, is proud to be leading.

I am very proud to offer a bipartisan amendment with my good friend, Congresswoman JUDY BIGGERT of the Science Committee. Our amendment would expand eligibility for National Science Foundation Early Career Awards to thousands of scientists and engineers previously deemed ineligible. These men and women have followed alternative career paths such as working part-time or in non-academic settings, or have taken a significant career break or other leave of absence.

In particular, our amendment would level the playing field for women scientists who have taken maternity leaves, and for all scientists and engineers who have taken internships, worked in industry, or who have pursued entrepreneurial efforts.

The amendment would also expand the scope of the Presidential Innovation Award to recognize and reward innovations that result in intellectual property that significantly enhances the economic competitiveness of the United States.

I strongly support Speaker PELOSI and Chairman GORDON's efforts to promote a strong Innovation Agenda that grows our economy and creates more jobs.

I appreciate working with JUDY BIGGERT on this issue and ask my colleagues to support our amendment.

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition to the amendment, although I do not oppose the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of the Tauscher-Biggert amendment to H.R. 363, the Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineer Research Act.

While I am pleased to have worked with my colleague from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER) in developing this amendment, she deserves the credit for the substance of it. I just happen to think she had a great idea, and I am honored to lend my support.

Mr. Chairman, we face a world in which our economic competitors in Asia and Europe are making significant new investments in their own research capabilities, in terms of both infrastructure and human capital. These investments are beginning to pay off, as Asia and European countries challenge U.S. leadership in the sciences no matter how it is measured, by number of patterns won, articles submitted to scientific journals, Nobel Prizes won, the percentage of gross domestic product dedicated to research and development, and even the number of degrees awarded.

Report after report from the National Academies to the Task Force on the Future of American Innovation has concluded that we need more people with scientific expertise and engineering talent if we are to counter this threat. Only our national security and our economic competitiveness are at stake.

Unfortunately, the number of undergraduate degrees and Ph.D.s awarded in the U.S. in science and engineering has been flat or stagnant for over a decade; and of those undergraduates who have obtained a degree in science or engineering, only 28 percent actually go on to get their graduate degree or pursue a career in science and engineering.

That is why this amendment is so important. It expands eligibility for the NSF Early Career Awards to the thousands of scientists and engineers who have followed alternative career paths, such as working part-time or in non-academic settings, or who have taken a significant career break but want to get back into the lab.

For instance, over 12,000 men and women with doctorates in science or engineering currently are not working because of family responsibilities, according to the most recent statistics compiled by NSF. Of those, over 11,000 are women who may be raising children or caring for a sick parent. Imagine the countless benefits of just getting these 11,000 women back into the lab.

But this amendment has the potential to do so much more than that. It provides an opportunity for thousands of other people with scientific expertise and training, men and women, to get the support they need to reenter the scientific and engineering workforce and get back to doing the scientific work that is so important to the competitiveness of our Nation.

This amendment also recognizes and rewards those scientist and engineers whose innovative ideas enhance the economic competitiveness of the United States. It does so by making them eligible for the Presidential Innovation Award created by this bill.

Mr. Chairman, by creating additional opportunities to expand the ranks of scientists and engineers and rewarding them for innovative ideas that make the Nation more economically competitive, this amendment strengthens our ability to innovate.

It is our ability to innovate that has made and will make America the envy of the world in terms of our freedoms, our security and our culture, health and prosperity.

I thank the ranking member, Mr. HALL, for his support for this amendment. I urge my colleagues to support it as well.

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

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Chairman, I am happy to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON), the chairman of the Committee on Science and a great leader on innovation.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend for yielding, but more importantly, I thank her for bringing this amendment before us.

It really is an example of why diversity of collaboration helps you make better decisions. This was a niche that we simply overlooked; and with her help, as well as our fellow member of the Science Committee, Mrs. BIGGERT, we have a better bill.

We thank you for the amendment. We thank you for another example of, again, why diversity helps us make better decisions. This is a good amendment. I support it.

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for his support of the bill. I appreciate the ranking member's support of the bill. I really want to thank my colleague from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) for her friendship and her support.

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

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MRS. GILLIBRAND

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 110–99.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 3 offered by Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 10. UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The National Science Foundation shall establish a program, to be known as the Undergraduate Scholarships for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, or US-STEM, program, for awarding scholarships to undergraduate scholars in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—A student is eligible for a scholarship under this section only if the student—

(1) is enrolled at a public, 4-year college or university;

(2) will have completed at least one-half of the credit requirements for an undergraduate degree before beginning studies to be funded by the scholarship;

(3) has maintained a grade point average in undergraduate studies of at least 3.0 on a scale of 4.0, or an equivalent level as calculated by the National Science Foundation, except that if the student's institution appeals this criterion on the basis of undue hardship on the student, the National Science Foundation may waive this paragraph;

(4) has a total family income of less than $75,000 per year, with such amount to be adjusted annually by the National Science Foundation for inflation;

(5) has not been convicted of a felony; and

(6) is a citizen or permanent resident alien of the United States.

(c) SELECTION CRITERIA.—Scholarship recipients shall be selected on the basis of merit and such other criteria as the National Science Foundation shall establish.

(d) AWARDS.—The National Science Foundation shall announce awards before April 1 for each upcoming academic year, and may make up to 2,500 awards per year. Awards may be made for a maximum of 2 academic years for each student, and scholarship amounts shall be paid to the institution.

(e) ADVISORY BOARD.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall establish an advisory board, which shall make recommendations to the Director for selection criteria for scholarship recipients, and provide guidance and oversight for the program.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Science Foundation for carrying out this section—

(1) $30,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

(2) $60,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

(3) $61,800,000 for fiscal year 2011;

(4) $63,600,000 for fiscal year 2012; and

(5) $65,500,000 for fiscal year 2013.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 318, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, first I want to thank the chairman of the Committee on Science and Technology, Mr. GORDON, for putting forward H.R. 363, which will increase America's competitiveness in the world by strengthening our science and research base.

I offer this bipartisan amendment to build the pipeline for our country's future teachers, scientists, engineers and researchers by proposing 2,500 scholarships each year of full tuition to any State university or college.

My amendment is based on the National Academies' strong recommendation for the Federal Government to develop an undergraduate scholarship program for students studying science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This amendment will create the recommended scholarship program through the National Science Foundation.

Under the amendment, an undergraduate student who comes from a family with an income of less than $75,000, maintains at least a 3.0 grade point average and is studying science, technology, engineering, or mathematics may receive up to 2 years of paid tuition at that State university.

Since the year 2001, tuition at State universities has risen by 41 percent, making the task of paying for college much more difficult. Scholarships for bright students will increase the number of students who will have the resources to go into the STEM field and achieve their God-given potential.

Having a home-grown, educated workforce will be crucially important to the future strength of America's economy, not only by allowing families and students who are financially stretched to continue their education at high-quality programs such as the nanotechnology program in SUNY Albany, SUNY-Delhi's College of Technology, or the Cytotechnology program at SUNY Plattsburgh, all colleges that are very important to my district in upstate New York, but because by educating America's students in these fields, we will ensure that America retains our competitive advantage in the science field around the world.

My upstate New York district is beginning an exciting new economic revival based on the high-tech sector, and we need to maintain a local workforce that is skilled in engineering and mathematics.

Investments in higher education and science are some of the most important investments our government can make, and I urge everyone to vote ''yes.''

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

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The amendment would create a new merit scholarship program at NSF for undergraduate scholars pursuing science, technology, engineering, or mathematics degrees, the STEM degrees. To receive a scholarship, a student has to be a junior or a senior at a 4-year public institution, have at least a 3.0 grade point average, come from a family with an income of $75,000 or less, and be a citizen or a permanent resident alien with no felony conviction.

Generally, I am supportive of merit scholarships, and while this particular concept sounds good, it is duplicative. An almost identical program already exists at the Department of Education. It is called the Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant and is part of the President's American Competitiveness Initiative.

□ 1800

Therefore, our 2008 budget request for this scholarship program is $1.2 billion. We don't need to add another $281 million scholarship program at another agency that achieves essentially the exact same thing.

The other main reason I oppose this amendment is its effect on the bill we just debated, H.R. 362. The driving force between H.R. 362 is to expand the Noyce Scholarship Program for undergraduates to entice them to enter the STEM K–12 teaching profession. A requirement for this scholarship is that they give back to society by obligating to teach 2 years for every year of scholarship money they receive. This amendment includes no commitment of any kind from these proposed awardees.

What kind of a message are we sending if we require Noyce scholarship recipients to give back to society with a teacher service obligation, when the recipients of scholarships under this amendment have nothing to repay?

In addition to the two bills before us today, the Science Committee is also working on NSF's reauthorization, which also includes quite a bit of undergraduate STEM education improvements. I just think the amendment currently before us is not only recreating a scholarship program that is already in existence, but it's entirely inappropriate for this legislation we are considering today. I encourage my colleagues to vote against it.

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

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to my distinguished colleague from California (Mr. MCNERNEY).

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of Mrs. GILLIBRAND's amendment to H.R. 363.

Our universities and research institutes lead the world in innovation. Today we stand at the cusp of new breakthroughs in fields ranging from medicine, to computer technology and renewable energy.

Unfortunately, too few of our undergraduates are choosing to enter

science-related fields. In order to continue our remarkable record of achievement, we must do a better job of encouraging students to pursue careers in science, mathematics and engineering. This amendment will provide scholarships for science students from low- and moderate-income families, and will help young Americans realize their potential.

We have a chance today to open new doors for our children, and we should seize this opportunity. This amendment will benefit students and our Nation. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in support of this amendment.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to Dr. EHLERS, the gentleman from Michigan.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 2½ minutes.

Mr. EHLERS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I also rise in opposition to this amendment, although I would say I would be delighted to support it if we could also be guaranteed that the budget of the National Science Foundation would be increased by another $1 billion.

I say that because the National Science Foundation has not been treated well in its budgets over the last 12 or 13 years. It has increased very slowly. We even had a decrease 2 years ago for the first time in many, many years. It's a shame that we have not treated the National Science Foundation adequately. It has hurt our Nation, it has hurt our economy, and we certainly have to improve that situation.

We are in a catchup mode. I am reminded of former Speaker Newt Gingrich, who was instrumental in getting the doubling of the National Institutes of Health, who today has told me, and I have heard him tell audiences in speeches a number of times, that he regards one of his great mistakes, perhaps the greatest, the failure to double the National Science Foundation at the same time that we doubled the NIH.

Nevertheless, that didn't happen, so we are in a period of poverty for the National Science Foundation. Therefore, I oppose adding a new program. Even though at this point it's only $281 million, I am sure it will be a popular program and end up costing well over $1 billion. We simply cannot afford it at this time. I would be happy to consider this proposal at some time in the future if we, in fact, do double the NSF as we hope. But even that will leave us with a skimpy budget there.

The other factor is that this program does already exist in the Department of Education. It's a very good program. It has been in operation for several years.

I hope that we will keep that in mind, that we will turn down this amendment at this point, and perhaps consider it sometime in the future when we are bound to have an abundance of money at the National Science Foundation.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished chairman, Mr. GORDON.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, let me say I can understand the concerns of the opponent of this amendment. There are programs that are similar in the Department of Education.

Let me point out only 15 percent of the graduates in the United States receive a degree in engineering, where in China it's 50 percent; in Singapore it's 67 percent. It would seem there is still room to improve this statistic in the United States.

I support the gentlelady's amendment.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. Chairman, I would like to briefly respond to my colleague's arguments.

I appreciate the remarks of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS). I thought they were very thoughtful, and I appreciate your long-term vision for the growth of science and technology deficit in the Nation.

I disagree with the analysis of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL). Primarily his argument seemed to say that this program is too expensive. But this is about our national security, it's about our economic security, and what is so necessary right now in our vision for America's future is the investment in the next generation. What we need to be is producing graduates who have science, math and technology expertise so that we can be competitive with both China and India in the generations and decades to come. We need to begin to fund the pipeline. I think the argument of being too expensive is misplaced.

Second, I would like to say this is a priority for our Nation, and I think we can all agree to strengthen our economy, and our national security has to be number one.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Chairman, as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Research and Science Education, I rise in support of Ms. GILLIBRAND's amendment.

This amendment will require the National Science Foundation to institute a program to award scholarships in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics to undergraduate scholars.

Congresswoman GILLIBRAND and I share a commitment to recruiting and educating our young people to meet the growing need for a larger science and engineering workforce. I commend Congresswoman GILLIBRAND for her leadership on this issue and, as Chairman, look forward to continuing to work with her to strengthen math and science education in this country and ensure our future competitiveness.

I urge adoption of this amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. All time has expired.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 254, noes 165, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 255]

AYES—254

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bono
Bordallo
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castor
Chandler
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Faleomavaega
Farr
Ferguson
Filner
Frank (MA)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jindal
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Norton
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Platts
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Renzi
Reyes
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth

NOES—165

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)

Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Bonner
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Deal (GA)
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fortuño
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastert
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline (MN)
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
LaTourette
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Poe
Price (GA)
Putnam
Radanovich
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Wicker
Wilson (SC)
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—18

Bilbray
Boehner
Brady (PA)
Buyer
Christensen
Clarke
Cubin
Davis, Jo Ann
DeFazio
Fattah
Fossella
Hunter
Jones (NC)
King (NY)
Lampson
Latham
Sutton
Westmoreland

□ 1832

Mr. FORBES, Mr. COBLE and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. ROTHMAN and Ms. PRYCE of Ohio changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SNYDER) having assumed the chair, Mr. WATT, 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. 363) to authorize appropriations for basic research and research infrastructure in science and engineering, and for support of graduate fellowships, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 318, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment 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 to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, isn't it true that under the rules of the House adopted in this 110th Congress, the five Delegate Members are allowed to vote in the Committee of the Whole, but not in the whole House?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Further parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

Isn't it true that the number of eligible Members to vote in the whole House is 435 when all seats are filled?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. That is correct.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Isn't it further true, Mr. Speaker, that the number of eligible votes in the Committee of the Whole is 440?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Currently it is 438 because of absences due to two deaths. But normally it is 440, that is correct.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Four hundred forty if all seats were filled.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. That is correct.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Isn't it further true, Mr. Speaker, that the vote in the Committee of the Whole on the Gillibrand amendment was adopted by a vote of 254–165?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. That is correct.

The question is on the amendment.

The amendment was 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.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT OFFERED BY MR. SULLIVAN

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. SULLIVAN. In its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Sullivan of Oklahoma moves to recommit the bill H.R. 363 to the Committee on Science and Technology, with instructions to report back the same forthwith with an amendment. The amendment is as follows:

Page 5, line 19, insert '', giving priority to grants to expand domestic energy production and use through coal-to-liquids technology and advanced nuclear reprocessing'' after ''mission of the Department''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, today I stand before Congress to offer this motion to recommit because we must encourage new innovations in domestic energy supply. This motion to recommit gives priority to grants to expand domestic energy production through the use of coal-to-liquids technology and advanced nuclear reprocessing.

H.R. 363 already emphasizes the need for increased science and engineer research grants, especially with regard to our Nation's young people. What it does not emphasize is the need for further diversification of our energy sources that will help achieve American energy independence and energy security. World energy demand is expected to increase by over 50 percent by the year 2030, a startling statistic, for sure. In America alone, energy demand is expected to increase by one-third.

There is no one simple solution to arrive at energy independence and energy security. There are, in fact, several pieces to the energy puzzle. It is vital that we wean America off unstable foreign sources of energy.

Congress must urge researchers to invest time and money into the rich technology of coal-to-liquid and nuclear reprocessing. We must commit to support coal-to-liquid technologies for the total life cycle, from coal extraction, through benefaction, processing, refining, packaging, distribution and end product consumption.

It has been said that the United States is the Saudi Arabia of coal. If we can economically produce liquid transportation fuel from coal, we could displace barrels of unstable foreign oil with barrels of domestically produced fuel. As America's most abundant domestic energy source, coal is an obvious choice to diversify our transportation fuels mix and to reduce our dependence on foreign energy sources. If we invest in coal-to-liquid fuels technology in the early stages, we can take one more step towards energy independence.

Several countries, including France and Japan, are already reprocessing their spent nuclear fuel. It is important for our young scientists and engineers to learn how to develop this progression of reprocessing nuclear fuel.

In 20 years, the number of university nuclear engineering programs has declined from 65 to 29. These young engineers should be encouraged to reuse nuclear fuel in an efficient and cost-effective way. This motion to recommit will promote our colleges to train our future scientists and engineers. In an aging nuclear workforce it is important that these young people are properly trained.

It is time to encourage American energy supply through the development

of coal-to-liquid and advanced nuclear technologies. With these technologies we can achieve this energy independence we so desperately need.

This motion to recommit will allow us to meet this energy demand on our own terms by giving priority to grants to expand domestic energy production through the use of coal-to-liquids technology and advanced nuclear reprocessing.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield some time to the gentleman from Illinois, Congressman SHIMKUS.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Oklahoma for bringing forth this motion to recommit.

I have been down here a couple of times on other motions to recommit, and they are very similar to what we are addressing now. This is a call to my fossil fuel Democrats, my coal Democrats, to address the need of our energy security issues and help us with this motion to recommit to say that what we need to do is address, in this bill, and prioritize coal-to-liquid research and development. And just as important, the global security needs and the global warming with carbon sequestration. This motion to recommit will help prioritize these educational funds to do that.

Likewise, for those who support nuclear power, especially those who feel that there is a concern of high-level nuclear waste, that we learn how to properly reprocess that fuel so we can use that to help our energy independence.

I appreciate my colleague from Oklahoma, and I hope I have my friends on the other side support this motion to recommit.

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

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, we were not given the courtesy of seeing this motion to recommit until a matter of seconds before it was introduced.

But, with that said, we will accept this motion, and we will consider it in conference where it can be considered under the light of more scrutiny.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 264, noes 154, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 256]

AYES—264

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Bachmann
Bachus
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carney
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ellsworth
Emerson
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Gene
Hall (TX)
Hare
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Hooley
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Jindal
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kind
King (IA)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Latham
LaTourette
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Melancon
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mollohan
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Ortiz
Pastor
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Skelton
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Udall (CO)
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOES—154

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boyda (KS)
Braley (IA)
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Castor
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Crowley
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Ehlers
Ellison
Emanuel
Engel
Farr
Filner
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Langevin
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Matsui
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Michaud
Miller, George
Mitchell
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Obey
Olver
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Price (NC)
Rangel
Reichert
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walsh (NY)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu

NOT VOTING—14

Bilbray
Brady (PA)
Clarke
Cubin
Davis, Jo Ann
Fattah
Fossella
Hastert
King (NY)
Lampson
Miller (NC)
Sutton
Westmoreland
Wynn

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1903

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. HARMAN and Messrs. BACA, PRICE of North Carolina, WALSH of New York, REICHERT, MITCHELL, GILCHREST, MEEHAN, HOYER and EMANUEL changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. SENSENBRENNER, GONZALEZ, CUMMINGS and BUYER changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to recommit was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to instructions of the House on the motion to recommit, I report the bill, H.R. 363, back to the House with an amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment:

Page 5, line 19, insert '', giving priority to grants to expand domestic energy production and use through coal-to-liquids technology and advanced nuclear reprocessing'' after ''mission of the Department''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment.

The amendment was 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. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 397, nays 20, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 257]

YEAS—397

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Ferguson
Filner
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gerlach
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jindal
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—20

Akin
Barrett (SC)
Blackburn
Campbell (CA)
Duncan
Feeney
Flake
Franks (AZ)
Garrett (NJ)
Hensarling
Johnson, Sam
Lamborn
Manzullo
Paul
Pence
Rohrabacher
Royce
Sali
Shadegg
Tancredo

NOT VOTING—15

Bilbray
Brady (PA)
Clarke
Cubin
Davis, Jo Ann
Fattah
Fossella
Gilchrest
Hastert
King (NY)
Lampson
Sullivan
Sutton
Westmoreland
Wynn

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1912

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title was amended so as to read: ''A bill to authorize programs for support of the early career development of science and engineering researchers, and for support of graduate fellowships, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 362, 10,000 TEACHERS, 10 MILLION MINDS SCIENCE AND MATH SCHOLARSHIP ACT

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to conform the table of contents to the text of H.R. 362.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 363, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1332, SMALL BUSINESS LENDING IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110–108) on the resolution (H. Res. 330) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1332) to improve the access to capital programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 249, WILD FREE-ROAMING HORSES AND BURROS SALE AND SLAUGHTER PROHIBITION

Ms. SLAUGHTER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110–109) on the resolution (H. Res. 331) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 249) to restore the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1591, U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' HEALTH, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110–110) on the

resolution (H. Res. 332) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1591) making energy supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 96th anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

On March 24, 1915, 300 Armenian leaders were rounded up and deported and killed under the orders from the young Turk Government. And so began the genocide that lasted for 7 years, resulting in an estimated over 1.5 million Armenian deaths. To this day, unfortunately, the Turkish Government denies that this occurred.

Ladies and gentlemen, Members of the House, I just returned from Darfur with a group of our colleagues 2 weeks ago. Over 450,000 people have been killed and millions displaced in Darfur; yet government officials claim there in Darfur and Sudan that there is no genocide, that the situation is overblown.

Yesterday Rwanda, today Darfur. And we can remember the Holocaust. Clearly, silence is genocide's best ally. It is time that the Congress end this silence and pass the Armenian genocide resolution. The message will be clear: the United States of America will never forget and never stand for those who support genocide.

□ 1915

PROTECT IMPORTANT TAX RELIEF

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to express my concern that Democrats will not extend tax relief measures critical to the American people. Residents in my State are at risk. Floridians currently have the ability to deduct their sales tax from their Federal tax returns. However, this deduction expires after 2007.

As Democrats set the agenda for the coming year, there is talk of offsetting increases in Federal spending by raising taxes for millions of Americans. Frankly, I worry that they will use this important provision to pay for additional spending.

Listen up America: Congress needs to make sure that taxpayers do not face unnecessary tax increases. I appeal to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure that our constituents can keep more of their hard-earned money.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee). 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.

DO NOT FORGET IMPRISONED TEXAS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

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. Mr. Speaker, today is the 98th day since a great injustice took place in this country. On January 17, 2007, two U.S. Border Patrol agents entered Federal prison to begin serving 11 and 12 year sentences respectively.

Agents Compean and Ramos were convicted last spring for shooting a Mexican drug smuggler who brought 743 pounds of marijuana across our border into Texas. These agents never should have been prosecuted, yet the U.S. Attorney's Office prosecuted the agents and granted immunity to the drug smuggler, who claimed he was unarmed. The illegal drug smuggler received full medical care in El Paso, Texas, was permitted to return to Mexico, and is suing the Border Patrol for $5 million for violating his civil rights.

Mr. Speaker, he is not an American citizen. He is a criminal.

The same U.S. Attorney's Office in western Texas also prosecuted another law enforcement officer, Deputy Sheriff Gilmer Hernandez, who was doing his job to protect the American people. This makes no sense. Citizens across this country and many of us in Congress want to know why does the Federal prosecutor in western Texas choose to go after law enforcement officers while protecting illegal aliens who commit crimes.

The American people have not forgotten agents Ramos and Compean, who should never have been sentenced to jail. Instead, they should be commended for trying to protect the American people. I encourage citizens across this country to continue calling the White House and asking the President to use his authority to immediately pardon these two heroes.

Many of us in Congress are concerned about the Federal prosecutor in this case and the justification for the criminal charges brought against these agents. Senate Judiciary chairman PATRICK LEAHY has already approved Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN's request for an investigation of this case; and just last week in testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Attorney General Gonzales responded to Senator JOHN CORNYN's call for an oversight hearing by promising to fully cooperate.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that the House, under the leadership of House Judiciary chairman JOHN CONYERS, will soon hold hearings to look into this injustice.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the House will continue to encourage the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. CONYERS, to look into this case, and I ask the American people to continue to call the White House and to complain about this injustice.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF DAVID HALBERSTAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, yesterday this Nation lost one of its most gifted journalists and authors in a car accident in California, David Halberstam.

As a reporter for The New York Times, his coverage of the Vietnam War earned him a Pulitzer Prize and the enduring respect of his colleagues. This man embodied the spirit of a thoughtful, free, and independent press.

President Kennedy was so frustrated by the truth of his reporting on Vietnam that he once called The New York Times and demanded David be fired. The New York Times did not back down, and neither did David. He was labeled unpatriotic because the stories he wrote did not flatter the administration. But he reported what he saw, regardless of the consequences. Now we see the value of his great insight in the history of that conflict.

I have often said that without the members of the press, the civil rights movement would have been like a bird without wings. In David's reporting at the Nashville Tennessean and later in his book on the Nashville student movement, called ''The Children,'' he delivered the message of injustice in the South.

We trusted David. We knew that he was determined to report the truth. We trusted that he would get the story right, and we believed he would be fair. He was deeply moved and affected by the dizzy dint, the commitment and the dedication of the young people in the Nashville student movement because they were prepared to face violence with non-violence and peace.

I feel that we have lost one of the greatest minds in America, who understood the deepest ramification of violence and war. I only wish that he were here today for Members of this body to consult as we try to find answers in Iraq.

David was a sympathetic referee in the cause of civil rights and social justice. He helped convince the Nation that the price of segregation and racial discrimination was too high. He used his pad and his pen to answer the calling of his conscience. He stood up for what he believed to be right.

This Nation will always be indebted to him and people like him, who are

willing to speak the truth regardless of the consequences.

I have known David for almost 50 years. In him the Nation has lost one of its prolific writers, but I feel like I have lost a very good friend. I feel like I have lost a companion in the struggle for civil rights and social justice in America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PREDATORY LENDING PRACTICES IN THE SUBPRIME MORTGAGE INDUSTRY

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 express my deep concern with regard to predatory lending practices in the subprime mortgage industry and to emphasize the need for Congress to act swiftly in addressing this critical issue.

Owning a home is an essential component of the American Dream. Simply put, homeownership has the power to transform lives. I still remember the day 45 years ago when my family first moved into our own home. I was only 10 years old, but I will never forget that momentous event.

Homeownership changed life for me and my seven brothers and sisters. We were able to go to better schools, and our family was able to build wealth. Over the years, my parents worked hard to make the mortgage payments every month, building equity, and eventually paying it off. My mother at 81 still lives in that house, mortgage-free. Because my parents invested in their home, my mother can now live out her final years in dignity and with a sense of security.

Every American family deserves the benefits of homeownership that transformed my life. That is why I am outraged by reports of predatory lending practices in the subprime mortgage industry and the upsurge in foreclosures that have occurred as a result thereof.

The national foreclosure rate has been increasing at an alarming rate. According to RealtyTrac, a realty research firm, foreclosures increased by 42 percent from 2005 to 2006, to 1.2 million. That translates into one foreclosure for every 92 households.

Much has been made of the impact these foreclosures will have on Wall Street. However, I am equally concerned with the impact that they will have on the hundreds of thousands of Americans who are losing their homes.

Increasing foreclosures are directly related to the subprime mortgage industry, which has grown from less than 8 percent of the total mortgage market in 2001 to approximately 20 percent of the market today. Subprime mortgages, which target borrowers with low credit scores, often cost more than prime mortgages, and include terms that allow payments to balloon or grow exponentially over time.

Predatory lending practices are common in the subprime mortgage industry, where borrowers are more likely to either have limited options available to them or be unaware of their options. Disturbingly, African Americans and Latinos are more likely to get higher rates than white borrowers with the same qualifications, and borrowers over the age of 65 have five times the odds of receiving a subprime loan than younger borrowers.

This trend is illustrated in the congressional district that I represent, the Seventh Congressional District of Maryland.

If you look at these maps, it is clear. In the map on the left, the red indicates the concentration of low-income African American and Latino populations. In the map on the right, the red area is the highest concentration of subprime loans.

Note that the two areas are nearly identical, indicating that subprime loans in the Seventh District are more likely to be given to African Americans and Latinos and lower-income people. This is simply unconscionable. Somebody is making big bucks off of vulnerable families in my district who are losing their homes. For those of us who remember redlining, this is simply more of the same. We must end discrimination in lending practices now.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude by urging my colleagues to continue to work on this issue. Today I introduced a resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that issues related to the subprime market must be addressed.

Specifically, the legislation identifies the following goals for reform: strengthening Federal regulations, banning unfair and deceptive practices, requiring lenders to establish a borrower's ability to pay, increasing the disclosure of alternative mortgage products, reducing or eliminating the prepayment penalty, eliminating mandatory arbitration, identifying brokers and lenders with high rates of foreclosure, and mandating preloan counseling.

As a member of the Baltimore Home Ownership Preservation Coalition and the Joint Economic Committee, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution and join with our chairman of the Committee on Financial Services, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), in addressing this critical issue.

Finally, I want to thank all of my colleagues who have come to the floor this evening to address this issue.

□ 1930

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.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PREDATORY LENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, American families are hardworking, good people and deserve financial security. American families do not deserve to have their physical, emotional and financial security compromised by predatory lending practices engaged in by the subprime mortgage industry.

Subprime mortgage lending includes a wide range of loan products. What these loans have in common is they are marketed to hardworking people made vulnerable by credit scores that disqualify them from traditional loans, or who have limited credit history, thereby limiting their borrowing power.

Subprime lending is associated with significantly higher levels of foreclosure than prime lending. Subprime lenders make excessive mortgage loans of up to $1 million, and often the borrower can obtain ''cash out'' refinancing. Additionally, subprime lenders offer 100 percent financing to those with poor or limited credit.

Subprime lenders are known for their forceful marketing techniques which have included ''stated income'' loans in which the borrower is not required to provide documentation. This places American families in danger of borrowing a substantially greater amount that what is reasonably affordable and places them in danger of being unable to meet their mortgage payments.

These predatory lending practices are forcing large numbers of American families into foreclosure. Said another way, American families are losing their homes, homes they worked hard for. They are enduring undue stress and emotional instability when confronted with this prospect.

In 2002, approximately 2.2 million American families who had borrowed money from a subprime lender had either lost their home to foreclosure or were thought to be in danger of foreclosure. The Center for Responsible Lending conducted a study in which they found that millions of American households will lose their homes and as much as $164 billion due to foreclosures in the subprime market.

In Ohio, my home State, Ohio leads the Nation in the rate of foreclosure.

Ohio's foreclosure rate is roughly three times the national rate, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association.

Cuyahoga County, which includes Cleveland, my hometown, had 11,000 foreclosures in 2005, more than triple the number a decade earlier. In Cleveland in 1995, local depositories held about 60 percent of the market share of mortgages. By 2005, that number dropped to 20 percent. What has happened to my city in the past decade is a story that is reflected nationwide.

Furthermore, foreclosure has a detrimental effect on the greater community. Neighborhoods with foreclosed properties are likely to experience declining property values. These lower property values and the corresponding decline in owner equity can contribute to additional incidents of foreclosure. Foreclosed homes are often left vacant for extended periods of time and can subsequently attract crime to neighborhoods.

I began my political career as a representative in the inner city. Later I became the mayor of Cleveland, and during my tenure, Cleveland became the first city to sign the Community Reinvestment Act agreement pursuant to the newly enacted CRA of 1977. The Community Reinvestment Act was passed to prevent lending institutions from withholding home loans or insurance from communities labeled as economically risky. The act was intended to expand credit and depository services to low- and middle-income communities.

The CRA extends and clarifies the longstanding expectation by hardworking Americans that financial institutions will serve the convenience and needs of their local communities. The CRA established a regulatory regime to monitor the lending, investment and services offered by banks in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, and has resulted in significant benefits.

Lenders and community organizations have signed 428 CRA agreements totaling $4.1 trillion in reinvestment dollars between the CRA's enactment in 1977 and the beginning of 2005. The CRA has also facilitated a surge of home loans to low-income and minority households.

Despite these positive gains, significant financial problems continue to exist in low- and moderate-income communities.

When you look at a map of Cleveland, a pattern begins to emerge that is not unlike that being experienced by other communities. The pattern is this: In geographical areas where the number of subprime mortgage loans is the highest, the number of foreclosures for the same geographical area will also be high, while the number of prime loans made by depository banks will be relatively few.

Looking at the same geographical area, we find that neighborhoods experiencing these trends are predominantly African American neighborhoods. Lack of access to prime loans, a high frequency of subprime loans and a high rate of foreclosures are by no means specific to any racial group, but the pattern certainly carries an overtone of America's historic denial of equal rights based on race.

A recently published report entitled ''Paying More for the American Dream'' found that Citigroup, Countrywide, GMAC, HSBC, JP Morgan Chase, Washington Mutual and Wells Fargo all originated a substantial volume of both higher-cost subprime and lower-cost prime loans.

Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that I am proud to join my colleagues, including my friend and colleague from Cleveland, Mrs. TUBBS JONES, and I thank her for the work she has done on this issue.

American families are hard-working, good people who deserve financial security. American families do not deserve to have their physical, emotional and financial security compromised by predatory lending practices engaged in by the subprime mortgage industry.

Subprime mortgage lending includes a wide range of loan products; what these loans have in common is that they are marketed to hardworking people made vulnerable by credit scores that disqualifies them from traditional loans or who have a limited credit history thereby limiting their borrowing power.

Subprime lending is associated with significantly higher levels of foreclosure than prime lending.

Subprime lenders make accessible mortgage loans of up to $1 million and often the borrower will be able to obtain ''cash out'' refinancing. Additionally, subprime lenders offer 100 percent financing to those who have poor or limited credit.

Subprime lenders are known for their forceful marketing techniques which include ''stated income'' loans in which the barrower is not required to provide documentation supporting claims of income.

This places American families in danger of borrowing a substantially greater amount than what is reasonably affordable and places them in danger of being unable to meet their mortgage payments.

These predatory lending practices are forcing large numbers of American families into foreclosure. Said another way—American families are loosing their homes; homes that they have worked hard for. They are enduring undue stress and emotional instability when confronted with this prospect.

As 2006 came to an end, approximately 2.2 million American families who had borrowed money from a subprime lender had either lost their home to foreclosure or are thought to be in danger of foreclosure at some point in the near future.

The Center for Responsible Lending conducted a study in which they found that ''millions of American households will lose their homes and as much as $164 billion due to foreclosures in the subprime mortgage market.''

My home state of Ohio leads the nation in the rate of foreclosure. Ohio's foreclosure rate (3.3 percent) is roughly three times the national rate, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association.

Cuyahoga County, which includes Cleveland, my home town, had 11,000 foreclosures in 2005, more than triple the number a decade earlier.

In Cleveland in 1995, local depositories held about 60 percent of the market share of mortgages. By 2005, that number had dropped to 20 percent.

What has happened to my city in the past decade is a story that is reflected nationwide.

Furthermore, foreclosure has a detrimental effect on the greater community. Neighborhoods with foreclosed properties are likely to experience declining property values. These lower property values and the corresponding decline in owner equity can contribute to additional incidents of foreclosure in our communities.

Foreclosed homes are often left vacant for extended periods of time and can subsequently attract crime to our neighborhoods which further hurts our communities and threatens our families.

I began my political career as a representative of Slavic Village in the Cleveland City Council. Later I became the mayor of Cleveland and during my tenure, Cleveland became the first city to sign a Community Reinvestment Act Agreement pursuant to the newly enacted Community Reinvestment Act of 1977.

The Community Reinvestment Act, or CRA, was passed to prevent lending institutions from withholding home loans or insurance from communities labeled as economically risky.

Additionally the Act was intended to expand credit and depository services to low and middle income communities.

The Community Reinvestment Act both extends and clarifies the long standing expectation by hardworking Americans that financial institutions will serve the convenience and needs of their local communities.

The CRA established a regulatory regime to monitor the lending, investment and services offered by banks in low and moderate income neighborhoods and has resulted in significant benefits.

Lenders and community organizations have signed 428 CRA agreements totaling more than $4.1 trillion in reinvestment dollars between the CRA's enactment in 1977 and the beginning of 2005.

The CRA has also facilitated a surge of home loans to low-income and minority households.

Despite these positive gains, significant financial problems continue to exist in low and moderate income communities.

When you look at a map of Cleveland, my home town, a pattern begins to emerge that is not unlike what is being experienced by cities around the country.

The pattern is this: In geographical areas where the number of subprime mortgage loans is the highest, the number of foreclosures for the same geographical area will also be high, while the number of prime loans made by depository banks will be relatively few.

Looking at this same geographical area we find that the neighborhoods experiencing these trends are predominately African-American neighborhoods.

Lack of access to prime loans, a high frequency of subprime loans and a high rate of foreclosures are by no means specific to any racial group, but the pattern certainly carries an overtone of America's historic denial of equal rights based on race.

A recently published report entitled Paying More for the American Dream found that Citigroup, Countrywide, GMAC, HSBC, JP Morgan Chase, Washington Mutual and Wells Fargo all originated a substantial volume of both higher cost subprime and lower cost prime loans.

The report also found that for these seven lenders, the percentage of total home purchase loans to African Americans that were higher-cost was six times greater than the percentage of higher cost home purchase loans to whites. (41.1 percents vs. 6.9 percent).

Loans to Latinos that were higher-cost loans were 4.8 times greater than the percentage of higher cost home purchase loans to whites (32.8 percents vs. 6.9 percent).

In each of the cities examined, the seven lenders combined showed larger African American/white and Latino/white disparities than those exhibited in the overall lending market.

Foreclosure and discrimination in lending practices are serious problems for America's cities. We are now on the brink of a massive wave of foreclosures in this country.

Although there are a significant number of individuals and organizations working to reverse existing problems in the lending system and create viable alternatives to foreclosure and subprime mortgages, the tide will not be turned because the magnitude of the problem outstrips even the best of their abilities and efforts.

To turn the tide of foreclosure in America's cities, leadership at the federal government level is necessary as well. We must examine the problem and the steps that can be taken before it becomes bigger and beyond us all.

PREDATORY LENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to join my colleague, Mr. CUMMINGS, as he organizes this hour around predatory lending.

I rise today to speak out against the issue of predatory lending within the subprime lending industry.

I came to Congress in 1999, served on the Committee on Financial Services, and started instantly raising the issue of predatory lending practices. One of the things that we have learned is that all subprime lenders are not predatory lenders, but all predatory lenders are subprime lenders.

Let me say it again. All subprime lenders are not predatory lenders, but all predatory lenders are subprime lenders. In fact, subprime lending has been a way in which many people who have been locked out of and left out of the credit area, or having an opportunity to have credit, have been able to come in. But what has come in with that practice are these predators who prey on our communities.

I have heard from countless constituents in my district regarding this issue. As you know, as the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) said, Ohio has one of the highest rates of foreclosure in the country. Members of my community who have owned homes for years are being forced with foreclosure, after owning a home for more than 40 years in some cases.

Seniors are being affected at a disproportionate rate. Lenders prey on seniors who have been in their homes all of their lives and have a substantial amount of equity in their home. They get them on the phone and say: ''Oh, Ms. Jones, do you need a new kitchen? Oh, I can help you get a new kitchen and it won't cost you any money. But, Ms. Jones, you might need a driveway also. Let me help you out.''

And it goes on. So they enter into this agreement. They enter into these balloon and adjustable rate mortgages that look attractive and are affordable in their initial stages. However, after 2 years or more, these loans readjust to much higher payments with higher interest rates.

For instance, one of my constituents is currently in an adjustable rate mortgage which locked in a payment of $1,088 for 2 years. After 2 years, the mortgage payment increased to $1,488. And 3 months later, the payment increased to $1,715. This payment increase has had a significant impact on this individual's budget, and because they are not in a position to refinance, they are currently facing foreclosure. And that was one of the deals made in the early predatory lending situations.

''Oh, get it now. The interest rate is going to go down, and you will be able to refinance or purchase your house.'' The thing they don't say is often the appraisal far exceeds the value of the home, and if it exceeds the value of the home, by the time they get ready to refinance, they owe more on the home than the home is worth.

Creating wealth is the most fundamental goal of minorities that seek economic equity. One of the first steps towards creating wealth is home ownership. The equity from owning a home is often the only means to secure funding for a new business, college tuition or retirement. I know my girlfriend, Barbara Lee, talked about her home was the way in which she started her first business.

Predatory lending targets low-income and minority communities. It compromises the opportunity to own a home, and hinders economic stability, creating greater disparities in wealth.

Mr. KUCINICH went through a lot of the statistics with regard to predatory lending and issues that came through the Nonprofit Center for Responsible Lending, so I won't try and go after that again. But what I will say, predatory lending has expanded its reach beyond mortgage lending. Predatory practices are becoming increasingly prevalent in refund anticipation, auto and payday loans. There were over 12 million refund anticipation loan borrowers in 2003. That is where you go into the place and they say, ''Oh, you are going to file your taxes. Let me give you a loan on your taxes and you can get your money right now,'' and the interest rate is outrageous.

Tax preparers and lenders strip about $1.57 billion in fees each year from the earned income tax credit paid to working families, according to a 2005 study.

It is also estimated that predatory payday lending practices cost American families $4.2 billion annually. Understand that the reason that the payday loan people have been able to come into our community is because often some of the traditional lending institutions have left the community and people have nowhere to operate. There are people who never get a checking or credit account. They pay their bills in cash. How can that be in the United States of America, but it is true. They walk up and want to pay the phone bill and the light bill and gas bill.

Anyway, I have been hollering, screaming, dancing about this issue since 1999. It is unfortunate that the only way we come to pay attention to this issue is when it begins to have an impact or threat to corporations and financial mortgage security industries in our country.

The nonprofit Center for Responsible Lending projects that as this year ends, 2.2 million households in the subprime market will either have lost their homes to foreclosure or hold subprime mortgages that will fail over the next several years. These foreclosures will cost homeowners as much as $164 billion, primarily in lost home equity.

It is also projected that one out of five (19 percent) subprime mortgages originated during the past two years will end in foreclosure. This rate is nearly double the projected rate of subprime loans made in 2002, and it exceeds the worst foreclosure experience in the modern mortgage market, which occurred during the "Oil Patch" disaster of the 1980s.

The nonprofit Center for Responsible Lending analyzed 15.1 million subprime loans from 1998 through 2006 and found that only about 1.4 million were for first-time home buyers. Most were for refinancing. To date, more than 500,000 of those subprime borrowers have lost their homes to foreclosures. An additional 1.8 million are likely to follow as the market deteriorates. That's nearly 2.4 million lost homes.

In Ohio the foreclosure epidemic went from bad to much worse last year as the number of new cases grew by nearly 24% from 2005. Cuyahoga county led the state in new cases with 13,610 new filings last year. This ranking has attracted national attention with Ohio's foreclosure rate currently at 18% which is higher than the national average of 17%. The problem has gone from bad to worse and from worse to regress in Ohio, with $7,479 filings in February 2007 alone.

Predatory lending has expanded its reach beyond mortgage lending. Predatory practices are becoming increasingly prevalent in refund anticipation, auto, and payday loans.

There were over 12 million Refund Anticipation Loan borrowers in 2003. Tax preparers and lenders strip about $1.57 billion in fees each year from the earned-income tax credits paid to working parents, according to a 2005 study by the National Consumer Law Center.

It is also estimated that Predatory payday lending practices cost American families $4.2 billion annually. In addition, research indicates that minorities pay on average $2,000 more

per vehicle purchased than nonminorities. Predatory auto lending is taking an estimated $2 billion dollars a year out of African American communities alone.

PREDATORY LENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first let me just thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) for organizing these 5-minute speeches tonight, and for his leadership in fighting for home ownership and opportunity and against predatory lending practices.

As my colleague Congresswoman JONES just said very eloquently, it is a real shame and disgrace that we once again have to take to the floor to raise the issue of predatory and deceptive lending practices.

As many of us can attest, which you are hearing tonight once again, these practices are out of control and on the rise, and they are leaving many, many people out in the cold and in foreclosure.

The statistics regarding the current subprime lending debacle are staggering. It is estimated that bad loans have forced 1.5 million homeowners into foreclosure this year alone, according to ACORN. In 2006, the number of foreclosures stood at 2.6 million, topping the prior year total of 900,000 people. The problem is only getting worse.

The subprime industry's practice of higher rates, teaser rates, higher fees, prepayment penalties, payday loans, check cashing facilities and other unfavorable and hidden costs combine to create conditions that push homeowners into hopelessness. We must remember that foreclosures not only devastate individuals and families, but they also depress communities and decrease property values.

This does not have to be the case for many subprime customers. The assumption that subprime loans are for people who cannot qualify for a prime loan at a good rate is false. Fannie Mae, and this is really unbelievable, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have assessed that one-third to one-half of subprime borrowers could have qualified for better loan rates but were not given that option. They just weren't given that option. The education and the information were simply not provided to these customers, and I wonder why.

Regulators haven't done enough to protect consumers against predatory lending. Because of the Bush administration's lack of regulatory rigor and oversight of the subprime mortgage industry and their tendency to pander to the business industry at the expense of hardworking middle- and low-income Americans, we are in the mess we are in today.

Sadly, many of the victims of predatory lending are the elderly, single parents, and people of color. In fact, communities of color continue to be the target of predatory lenders. I call them loan sharks. They are all over my community, and these unscrupulous financial service schemes prey on the dream of home ownership and the prospect for generational wealth building.

Within the last year, investigations of real estate agents were designated by HUD for testing, they uncovered an 87 percent rate of racial steering and a 20 percent denial rate for African Americans and Latinos.

A Federal Reserve study showed that African American and Latino borrowers are more likely to receive higher cost subprime loans than their white counterparts. However, the likelihood of receiving a higher cost loan to buy a house than a white borrower for African Americans is 3.7 times more likely and for Latinos, 2.3 times more likely.

So we must put an end to this type of lending discrimination and predatory practice. Enough is enough.

Sometimes people ask me what is institutional racism. They do not quite get it. Well, let me tell you, this is a very glaring and unfortunate clear example of institutional racism, and so we must support all of the efforts by Congressman CUMMINGS and other efforts by Congressman MEL WATT, BRAD MILLER, BARNEY FRANK, members of the Financial Services Committee to put forth legislation that provides a floor, not a ceiling, for a policy such as this. We have got to face reality. That means we must take a look at these, and I just call them exotic loans, and they are exotic, and adjustable rate mortgages that soon become unaffordable, as Congresswoman TUBBS JONES said, after a couple of years.

To entice borrowers to take on risks that they may not be aware of is just plain setting them up to fail, and this is just wrong. It is a shame. It is a disgrace.

We need to provide relief, first of all, to victims of these loan sharks and protect the national economy from the consequences of a mortgage industry crisis which I believe is looming. We must act immediately to protect a generation of homeowners. They are counting on us. They deserve an opportunity to achieve the American Dream of homeownership which is quickly turning into a nightmare for many.

For the majority of Americans, like for myself, purchasing a home is the only way, I mean the only way, you can build any type of equity to be able to just send your kids to college or to buy a house or to do some of the things that you want to do, start a small business. So we have got to clamp down and we have got to clamp down hard on these loan sharks.

□ 1945

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE RALPH FORD, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to associate myself with the remarks of my former colleagues who have talked about foreclosures and predatory lending.

As a matter of fact, I also want to thank the committee that I established a few weeks ago, made up of about 50 people, including State Representative LuShawn Ford, who has agreed to chair. I come from the community that pretty much led the movement for community reinvestment in this country under the leadership of a woman named Gail Cincotta who was the head of the Organization for a Better Austin, and then Gail came to Washington and went ahead and founded the National Training and Action Committee which still exists to this day.

So I simply want to associate with those comments made by my colleagues.

But, Mr. Speaker, I really also rise with a great level of sadness to pay tribute to a good son, a good husband, a good father, a good citizen and one of Chicago's finest of the men and women in blue, Police Sergeant Ralph Ford, Jr.

It has been my pleasure and that of my wife to know the Ford family for many years. I first knew Ralph's mother, Mrs. Jacqueline Ford, when she was a pioneer community activist serving on the board of the Martin Luther King, Jr, neighborhood health center. She and my wife Vera have attended Carey Tercentenary AME Church together, and I say forever.

I first knew Ralph well when he was a young Chicago police officer. I had begun to run for public office. He was a diligent and enthusiastic volunteer who was not afraid to be associated with our campaign, even though I was running as what we call an Independent against the existing political machine.

The fact that Ralph had attended the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff added another star to his crown because I had attended the same school when it had another name, Arkansas AM&N College, before it attained university status.

Being the excellent police officer that he was, Ralph made sergeant and outdistanced many of his peers. He was jovial, a great talker, had a great personality and a wonderful sense of humor.

Family meant everything to Ralph. He was totally devoted to his wife and children, and he had a great affinity for other members of his family, and of course, he and his mother Jackie had an absolute long-standing love affair.

Of course, Ralph passed away a few days ago. Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Ralph Ford, Jr, was an absolute credit to his law enforcement profession, the apple of his wife and family's eyes and a joy to humanity. He shall be sorely missed.

SUBPRIME LENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) for reserving this time tonight to bring to the attention of the American people our deep concern about subprime lending and the rising foreclosure rate across our Nation.

Last week, we learned that the foreclosure rate jumped 47 percent in March of 2007 from just 1 year ago. Several weeks ago, Freddie Mac, which buys loans from lenders and sets underwriting standards, stopped purchasing 2/28 and 3/27 loans, or loans on which interest rates are fixed for only the first 2 years or 3 years of a 30-year loan.

Freddie Mac, recognizing the increase in number of defaults on these exotic loans because of rising rates and falling real estate prices, cut its losses short and got out of the subprime business.

Within the last month, the Nation's second largest subprime lender, New Century Financial Corporation, suspended making any new subprime loans because of the huge number of defaults on subprime mortgage loans and has since filed for bankruptcy protection. Incidentally, the executives of First Century have asked for an exit package of some $6.5 million.

Countrywide, the largest subprime lender in the United States, also has problems with its subprime and prime portfolios.

Numerous subprime lenders have been forced into bankruptcy or have been sold to larger lenders.

General Motors Acceptance Corporation is out of the subprime business altogether. The list continues to grow with each passing day.

Defaults on subprime mortgage loans have prompted investors to turn their backs on mortgage-backed securities, making it more difficult for subprime lenders to sell their loans and to raise the cash for new loans. This has created a liquidity trap for many borrowers who want to refinance out of the nontraditional mortgage products. Huge amounts of cash that once sought the high yields tied to mortgage-backed securities creating easy money for borrowers, many of whom had less than stellar credit, or lacked loan documentation, or sought zero down payment products, is no longer available. No one knows for sure what the extent of the exposure is and exactly who is exposed because the way mortgages are packaged into pools and sold to investors makes it difficult to determine who owns the loans and how much money is lost.

One estimate by Lehman Brothers suggests that approximately $19 billion in losses are parked in loan pools put together in 2005, 2006 and this year, representing 5.5 percent of all mortgages.

The Center for Responsible Lending December 2006 report entitled, ''Losing Ground: Foreclosures in the Subprime Market and Their Cost to Homeowners,'' documents the relationship between subprime lending and foreclosures and suggests that by the end of 2006, 2.2 million households in the subprime market either will have lost their homes to foreclosure or hold subprime mortgages that will fail over the next several years. These foreclosures will cost homeowners as much as $164 billion, primarily in home equity.

One out of five, or 20 percent, of the subprime mortgages originated during the first 2 years will end in foreclosure. So rather than wealth creation that we expect with homeownership, we will witness wealth evaporation tied to foreclosures.

Federal regulators issued guidance last year acknowledging that subprime loans were a problem. The guidance speaks to loans where the rates can change dramatically after the second or third year of the mortgage, such as from 7 percent to 11.5 percent. That guidance suggests that lenders be required to take into account the borrower's ability to make monthly payments at higher rates and also property taxes and homeowners insurance which are often not escrowed in the subprime loans.

I applaud the guidance, but what we really need is for there to be forbearance on the part of lenders while we get this mess straightened out and before it leads to something catastrophic in the financial markets. It has already spilled over into the home building industry, and the fallout is far from over.

Congress must still balance the interest of assisting home buyers who are low- and moderate-income first-time buyers, while ensuring that they avoid the pitfalls of the subprime market and that they have safe options. Providing assistance to existing subprime borrowers who are in danger of losing their homes is key.

I believe that FHA modernization is part of the solution, and so we will mark up H.R. 1852, the Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007, a bill that I have introduced, next week in the Committee on Financial Services. Reasonable workout plans represent another mechanism that can assist homeowners from falling into foreclosure.

In effect, the lenders know that they are better off not losing these borrowers to foreclosure since it is very costly to the lenders. It only creates a ripple effect in the communities where the properties are located, creating vacancies, blight, arson and other social ills. In addition, the cycle of predatory lending activity continues with investors purchasing foreclosed property at depressed prices only to turn around and sell the properties quickly at inflated prices.

I have asked Freddie to take a look at prohibiting the use of its resources to finance this type of mortgage lending.

A big plus is that Freddie Mac just took proactive steps, announcing that it will make $20 billion available to assist borrowers by the summer with refinancing. Fannie Mae will join this effort. I can not predict what will happen in the subprime lending market, but I do believe that we can stem the tide of foreclosures by working closely with Freddie, Fannie and the lenders. One thing that I do know is that we will have to correct this problem if the markets can not fix it. We can not sit by and watch Americans, many through no fault of their own, lose their homes. Every time there is a victim to foreclosure, the rate of homeownership in American falls and the gap between the rich and the poor worsens. No one wants to reverse the progress that we have made in this country on homeownership, certainly not me.

OUT IN THE COLD: OHIOANS HIT HARDEST BY HOME FORECLOSURES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WILSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, being from Ohio and speaking on this issue is really quite easy because Ohio leads the Nation in predatory lending and in foreclosures, an unfortunate statistic that we are not proud of.

As a new Member of Congress and one that has worked very hard in the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate to pass legislation against predatory lending, I feel it a real calling to be one who speaks up strongly here in the Congress on the same type of issue that people are being taken advantage of in a big way.

So, Mr. Speaker, Ohio's working families are paying the price, and in many cases, they are paying with their homes. In fact, Ohio leads the Nation, as I said, in foreclosures.

In my district, Mr. Speaker, in southeastern Ohio, from the suburbs of Youngstown to the small rural communities along the West Virginia and the Kentucky borders, predatory lenders are targeting honest Ohioans who only want one thing: they want a chance to purchase a home of their own and live the American Dream.

For millions who struggle with bad credit, these subprime and adjustable rate mortgages seem like the perfect opportunity to correct their problems. But in reality, when it sets in, it is the worst solution that they could choose.

Rates begin to skyrocket, late fees pile up, and before long it is too late. Too many families are losing their homes to foreclosure. Too many families are being left out in the cold.

The numbers are alarming. These subprime loans account for 63 percent of Ohio's foreclosures.

Mr. Speaker, this is a problem that has spread far beyond Ohio to our

major cities all across America. In fact, two-thirds of the subprime loans are used in non-urban areas as well.

Today's working families are being challenged in so many ways. While wages stay flat or decline, we have seen people's gas prices and health care costs continue to soar. It's time that our working families finally get the relief they deserve, and taking on predatory lenders has to be a part of the solution.

As a member of the Senate, as I said, I joined colleagues to work on Ohio's predatory lending laws. I work on this important issue here in Washington also, because I believe it's an important one for the people of this country.

One of the things I did was to take a first step in introducing House Resolution 1723. It's a bill that I introduced that targets FHA home loans. It clearly outlines unacceptable practices that could be used in an attempt to influence an appraisal on a home. It also puts in place a blind draw, a system that would randomly select the appraiser, rather than having loan companies have favorites that they use to make unrealistic appraisals.

Ensuring that homes are appraised fairly is an important piece of the puzzle. Many borrowers cannot refinance or sell to avoid defaulting because their property is not worth what they owe on the home. Too often, the original mortgage is based on the inflated appraisal, and H.R. 1723 will keep that from happening when it comes to FHA loans.

Families across the Nation are now feeling the kind of pain that we in Ohio have suffered; 2.2 million subprime home loans made in recent years have already failed, or will in foreclosure. These foreclosures will cost homeowners as much as $164 million, and that figure only begins to describe the cost to the families.

Our sons and daughters, our mothers and fathers, are losing their homes, and in the process they are losing their hold on the American dream. Our working families deserve real relief, not just empty words.

I urge this Congress to take a strong stand on predatory lending. We must make sure that Americans' dream of home ownership does not turn into a nightmare for even more families.

□ 2000

SUBPRIME LENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the best news for the American middle class is our home ownership rates. Wages are stagnant for the middle class. They are not keeping up with inflation. Health care costs just keep going up. Folks do not know what their health insurance is going to pay for until they get sick. They don't know if their pension is really going to be there when it comes time for them to retire, or their employers take a quick dip in bankruptcy so they can short the promises they made to their employees.

Almost 70 percent of American families own their own homes. We heard Mr. CUMMINGS speak just a few minutes ago, powerfully, of what it meant to his family when he was 10 years old and they bought a home for the first time.

The deed to a home is the membership card in the middle class. For the middle class, the equity they build in their home becomes the bulk of their life savings. What they build by paying a mortgage faithfully month after month becomes the bulk of their life savings.

When they need to borrow money, when they have one of life's rainy days, when they want to send the kids to college, or someone in the family gets sick, or they lose their job or they go through a divorce, or they need to repair their homes or they get in over their head in credit card debt, they have to borrow money against their homes. Too often when they borrow money against their homes, they are having their trust betrayed.

Several Members tonight have talked about subprime lending as lending that goes to those who have problems with their credit. Some is, but more of it, more of it, has to do with who places it with which borrowers, which homeowners put their trust in the wrong people and have their trust betrayed. According to Freddie Mac, a quarter of mortgages, subprime mortgages, are made to people who qualified for prime loans, who didn't have problems with their credit, but they went to the wrong person and they had their trust betrayed.

Subprime loans, or predatory loans, take fees and costs that cannot be justified by the cost of the loan or the risks that are posed that the borrower will not make their payments. Those loans strip equity and steal the life savings of the borrower. Lenders even pay more to brokers who bring them loans where the borrower has agreed to pay more than what they qualified for based upon their own credit history and what they own of their home, their equity in their home.

They put borrowers in loans, in mortgages, they cannot possibly pay back. They will have to refinance again so they can flip the loan. They will have to come back again, often having to pay a prepayment penalty to get out of a bad loan so they can refinance again. They are teaser rates. They are only good for a couple, 3 years, and then the rates are adjusted.

For many borrowers, they can qualify for the teaser rate, but they can't possibly pay their monthly payment when it goes up by 50 percent or more, as happens too often. They refinance again, and every time they refinance, they lose more of their equity in their home. They lose more of their life savings.

People who are in the subprime market for as much as a decade, for as much as 10 years, they have an almost 1 in 3 chance of losing their home to foreclosure. When they lose their home to foreclosure, they lose their membership in the middle class. They fall back into poverty, probably for the rest of their lives.

I have introduced in the last two Congresses, with Mr. WATT from North Carolina, my colleague, and Mr. FRANK, the chairman of the Financial Services Committee, legislation that is based upon successful State laws that protect homeowners from those kinds of abuses, those kinds of predatory loans, and this has not prevented there being good availability of good mortgages, sound mortgages, mortgages that help folks build wealth, not steals their wealth from them.

We need to do a great deal more now to help the people who are facing foreclosure right now, who are facing losing their homes, who are facing falling from the middle class for the rest of their lives. Businesses can go into bankruptcy. They can have obligations, promises they made with their eyes wide open, written. But a middle-class homeowner cannot go into bankruptcy and have a mortgage rewritten, adjusted, mortgages that they entered when their trust was betrayed.

The American middle class needs someone to be on their side. They are facing an uncertain world. They are facing an insecure world where what they need to know is there for them, that they can own their home, that they can pay off their home and live out the balance of their lives in a home that is theirs outright. They need that certainty. They need to know health care is there. They need to know that their pension is there. They need someone on their side.

This Congress needs to be on their side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE OCCUPATION OF IRAQ: THE VOICES OF AMERICA'S CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, like all of my colleagues, I have received thousands of e-mails, letters, faxes and

phone calls about the ongoing occupation of Iraq. So many of them are touching, and they are impassioned. They urge me, they call on me, and they even beg me to get the administration to bring our troops home, and to allow the Iraqis to restore the security of their Nation.

Last week I received a set of letters that stood out among all of them, from Ms. Rene King's students at Sheppard School in Santa Rosa, California. Most of the children are 9 through 13 years old, yet their thoughts are mature and beyond their age. In fact, their words speak so much truth, a truth which we can absolutely not ignore.

From Marcos, 10 years old, ''Can you please stop the war in Iraq? Because the people in Iraq aren't safe. Their villages and houses are destroyed. I do not like fighting.''

From Arturo, 11 years old. ''Can you please stop the war in Iraq? There is a lot of killing, a lot of people have died. People want to get out of fighting. I feel sad when people die.''

From Freddy, 11 years old. ''Can you please stop the war in Iraq? I do not like fighting and killing people. Some people are dead. Don't send my people, please. We don't like to fight all the people. The people are sad. We need to save money for poor people here in America. Ms. King (my teacher) is sad. Stop sending people into the war.''

From Tony, 11 years old. ''Can you please stop the war in Iraq? There are a lot of sad and crying families. I feel sad in our country. I don't like when people are mad at our country. I do not feel safe and other people do not feel safe.''

From Genaro, age 13, ''Can you please stop the war in Iraq? There is a lot of killing. More than 3,000 Americans have died. Stop sending people to the war. We need to save the money for poor people here in America.''

From Yovany, age 12, ''Can you please stop the war in Iraq? There is a lot of killing. We need to save money for the poor people. More than 600,000 Iraqis have died. Please stop sending people to the war.''

From Jose, 10 years old. ''Can you please stop the war in Iraq? The people of Iraq aren't safe in their villages, and houses are destroyed. More than 3,000 Americans have died. Please stop sending people to war.''

From Tomas, age 9, ''Can you please stop the war in Iraq? There is a lot of killing. A lot of people have died. More than 3,000 Americans have died. Families are being broken apart.''

From Steven, age 12. ''Can you stop the war, please? A lot of people have died. Please, I don't like wars. No one feels safe. If you keep sending soldiers, more people will be sad.''

One student, Angelina, wrote directly to the President, and here is what she wrote. ''I think you are making a big mistake. I like you, but your choices make me mad. You need to ask your people about war. I know these people said they will serve the Army. They never said they wanted to die there. If you were ever able to run again, Mr. President, I would not vote for you. I wish I could say you are helping, but you are not. There is another way to handle things other than guns and bombs. I think you should be more like Martin Luther King, Jr., Mr. President. He thought there was another way to handle things than war. I think the United States needs a different President.''

These words are honest, these words are true. If only more people listen to the children, the future of this Nation may be different. What a better world we could be living in.

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AMERICANS WITHOUT HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCHWARTZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, the United States is the world's leading, industrial Nation. We are the wealthiest Nation in the world, and we are a country at the cutting edge of medicine and health care, leading the world in discovery of new medicines, treatments and methods of care.

Yet we are a Nation that, despite spending the most per capita on health care, has some of the highest rates of infant mortality, the lowest rates of life expectancy, and the highest proportion of uninsured, when compared to other industrialized nations. We are a Nation where nearly 45 million Americans do not have health insurance. We are a Nation where over one-half of all uninsured are adults working full time, and we are a Nation where 9 million children are without health coverage.

Too many Americans, too many hardworking families, too many children, are without care and they are suffering the consequences. Democrats believe something must be done, and Democrats will lead our Nation in a new direction. We have solutions to drive down the cost of care. We have a plan to expand health coverage opportunities for working families, for small businesses, and for the self-employed. We understand that we must provide Americans with access to affordable health care, and we will start with America's children.

America's uninsured children are twice as likely to forego needed care. They are more likely to use costly emergency services for routine care, and they are more likely to miss school and to underperform, compared to their peers who have health coverage. America's uninsured children come from working families. Six million children have at least one parent who works full time.

America's population of uninsured children is growing. Last year, for the first time since 1998, the number of uninsured children in our country has increased. This trend is alarming, it is unacceptable, and it cannot continue.

That is why Democrats are committed to continuing and expanding the State Children's Health Insurance Program, which is commonly known as SCHIP, by reauthorizing this initiative and dedicating an additional $50 billion over the next 5 years so that we can expand coverage to qualified families. This is a significant and wise investment, and it demonstrates that we as a Nation understand why health coverage matters for families, for the healthy development of children, and for the continued economic competitiveness of our Nation.

More than 14 years ago, the Pennsylvania State legislature enacted legislation establishing one of the Nation's first state-supported public/private children's health insurance initiatives for children of working families. I authored this proposal and I championed its enactment. This is one of my proudest accomplishments in my years of public service. I am proud of this effort not only because it led to a dramatic increase in the access to care for Pennsylvania's children, but also because it inspired Federal action.

Five years after Pennsylvania enacted its CHIP program, the U.S. Congress recognized that providing America's children health coverage is one of the most cost-effective worthwhile investments we can use as a Nation. So using Pennsylvania's law as a model, we enacted SCHIP. SCHIP has been an unqualified success, which is why the Democratic-led Congress wants to significantly strengthen it, and Governors like Ed Rendell of Pennsylvania want to expand it. Unfortunately, President Bush does not.

The President's budget did not include funding to even maintain coverage for those children already enrolled in SCHIP. It would also severely restrict those children who qualify for SCHIP. At a time when there is broad bipartisan support for moving forward and expanding our efforts to cover more children, sadly the President wants to move us backwards and cover fewer children.

Mr. Speaker, every child in America deserves access to health care. Our children deserve access to primary doctors who will help make sure that they enter school healthy and ready to learn, and that their hardworking parents deserve the ability to afford the insurance that provides for their care.

We have a plan to insure all of America's children. I look forward to working with my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans alike, to enact this top priority for this Democratic Congress and for America's families.

HEALTH CARE UNINSURED AWARENESS WEEK

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, this is Health Care Uninsured Awareness Week. The number of Americans without health insurance has grown about 5 million since President Bush took office. The health care crisis is America's single largest domestic issue, but the President has offered Band-Aids to cover his lack of leadership. And the people have noticed. Nine out of ten Americans told a recent CBS/New York Times poll that the American health care system needs to be completely rebuilt.

Today, the number of Americans without any health insurance surpasses the combined population of 24 U.S. States: Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming. That is the population without health insurance.

But the crisis is even worse than that. Millions of Americans are underinsured, and millions more can't afford the copay, or have to fight constant battles with the big drug companies and the HMOs.

In Seattle, my congressional district, here is what one constituent wrote to Health Care for All Washington, one of the organizations I work closely with:

''My dad has prostate cancer and has taken a turn for the worse. We had to postpone a quarterly injection of his drug because we are having trouble with the health insurance over the cost of the drug. It has been extremely frustrating as the insurance company has the drug in the wrong category. They sent us a letter admitting as much, but every 3 months we have to fight with them again, anywhere from $180 to $1,800. Anyway, since we postponed it, my dad has suffered.''

Does that sound familiar?

The pain inflicted by the health care crisis is hurting families across the United States. According to the Census Bureau, almost one-third of Latinos are uninsured, one-fifth of African Americans, 15 percent of children, 18 percent of full-time employees, and 11 percent of middle-class families.

In other words, only the rich can afford to live without risk. Only the rich are immune, because they have been coddled by the Republican-imposed income tax shelters that can pay for health care. Every other American is one layoff, one major accident, one major illness or divorce away from being uninsured and facing financial ruin.

Since the President took office, health care premiums have risen 87 percent. Have your wages gone up that much?

Here is another personal story from a letter: ''I have always worked and I have never taken welfare or asked for help from anyone. Last month, I was diagnosed with follicular lymphoma. There is no cure for this slow-moving cancer. I will not be able to buy health insurance now because I have a preexisting condition. Even if I can find it somewhere, I would not be able to afford the big premiums. The only solution I can come up with is to leave America and move to another nation where I can get health care coverage.''

When American citizens consider leaving the country as the only viable option, that is not a solution, that is an indictment of a failure to act. The only solution to America's health care crisis is a single payer, universal health care system. We have tried everything else except the right idea.

Under H.R. 1200, my bill, every American would be guaranteed a package of benefits. States would administer their own programs, with decisions made closest to the patient. The health care system today is all about profits, not patients. My bill would put patients back in charge. It would provide predictable and lower cost for American businesses, and everyone would be covered.

The special interests have run the health care system into the ground, and millions of Americans have been ground into financial ruin as a result. The single most common cause for going into bankruptcy in this country is health care costs.

America stands virtually alone in the industrialized world in not caring for its citizens, and being a loner is insensitive, incomprehensible, and intolerable. If all we do is read these poignant stories and ring our hands, we will turned our backs on the people who elected us to serve them by leading. It is time to pass universal health care. We can do it, but it will take some leadership in the White House. Unfortunately, we may have to wait until 2009 to get a President who understands that all Americans should be protected with health insurance.

THE WAR IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to come before my colleagues and those that might be looking in to speak about the war in Iraq.

We have heard colleagues speak about the issue tonight in poignant and, no doubt, sincere terms. Mostly, the words of my Democrat colleagues register their objection to the ongoing war in Iraq, and that is expected, as Democrats will prepare to bring to the floor of the House of Representatives by this weekend a war spending bill that will include timetables for withdrawal that will add unconstitutional provisions which will necessitate the beginning of troop withdrawals by July 2007, with the goal of ending U.S. combat operations no later than March of 2008.

I want to leave for a little later, Mr. Speaker, the discussion of whether or not Congress has the constitutional authority that will be contemplated in this legislation, but for now I want to speak specifically to the state of the war. And I want to say, as President Bush said yesterday in the Oval Office, this is a tough time in Iraq.

In my role as the ranking Republican member of the Middle East Subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs Committee here in the House of Representatives, I am regularly and routinely briefed both about our surge strategy, the efforts of U.S. and coalition and Iraqi forces on the ground, and of course regularly briefed on the efforts of insurgents and al Qaeda and those attempting to foment sectarian violence and to generate a civil war in Iraq. It is a tough time in Iraq.

This week, we will hear from our commander in Baghdad. General David Petraeus is on Capitol Hill as we speak, preparing to meet tomorrow with Members of the United States House of Representatives to present his report on the progress of the surge. And that is specifically what I want to speak about tonight, because, Mr. Speaker, I suspect my colleagues will hear tomorrow what I heard from General David Petraeus in Baghdad just 3 weeks ago when I traveled with colleagues in the House and Senate to tour literally the streets of Baghdad and to tour our progress in Ramadi and in al-Anbar province.

I believe what General Petraeus will tell our colleagues on Capitol Hill tomorrow is that despite a recent wave of insurgent and horrific bombings, this war is not lost. In fact, because of the President's surge and the brave and courageous conduct of American soldiers on the ground and brave Iraqis on the ground, we are making modest progress in Iraq in the early months of this surge.

But, as General Petraeus will say, while Congress will this week contemplate embracing a resolution that will be built upon the predicate that the war is lost, in fact there is evidence that this new surge strategy both in Baghdad and in the al-Anbar province are beginning to have a good effect.

In Baghdad, for instance, as I will chronicle tonight, despite recent and horrific bombings, sectarian violence is down significantly in the past 2 months. Baghdad is not safe, but it is safer because of the deployment of more than two dozen U.S. and Iraqi joint operating centers throughout the city. And now, perhaps most compellingly, in the al-Anbar province in Ramadi, more than 20 of the Sunni sheik leaders have come together to form what they call the Iraq Awakening Movement. For the first time ever, Sunni leadership in the al-Anbar province are standing with the American soldier and with the government of Nouri al-Maliki.

Again, let me say, this is a tough time in Iraq. But we are in the midst of

a strong backlash and counterattacks by insurgency in al Qaeda. We are beginning to see the seedlings of hope in that war-torn country. I truly believe we are making progress precisely because of the President's surge strategy.

This war is not lost. And before I close tonight, I will reflect on my heartfelt sentiment that I believe the American people know that victory is our only option in Iraq, and I will urge this Congress to give General Petraeus not only a willing ear tomorrow but also the time, the resources, and the authority under his Commander in Chief to secure a victory for freedom in Iraq.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the skepticism of my colleagues on this point and perhaps even the skepticism of some who would be looking in tonight. So let me stick tonight not so much with rhetoric or semantics, but let's just talk about the facts on the ground in Baghdad. Because it seems to me just, not as a Congressman, but as an American, that most of the facts that I get in the popular debate in America in the mainstream media have to do with the horrific counterattacks that insurgents and al Qaeda are conducting in response to the surge.

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But I want to focus tonight, in the time that I have been allotted, on the products of the surge, both militarily, both with regard to security in Baghdad and in Ramadi, where I visited just 3 short weeks ago, and also, in the political process which we all know ultimately holds the solution to our impasse in Iraq.

Let me begin by saying, first and foremost, despite the difficulty of our challenge in Iraq, we are seeing positive indicators under the President's new strategy that we hope will turn into positive trends.

General Petraeus has been carrying out this new strategy now for just over 2 months. He will not have the full complement of U.S. forces and reinforcements on the ground in Baghdad for several months yet, which makes all the more questionable those who would be prepared at this point to announce withdrawal before the surge has been even fully implemented in Iraq.

Iraqi and American forces are making incremental gains, specifically in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad. And let me emphasize, President's strategy, from the first time he outlined it to the Nation, from the time, a few days before that what I and a handful of Members were in the Cabinet Room and the President described his strategy for a surge of military reinforcements.

This is not about sending in enough forces to provide military control of the entire country of Iraq. President's strategy, the so-called surge, actually found its origin in the Iraq Study Group report, which, if memory serves, on page 74 in the published edition, actually said that, and I quote, that the Iraq Study Group said that they would support a temporary increase in forces or a surge in U.S. forces in Baghdad to quell violence in the capital city, to make possible a political solution.

Now, I know in the past, and perhaps even before the end of this week, many of my colleagues who oppose the war will cite glowingly the Iraq Study Group. But I will take whatever opportunity I have, informally or formally, to respectfully point them to that page of the Iraq Study Group report. The President's surge is a military strategy designed to quell violence in the capital city of Baghdad, and, to no less extent, in Ramadi and the al-Anbar Province.

The belief is that if we can, U.S. and Iraqi forces in the lead, if we can quell violence in the capital city, we can create an environment where the political process and a political settlement and, ultimately, regionally a diplomatic settlement can take hold. And there is some evidence that that surge strategy is beginning, just beginning to deliver on the security that will make that political and diplomatic settlement possible. The most significant element, therefore, of the new strategy is being carried out in Baghdad.

Baghdad, it is widely known, was the site of most of the sectarian violence in Iraq, and therefore it is the destination for most of our reinforcements. At this point there are three additional American brigades that have reached the Iraqi capital, and while another is in Kuwait preparing to deploy, one more will arrive next month.

The Iraq Government, for its part, when I am home in Indiana I am asked a lot about what are Iraqis doing for their own security as a part of this surge and as a part of this war. Well, the Iraqi Government is meeting its pledge to boost force levels in Baghdad.

Here is a jarring statistic, Mr. Speaker. For every U.S. combat soldier deployed in Baghdad, there are now roughly three Iraqi military forces deployed in Baghdad. Let me say that again. For every one American combat force, for every American soldier, combat soldier deployed in Baghdad, there are now roughly three soldiers as a part of the Iraq Security Force deployed in Baghdad.

And American troops are now living and working side by side with Iraqi forces. I actually had the chance to see it firsthand in our trip to Baghdad; in fact, our trip to a joint operating center with General David Petraeus on April 1. These neighborhood small outposts are called joint security stations.

In fact, on this map, Mr. Speaker, we see the coalition's forward operating bases in the fall of 2006. Here we see in the center of town the international zone, so-called the Green Zone. Of course here is the Baghdad international airport. And at this point, in fall of 2006, roughly, these diagrams, these small triangles, 1, 2, 3 and 4 represented all of the forward operating bases in Baghdad.

Since the beginning of the surge, now, Mr. Speaker, there are 21, 21 combat outposts throughout Baghdad, and 26 joint security stations run together with U.S. and Iraqi forces. These are seen as a key building block in an effort to increase security for Baghdad's residents.

As I mentioned, we traveled out to the al Karada joint security station during my April 1st trip to Baghdad. We helicoptered from the Green Zone. We landed at the al Karada joint security station. These joint stations, for all the world, they are like neighborhood police stations. And U.S. forces, literally, on 2-week rotations, move to these stations.

And it was very compelling to me to see U.S. and Iraqi forces side by side when we arrived in this joint operating security station. And they greeted us warmly, and we spoke with Iraqi military personnel; spoke, of course, with American personnel.

And I remember one of the facts that stuck out in my mind was that when they were building this particular joint operating center at al Karada, right literally in downtown Baghdad, they offered, out of respect to religious traditions, they offered the Iraqi forces, they said, Well, you could have separate living forces from the U.S. forces so that you wouldn't have to essentially bunk together. And it was the Iraqi soldiers who said, Absolutely not. We want to bunk together with the American forces. We want to, essentially, be in the same dorm with them, and we are deploying with them every day.

And there is a tremendous sense for all the world, Mr. Speaker, of esprit de corps that one gets when you see the American soldier and you see the Iraqi soldier, as we did that day at the al Karada joint security station.

Let me say again, I was unable to bring tonight, Mr. Speaker, a diagram that would show all of the locations of the 26 joint security stations that now dot the landscape of Baghdad, 26 stations that were not there in the fall of 2006. Security issues would not permit me to put that on, essentially, global television through C–SPAN coverage, looking in.

But for all the world, if you can imagine, here we had four forward-deployed stations in the Green Zone, and now, literally, I would mark up this map into almost an incomprehensible state if I were to draw the 21 combat outposts and the 26 combat security stations that are now on the ground in Baghdad.

Iraqi and American forces are working together. Specifically, not only living at these stations, but deploying 24/7 to clear out and secure neighborhoods. If a heavy fight breaks out, American forces step in. Iraqi forces learn, side by side, valuable skills in fighting shoulder to shoulder with our troops.

Iraqi and American forces have also, in the past 3 months, received more

tips than during any 3-month period on record.

Baghdad is not safe; can we say that for the RECORD? But Baghdad is safer because of the presence of U.S. and Iraqi forces throughout the capital city. And an evidence of that, number one, is a sharp decline in insurgent sectarian violence within the city of Baghdad, a sharp decline which I mentioned in my opening comments.

But also evidence we can point to is more tips from people in Baghdad than at any 3-month period on record. By living in Baghdad neighborhoods, it is believed that American forces are getting to know the culture, the concerns, the local residents.

I don't understand every operational profile of our presence in Iraq. I have been there five different times. But my sense is, Mr. Speaker, that prior to, essentially, the embedding of these joint security stations throughout the capital city, American forces essentially would deploy from one of our forward operating bases where there was a problem, patrol, deal with the problem and go back to base. Now we go, we stay. And that is what is being widely credited with two facts, one good and one bad.

The first fact, as I have mentioned, and I will say again, there has been a drop in sectarian violence in Baghdad, as well as in Ramadi, which I will get to in a minute. That is the good news.

The bad news is that the enemy is fighting back in the form of horrific bombings. We saw the bridge car bomb. We saw bombings against unsecured marketplaces, particularly recently on the south and west of Baghdad. Heartbreaking, violent acts by the enemy, which I believe give evidence of the fact that we are taking the fight to the enemy and the enemy is responding.

But again, let me say again, sectarian violence overall in Baghdad is down in the first 2 months. And it gives us just an inkling of hope for success of the surge.

Baghdad is not safer. But it is safer because of the presence of 26 joint operating centers where U.S. and Iraqi forces deploy and live together and patrol the neighborhoods 24/7.

Now, let me speak a little bit about the al-Anbar Province, truly an extraordinary experience from our time in Baghdad. Our delegation traveled west into the al-Anbar Province, the capital of which is the city of Ramadi. And Ramadi is a very dangerous place, Mr. Speaker. It is a place where there has been a great and tremendous and consistent insurgent presence.

Ramadi historically is where, frankly, most of the Sunni power in the country was focused. Most of the wealth of Sunnis was concentrated in Ramadi, and therefore the Sunni insurgency against the al-Maliki government found much expression in violence in that city.

Here is a picture on the ground, unclassified, of the insurgent presence in Ramadi, of just 2 months ago, the river passing through the middle of town. I believe the U.S. military base is in this direction.

But just to give you a snapshot here, Mr. Speaker, you can see all of this red area that shows insurgent presence in Ramadi. Quick snapshot, the present picture in Ramadi is this. And again it is in direct connection with the leadership of General Odierno, U.S. forces and Iraqi forces employing exactly the same strategy that I just described is being deployed in Baghdad, the deployment of joint security stations, Iraqis and Americans working together.

Now, the city of Ramadi that was highly compromised 2 months ago with insurgent presence, according to U.S. sources this would represent al Qaeda in Iraq positions, now, according to official U.S. military sources, now has been reduced in its scope to a relatively isolated area of the city of Ramadi.

Well, how is that happening? Is it all about joint operating centers and the military response?

Well, it certainly is a part of that. But I would also add, a great deal has to do with a sea change that is taking place among Sunni sheiks and Sunni leadership.

Remember, in the history of the three successive national elections and referenda that took place in Iraq, for the most part, Sunnis, and particularly Sunnis in al-Anbar Province, not only were opposed to measures, but refused to participate in most cases.

Now, there has been a breakthrough in recent months, and we met with a Sheik Sitar, a courageous man, roughly my age, who ended up, Mr. Speaker, being featured for all the world on a 60 Minutes program a week after we returned from Iraq, for all the world to see and hear his own words.

We sat in a room with Sheik Sitar and we heard them describe what he helped to found. It is called the Iraq Awakening Movement. The Iraq Awakening Movement already includes 22 of 24 Ramadi-area Sunni tribes that are now cooperating with U.S. and Iraqi forces.

Let me say that again; 22 of 24 Ramadi area tribes are now cooperating with U.S. and Iraqi and coalition forces.

□ 2045

Sheikh Sattar himself has an extraordinary and compelling story. His father was killed in his native town of Ramadi by al Qaeda. His two brothers were killed by al Qaeda. And to hear him tell it, Sheikh Sattar just said, That's enough, and began in the process with other sheikhs and other tribal leaders throughout the Sunni population of Ramadi and to say this is not going to happen like this anymore. And they came to the American base in Ramadi and sat down with officials and said, We want to figure out how to move forward.

He made comments that were echoed across the Nation on that ''60 Minutes'' CBS television program. And I commend Scott Pelley and I commend CBS News for replaying his comments.

He looked at us across the table and spoke about the American soldier. And I paraphrase now, Mr. Speaker, but Sheikh Sattar said, Anyone who points a gun at an American soldier in Ramadi is pointing a gun at an Iraqi. It was incredibly moving. He spoke of their gratitude to the American soldier. And then he looked me right in the eye across this small conference table at the U.S. military base in Ramadi, and he said, Congressman, anyone who tells you the Iraqi people don't like Americans is lying to you. And then he said with even greater emphasis, Iraqis love Americans and, particularly, he added, the American soldier. I don't have his words precisely correct, but it was very moving to this small-town boy to hear a man roughly my age living in this war-torn country who was now risking his life to stand with his own nascent government, the al Maliki government, and to stand with U.S. and coalition forces.

We are forward deployed. Much of the strategy that I described in Baghdad we were told in Ramadi is being employed in Ramadi. But I think something else is happening in the al-Anbar province: tribal sheikhs cooperating with American and Iraqi forces to fight al Qaeda, providing highly specific intelligence. We have sent more troops to the al-Anbar province with these significant changes where presence of al Qaeda terrorists in the city has declined significantly in the past 6 months, as evidenced by these charts.

But it would be important to note, as I return to my original graphic, that al Qaeda responds to these changes with sickening brutality. But the local Sunnis in al-Anbar province and in Ramadi are refusing to be intimidated, and they are stepping forward to drive out terrorists.

We are cracking down on extremists also gathering in other parts of Iraq, but as I conceded on a news program this afternoon, one of the concerns that I heard, Mr. Speaker, from General Odierno in Ramadi and General Petraeus in Baghdad was that as we move U.S. and Iraqi forces into those major cities with a special emphasis on Baghdad, number one, the enemy will fight back, and the horrific bombings of the past few weeks are evidence that this enemy will not go quietly. But, number two, the other, and we are seeing evidence of this already, is that the al Qaeda and the insurgent elements, to the extent that we are able systematically neighborhood by neighborhood to drive them out of those major cities, that they will move into the outlying province, and we are seeing evidence of that.

But let me say again the strategy here is not to go neighborhood by neighborhood to secure the entire city of Baghdad. The President's surge strategy is a clear hold-and-build strategy designed to provide enough security in Baghdad and a critical area in

Ramadi to allow a political solution to take hold.

We can assume our enemies will continue to fight back. These are ruthless, blood-thirsty killers who not only desire the power that would come with a nation-state in Iraq, but they desire to do us harm and to do harm to our posterity. They will continue to fight back. But I believe there is evidence that this strategy to clear areas, to hold them with the joint operating centers, again, 26 joint operating centers throughout the city of Baghdad where American forces and Iraqi forces are living and patrolling 24/7 is a strategy where we can provide the kind of stability to facilitate the political and economic progress that will make a lasting peace possible.

And let me speak to that. As we increase our troop levels, it is vital that we also strengthen our civilian presence, provisional reconstruction teams, organizations that restore basic services, stimulate job creation, promote reconciliation.

I was at USAID yesterday. I met with Ambassador Tobias and learned about the extraordinary efforts that are taking place to meet real and human needs on the ground. I met in my office today with the head of the Iraqi Red Crescent organization, an admirable organization modeled in effect after the American Red Cross but built on the Muslim tradition of the Crescent. The Iraqi Red Crescent is an organization that day in and day out is answering the humanitarian crisis on the ground in this violent and war-torn country.

Military operations are beginning to open up a breathing space, though, for political progress, and therein lies the real hope, Mr. Speaker. As we sat down with the foreign minister, seven members of the cabinet, and the Vice President of Iraq over a long and lengthy and brutally frank dinner in the ambassador's headquarters in the Green Zone at the end of our day in Baghdad, we emphasized the need to move forward on reconciliation, to move forward on an agreement that would distribute the oil revenues equitably between all the ethnic groups in Iraq. And, truthfully, as they reminded us, the Iraq legislature has met some key milestones, met one benchmark by passing a budget that commits $10 billion for reconstruction. The Council of Ministers recently approved legislation that would provide a framework for an equitable sharing of oil revenues.

Now that legislation will go before the Iraq Parliament for its approval. The government has formed a committee to organize provincial elections. And I want to say of the al-Anbar province, with Sunnis now in the Iraq Awakening movement beginning to stand with U.S. and Iraqi forces and the al Maliki government, we urged them very strongly to move as quickly as possible toward provincial elections with the expectation that Sunnis in the al-Anbar province and in other provinces of the country would, in many cases for the first time, participate and take ownership in the electoral and the governing process.

The Iraqi cabinet, as they reminded us, are all taking steps to finalize toward agreement on a de-Baathification law. And in a conference in Egypt next month, Prime Minister Maliki will seek increased diplomatic and financial commitments for Iraq's democracy.

Ultimately, let me say as clearly as I can, during these difficult days for the war in Iraq, the answer in Iraq is not exclusively military, but we must provide the military support to give the al Maliki government and this nascent democracy the capacity to defend its capital. To defend its capital is at the very essence of the credibility of any government. And given the opportunity to provide basic services and basic security in Baghdad, we believe that all of these objectives could move forward, not only internally in Iraq. The de-Baathification law, oil revenue sharing agreement, provincial elections, all of which would contribute to a widening sense of ownership in this new democracy, but also it would provide an opportunity where Iraq could begin, as it has just recently begun, to reach out to its neighbors with the United States already at the table. Even with countries greatly antagonistic to our interests in the region, the United States has been willing to sit down and begin to facilitate the achievement of a diplomatic solution.

The truth is that giving up on Iraq would have consequences far beyond Iraq's borders, and there may be time before the end of this week and before the end of this debate to expand on that. But let me just say emphatically, Mr. Speaker, that withdrawal is not a strategy. Withdrawal would do nothing to prevent violence from spilling out across the country and plunging Iraq into chaos and anarchy.

In fact, when I asked the leader of the Iraq Red Crescent movement today what a precipitous and early withdrawal of U.S. forces would mean, he painted a frightening picture of a humanitarian crisis, true civil conflict and strife, potentially widening into a wider regional war generated by the instability and uncertainty in Iraq.

But that being said, let me speak, if I can, in my time remaining, of the proposal that we will consider this week on the floor of the Congress. And that is what I have described in the past as the Democrat plan for retreat and defeat in Iraq. I wanted to come to the floor tonight, Mr. Speaker, to basically share what General David Petraeus shared with me in Baghdad and just the seedlings, the very beginning of hope, that the President's planned surge is beginning to produce modest progress in Iraq.

But let me say again at the outset, it is easy to be understood in this debate, it is a tough time in Iraq; but despite a recent wave of insurgent bombings, this war is not lost, and Congress would do well to reflect very deeply on the real facts on the ground, not the images in the media, but the real facts on the ground that I have recited tonight, that General Petraeus will recite to Members tomorrow, before we make a decision to embrace a plan contemplated by House and Senate agreement, a $124 billion spending plan expected to come to the floor with the goal of bringing U.S. troops home beginning July of this year and ending U.S. combat operations no later than March of 2008.

When I think of the Democrat plan in the midst of this hard-fought effort, street by street, the sacrifices that American and Iraqi soldiers are making, and the fact that both in Baghdad and in Ramadi sectarian violence is down. Despite the horrific bombing, sectarian violence is down. Cooperation in the form of tips is increasing. We are just beginning to see the inklings of hope in Iraq. And yet the Democrat majority will bring forward a proposal that would micromanage it, deadlines for withdrawal. For all the world, that makes me think of George Orwell, who said: ''The quickest way to end the war is to lose it.'' And I really do believe the Democrat plan is a prescription for retreat and defeat.

Now, let me speak about the proper role of Congress in this context. And I think it speaks of the great wisdom of our Founders that Congress, as a body of 435 otherwise well-intentioned men and women, is not particularly well suited to the conduct of war. In fact, at the Constitutional Convention, almost no issue was more summarily dealt with than what our Founders referred to as war by committee. They feared it. Their experience was derived from stories of the Revolutionary War as General Washington was chased from New York all the way across New Jersey, facing almost certain defeat in the Philadelphia suburbs across the river, the Delaware.

□ 2100

Every single night, General Washington would later record that he would sit in his tent and write letter after letter to Congress asking for appropriations, asking for support, asking for details.

As our founders put together the Constitution of the United States, they said there would be one Commander in Chief, and that would be the President of the United States of America; and that we would not have war by committee. And the Constitution is more clear on no other fact. Congress can declare war, Congress can choose to fund or not to fund military operations, but Congress cannot conduct war. In fact, those times in American history where Congress has intruded itself on the purview of the Commander in Chief have been marked as summarily perilous times.

I am recently reading up on the committee in this Congress during the Civil War. I think it was loosely entitled ''The Committee on the Conduct of

the War.'' And it was a committee in Congress that did not just attend itself to President Lincoln's use of public assets and funding of the war, but it involved itself well into recommendations about military operations and the like. It would be none other than Robert E. Lee, the leader of the Army of the Confederacy, who would say, ''That committee in Congress was worth two divisions to me.'' Robert E. Lee, leading the Army of the Confederacy, would say that the Committee on the Conduct of the War, functioning in Congress, was worth two divisions to him. And yet, we will see this majority bring forward a measure that I believe violates both common sense, the Constitution and our history with a plan for withdrawal from Iraq. And a message of withdrawal at a time when we are just beginning, in the midst of horrific counterattacks by the enemy, where we are just beginning to see evidence of modest progress from the surge, I think is precisely the wrong message to send.

But on this constitutional argument it is worth noting that it would not simply be my reading of history and the Constitution that would criticize the plan for a timetable for withdrawal included in the war funding bill this week, but let me quote, if I may, Mr. Speaker, an editorial in the Los Angeles Times that was published in the month of March under the heading, ''Do We Really Need a General Pelosi?'' Their main point was, in effect, ''Congress can cut funding for Iraq, but it shouldn't micromanage the war.'' That newspaper went on to say, and I am quoting now the Los Angeles Times, ''After weeks of internal strife, House Democrats have brought forth their proposal for forcing President Bush to withdraw troops from Iraq by 2008.''

The L.A. Times said, ''The plan is an unruly mess, bad public policy, bad precedent and bad politics. If the legislation passes, President Bush says he will veto it, as well he should.''

They go on. ''It was one thing for the House to pass a nonbinding vote of disapproval, it's quite another for it to set out a detailed timetable with specific benchmarks and conditions for the continuation of the conflict.'' They add, ''Imagine if Dwight Eisenhower had been forced to adhere to a congressional war plan in scheduling the Normandy landings; or if in 1863 President Lincoln had been forced by Congress to conclude the Civil War by the following year.''

''This is the worst kind of congressional meddling in military strategy,'' so wrote the left column lead editorial in the L.A. Times in March. Not exactly a ringing endorsement from the editorial board of record in the home State of Speaker PELOSI.

And about the same time the Washington Post, really another lion of the liberal media in America, wrote in a lead editorial entitled, ''The Pelosi Plan for Iraq,'' the following: ''In short, the Democratic proposal to be taken up this week is now an attempt to impose detailed management on the war without regard to the war itself.'' ''Congress should rigorously monitor the Iraq Government's progress on those benchmarks.'' ''By Mr. Bush's own account, the purpose of the troop surge in Iraq is to enable political progress.'' They wrote, ''If progress does not occur, the military strategy should be reconsidered, but aggressive oversight is quite different from mandating military steps according to a flexible timetable conforming to the need to capture votes in Congress, or in 2008 at the polls.'' So wrote the editorial in the Washington Post.

You know, it really is amazing sometimes how politics, common sense and the Constitution can make such strange bedfellows. I don't think I've ever come to the floor of this House and quoted in any length the lead editorial in either the Washington Post or the L.A. Times, but I do so approvingly this evening. In both cases, these newspapers identified what I asserted at the beginning, that the Democrats should heed the call of the Constitution and common sense and reject the Pelosi plan for retreat-defeat in Iraq. They should reject it on the basis of our history and Constitution, but they should also reject it because, as General Petraeus will describe to our colleagues tomorrow, in the midst of horrific counterattacks by our enemy, there is evidence of modest progress on the ground. Sectarian violence is down in Baghdad and Ramadi. Cooperation among civilians is up. And I say once again, where there once were four forward operating bases in the fall of 2006 in Baghdad proper, now, like the joint security station I visited on April 1st in downtown Baghdad, now there are 26 joint operating stations throughout Baghdad, almost as many, I'm told, in Ramadi, where U.S. and Iraqi forces are living together 2 weeks at a stretch and deploying and patrolling neighborhoods 24/7. This is exactly not the time to embrace arbitrary timetables for withdrawal, or for Congress to tell our generals on the ground how to conduct the war.

I believe in my heart of hearts that the American people know that we have but one choice in Iraq, that victory is our only real option. And let me say this again; if I am repetitive tonight, Mr. Speaker, it is intentional. I mean to be understood.

This is a tough time in Iraq. As General Petraeus comes to Capitol Hill this week, I expect that he will tell our colleagues what he told me and Members of the House and Senate on the streets of Baghdad just 3 short weeks ago. And that is that, despite a recent wave of insurgent bombings, counterattacks by the enemy responding to our surge on the ground, this war is not lost. In fact, because of the President's surge and the brave conduct of U.S. and Iraqi forces on the ground, we are making modest progress in Iraq.

In Baghdad, despite the recent bombings, sectarian violence is down. Baghdad is not safe, but it is safer because of the presence of 26 joint operating stations where U.S. and Iraqi forces are deployed. And as I mentioned earlier, the extraordinary developments in Ramadi, which has seen a precipitous decline in the last 2 months in sectarian violence, and also has seen 22 of 24 Ramadi-area Sunni tribes now cooperating and supporting U.S. forces and supporting the new al-Maliki government is truly an extraordinary development, to say the least.

I believe in my heart that the American people know that victory is our only option. And I just began recently, Mr. Speaker, rereading a biography that you might well approve of. It is the David McCollough biography of President Harry Truman. I have appropriated a few quotes by President Truman that I found particularly compelling and particularly appropriate at this time, and I will quote them with respect because I think they speak to our time, which is a tough time in Iraq, and a hard time for an American people that have little interest, almost at the level of our DNA.

We are not a Nation interested in foreign entanglements. We are not an empire-building Nation. And throughout our history, we have quickly grown weary of long-term foreign entanglements. So this is a hard time at home, it is a hard time on the ground. We are taking the battle with the enemy with the President's surge, and the enemy is fighting back.

President Truman faced such times, difficult days both in his personal career and as a wartime President. So I will reflect on his words and that of a leader of another country in difficult times as I reflect what I think is very close to the character of this Nation. Harry S. Truman said, ''Carry the battle to them. Don't let them bring it to you. Put them on the defensive, and don't ever apologize for anything.'' That was advice he gave to Hubert Humphrey in September of 1964.

In 1945, President Truman said, ''I wonder how far Moses would have gotten if he had taken a poll in Egypt. What would Jesus Christ have preached if he had taken a poll in Israel? Where would the Reformation have gone if Martin Luther had taken a poll?'' President Truman went on to say, ''It isn't polls or public opinion of the moment that counts; it is right and wrong, and leadership, men with fortitude and honesty and a belief in the right that makes epochs in the history of the world,'' President Harry Truman said in 1945.

And for those who would embrace withdrawal as a means of achieving peace, President Truman says out of history, quote, ''A reminder: The absence of war is not peace.'' And I would argue the absence of U.S. forces in Iraq is not peace; it is a prescription for anarchy.

I would also appropriate from history as I speak to what I truly believe in my heart is at the very core of the American identity, and that upon which we

must avail ourselves during this time of testing in the war on terror, and they are the words of Sir Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of England, and a man considered by many to be the greatest leader of the free world in the 20th century. He gives us words that I believe speak to our time. And I quote, ''Never, never, never believe any war will be smooth and easy, or that anyone who embarks on a strange voyage can measure the tides and hurricanes he will encounter. The statesman who yields to the war fever must realize that once the signal is given, he is no longer the master of policy, but the slave of unforeseeable and uncontrollable events.''

Winston Churchill would also say, ''You ask, 'What is our policy?' I will say it is to wage war, by sea, land and air, with all our might and all the strength that God can give us; to wage war against a monstrous tyranny never surpassed in the dark, lamentable catalog of human crime. That is our policy.

''You ask, 'What is our aim?' I can answer with one word: Victory—victory at all costs, victory in spite of terror, victory however long and hard the road may be. For without victory, there is no survival.''

And of our time, where many of our countrymen would wish away this war-torn part of the world, I can't help but think that this quote is appropriate. Sir Winston Churchill said, ''One ought never to turn one's back on a threatened danger or try to run away from it. If you do, that will double the danger; but if you meet it promptly and without flinching, you will reduce it by half.''

These are difficult days in Iraq. Sacrifices that American forces and their families are making are deeply humbling to me and to every Member of Congress and, I believe, of the American people. But I believe that, despite the recent wave of insurgent bombings, this war is not lost. In fact, because of the President's surge and the bold leadership of General David Petraeus in Baghdad and General Odierno in Ramadi, our U.S. forces on the ground, in combination with Iraqi forces, we are beginning to see modest progress in Iraq.

□ 2115

In Baghdad, despite recent bombings, sectarian violence overall is down, and the same is true in Ramadi. Baghdad is not safe, but it is safer because of the deployment of 26 joint operating centers throughout the city. A city where there once were simply an International Green Zone, the Baghdad Victory Base, and four forward-operating bases in Baghdad, now throughout the city, in form when I visited them on April 1 in Baghdad for all the world looked like neighborhood police stations. They call them joint operating centers, where U.S. and Iraqi forces live together, work together, eat together and deploy together, in 2-week rotations. And it is making a difference on the ground.

In the al Anbar province in Ramadi, it is extraordinary to say 22 of the 24 Sunni tribal leaders, led in part by Sheikh Sattar, with whom I spent one of the most memorable hours of my life on April 2 earlier this month, Sunni leadership is standing with the al Maliki government, standing with the American soldier, rejecting the insurgency, rejecting al Qaeda, and reclaiming their city and their country for peace and security.

We have a long way to go, but not that long before we know whether this new surge strategy will work. I believe it is imperative that Congress give General Petraeus not only a willing ear tomorrow when he comes to Capitol Hill, but I think it is high time that we sent the President a clean bill, take out all the micromanagement of the war, all the unconstitutional benchmarks and datelines for withdrawal, for that matter, take out all the pork-barrel spending that has nothing to do with our military, and send General Petraeus and our soldiers on the ground the resources they need to get the job done and come home.

You know, I was asked by a soldier in Ramadi, a soldier from Indiana, he looked at me and he said, Congressman, I just want to ask you an honest question. He said, When is it going to be enough? When are we going to have been here long enough? And I said to him with great humility, I said, Son, I will answer this as straight with you as I can: I think we have to stick around here until these people can defend themselves, and not a minute longer.

That is what we need to accomplish, Mr. Speaker. We need to stick around long enough to help Iraqi security forces provide the basic stability in their capital and in the critical al Anbar province, and particularly in Ramadi, in order that the political process and the diplomatic process regionally can go forward. And then, like Americans of past generations, we can pick up and go home, and only ask for a debt of friendship in return.

It is a time of testing for our country. It is not a time for shrinking back. But based on the evidence, the facts that General Petraeus shared with me in Baghdad and will share with us on Capitol Hill, it is time to give the surge a chance to succeed.

The Congress will likely pass a supplemental bill that will have unconstitutional benchmarks and datelines for withdrawal. The President of the United States will keep his word. He will promptly veto that legislation. But my hope, and, candidly, Mr. Speaker, my prayer, is that after we have gone through this exercise and Congress has made its importance felt, we will get our soldiers the resources they need and we will give them the time and the freedom to succeed in this surge.

But there are no guarantees. We are up against a ruthless and brutal enemy, who even this very day claimed American lives in another ruthless suicide car bomb attack.

I believe it would be a stain on our national character that we would not wipe off for generations if we were to walk away now; if we were simply to say to the good people of Iraq, hundreds of which I have had the chance to meet and to speak with over my five journeys there over the last 4 years of this war, it would be a stain on our national character to that generation of Iraqis to leave them unable to defend themselves, to harvest a whirlwind of sectarian violence, revenge killings, and to leave them to become a part of a country that would become subjugated by the blood-sworn enemies of the United States of America. And it would be a stain on our national character to leave Iraq, in effect, worse off than how we found it.

As bad as it was under Saddam Hussein, I can't help but believe that if those who fight us in the form of the insurgency and al Qaeda today gain the reins of control in that Nation, that we will, as Winston Churchill said, we will double the danger, and our children and our children's children will pay a price we dare not imagine.

So we are faced with choices today, and my challenge to my colleagues and to any looking on is to listen to the facts, not the adjectives, not the ''spin,'' as it is referred to in the popular debate, but listen to the facts. And the facts are that it is a tough time in Iraq. We are facing a determined enemy. But that despite a recent wave of insurgent bombings, this war is not lost.

In fact, because of the President's surge and the extraordinary courage of U.S. and Iraqi forces, we are making modest progress in Iraq. In Baghdad, despite recent bombings, sectarian violence is down. Baghdad is not safe, but it is safer because of the presence of more than two dozen U.S. and Iraqi joint operating centers. And now 22 of 24 Sunni sheikhs and tribal leaders have come together in Ramadi and the al Anbar province to support the al Maliki government and U.S. forces.

Let's give General Petraeus a willing ear. Let's listen to the facts. And then let us reject timetables for withdrawal, pork-barrel-laden spending bills, and simply provide our soldiers the resources they need to get the job done and come home safe.

I believe that we can secure victory for freedom in Iraq, and in so doing we will deliver a victory for freedom, not only for the Iraqi people, but for ourselves and our posterity. We will unleash, as the President has spoken so eloquently, the forces of freedom and stability in a part of the world that has known little of either. That is my hope, and that is my prayer.

ECONOMIC OBSERVATIONS BY THE 43 MEMBER STRONG, FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE DEMOCRATIC BLUE DOG COALITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut). Under the

Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, this evening, as most Tuesday evenings, I rise on behalf of the 43 member strong, fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition. We are a group of Democrats that believe in restoring common sense, fiscal discipline and accountability to our Nation's government.

As you walk the Halls of Congress, Mr. Speaker, it is easy to know when you are walking by the office of a member of the fiscally conservative, Democratic Blue Dog Coalition, because you will see this poster in the hallway as not only a welcome mat to that Blue Dog member's office, but to remind Members of Congress and the American people on a daily basis that our country is in a fiscal mess.

In fact, today, the U.S. national debt is $8,827,851,749,695, and I ran out of room, Mr. Speaker, but you could add a quarter on to that, 25 cents. You divide that enormous number by every man, woman and child in America, and every one of us, our share of the national debt is $29,262. It is what I commonly refer to as the debt tax, D-E-B-T tax, which is one tax that cannot go away until we get our Nation's fiscal house in order.

The Federal deficit is something we don't have to have, Mr. Speaker. In fact, from 1998 through 2001 our Nation enjoyed a surplus. We had a balanced budget. We lived within our means. That was under President Clinton. He was the first Democrat or Republican to give us a balanced budget in some 30 or 40 years. And the economy was doing pretty good when there was no deficit and when we had a balanced budget.

We all remember those days, how the stock market performed. People had good-paying jobs with good benefits. Many of those jobs today have been shifted to places like China and Mexico and India. It is true that most of the folks have gone on and found other work, but if you really research it and look at it, they have found lesser-paying jobs with lesser benefits or, in many cases, no benefits at all.

In fact, this is Cover the Uninsured Week, Mr. Speaker. Forty-eight million people in America are without health insurance tonight. Who are they? It is not the people that can't work or don't want to work. They qualify for Medicaid, which is health insurance for the poor, disabled, and elderly. It is not our seniors. They are provided coverage through Medicare, which is the only health insurance plan most seniors have to stay healthy and get well.

So who are these 48 million people? It is the folks in this country, working families, Mr. Speaker, that are trying to do the right thing and stay off welfare, but they are working the jobs with no benefits. Ten million of them are children. One in five children will go to bed tonight in America hungry. Ten million will go to bed tonight without health insurance. This is America, and I believe that we have a duty and an obligation to find a way to ensure that health care is affordable, available and accessible for all of God's children and for all of us here in America.

As long as we have got this type of debt and this type of deficit, it is going to be difficult to meet that challenge, as well as others.

The total national debt from 1789 to 2000 was $5.67 trillion; but by 2010, under this administration, the total national debt will have increased to $10.88 trillion. Mr. Speaker, that is a doubling of the 211-year debt in just 10 years. In just one decade.

Interest payments on this debt are one of the fastest growing parts of the Federal budget. In fact, Mr. Speaker, we will spend more of your tax money this year paying interest on the national debt than we will spend on educating our children, providing health care and other benefits to our veterans, and, yes, we will spend more money paying interest on the national debt this year than we will spend protecting our homeland through the Department of Homeland Security.

So many of America's priorities are going unmet. Why? Because this town and this Congress and this administration for the past 6 years have given us record deficit after record deficit, record debt after record debt, to the extent that today, today our Nation is borrowing about $1 billion a day. But what is even more alarming than that is before we borrow $1 billion today, we will spend half a billion dollars paying interest on the debt we already have.

□ 2130

I represent a very rural district in south Arkansas, in the western half of Arkansas. Half of the 29 counties I represent, nearly half of them, are located in what is referred to as the Delta region of this country, one of the poorest regions of America.

We have hope in that area by investing in alternative renewable fuels like ethanol by biodiesel, creating new jobs for our working families and new markets for our farm families and our landowners through cellulosic ethanol, taking the slash, the treetops and the limbs, what is left down in the woods and giving it a value and finding a use for that.

Another way for us to accomplish those things, our government must invest in research and development for cellulosic ethanol. Our government must invest more in research and development for alternative and renewable fuels. The real tragedy is that we will send the Iraqis more money in the next 8 hours than we will spend on research and development for alternative renewable fuels in the next 365 days. That is one example of why the deficit and the debt do matter.

A half a billion dollars a day going to pay interest on the national debt. We could build 200 brand-new elementary schools every single day in America just on the interest that we are paying on the national debt. In southeast Arkansas, we have great hope in Interstate 69, an interstate under construction, sort of. It was announced in Indianapolis 5 years before I was born, that was 50 years ago, and with the exception of 40 miles in Kentucky and a stretch just south of Memphis, none of it has been built south of Indianapolis in 50 years, and yet we have great hope that this road can create jobs and economic opportunities for the people in the Delta region. We need $1.5 billion to finish it.

For a country boy from Prescott and Emmet and Hope, Arkansas, I can tell you that is a staggering amount. But when you look at it this way, we will spend more money paying interest on the national debt in the next 3 days than what it would take to build Interstate 69.

On the western side of my district, there is great hope for Interstate 49. We need about $2 billion to finish it, again a staggering number until you look at it this way: We will spend more money in the next 4 days paying interest on the national debt than what it would take to complete Interstate 49, which would provide the first and only interstate quarter through the middle of the United States of America.

So until this Congress starts standing up to this administration and saying ''no'' to these irresponsible budgets, America's priorities will continue to go unmet.

I am proud to tell you that under this new Democratic majority, they are listening to the 43 of us in the fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dogs. For the last 6 years, we reached out to the Republicans on the other side of the aisle and asked to work with them on a budget that made sense for the American people. We were told that they didn't need us.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the American people are sick and tired of all of the partisan bickering that goes on in our Nation's Capital. For members of the Blue Dog Coalition, we don't care if it is a Republican or Democrat idea, we want to know if it is a commonsense idea, and does it make sense for the people back home who sent us here to be their voice.

So the Republican leadership turned a deaf ear to us for the past 6 years while they were in power. The American people decided to give the Democrats a chance at being in the majority this past November. I am proud to tell you that we didn't have to offer up a Blue Dog budget this year. Why? Because the new Democratic majority listened to the Blue Dogs and included our key provisions that can restore commonsense fiscal discipline and accountability to our government.

So we are beginning through the budget that passed on the floor of this House just a few weeks ago, we are beginning to develop a path that over

time, in fact by 2012, Mr. Speaker, can get us back to the days we had under President Clinton of a balanced budget in this country.

Why do deficits matter? They matter because they reduce economic growth, they burden our children and grandchildren with liabilities. Again, the debt tax, D-E-B-T, is $29,262 for every man, woman and child in America, and they increase our reliance on foreign lenders who now own 40 percent of our debt.

This President, this administration and, for the past 6 years, this Republican-led Congress up until January borrowed more money from foreign central banks and foreign investors than the previous 42 Presidents combined. You want to talk about a risk to a national security, there is one for you.

We have got a lot of active Members within the Blue Dogs who come to Washington and stand up and proudly proclaim that they are conservative Democrats with a commonsense vision for the United States. I am absolutely delighted to be joined this evening by several of them. At this time I would yield to an active Member within the Blue Dog Coalition, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR).

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to be joined by my colleagues of the Blue Dog Coalition to speak about our Nation's problems.

Mr. ROSS brought up the U.S. national debt now being $8.8 trillion, knocking on the door of $9 trillion. I remember the very first day I came to Congress where the actual figure was $7.54 trillion. Not even 2½ years ago, each American's share of the national debt was $26,000 at that time. What a shame. Over $3,000 more in 2 years.

Well, I am proud to join my fellow Blue Dogs today to talk about accountability in government and the gross negligence for taxpayer dollars in Washington. The Blue Dogs have been fighting for greater accountability in Washington for over 10 years. We have argued for a return to a PAYGO system or a balanced budget. We offered a 12-step reform plan to cure our Nation's addiction to deficit spending. We have argued that all earmarks should require written justification from a Member of Congress before being considered.

I am proud that our current leadership has taken into account what the Blue Dogs are saying. The Blue Dogs advocate accountability. Let's consider the facts. In 2004, the Federal Government spent $25 billion that it cannot account for. In that same year, only 6 of 63 Pentagon departments were able to produce a clean audit. For 2005, the GAO reports that 19 of the 24 Federal agencies can't produce a clean audit or fully explain how they spend taxpayer dollars.

In March of 2005, the Veterans Affairs inspector general issued a report calling for the agency's information systems and securities to be upgraded. No action was taken. And since that time, the personal information of millions of our Nation's veterans has been stolen.

Several of our Federal agencies received serious red-flag disclaimers on their 2005 financial statements, including the Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Defense who wrote, ''We are unable to give an opinion on the fiscal year 2005 DOD financial statements because of the limitations on the scope of our work. Thus, the financial statements may be unreliable. Therefore, we are unable to express and we do not express an opinion on the DOD's financial statements.''

Mr. Speaker, the American public deserves the honest truth. The Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security wrote, ''Unfortunately, the department made little or no progress to improve its financial reporting during fiscal year 2005. KPMG was unable to provide an opinion on the department's balance sheet.''

The inspector general for NASA in its 2005 financial report in the enclosed report from independent auditors, Ernest & Young, disclaimed an opinion on NASA's financial statement for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005. The disclaimer resulted from NASA's inability to provide an auditable financial statement and sufficient evidence to support financial statements throughout the fiscal year and at year end.

Federal agencies are treating the taxpayer dollars that fund them like a joke, and the administration is incapable of lifting a finger to manage them effectively.

I believe we need strong enforcement measures in Congress and the Federal Government to make it more accountable for taxpayer dollars. We must ensure that Congress has the tools to hold Federal agencies responsible for their use of taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Speaker, American taxpayers deserve to know how Congress and this administration are spending their money.

I am proud once again to join my Blue Dog colleagues to demand more fiscal accountability in Iraq. The Blue Dogs have a plan for fiscal accountability in Iraq. Our plan calls for transparency on how war funds are being utilized. It creates a commission to investigate how contracts are awarded, and it stops the use of emergency supplementals to fund this war. This is the first administration, Mr. Speaker, that has used emergency supplementals to fund a war year after year after year.

The Blue Dogs also call for American resources to improve Iraq's ability to police themselves. The Blue Dog legislation addresses the glaring lack of oversight and accountability in Iraq. We make sure that taxpayer dollars are accounted for. Government reports have documented waste, fraud and abuse in Iraq. I think it is time to stop that waste. Congressional oversight is desperately needed. The administration must be held accountable for how reconstruction funds are being utilized.

The Blue Dog proposals are commonsense proposals. They ensure transparency and accountability. We have already spent $437 billion in Iraq, according to the Congressional Research Service, and we will spend another $100 billion in Iraq in 2007 alone. That is over $500 billion with virtually no oversight from Congress. We must start showing improvement in Iraq. Accountability leads directly to success, in my opinion. Iraq must begin making progress towards full responsibility by policing their own country. Without progress, it is a waste to continue U.S. investment in troops and financial resources.

We all support our troops. We must support our troops. We will do everything in our power to make sure that they have the equipment that they need. However, we cannot continue to write a blank check to this administration. Until our last troop has returned home, the American people deserve to know how their money is being spent. Accountability is not only patriotic, it often determines success from failure.

The Blue Dog proposal gives us an opportunity to regain that oversight and responsibility. This is the responsibility that we have to all of our men and women in uniform, to their parents, and to the American taxpayer who is footing the bill.

The Congressional Research Service and the Congressional Budget Office have clearly stated that if this continues, our fiscal irresponsibility in Congress, if it continues by the year 2040, every single penny of revenue that the Federal Government receives will go just to fund the interest on our national debt.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford to let this happen. We cannot saddle our children with the irresponsibilities of this administration.

Mr. ROSS. I thank the gentleman, Mr. SALAZAR, a member of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition for joining us this evening.

The gentleman is absolutely correct. Every one of us, Democrat and Republican, we support our troops. All of the troops in harm's way tonight are in our prayers.

Just this week I visited Walter Reed Army Hospital and visited a 19-year-old corporal, John Slatton, from Delight, Arkansas. Most folks have never heard of Delight, Arkansas. It is a town of about 400 people. If you are my age or older, you might remember it as the hometown of Glen Campbell, who was a country singer and had a comedy show on Saturday nights back in the 1960s.

But this young man got to Iraq in October, had to have staples put in his head from a bullet that grazed his head in December. And on Easter, his family received a call that he had been shot by enemy fire and the bullet had entered near his left ear and exited the right side. The good Lord was working overtime that day. It missed his brain and

he is going to survive. He is going to have some challenges, and I ask that everybody join me in keeping him and his family in our hearts and our prayers.

We have all been touched by this. My brother-in-law is in the Air Force. He is serving in the Middle East tonight, and I am so very proud of his service and all of those who serve us in uniform. They do everything that we as a government ask them to do. But it is very important that we not only support them but that we provide them a direction that can ensure victory in Iraq and allow them to return home in the not-too-distant future to their families and loved ones.

□ 2145

I thank the gentleman for standing here with me tonight to demand accountability because we owe it to these brave men and women in uniform who serve our country and who we are so very proud of.

This is not a Democrat or a Republican thing. This is an American thing, and as Americans, we all stand in support of our men and women in uniform, not only while they are serving us overseas, but we have a commitment to them to provide them a new generation of veterans coming home with the very best in medicine and health care and opportunities so that they can be reintegrated into our society as productive citizens, as important citizens who have done so much for this country and for whom we owe so much.

I am very pleased to be also joined this evening by a fellow Blue Dog from the State of Tennessee, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS. At this time, I would yield to the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. I thank my friend from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS).

I have had an opportunity to get to meet a lot of folks that I have served with here in the U.S. House. All of those obviously within the Blue Dog Coalition have become pretty endeared to me because of the commitments we focus on as being deficit hawks and defense hawks. We talk about those issues conservatively. I am going to talk a little bit about each of those issues tonight.

I had a privilege recently to spend considerable time with my good friend JOHN SALAZAR from Colorado. I have become convinced he knows how to hook up a piece of equipment.

I am also convinced in the conversations with him that he and his family have shared in the good Lord's Earth in being farmers with his brothers; and in talking with him, I had a much deeper understanding and certainly a much deeper abiding friendship knowing that as my brother and I both farm, brother doing most of it back home, that all of us come from different parts of the country maybe, but we all have that same spirit and that same heartfelt belief that America is the greatest place in the world to live and raise your family. For those of us who live in rural areas, obviously we believe that is probably the best place for America to raise their families.

I traveled today with a group of young students from both Clark Grange and York Institute, being named after Alvin C. York, Sergeant York, from the hometown of Pall Mall where I live, and as we traveled through the Capitol I could see their eyes light up as we talked about the history of this great building that we serve in, the great Chamber that we are in here this afternoon.

But as you look on the wall in the rotunda, you realize that America in the 1770s, in 1775, at the Boston siege, we convinced with our ragtag Army, the Continental Army, convinced the British soldiers and sailors that we could defeat them, and they set sail late in the winter, early spring and went to New York. We followed them there, and by 1776 we suffered a pretty strong defeat.

The first victory that we received for our independence, for our democracy that we have was in Saratoga in the fall of 1777, which convinced another nation called France to come and join us in our fight for independence, but I can assure you, no one won our independence for us. In this country, we fought until basically the battle at Yorktown where Cornwallis, general of the British forces, decided that he had to surrender, and surrendered.

That basically ended the hostilities until Washington in 1783 resigned his commission to the Continental Congress that existed at that time. So from 1775 basically until hostilities pretty much ceased in 1781, we fought for our independence in this country. We fought so we could establish a democracy that would be a shining example, as Mr. Reagan used to say, on that hill to the rest of the nations of the world that this is what can be accomplished.

That took us 6 years, and 2 years into being sure to sort of protect that fragile peace that we had until Washington gave up his commission and surrendered it in 1783.

I want to remind the people of America and the people of Iraq, we fought for our independence. We fought for this democracy that we have. No one came to this country and forced upon us a democracy. No one came to this country and said this is the gift we want to give you.

The blood and the tears and the hard work and the sweat of our young men and women from this country have been in Iraq now for over 4 years, toiling, and in fact, in many cases going to war with the Iraqis, first of all, to depose a ruthless dictator, we all agree with that, and then we fought with the Iraqis and in many cases against the Iraqis, whether they be Sunni or Shia, to say we want to give you this gift that we fought for over 200 years ago, we want to give you this gift called democracy.

In 2005, in December, we literally sent a surge of our troops over in the midsummer of 2005 to be sure that those brave individuals from Iraq, men and women, over 12 million of them, went to vote to establish the leaders of their country so they could establish their own Constitution. The surge then allowed them to vote. They finalized their commitment, in my opinion, for the democracy.

No one gave us ours. We are trying to give them theirs. And we have tried and we have tried and we have tried and we have spent billions of dollars making it happen.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I often tell this story of my father. I served during the tail end of Vietnam and my father was a World War II veteran. My son served now during Iraqi Freedom. He just finished his tour last December, but I like to tell this story of my father who was a proud veteran.

At the age of 82, my father was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease; and as was usual on Sunday mornings, I would go over to Mom and Dad's ranch house, and we would have breakfast with my mom and dad. We had been told by the doctors that my dad had Alzheimer's, and it was one day right around, he must have been around 84 when one Sunday morning we heard him fumbling around in his back bedroom. Shortly thereafter, he came out and in his hand he bore his World War II staff sergeant uniform, and he told us, this is the uniform that I want to be buried in. We thought at the time, well, it sounded a little bit self-serving but doctors tell you not to argue with Alzheimer's patients. So we said, sure, Dad, no problem. We will do that.

Well, the disease continued to progress over the next couple of years, but often, often he would bring up the issue of wanting to be buried in his uniform, and it was at the age of 86 that my father suffered a severe heart attack. My mother called me over. We live about a quarter mile away. When I got there, the ambulance was there, and I remember lifting my father off the floor to put him on the gurney to take him to the hospital. And with the last ounce of strength he had in his body, he lifted his arms up around my neck and he said, I love you, and the last word he ever whispered to me was the word ''uniform.''

My father had forgotten almost everything in life, even how to use his bodily functions; but there are two things he had not forgotten, the love that he had for his family and the love that he had for his country and how proud he was to have served his country.

For many veterans, that is the greatest legacy that they have, and so when we propose an Iraqi war supplemental, we are also proposing funding to make sure that the veterans that have served this country are protected.

I tell this story because it is important that we protect those that have

protected us, and I know that we as members of the Blue Dog Coalition are very proud to stand beside our veterans and make sure that they have the things that they need.

The gentleman from Arkansas talks about visiting Walter Reed. I do that on a regular basis, and it is the most disheartening feeling in the world to see our troops without arms and legs. They do not ask for anything. All they ask for is help me get through life. We owe that to our veterans.

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. You have to invite me to come out to your home sometime. I invite you to my home in Pall Mall, but I have got to visit more with your family. As I learn more and more, I realize the quality of people that we have here serving. It was such a wonderful yield, the comments you made during that period of time. It is certainly good to be on the floor with you.

But as I talk about that democracy that we fought for, that we fought for, I realize that there has never been a time that a democracy in any country has ever been imposed from without. It has always been from within, the French Revolution, the startings of the Magna Carta where we said we are no longer going to give taxes if you are basically going to squander it on your parties, Mr. KING.

When Israel established a nation in the Middle East, what type was it? It was a democracy.

My fear is that we can keep our soldiers, our young men and women in the battlefields in Iraq for a long, long time, and we can never force a democracy on the people of Iraq or anywhere else. We went into Iraq, and Iraq especially, without realizing the national customs, the traditions, the faith, their family values that are totally different in many cases than ours.

I think everyone loves liberty and freedom. I just believe as we engage that we ought to realize that we cannot impose our will on anyone unless we do it with a much larger force than what we have today.

Let me stay on Iraq for a moment.

Mr. ROSS. The gentleman from Tennessee makes a very important point, and that is, look, I was here on 9/11 and shortly after the plane hit the Pentagon we were evacuated. A few hours later, I would learn a young Navy petty officer named Nehamin Lyons from Pine Bluff, Arkansas, would be among those killed on that tragic day that we now all refer to as 9/11.

And all of us, Democrats and Republicans, for the most part voted to go to Afghanistan to put an end to terrorism.

I will never forget later being invited to the White House September 26, 2002, sitting in a cabinet room: Andy Card, Condoleezza Rice, about 18 Members of Congress and the President. I have still got the notes I took that day, and the President told us that Saddam Hussein has weapons of mass destruction, trains terrorists on weapons of mass destruction, and if military force is used, it will be, in the President's words, swift. September 26, 2002.

And then a few months later, we saw the banner ''Mission Accomplished,'' and we thought, wow, it was swift. But now we know, and I am not one of these conspiracy theorists that believes the President misled us. I think he received bad intelligence and shared it with us; and until proven otherwise, that is what I will believe because anything other than that would be a very unfair and strong attempt at trying to say something that we do not know whether it is true or not. I have to assume he just received bad intelligence.

But I will tell you this: there is not a more difficult decision that Members of Congress have to make than whether or not to send our men and women in uniform into harm's way; and when we are asked and called upon to make those kind of decisions, we have got to know, we must know that our intelligence is correct.

So for the most part, we all voted to go there. We are now there. What do we do about it? You want to talk about supporting the troops, one of the ways that you support the troops is to stop moving the goal post, to stop moving the victory line.

We say we went there because of weapons of mass destruction. They no longer have them. We won.

Then they said, well, we have got to stay until we overthrow Saddam.

□ 2200

We won. They said we have to stay till we capture him. We pulled him out of that spider hole. We won. Then the administration said we have to stay till we assassinate him. We assassinate him until he is executed, put to death, and he was.

So, based on that, we won. Then they said, well, we have got to stay until the Iraqi people can have elections. They did. We won.

Yet, now they are saying that, you know, we have got to stay there, and it's, you know, the line they use now is it's better to fight the terrorists there than here. There weren't terrorists in Iraq. Saddam wouldn't put up with them. He chopped their heads off.

Obviously, there are terrorists there now, and there are those from other neighboring countries wanting to create havoc. But for the most part what we have today, as the gentleman from Tennessee indicated, is civil war. Nobody fought our civil war for us, and it's pretty apparent the Iraqis don't want us fighting their civil war for them.

Now, understand, we had 3,200 U.S. soldiers die there, 25,000 injured, over 10,000 in ways that will forever change their lives. We are sending the Iraqis $12 million an hour. What do they think about us? Seventy-one percent don't want us there and 60 percent of them think it's okay to kill a U.S. soldier.

Contrast that with Afghanistan, where the Taliban is back on the rise. They are back training. We will spend more money in Iraq this month than we will spend in Afghanistan in the next 2½ years. We have 225,000 troops in the Iraqi region today, and the President wants to add 21,000 more. Yet we only have 25,000 in Afghanistan.

The Taliban is back, organizing and getting trained, and the mountains of Afghanistan are nothing more than a breeding ground for terrorists. This administration is so focused on Iraq that they are losing sight of what is going on in Afghanistan, where 84 percent of the people in Afghanistan do want us there.

I just wanted to throw that out there for any comment you might have, because I thought you made an excellent point about how we fought our Civil War, and it's time they accept responsibility and fight their own. We cannot continue to put our men and women in uniform on their front lines and have them standing behind us. It is time for them to step up, accept responsibilities, train their men and women, and put them in uniform. They need to fight this war, if they really want a taste of freedom. No one can give you that. You have got to get it country by country.

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. I hear the other side, the minority party in this Chamber, talk about the defeatist Democrats, the retreatist Democrats, whatever terminology they want to use. I find that somewhat repulsive that there are those who would assume that Democrats want to lose a war.

Let me tell you something. I come from Tennessee. Andrew Jackson in the war of 1812 and 1814, when he had that battle, the war was over with. There had already been a surrender of the British. He still fought that war, and I believe he was a good Democrat. In World War I, a fellow named Woodrow Wilson, I happen to believe he was a Democrat, he fought the war until it was over with. We won that war.

In World War II, we went to war and took 16 million people. We call them the Greatest Generation. They came back home, and they started having children like rabbits in the spring. That is 77 million folks we call baby boomers. They give us a huge workforce in this country.

Then we went to Korea, and let me finish, in World War II, we lost Roosevelt during that time. Harry Truman had the forces. We had invaded Normandy and had conquered the Germans and had conquered Europe. We had already put in place the invasion Army that was going into Japan. Harry Truman changed course. You need to replay that message to the White House, Harry Truman changed course. He didn't put the invasion force in the ships. He dropped a couple of bombs, a horrible occurrence that happened, but it saved millions of lives and stopped the war. Then we occupied Germany and Japan, and they now have two thriving democracies in the world because they chose that type of government.

Then in Korea we had a fellow named Truman who got us engaged there as well, happened to be a Democrat. But the person who quit fighting was Eisenhower, a Republican.

In the 1970s, in Vietnam, the President at that time was a Republican named Richard Nixon, when we left Vietnam. We can talk about Democrats not following through. We have never lost a war when we have had Democrats in the White House. Andrew Jackson, when he was in New Orleans, a general, we couldn't keep him from fighting and conquering General Packingham.

I am tired about this talk of the Democratic Party not being strong on national defense. Baloney. That is not the case. Let's stop it. Let's start talking about how we win, and how we stay in Iraq, and that becomes winning for us.

This resolution that we vote on tomorrow still allows several thousand people to stay in Iraq after we have taken our soldiers out of the kill zone and the battle zones in Iraq.

We still will be there with several tens of thousands of troops that will be training, providing security, and protection, quite frankly, for many of the folks in Iraq. We will also keep tens of thousands of troops there that will seek out and search the al Qaeda cells if they exist in Iraq, or any terrorist groups that exist in Iraq.

So I get kind of unhappy when I hear the other side start talking about what great success we are having. It is my hope that this search would work, because then we in America can claim a huge successful victory in Iraq.

Mr. SALAZAR. I was in the Soviet Union during the fall of communism when Gorbachev was still in power in 1989, when we were out there studying international government with the Colorado Agriculture Leadership Program.

It's true, I couldn't agree with you more, that the spirit of democracy has to come from within, from within a country. They want to have it. They want to want it. A perfect example of how you win a war, it's with the spirit of sheer military force, but you also have to have a diplomatic surge as well. That is what Blue Dogs are asking for. They are asking to adopt the Iraqi Study Group recommendations. Sure, we can support a group surge, but coupled with a diplomatic surge. That is how you win wars. But they have to want it.

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. As we move now, I want to move briefly to the accusing tone we often hear that Democrats are big government. When Bill Clinton became President in 1992, and was sworn in 1993, the government had grown to 22.4 percent of gross domestic income.

When he became the President, working with the Republican Congress in 1995, we saw a government decrease of 18.1 percent of gross domestic income. We saw over a 4 percent decrease in spending during the 8 years that a Democratic President was in office. It had grown to a little more than 22 percent under Reagan and Bush and had receded to 18.1 percent under Bill Clinton.

It has now grown over the last 5 years, 6 years, to over 21 percent. How can anyone in this Chamber talk about being conservatives or blaming anyone for growth? The growth periods actually have occurred under Reagan, Bush, decreased under Clinton, and increased under this Bush administration.

How do you call that being conservative? I just think that it is time that the American people realized that they are being told a lot of things on this floor that aren't true.

I used to see a truth squad. I really wish they were telling the truth on a lot of issues that they were talking about.

I thank you for allowing me to come visit with you tonight.

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. SALAZAR, it was good to be with you and hear the commitment that your family has made, your father and others, to defend the Nation.

Mr. SALAZAR. May I ask a question? You have some figures on this chart that show that basically through the Iraqi war supplementals we have actually budgeted $378.5 billion. Could I ask the gentleman, is this really the true cost of the war, or is this just what we budgeted through the supplementals?

Mr. ROSS. As you can see from the chart here, let me just work through it with you. With the enactment of fiscal year 2007 appropriations, Congress has approved a total of about $378.5 billion for military operations initiated since the 9/11 attacks. According to the Congressional Research Service, this number will continue to escalate over the next several years.

The cost of Operation Iraqi Freedom alone cost American taxpayers $2.5 billion in 2001 and 2002, $51 billion in 2003, $77.3 billion in 2004, $87.3 billion in 2005, and $104.2 billion in 2006. You see a trend here. The cost of the war continues to go up.

Mr. SALAZAR. But is this the actual, is this an actual true reflection of what the war in Iraq has cost? For example, we see that our troop levels, our military armor, and the equipment that our troops have is not adequate in many cases. So are we actually spending from other sources as well to supplement this?

Mr. ROSS. It's my understanding the cost of Operation Iraqi Freedom is $378.5 billion. That is to date. Now, you have to understand what that means is, at this time we are spending about $2 billion a week, about $9.5 billion to $10 billion a month, or, again, put it another way, if you do the math, that is about $12 million an hour.

The Congress has appropriated $29.9 billion in aid to the Iraqi people. Of this amount, only $16.9 billion of that has been disbursed to the Iraqis, and yet the President is now asking for more.

On February 5, 2007, the Defense Department submitted a $94.4 billion fiscal 2007 supplemental request. If enacted, the DOD's total emergency funding for fiscal year 2007, and, again, for 2006, was $104 billion, this is to date, today, this is $60 billion. But if they get what they asked for, then the spending for $2007 will be $163.4 billion. I will repeat that. In 2006 it was $104 billion. In 2007 it will be $163.4 billion; or, put it another way, 40 percent more from the previous year and 50 percent more than the Office of Management and Budget estimated last summer.

Now, the administration also requested about $3 billion for Iraq, and $1 billion for Afghanistan in emergency foreign and diplomatic operations funds, if that is where you are going with that. If the fiscal year 2007 supplemental request is approved, total war-related funding would reach about $607 billion, including about $448 billion for Iraq, $126 billion for Afghanistan, $28 billion for enhanced security, and $5 billion that is unallocated.

For fiscal year 2008, the Department of Defense has already requested $481.4 billion for its regular budget, and $141.7 billion for war costs. If Congress approves both, the fiscal year 2007 emergency supplemental request and the fiscal year 2008 war request for the fiscal year beginning in October, then total funding for Iraq and the global war on terror would reach about $752 billion, including $564 billion for Iraq, $155 billion for Afghanistan, and $28 billion for enhanced security. Put another way, it almost doubles the number that was prepared January 24 of this year.

In fiscal year 2007 alone, spending on the thousands of government contractors involved in reconstruction has risen to $10 billion per month, including $8.6 billion for Iraq and $1.4 billion for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Since the war is essentially financed through deficit spending, interest payments over time could amount to another $100 billion or more.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that additional war costs for the next 10 years could total $919 billion by 2013. If these estimates are added to already appropriated amounts, total funding for Iraq and the war on terror could reach about $980 billion to $1.4 trillion by 2017.

□ 2215

Adding another 21,500 troops alone will cost the American taxpayers another $5.6 billion per year.

Believe me, we have got 225,000 troops in the Iraqi region today. If adding another 21,500, which the President is already doing, would win this thing, we would all be for it. But, again, we have had numerous victories over there. Again, the President and this administration continues to move the goal post, the victory line. And that is not fair to our men and women in uniform who have performed bravely and admirably for our Nation.

We don't need a troop surge in Iraq. We need a diplomatic surge, and we need to demand responsibility from the Iraqi people.

I yield to the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. SALAZAR. I want to thank the gentleman for his comments. I think it is clear, with the figures that you have given us, that the $378 billion is not really a true reflection of what the Iraqi war has cost us.

And you are absolutely right, we as Blue Dogs, we as Democrats will stand strong with our troops making sure that they have the equipment that they need, and that is one of the things I wanted to talk about tonight was the Iraq war supplemental that our leadership has proposed includes making sure that we take care of our veterans; it includes money for devastated farmers and ranchers across this country due to weather problems and other issues.

So I believe that this is the right thing to do. It is the right thing to do. But I would ask the administration to please look into trying some diplomatic efforts in the Middle East, and hopefully we can move this forward and bring our troops home as quickly and safely as possible. In the meantime, let us not forget the men and women in uniform who serve this country bravely. And I want to thank the gentleman for inviting me today to visit with the American public and tell them the truth about what is going on with America's budget.

Mr. ROSS. I thank the gentleman from Colorado for joining me this evening here on the floor to talk about restoring accountability to our government and demanding responsibility from the Iraqi people.

The American people spoke loud and clear on election day: they are ready for a new direction in Iraq. They don't want more of the same; they want a new direction. And that is what will be voted on on the floor of the House tomorrow. There will be a lot of mischaracterizations of what we are voting on.

Here is the bottom line: we are giving the President every penny he asked for for Iraq. Above and beyond that, we are going to provide funding for Walter Reed Army Hospital and for other VA hospital facilities to ensure that this new generation of veterans coming home, not only from Iraq, but also from Afghanistan, receive the very best in health care available to them, because we owe it to them. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our brave men and women in uniform who have done everything that has been asked of them.

What this bill also does, I think it is important, Mr. Speaker, that people understand this, the other thing this bill says is that we will have troops in Iraq for another year. And even after the year is up, we will continue to have troops there; but instead of having our men and women in uniform from America on the front lines getting shot at and wounded and killed, we will be there in an advisory role to train Iraqis and demand, a year from now, demand that they step up, that they step up and provide the police and military force for their country.

I think it is very important that the American people understand we are going to send our brave men and women in uniform every dime the President has asked for them, but we are also going to demand accountability and responsibility by the Iraqi people and tell them a year from now it is their turn.

Mr. SALAZAR. I just wanted to thank the gentleman. We see him on the floor every Tuesday trying to get the message out to the American public and trying to make sure that the figures that are being stated here in Congress are the true figures. I think that the American people deserve to know the truth, and I commend the gentleman for his dedication not only to the Blue Dog Coalition but also to the American people. And it is super-important, I believe, that the American people know the truth. Thank you very much. I appreciate your inviting me to speak with you tonight.

Mr. ROSS. I thank the gentleman from Colorado, a fellow Blue Dog member, a member of the 43-member strong fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition, for joining me here on the floor this evening.

Mr. Speaker, if you have any comments, questions, or concerns, I would invite you to e-mail us at BlueDog@mail.house.gov. Again, Mr. Speaker, if you have any comments, questions, or concerns, I would encourage you to e-mail us at BlueDog@mail.house.gov.

In the final 3 minutes that we have in the Special Order this evening, I want to point out that one of the things that has been endorsed by the Blue Dog Coalition that we are 100 percent united on is what is called House Resolution 97, Providing for Operation Iraqi Freedom Cost Accountability. The Blue Dogs have endorsed and introduced House Resolution 97. It was offered by JANE HARMAN, former ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee and Congressman PATRICK MURPHY who was a captain in our Army and served in Iraq. And it provides for Operation Iraqi Freedom cost accountability to address the lack of oversight and accountability with regard to the Federal Government's funding of the war in Iraq.

House Resolution 97, which currently has 61 cosponsors, puts forward tangible commonsense proposals that ensure future transparency and accountability in the funding of Operation Iraqi Freedom. If we are going to send $12 million an hour of your tax money to Iraq, we expect accountability and responsibility for how that money is being spent. We want to know without a shadow of a doubt that it is being spent to protect and equip our brave men and women in uniform. It is an important first step toward making sure that more resources get to our troops in the field.

There is a big debate right now of whether the body armor provided them in 2003, is that the best body armor in 2007. If we are going to send our troops over there, we must provide them with the very best, most advanced equipment that is available.

House Resolution 97 focuses on four crucial points for demanding fiscal responsibility in Iraq:

Number one, a call for transparency on how Iraq war funds are spent;

Number two, the creation of a Truman Commission to investigate the awarding of contracts;

Number three, a need to fund the Iraq war through the normal appropriations process, and not through the so-called emergency supplementals;

And, number four, using American resources to improve Iraqi assumption of internal policing operations, demand more from this new Iraqi Government.

In addition, House Resolution 97 calls for the Iraqi Government and its people to progress toward full responsibility for internally policing their country. Members of the Blue Dog Coalition also believe strongly that funding requests for the Iraq war should come through the normal appropriations process rather than through multiple emergency supplemental requests. Since 2003, the Republican-held Congress has been funding the war through emergency supplemental requests, $166 billion in 2003, $25 billion in 2004, $76 billion in 2005, $50 billion in 2006, and another $70 billion after that and $99 billion for 2007 and $142 for 2008. And the list goes on and on.

If we are going to be there and if we know we are going to be there, let's put it in the budget and quit hiding it in the so-called emergency supplementals. The American people deserve to know that some $12 million an hour of their tax money is going to Iraq. And what the Blue Dogs are asking for in House Resolution 97, we are demanding from this administration and from the Pentagon accountability to ensure that every dime that goes over there is spent protecting and equipping and serving our honorable men and women in uniform who do everything that this country asks of them.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in keeping our brave men and women in uniform serving us tonight in Iraq and Afghanistan and other parts of the world in our hearts and in our prayers.

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

COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight during Cover the Uninsured Week to draw attention to a national crisis.

According to the Census Bureau, 46.6 million Americans are without health insurance. Millions more encounter a health care system that is inadequate in meeting their basic medical needs because they are underinsured.

According to a recent Commonwealth Fund study, there are 16 million Americans who are underinsured, meaning that their insurance did not adequately protect them against catastrophic health care expenses. That means, in total, 61 million Americans have either no health insurance or only sporadic coverage, or have insurance coverage that leaves them exposed to high health care costs. Sixty-one million Americans is nearly 21 percent of all Americans, one in five.

The lack of affordable, comprehensive health care affects every congressional district in this Nation. To highlight the issue and the real impact that being uninsured has on the lives of Americans, I have selected some letters that I have received from my constituents who have had difficulty in obtaining and affording comprehensive health care coverage. Too often here in Congress we speak of health care issues in antiseptic jargon of policymakers and lawyers. But people across America are hurting, and these letters tell their stories in their own words.

I represent a district in south central Wisconsin, and while the letters I read may be from the State of Wisconsin, they speak to the difficulties of people all over the United States, difficulties people face every day. I am going to start with a few letters about the ever-increasing price of health care.

Eva from Madison, Wisconsin writes: ''I am contacting you in regards to my desperate need for public health care. I am a grad student. I recently sprained my ankle playing soccer and had to go to the emergency room for x-rays. My bill came out to $1,242.50 because I can only afford measly insurance that only has catastrophic coverage. This is a ridiculous amount of money for such a visit, and it causes me to consider those less fortunate than me who have even more serious injuries and less familial support. This cost can truly make waves in the lives of people.''

Suzanne from Stoughton, Wisconsin writes: ''It is time, time to have the government deal with health care. We are covered under COBRA, which will run out in March. The cost is going from $500 per month to $900 per month. We checked with Blue Cross, and they refused us coverage because of a preexisting condition. They will not even offer a waiver for this preexisting condition. We checked with the Wisconsin State Insurance Program, which will cover us for $1,200 per month. Please, let people over 60 buy into Medicare. It is impossible to find a job that offers health insurance.''

And then there is the story of Sylvia from Fitchburg, Wisconsin. Sylvia was uninsured when she was hospitalized with a need for an appendectomy. Even after the hospital charity program reduced her bill, she still owed over $11,000 to the hospital. Sometimes the bill collectors call her at home five times a day. Sylvia chips away at this bill sending in the most she can, $20 to $50 a month.

Roberta from Janesville, Wisconsin writes: ''I think insurance bills for both medical and dental care are horrendous. Both my husband and I work full time, with two small children, living pay check to pay check. My insurance costs have caused us many heartaches, with us owing more money than what needs to be paid. As a result, I will not get a needed medical procedure done. Something drastically needs to change in the United States of America where hardworking individuals and families can get the treatment they need without going broke.''

Roberta brings up an important point in her letter, because people without health insurance are often not getting the care that they desperately need. A recent study released by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation found that cost prevented 41.1 percent of uninsured adults from seeking a doctor when they needed to seek care.

But getting needed care is also difficult for Americans who have health insurance because of the financial strain relating to high premiums, high health care costs, increasing copays, deductibles. These place an incredible strain on American families, often forcing them to choose between needed health care and basic necessities like food.

□ 2230

It is no wonder that illness, injury and medical debt is responsible for nearly 50 percent of all personal bankruptcies in the United States. Only about 40 percent of businesses who employ low-wage or part-time workers offer health benefits. And at $11,480 a year, the average family's health insurance premiums now cost more than a minimum wage worker makes in a year. And as we all know, the costs of health care are rising faster than inflation. Between 2000 and 2006, health premiums for employer-sponsored insurance jumped 87 percent, far outpacing inflation's 18 percent overall increase over the same period of time.

Patricia, from Madison, Wisconsin writes: We need to fix health care. I have to choose between heat and food and medications. I have lost 80 pounds because of this. Please help.

Heather, from Waterloo, Wisconsin writes: I am married and together with my husband I own a home. We live a modest, middle-class life, managing to always have what we need except for health care coverage. My husband has excellent health care at his job, but for me to also be covered by his plan, we would need to pay nearly $400 per month. That is two-thirds as much as our home mortgage. Through school, I have worked less and less in order to maintain health coverage, and I have only been able to afford short-term, major medical coverage. I am grateful that we can afford this, and it does make a difference. However, even now, I have a sore throat and I will wait for a few days to see how I feel. And I will wait because if I don't need to go, I will certainly save the money. This is disturbing to me, as a nursing student, because I know about the importance of early treatment and prevention. And it is upsetting to me as a person because I value my health. It is unacceptable to me as a citizen, because I know there are other people just like me who wait and get sicker or can't take the medications they need.

Mr. Speaker, simply put, our health care system is failing, and America knows this. Among the thousands of letters regarding health care that I receive, there is a common thread, a common theme that brings them together, and that common theme is an overwhelming frustration with the system, a system they know is just not working, and a call for us in Congress to take action, bold action.

Brad, from Mount Horeb, Wisconsin writes: I write to you today to urge you to take action on a growing crisis in America: health care. I strongly believe that we need a national health care plan to insure all Americans. My major concern with the current system is that when people attempt to obtain insurance, insurance companies refuse them because of past health history. Let's face it. Insurance companies are in business to make a profit. The best way to make a profit is to insure the healthy so you can minimize the claims you pay out, and not insure those who need medical care or may potentially need medical care.

Brad goes on to write: I am 38 years old, with a family of four. I currently participate in a health savings account. For all practical purposes, I pay all of my own medical needs, including the recent birth of our daughter. I recently attempted to switch insurance providers. The insurance companies will insure me, but they will not insure my daughter for any type of treatment for her asthma for 3 years, along with no drug coverage for life. The policy I was requesting had a $10,000 deductible, yet they still refused the coverage.

Lisa, from Madison, Wisconsin writes: I am a very healthy person, and my husband and children are very healthy. We cannot get insurance. I think everyone should attempt to gain an individual health policy just to see how impossible it is. I am not a risk. Really, I am not. I am terrified right now because we are uninsured.

Carol, from Madison, Wisconsin writes: As someone who has had no health insurance at all for 3 years, I can tell you that it was pretty miserable being one of the millions of people in this country without health insurance. Not long ago, my best friend died

at age 42 because of ovarian cancer because she did not have health insurance and waited too long to see what was causing all of her symptoms. Yes, people in America actually die from not having health insurance.

Darla from Fitchburg, writes me. She says, ''I lost my job because of unpredictable attendance due to my health issues. Upon losing my job I signed up for COBRA. Last week I received a letter indicating that my COBRA eligibility ends soon. In order for me to get health coverage, I would have to work at least 20 hours per week, but my physicians believe that it would do me more harm than good relating to my health issues. If I don't get some sort of health insurance, I will need to stop all treatments, as I have no money to pay for doctors' services. My prescription drugs will have to stop, as I will not be able to pay for them either. What can I do?'' Darla asks.

Kimberly, from Madison, Wisconsin writes to me, ''I am writing today because of my family's frustration and anxiety over health care. Although we hear a lot of rhetoric about making health care more affordable and/or more available for Americans, nothing is happening, at least not soon enough.

''Let me briefly share our story,'' Kimberly proceeds. ''My husband recently started his own business. Obviously, it will take some time for his new company to see any profits, much less income. In the meantime, we are without health insurance. I am 5 months pregnant, and we have a 2-year-old son. Because of my preexisting condition, we cannot buy affordable health coverage. COBRA would cost us $1,200 per month. I am currently applying for Medicaid and other forms of public assistance as a last resort. This is ridiculous.

''As someone with no insurance, I wonder what could possibly be the problem with implementing a public health care system. Oh, I have heard the horrible stories about having fewer choices in doctors or longer waiting lists for procedures and less incentive among doctors and researchers to develop new technologies. But what is most frightening to me is the chance that my son might get sick, or my baby might be born with expensive complications while we are uninsured.

''I am not naive. I know that funding public health care is an issue. But is it wise to sacrifice the health and well-being of American citizens to avoid the challenge of implementing a change? I, for one, would be satisfied to pay more for goods and services if I could rest assured that my family's basic health care needs were being met.''

David, from Cross Plains, Wisconsin writes, ''My wife and I have been self-employed for over 18 years, and have paid thousands of dollars for health insurance premiums. As of a few months ago, we had to drop out and are now without health insurance. The cost is completely out of reach. In fact, it is nuts. Now that I am 50 years old, it is not a matter of if I will have health problems, it is a matter of when. Tammy, we will lose everything we have ever worked for. So much for the American dream. Now we look forward to dying broke and possibly homeless.''

Victor, from Stoughton, Wisconsin, writes, ''My wife can only work part time because of her health. Her employer offers a generic policy that costs only $3.97 per week and requires no background check. This policy covers basically nothing. Medical supplies, check-ups, doctors' visits necessary on a routine basis for my wife to survive are now not covered. My wife is uninsurable because of her health, and we have been turned down for health insurance that we have applied for. We cannot believe that this is happening.''

Ronald, from Deerfield, Wisconsin writes, ''I was on COBRA insurance for 3 years, which ended this past fall. I spent from March until September trying to get private insurance, but could not because of my neck injury. I was, in effect, looked at and dismissed by 33 private insurance companies because of my preexisting condition with my neck injury. Imagine how you would feel, after being dismissed by this many companies. I was finally insured through disability and Medicare. The sad reality of it is that if I want to try to work full-time again, I cannot, because in doing so it would cost me the only insurance options that I have left.

''The truth is that many other countries can and do provide equitable health insurance to all of their citizens, no matter what preexisting conditions they have, or their ability to pay, or what income level they have. I believe this country does have top-notch medical facilities, but not decent or equitable insurance for the poor and middle-income families.

Susan, from Baraboo, Wisconsin writes me, ''I am writing you today regarding health insurance coverage for single people with no children. As of this time, I feel that I am left out of the loop in regards to this topic. I am 42, and last September I was diagnosed with breast cancer. In January of this year, the company that I worked for informed us that they would be closing down. I was laid off in December while I was out due to my cancer treatment. I have been searching for health care coverage everywhere because my COBRA will be going up, and I am on unemployment and barely able to pay the $244.76 for the coverage now. I cannot get insurance because of the breast cancer.

''The High Risk State Insurance Program, which is the Wisconsin program, is too expensive for me to get coverage, since they want 4 months of premiums up front, and as they only cover some things. What are single people supposed to do,'' Susan asks? ''We don't qualify for any government assistance because we are single. We cannot go without insurance. There are no programs to help us out. So when you are working on health care in the House of Representatives, please remember that there are other single people out there also in my shoes. I am at a crossroads because I have no avenue for assistance when it comes to health care. Come November, I will be unable to get coverage when I need it at this point in my life:

Janet from Portage, Wisconsin writes, ''I have a 53-year-old brother who has psoriasis all over his body and arthritis that is caused by this. Three weeks ago he fell and needs surgery on his shoulder to repair it. He has no job, no money, and no insurance. We started looking for a program to help him. There are none that we can find. There is nothing to get him help to get his shoulder fixed. But after it heals wrong and he is disabled because of it, then there are programs to help him. They won't help him get it fixed so he can find a good job. Instead, they would rather support him for the rest of his life instead of trying to help him now:

Gail, from Janesville, Wisconsin writes, ''My husband recently lost his job. He applied for over 100 positions, only to be told that he lacked a college degree, or he is overqualified, or that they can only pay $8 an hour. I was diagnosed with breast cancer in June of 1998, and again in 2003. I have gone through breast cancer twice, and have undergone a mastectomy and reconstructive surgery. COBRA has run out, and without a stable income, we cannot afford to pay the premiums for our own health care policy. My husband is 59 and I am 58, and we have no medical coverage. I have looked into every insurance company and get turned down because of my medical history. All our lives we have paid into these insurance companies, only to be turned away when we need the coverage the most.''

□ 2245

Lastly, I want to relay a story that was shared with me by Laurie. Laurie is a fourth grade teacher in the Madison, Wisconsin, public school system. Laurie recently had a student fall during recess and break his foot. Laurie wrote: ''As he was waiting, in extreme pain and cold, for the school nurse to get to him, he cried to an assistant waiting with him, 'I can't go to the doctor. We don't have insurance.'''

That a 9- or 10-year-old boy should think even something like this is an atrocity.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that as Cover the Uninsured Week continues, my colleagues will join me in recognizing that obtaining comprehensive, affordable health care presents a very real challenge for millions upon millions of Americans. We cannot turn a deaf ear to our constituents' pleas for help. I invite my colleagues to join me in working on this most pressing domestic priority to provide affordable health care for all Americans.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. CLARKE (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today after 6:00 p.m.

Mr. BUYER (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. CUMMINGS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WILSON of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SCHWARTZ, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KUCINICH, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JONES of North Carolina) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, April 25 and 25.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, May 1.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, April 25, 2007, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1250. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-37, ''Class Exclusion Standards Temporary Amendment Act of 2007,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1251. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-36, ''Quality Teacher Incentive Clarification Temporary Act of 2007,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1252. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-35, ''Retail Service Station Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2007,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1253. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-34, ''Comprehensive Plan Response to NCPC Recommendations and Technical Corrections Act of 2007,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1254. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-33, ''Nonprofit Organizations Oversight Improvement Amendment Act of 2007,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1255. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-38, ''Public Education Reform Amendment Act of 2007,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1256. A letter from the Acting Chief Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Tariff of Tolls [Docket No. SLSDC 2006-26584] (RIN: 2135-AA25) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1257. A letter from the FHWA Regulations Officer, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Construction and Maintenance [FHWA Docket No. FHWA-2006-23552] (RIN: 2125-AF18) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1258. A letter from the Acting Chief Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Seaway Regulations and Rules: Periodic Update, Various Categories [Docket No. SLSDC 2006-26397] (RIN: 2135-AA24) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1259. A letter from the Secretary, Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Maintenance and Repair Reimbursement Pilot Program [Docket No. MARAD-2006-23804] (RIN 2133-AB68) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1260. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Domestic Baggage Liability [Docket OST-2007-27020] (RIN: 2105-AD62) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1261. A letter from the FHWA Regulations Officer, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Size and Weight Enforcement and Regulations [FHWA Docket No. FHWA-2006-24134] (RIN: 2125-AF17) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1262. A letter from the Regulations Officer, FHWA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Statewide Transportation Planning; Metropolitan Transportation Planning [Docket No. FHWA-2005-22986] (RIN: 2125-AF09; FTA RIN 2132-AA82) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1263. A letter from the FHWA Regulations Officer, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Surface Transportation Project Delivery Pilot Program [FHWA Docket No. FHWA-05-22707] (RIN: 2125-AF13) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1264. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Creston, IA. [Docket No. FAA-2006-25941; Airspace Docket No. 06-ACE-11] received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1265. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Mineral Point, WI [Docket No. FAA-2006-24448; Airspace Docket No. 06-AGL-02] received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1266. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Williamsburg, KY [Docket No. FAA-2006-26040; Airspace Docket No. 06-ASO-13] received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1267. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 30535; Amdt. No. 3205] received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1268. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 30537; Amdt. No. 3207] received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. OBEY: Committee of Conference. Conference report on H.R. 1591. A bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes (Rept. 110–107). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. ARCURI: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 330. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1332) to improve the access to capital programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes (Rept. 110–108). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SUTTON: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 331. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 249) to restore the prohibition on the commercials sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros (Rept. 110–109). Referred to the House Calendar.

Ms. SLAUGHTER: Committed on Rules. House Resolution 332. Resolution providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1591) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes (Rept. 110–110). 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. RAHALL (for himself and Ms. BORDALLO) (both by request):

H.R. 2010. A bill to provide the necessary authority to the Secretary of Commerce for the establishment and implementation of a regulatory system for offshore aquaculture in the United States Exclusive Economic Zone, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROSS (for himself, Mr. BERRY, Mr. SNYDER, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

H.R. 2011. A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 100 East 8th Avenue in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as the ''George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse''; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ROSS (for himself, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mrs. DRAKE, and Mr. ALLEN):

H.R. 2012. A bill to amend the Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act to require contact lens sellers to provide a toll-free telephone number and a dedicated email address for the purpose of receiving communications from prescribers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. GORDON, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, and Mr. GONZALEZ):

H.R. 2013. A bill to provide a technical correction to the Federal preemption of State or local laws concerning the markings and identification of imitation or toy firearms entering into interstate commerce; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CROWLEY (for himself and Mr. WELLER):

H.R. 2014. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the 15-year recovery period for the depreciation of certain leasehold improvements and to modify the depreciation rules relating to such leasehold improvements for purposes of computing earnings and profits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts (for himself, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. WYNN, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. FARR, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. DINGELL, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. WU, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. FILNER, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. OLVER, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SIRES, Mr. ELLISON, and Mrs. DAVIS of California):

H.R. 2015. A bill to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, Oversight and Government Reform, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mrs. BONO, Mr. RENZI, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. PALLONE, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. BERKLEY, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. LEE, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. GILCHREST, and Mr. KIRK):

H.R. 2016. A bill to establish the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HOLT (for himself, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HARE, Mr. SIRES, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. WATSON, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. LEE, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. RUSH, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HONDA, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HOLDEN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 2017. A bill to provide access and assistance to increase college attendance and completion by part-time students; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. JEFFERSON:

H.R. 2018. A bill to provide additional authority to the Administrator of the Small Business Administration with respect to disaster surety bonds; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2019. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit discrimination in the payment of wages on account of sex, race, or national origin, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. PLATTS (for himself, Mr. SHAYS, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina):

H.R. 2020. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the standard mileage rate for charitable purposes to the standard mileage rate established by the Secretary of the Treasury for business purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RUPPERSBERGER (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. WYNN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. WATSON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. KILPATRICK):

H.R. 2021. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the credit for employers establishing workplace child care facilities, to increase the child care credit to encourage greater use of quality child care services, and to provide incentives for students to earn child care-related degrees and to work in child care facilities; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SHULER (for himself, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Ms. FOXX, and Mr. BOREN):

H.R. 2022. A bill to provide for the consideration of a petition for Federal Recognition of the Lumbee Indians of Robeson and adjoining counties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. TANCREDO (for himself, Mr. HOLT, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. WOLF):

H.R. 2023. A bill to establish a student loan forgiveness program for members of the Sudanese Diaspora to enable them to return to southern Sudan and contribute to the reconstruction effort of southern Sudan; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. TANNER (for himself and Mr. CASTLE):

H.R. 2024. A bill to establish the Comprehensive Entitlement Reform Commission; to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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. CUMMINGS:

H. Con. Res. 127. Concurrent resolution supporting home ownership and responsible lending; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. KUCINICH:

H. Res. 333. A resolution impeaching Richard B. Cheney, Vice President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MILLER of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. WU, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. SPRATT, and Mr. CUELLAR):

H. Res. 334. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Community College Month; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. CAPPS (for herself, Mr. WHITFIELD, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN):

H. Res. 335. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President should declare lung cancer a public health priority and should implement a comprehensive interagency program to reduce the lung cancer mortality rate by at least 50 percent by 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H. Res. 336. A resolution expressing the sense of the United States House of Representatives that the United States should adhere to moral and ethical principles of economic justice and fairness in developing and advancing United States international trade treaties, agreements, and investment policies; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

27. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, relative to House Resolution No. 169 urging the Congress of the

United States to enact the Employee Free Choice Act; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

28. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of California, relative to a resolution relating to the Medicare reimbursement rates and access to a life saving therapy called Intravenous Immune Globulin Therapy (IVIG); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 39: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 65: Mr. FORTUÑO, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mr. ALTMIRE.

H.R. 176: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H.R. 197: Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 223: Ms. FOXX.

H.R. 255: Mr. GONZALEZ.

H.R. 322: Ms. FALLIN and Mr. CARTER.

H.R. 359: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 369: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 436: Mr. MCCAUL of Texas.

H.R. 464: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

H.R. 508: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H.R. 524: Mr. UDALL of Colorado and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 549: Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 550: Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. OLVER, and Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 570: Mr. GILLMOR.

H.R. 661: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 690: Mr. PICKERING, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. OBERSTAR.

H.R. 692: Ms. HOOLEY.

H.R. 698: Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. FILNER, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. HAYES, Mr. GERLACH, and Ms. GIFFORDS.

H.R. 711: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 718: Mr. PLATTS, Mr. DONNELLY, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, and Mr. HODES.

H.R. 726: Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 736: Mr. DEAL of Georgia.

H.R. 741: MR. CARNEY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 770: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. MARKEY.

H.R. 784: Mr. BLUNT and Mr. MORAN of Kansas.

H.R. 811: Mrs. BONO.

H.R. 821: Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. WATSON, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 840: Mr. ROTHMAN.

H.R. 869: Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado.

H.R. 871: Ms. WATSON.

H.R. 879: Mr. AKIN.

H.R. 891: Mr. MCHUGH.

H.R. 933: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 962: Mr. HONDA and Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 980: Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. WALSH of New York.

H.R. 1029: Mr. BOSWELL and Mr. GONZALEZ.

H.R. 1043: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. FOSSELLA, and Mr. MANZULLO.

H.R. 1064: Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ROSS, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. ALTMIRE.

H.R. 1070: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 1076: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.

H.R. 1098: Mr. GONZALEZ.

H.R. 1103: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 1115: Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 1120: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. KINGSTON, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. WOLF, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. WALSH of New York, and Mrs. CAPITO.

H.R. 1134: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H.R. 1153: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H.R. 1192: Mr. CLAY and Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 1198: Mr. ALLEN and Mr. CHANDLER.

H.R. 1225: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 1228: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1237: Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DOYLE, and Mr. LATHAM.

H.R. 1239: Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 1261: Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 1264: Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. CHANDLER, and Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 1278: Mr. KNOLLENBERG.

H.R. 1291: Mr. MCDERMOTT and Mr. REHBERG.

H.R. 1320: Mr. COOPER, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, and Ms. BERKLEY.

H.R. 1330: Mr. GONZALEZ.

H.R. 1331: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. ROSS, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. HARE.

H.R. 1350: Ms. BEAN and Ms. BALDWIN.

H.R. 1359: Mr. FEENEY and Mr. BOOZMAN.

H.R. 1379: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H.R. 1399: Mr. COSTELLO and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H.R. 1413: Mr. GONZALEZ.

H.R. 1414: Mr. WEXLER.

H.R. 1424: Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas.

H.R. 1430: Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. GORDON, and Mr. DEAL of Georgia.

H.R. 1435: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 1439: Mr. CARTER and Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 1440: Mr. HOLDEN.

H.R. 1441: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 1458: Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 1474: Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. KANJORSKI, and Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 1481: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1514: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Mr. JONES of North Carolina.

H.R. 1527: Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania and Mr. MARSHALL.

H.R. 1536: Ms. BALDWIN.

H.R. 1543: Mr. ABERCROMBIE and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 1551: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia and Ms. SOLIS.

H.R. 1553: Mr. WAXMAN and Mr. MARKEY.

H.R. 1561: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 1567: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas and Ms. WATSON.

H.R. 1576: Mr. NUNES.

H.R. 1611: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 1617: Mr. BLUNT, Mr. HULSHOF, and Mr. GRAVES.

H.R. 1618: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan and Mr. MCCAUL of Texas.

H.R. 1627: Mrs. EMERSON.

H.R. 1645: Mr. OLVER and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H.R. 1647: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. FORBES, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. HOLDEN.

H.R. 1653: Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. OLVER, Mr. DELAHUNT, and Ms. KILPATRICK.

H.R. 1660: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 1687: Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1700: Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Mr. HARE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. VISCLOSKY.

H.R. 1707: Mr. MARKEY and Mr. LANTOS.

H.R. 1709: Ms. SLAUGHTER and Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN.

H.R. 1713: Ms. NORTON and Ms. HARMAN.

H.R. 1718: Mr. CONYERS and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H.R. 1738: Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. WOLF, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. DAVIS of Alabama.

H.R. 1742: Mr. MCCAUL of Texas.

H.R. 1760: Mr. GINGREY.

H.R. 1761: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.

H.R. 1772: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. MCHUGH.

H.R. 1773: Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. ALTMIRE, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. SKELTON.

H.R. 1783: Mr. CHANDLER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1787: Mr. HENSARLING, and Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida.

H.R. 1792: Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky.

H.R. 1801: Mr. MCCAUL of Texas and Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 1865: Mr. PLATTS.

H.R. 1873: Mr. MICHAUD and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 1880: Mr. ETHERIDGE and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1884: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas and Mr. MCHUGH.

H.R. 1926: Mr. ALLEN, Mr. YARMUTH, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. WOLF, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 1930: Mr. CARTER.

H.R. 1940: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 1954: Mr. PASTOR.

H.R. 1964: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 1971: Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. SIRES, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. WATT.

H.R. 1992: Mr. DEFAZIO and Mr. VISCLOSKY.

H.R. 2005: Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Ms. HOOLEY, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H. Con. Res. 7: Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. AKIN.

H. Con. Res. 48: Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. BONO, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. HALL of Texas, and Mrs. MYRICK.

H. Con. Res. 75: Mr. MARKEY.

H. Con. Res. 80: Mr. FATTAH, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. CHABOT.

H. Con. Res. 108: Ms. BALDWIN.

H. Con. Res. 112: Ms. SCHWARTZ.

H. Con. Res. 115: Mr. WEXLER and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H. Con. Res. 117: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. BAKER, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. GILLMOR, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. NUNES, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. PITTS, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. COBLE, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. CAMP of Michigan, Mr. WAMP, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. HASTERT, Mr. CARTER, Mr. WALSH of New York, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. HAYES, Mr. CANNON, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. DENT, Mr. PETRI, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. PICKERING.

H. Con. Res. 121: Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. PAUL, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. HULSHOF.

H. Con. Res. 126: Mrs. LOWEY and Mr. NADLER.
H. Res. 37: Mrs. EMERSON, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. GILCHREST, and Mr. FARR.
H. Res. 49: Mr. LOBIONDO.
H. Res. 68: Mr. HOLT and Mr. MARKEY.
H. Res. 71: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H. Res. 100: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Mr. BLUNT.
H. Res. 101: Mr. ACKERMAN.
H. Res. 111: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York and Mr. BERRY.
H. Res. 121: Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BRADY OF PENNSYLVANIA, MR. CALVERT, and Mr. MARKEY.
H. Res. 146: Mr. MARKEY.
H. Res. 164: Mr. ISRAEL.
H. Res. 169: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.
H. Res. 208: Mr. LANTOS.
H. Res. 223: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H. Res. 227: Mr. MARKEY.
H. Res. 232: Mr. BACHUS.
H. Res. 258: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BOSWELL, and Mr. HOLDEN.
H. Res. 282: Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. CARSON, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. GOODE.
H. Res. 283: Mr. JONES of North Carolina.
H. Res. 287: Mr. LAMBORN and Ms. WOOLSEY.
H. Res. 291: Ms. FOXX, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. WYNN, Mr. REYES, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mrs. MYRICK, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. GOODE, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. SHAYS.
H. Res. 294: Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
H. Res. 309: Mr. BERMAN, and Ms. SCHWARTZ.
H. Res. 316: Mr. BAIRD, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. EHLERS, and Mr. ROTHMAN.
H. Res. 320: Mr. ADERHOLT.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative Rahall or a designee to H.R. 249 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

9. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Deborah J. Glick, Assemblymember of the State of New York, relative to petitioning the Congress of the United States to stop the implementation of a proposed rule published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) entitled, ''Medicaid Program: Cost Limits for Providers Operated by Units of Government and Provisions to Ensure the Integrity of Federal-State Financial Partnership''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10. Also, a petition of Michael Benjamin, Assemblymember of the State of New York, relative to petitioning the Congress of the United States to stop the implementation of a proposed rule published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) entitled, ''Medicaid Program: Cost Limits for Providers Operated by Units of Government and Provisions to Ensure the Integrity of Federal-State Financial Partnership''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

11. Also, a petition of Rory I. Lancman, Assemblymember of the State of New York, relative to petitioning the Congress of the United States to stop the implementation of a proposed rule published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) entitled, ''Medicaid Program: Cost Limits for Providers Operated by Units of Government and Provisions to Ensure the Integrity of Federal-State Financial Partnership''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

12. Also, a petition of the Yukon Tribe, California, relative to Resolution No. 07-20 supporting the Johnson O'Malley Program and opposing the elimination or reduction of funding for the Johnson O'Malley Program; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

13. Also, a petition of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, California, relative to Resolution No. 53-07 urging the Congress of the United States to pass Comprehensive Immigration Reform; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

14. Also, a petition of the Town of Woodbury, Vermont, relative to a resolution requesting an investigation of President George W. Bush and Vice Prsident Richard B. Cheney and supporting the men and women serving in all branches of the United States Armed Forces in Iraq; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

15. Also, a petition of the Town of Warren, Vermont, relative to a resolution requesting that the Congress of the United States investigate the outlined charges and initiate the process of impeachment of President George W. Bush and Vice President Richard B. Cheney; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

16. Also, a petition of the Town of Shaftsbury, Vermont, relative to a Town Meeting Resolution calling for the immediate and orderly withdrawal of American military forces from Iraq; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs.

17. Also, a petition of the Major County Sheriffs' Association, relative to a resolution urging all levels of the federal government to take immediate action to adequately fund the operations of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agency; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Homeland Security.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 249

OFFERED BY: MR. RAHALL

AMENDMENT NO. 1: Page 2, line 5, strike ''the period'' and insert '''the program authorized' and all that follows''.

Page 2, line 6, insert ''the program authorized by section 3:'' before ''*Provided*,''.

Page 2, strike lines 11 through 13 and insert the following:

(b) CRIMINAL PROVISIONS.—Section 8 of Public Law 92–195 (16 U.S.C. 1338) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(a)'' before ''Any person''; and

(2) in subsection (a), by striking ''except as provided in section 3(e),''.